

Provisional figures for registered trade in goods in Malta recorded a deficit of €310.6 million during December 2021, compared to a deficit of €78.2 million in the corresponding month of 2020.

International Trade in Goods: December 2021

Cut-off date:
1 February 2022

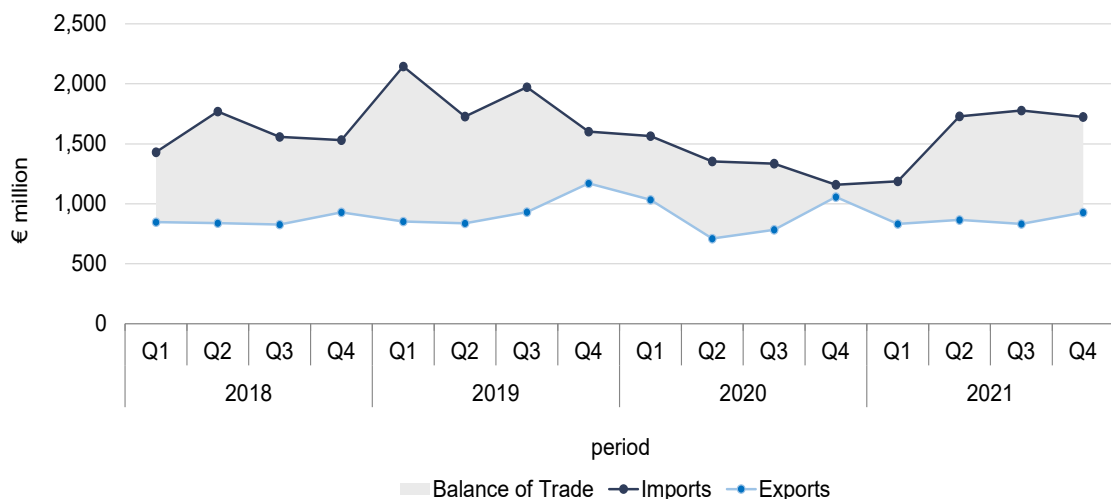
Total Trade in Goods: December 2021

Data in this news release presents all international trade in goods registered up to the indicated cut-off date. Provisional data recorded a total trade in goods deficit of €310.6 million during December, compared to a deficit of €78.2 million in the corresponding month of 2020. Imports amounted to €567.7 million, while exports totalled €257.1 million. This represents an increase of €178.1 million in imports and a decline of €54.3 million in exports over the same month of the previous year (Table 1). The rise in the value of imports was primarily due to Machinery and transport equipment (€141.2 million), and Chemicals (€30.9 million). On the exports side, the main decrease was registered in Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€50.8 million) (Table 3).

Total Trade in Goods: January-December 2021

During 2021, the total trade in goods deficit widened by €1,131.3 million when compared to 2020, reaching €2,959.0 million. Imports increased by €1,007.3 million, while exports decreased by €124.0 million, amounting to €6,418.1 million and €3,459.1 million, respectively (Table 1). Higher imports were mainly recorded in Machinery and transport equipment (€602.4 million), Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€155.0 million), Chemicals (€93.4 million), and Miscellaneous manufactured articles (€70.3 million). On the exports side, Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€154.9 million), and Machinery and transport equipment (€96.9 million) accounted for the main declines, partly offset by an increase in Chemicals (€129.8 million) (Table 3).

Chart 1. Total Trade in Goods - quarterly



Statistics in this News Release should be interpreted in the context of the COVID-19 situation.

Goods were imported mainly from the European Union (53.8 per cent) and Asia (17.6 per cent). Similarly, exports were mostly directed to the European Union (35.4 per cent) and Asia (19.9 per cent). The main increase and decrease in imports were registered from Italy (€273.3 million) and China (€57.5 million), respectively. With regard to exports, the main increase was directed to the United Kingdom (€60.9 million), whereas France reported the highest decrease (€85.6 million) (Table 4).

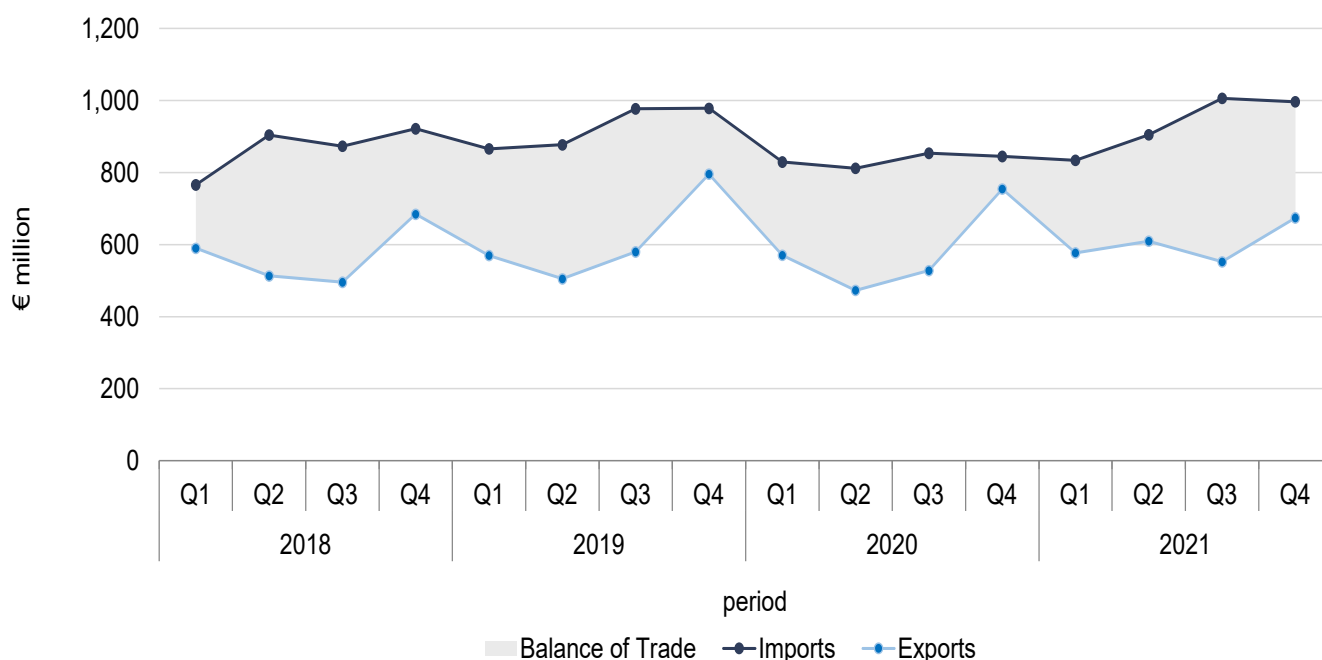
Trade in Goods excluding specific chapters¹: December 2021

In December, the deficit of trade in goods excluding specific chapters amounted to €137.0 million, compared to a deficit of €57.7 million recorded in the same month of 2020. Imports and exports amounted to €325.1 million and €188.1 million, respectively. This represents a 24.2 per cent increase in imports and a 7.9 per cent decrease in exports over the corresponding month of the previous year (Table 1).

Trade in Goods excluding specific chapters¹: January-December 2021

During 2021, the deficit of trade in goods excluding specific chapters widened by €315.0 million when compared to 2020, reaching €1,328.7 million. Both imports and exports increased by 12.0 per cent and 3.7 per cent, respectively, and amounted to €3,741.8 million and €2,413.1 million (Table 1).

Chart 2. Trade in Goods excluding specific chapters¹ - quarterly



¹ Data excluding Mineral oils, fuels and products (Chapter 27), Aircrafts/spacecrafts and parts thereof (Chapter 88) and Ships, boats and floating structures (Chapter 89). See methodological note 8.

Table 1. Trade in Goods by period and trade flow

€ million

Trade flow	2017 ^P	2018 ^P	2019 ^P	December			January-December		
				2020 ^P	2021 ^P	percentage change ¹	2020 ^P	2021 ^P	percentage change ¹
Imports	6,137.1	6,289.4	7,446.8	389.6	567.7	45.7	5,410.8	6,418.1	18.6
Imports excluding specific chapters ²	3,232.1	3,465.8	3,698.7	261.9	325.1	24.2	3,339.6	3,741.8	12.0
Exports	3,708.0	3,440.9	3,789.8	311.4	257.1	-17.4	3,583.1	3,459.1	-3.5
Exports excluding specific chapters ²	2,123.9	2,282.7	2,450.2	204.2	188.1	-7.9	2,325.9	2,413.1	3.7
Balance of Trade	-2,429.2	-2,848.5	-3,657.1	-78.2	-310.6	-297.4	-1,827.7	-2,959.0	-61.9
Balance of Trade excluding specific chapters ²	-1,108.2	-1,183.1	-1,248.5	-57.7	-137.0	-137.5	-1,013.7	-1,328.7	-31.1

^P Provisional

¹ For calculation of Balance of Trade percentage change refer to methodological note 11.

² Data excluding chapters 27, 88 and 89. Refer to methodological note 8.

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Chart 3. Percentage change of Trade in Goods over the corresponding month of the previous year

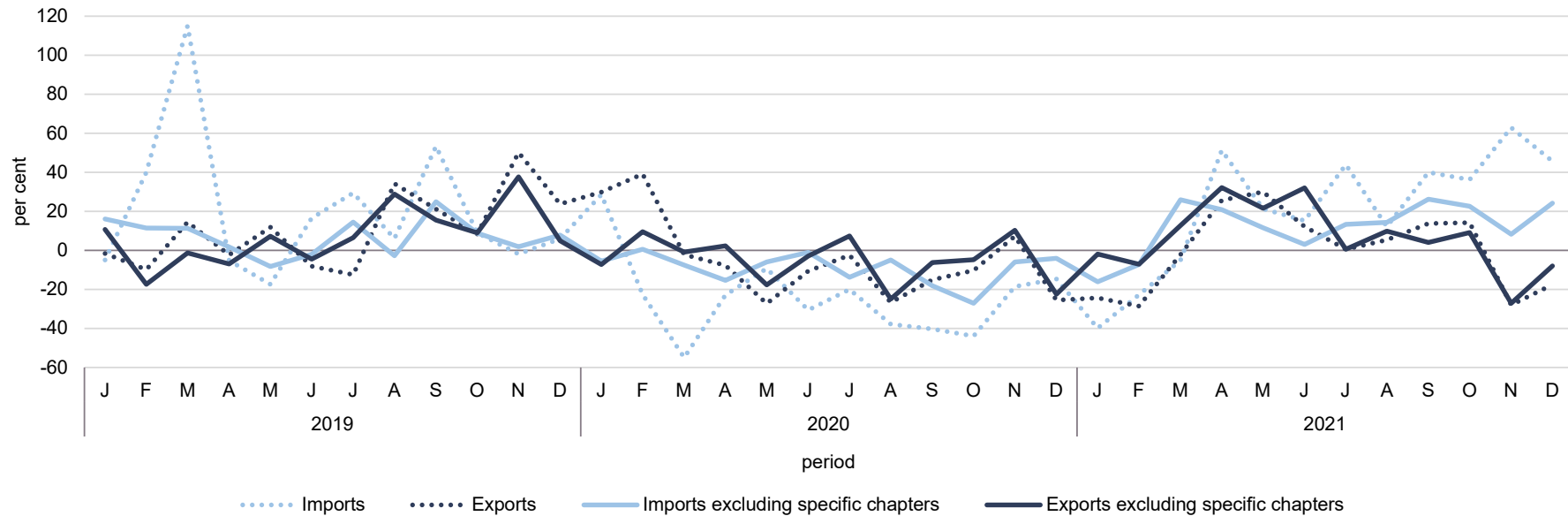


Table 2. Total Trade in Goods by period and Broad Economic Category (BEC)

€ million

Broad Economic Category (BEC)	2017 ^P	2018 ^P	2019 ^P	December			January-December		
				2020 ^P	2021 ^P	percentage change ¹	2020 ^P	2021 ^P	percentage change ¹
Imports	6,137.1	6,289.4	7,446.8	389.6	567.7	45.7	5,410.8	6,418.1	18.6
Industrial supplies	1,328.8	1,477.6	1,664.9	92.9	133.3	43.6	1,392.9	1,599.5	14.8
Primary	129.7	129.9	120.2	3.1	6.6	108.5	86.9	108.7	25.1
Semi-finished	1,013.5	1,142.2	1,340.1	83.9	119.9	42.9	1,206.7	1,380.3	14.4
Finished	185.6	205.5	204.7	5.8	6.8	18.0	99.2	110.6	11.4
Capital goods and others	1,684.8	1,403.6	2,385.6	66.2	191.6	189.4	1,338.4	1,856.7	38.7
Consumer goods	1,351.8	1,473.8	1,554.3	123.9	144.9	17.0	1,457.1	1,580.4	8.5
Food and beverages	530.9	547.7	560.1	43.2	41.7	-3.5	502.8	541.4	7.7
Durable goods	469.8	497.7	550.4	42.1	50.4	19.9	496.0	549.4	10.8
Others	351.1	428.4	443.8	38.5	52.8	36.9	458.3	489.7	6.9
Fuels and lubricants	1,771.7	1,934.5	1,842.1	106.7	97.8	-8.3	1,222.5	1,381.5	13.0
Exports	3,708.0	3,440.9	3,789.8	311.4	257.1	-17.4	3,583.1	3,459.1	-3.5
Industrial supplies	1,128.4	1,162.1	1,387.0	89.4	89.8	0.4	1,169.3	1,205.1	3.1
Primary	26.7	14.4	14.3	0.5	4.1	786.2	10.4	25.8	147.1
Semi-finished	964.1	1,021.0	1,144.0	82.6	71.6	-13.3	1,030.2	1,095.2	6.3
Finished	137.6	126.8	228.7	6.3	14.0	123.1	128.7	84.1	-34.6
Capital goods and others	256.5	288.1	288.6	18.7	21.7	16.5	317.6	306.2	-3.6
Consumer goods	903.2	1,004.1	985.6	101.5	94.6	-6.8	1,001.2	1,007.7	0.7
Food and beverages	287.5	362.1	302.3	52.9	38.7	-27.0	286.4	257.3	-10.2
Durable goods	217.0	228.9	262.5	14.2	12.1	-14.8	230.3	224.7	-2.4
Others	398.6	413.1	420.8	34.3	43.8	27.5	484.4	525.8	8.5
Fuels and lubricants	1,419.9	986.6	1,128.6	101.9	51.1	-49.9	1,095.0	940.1	-14.1
Balance of Trade	-2,429.2	-2,848.5	-3,657.1	-78.2	-310.6	-297.4	-1,827.7	-2,959.0	-61.9

^P Provisional¹ For calculation of Balance of Trade percentage change refer to methodological note 11.

Notes:

- Table 2 is based on the United Nations' Statistical Division Broad Economic Categories (BEC) codes. Figures for 'Fuels and Lubricants' refer to 'Fuels and Lubricants, primary' (BEC 0031) and 'Fuels and Lubricants, processed' (BEC 0032). Refer to methodological note 13.
- Totals may not add up due to rounding.
- A disaggregation by quarter is available in the excel version of this news release:
https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/View_by_Unit/Unit_A4/International_Trade/Pages/International-Trade-in-Goods.aspx

Table 3. Total Trade in Goods by period and major commodity group

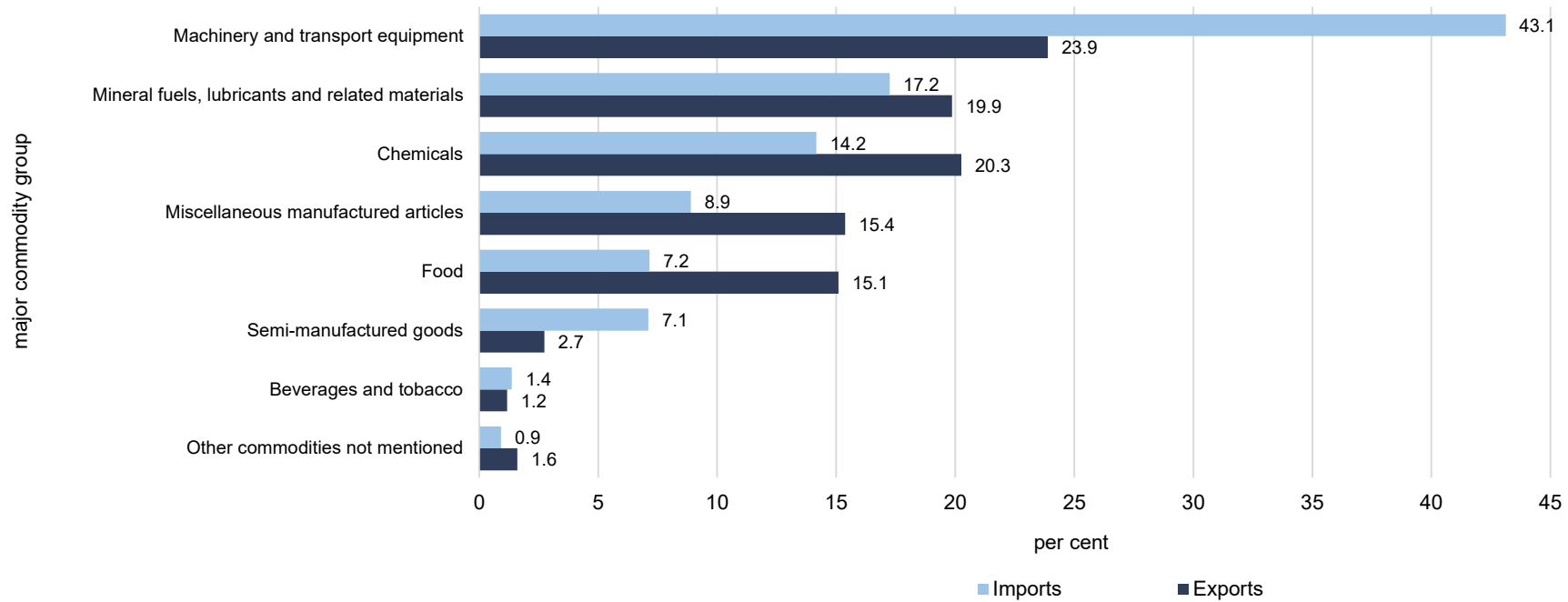
€ million

Major commodity group ¹	2017 ^P	2018 ^P	2019 ^P	December			January-December		
				2020 ^P	2021 ^P	percentage change ²	2020 ^P	2021 ^P	percentage change ²
Imports	6,137.1	6,289.4	7,446.8	389.6	567.7	45.7	5,410.8	6,418.1	18.6
Food	628.4	634.4	615.2	41.9	40.7	-3.0	544.6	581.6	6.8
Beverages and tobacco	96.9	110.1	128.2	9.3	7.8	-16.2	105.2	105.0	-0.2
Crude materials	26.2	27.2	36.5	2.1	3.9	91.3	31.2	34.6	10.9
Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	1,775.0	1,947.0	1,858.3	106.7	97.9	-8.2	1,229.2	1,384.2	12.6
Animal and vegetable oils and fats	9.3	9.6	9.8	0.8	1.0	30.4	9.3	10.8	16.3
Chemicals	518.2	599.6	701.4	49.5	80.4	62.3	673.3	766.7	13.9
Semi-manufactured goods	363.3	415.1	444.0	35.1	40.4	15.0	455.0	499.6	9.8
Machinery and transport equipment	2,240.5	2,007.1	3,065.9	103.6	244.8	136.4	1,846.8	2,449.2	32.6
Miscellaneous manufactured articles	474.3	533.9	583.1	40.3	50.5	25.2	512.3	582.6	13.7
Miscellaneous transactions and commodities	5.3	5.2	4.6	0.4	0.3	-16.5	4.0	3.9	-0.8
Exports	3,708.0	3,440.9	3,789.8	311.4	257.1	-17.4	3,583.1	3,459.1	-3.5
Food	283.4	345.3	287.4	54.8	38.8	-29.1	284.9	247.1	-13.3
Beverages and tobacco	38.6	44.6	46.9	2.8	3.0	9.2	41.4	31.2	-24.6
Crude materials	13.4	13.3	10.0	0.5	4.1	776.3	10.4	25.8	147.9
Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	1,469.1	1,048.6	1,158.3	101.9	51.1	-49.9	1,095.0	940.1	-14.1
Animal and vegetable oils and fats	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	0.0	-	0.0	0.1	176.9
Chemicals	362.9	368.3	496.4	38.1	52.1	36.7	482.7	612.5	26.9
Semi-manufactured goods	150.8	153.8	137.8	8.9	7.0	-21.1	102.5	126.1	23.0
Machinery and transport equipment	988.0	957.1	1,025.8	69.6	61.4	-11.8	937.1	840.2	-10.3
Miscellaneous manufactured articles	401.0	507.5	624.6	34.5	39.5	14.5	627.2	634.0	1.1
Miscellaneous transactions and commodities	0.8	2.5	2.6	0.3	-	-100.0	1.9	1.9	1.3
Balance of Trade	-2,429.2	-2,848.5	-3,657.1	-78.2	-310.6	-297.4	-1,827.7	-2,959.0	-61.9
Food	-344.9	-289.1	-327.8	12.9	-1.8	-114.2	-259.7	-334.5	-28.8
Beverages and tobacco	-58.3	-65.6	-81.2	-6.5	-4.8	26.9	-63.8	-73.8	-15.7
Crude materials	-12.8	-14.0	-26.5	-1.6	0.2	110.6	-20.8	-8.7	57.9
Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	-305.9	-898.5	-700.0	-4.7	-46.8	-888.5	-134.3	-444.0	-230.7
Animal and vegetable oils and fats	-9.3	-9.6	-9.7	-0.8	-1.0	-29.9	-9.2	-10.7	-16.0
Chemicals	-155.3	-231.4	-205.0	-11.4	-28.3	-147.7	-190.6	-154.2	19.1
Semi-manufactured goods	-212.5	-261.2	-306.2	-26.2	-33.3	-27.3	-352.5	-373.5	-6.0
Machinery and transport equipment	-1,252.5	-1,050.0	-2,040.1	-33.9	-183.4	-440.2	-909.8	-1,609.0	-76.9
Miscellaneous manufactured articles	-73.3	-26.4	41.5	-5.8	-11.0	-89.2	114.9	51.4	-55.3
Miscellaneous transactions and commodities	-4.5	-2.7	-1.9	-0.1	-0.3	-496.6	-2.0	-2.0	2.8

^P Provisional¹ The commodity grouping is in accordance with the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) Rev. 4. Refer to methodological note 13.² For calculation of Balance of Trade percentage change refer to methodological note 11.

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Chart 4. Percentage distribution of total Trade in Goods in December 2021 by major commodity group



Notes:

1. The commodity grouping is in accordance with the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) Rev. 4. Refer to methodological note 13.
2. "Other commodities not mentioned" includes the commodity groups "Miscellaneous transactions and commodities", "Animal and vegetable oils and fats" and "Crude materials".
3. Total of percentages may not add up due to rounding.

Table 4. Direction of total Trade in Goods by period and continent/region/country

€ million

Continent/Region/Country	December						January-December					
	2020 ^P			2021 ^P			2020 ^P			2021 ^P		
	Imports	Exports	Balance of Trade	Imports	Exports	Balance of Trade	Imports	Exports	Balance of Trade	Imports	Exports	Balance of Trade
Europe	280.9	100.8	-180.1	334.3	110.6	-223.7	3,680.5	1,367.3	-2,313.3	4,351.2	1,422.0	-2,929.2
<i>of which:</i>												
European Union	230.7	92.2	-138.5	218.1	89.1	-129.0	2,916.3	1,246.4	-1,669.9	3,453.2	1,224.9	-2,228.3
<i>of which:</i>												
Euro area	218.9	79.9	-139.0	203.8	71.1	-132.7	2,740.4	1,035.3	-1,705.1	3,262.5	947.5	-2,315.0
<i>of which:</i>												
Italy	89.7	22.0	-67.6	106.1	7.7	-98.4	1,055.9	173.7	-882.2	1,329.2	190.8	-1,138.3
France	28.5	19.0	-9.6	19.1	6.6	-12.5	335.6	241.1	-94.5	394.3	155.5	-238.8
Germany	27.1	24.7	-2.4	19.0	27.7	8.6	338.5	426.7	88.2	305.5	351.8	46.3
Netherlands	11.3	3.8	-7.6	18.2	3.1	-15.1	180.4	53.6	-126.8	293.0	45.6	-247.3
Spain	38.8	2.9	-36.0	17.2	3.4	-13.8	275.6	34.3	-241.3	347.5	36.1	-311.5
Greece	10.2	0.5	-9.7	5.8	16.4	10.6	100.8	12.2	-88.5	160.5	53.4	-107.1
EFTA Countries	4.1	2.3	-1.9	2.4	1.9	-0.5	41.3	19.4	-21.9	61.9	36.0	-26.0
<i>of which:</i>												
Switzerland	3.7	2.0	-1.7	2.2	1.1	-1.1	31.8	15.3	-16.5	55.8	30.2	-25.5
Other European Countries	46.1	6.3	-39.7	113.8	19.6	-94.2	722.9	101.5	-621.4	836.0	161.1	-674.9
<i>of which:</i>												
United Kingdom ¹	34.2	2.8	-31.4	94.7	13.5	-81.2	427.0	46.1	-380.9	489.7	107.0	-382.6
Turkey	10.4	2.2	-8.2	14.5	4.5	-10.0	182.9	31.6	-151.3	243.2	31.9	-211.4
Africa	20.3	24.0	3.7	11.7	24.7	13.1	239.0	421.5	182.5	173.6	363.0	189.4
<i>of which:</i>												
Egypt	7.5	1.8	-5.7	10.1	0.5	-9.7	58.4	85.4	26.9	31.6	59.2	27.6
Asia	57.5	94.3	36.7	118.0	70.0	-48.1	974.6	792.6	-182.0	1,129.9	687.1	-442.9
<i>of which:</i>												
China	18.3	5.9	-12.4	27.7	4.5	-23.2	371.9	41.6	-330.3	314.4	61.3	-253.1
Israel	0.6	0.2	-0.4	23.2	0.3	-22.9	55.9	5.4	-50.5	115.5	4.2	-111.3
Saudi Arabia	0.0	12.9	12.9	15.0	1.6	-13.4	12.1	45.9	33.9	94.5	24.3	-70.2
India	14.4	3.1	-11.3	13.5	2.7	-10.8	180.5	24.3	-156.2	164.8	35.1	-129.7
Taiwan	3.2	0.3	-2.8	8.6	0.6	-8.0	24.1	5.1	-19.0	64.0	3.9	-60.0
North and Central America	28.6	13.9	-14.8	99.8	11.3	-88.5	479.8	147.4	-332.4	697.7	183.0	-514.7
<i>of which:</i>												
Canada	1.3	2.2	0.9	70.4	1.6	-68.8	146.8	16.8	-129.9	389.5	18.4	-371.0
Trinidad & Tobago	22.8	0.0	-22.8	22.1	-	-22.1	103.1	0.7	-102.4	90.7	1.0	-89.7
South America	1.8	4.0	2.2	2.8	4.6	1.7	22.1	16.5	-5.6	23.5	28.7	5.3
Oceania	0.4	0.2	-0.2	1.0	0.8	-0.3	14.8	4.3	-10.5	42.2	5.5	-36.7
Ships and Aircraft Stores	-	74.4	74.4	-	35.2	35.2	0.0	833.6	833.6	0.0	769.8	769.8
Grand Total	389.6	311.4	-78.2	567.7	257.1	-310.6	5,410.8	3,583.1	-1,827.7	6,418.1	3,459.1	-2,959.0

^P Provisional¹ For the exclusion/inclusion of the United Kingdom in the European Union computation, refer to methodological note 7 (ii).

Notes:

1. The selection of countries is based on the highest values of imports in the month under review.
2. Totals may not add up due to rounding.
3. A full list of countries is available in the excel version of this news release:

https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/View_by_Unit/Unit_A4/International_Trade/Pages/International-Trade-in-Goods.aspx

Table 5. Direction of Trade in Goods excluding specific chapters¹ by period and continent/region

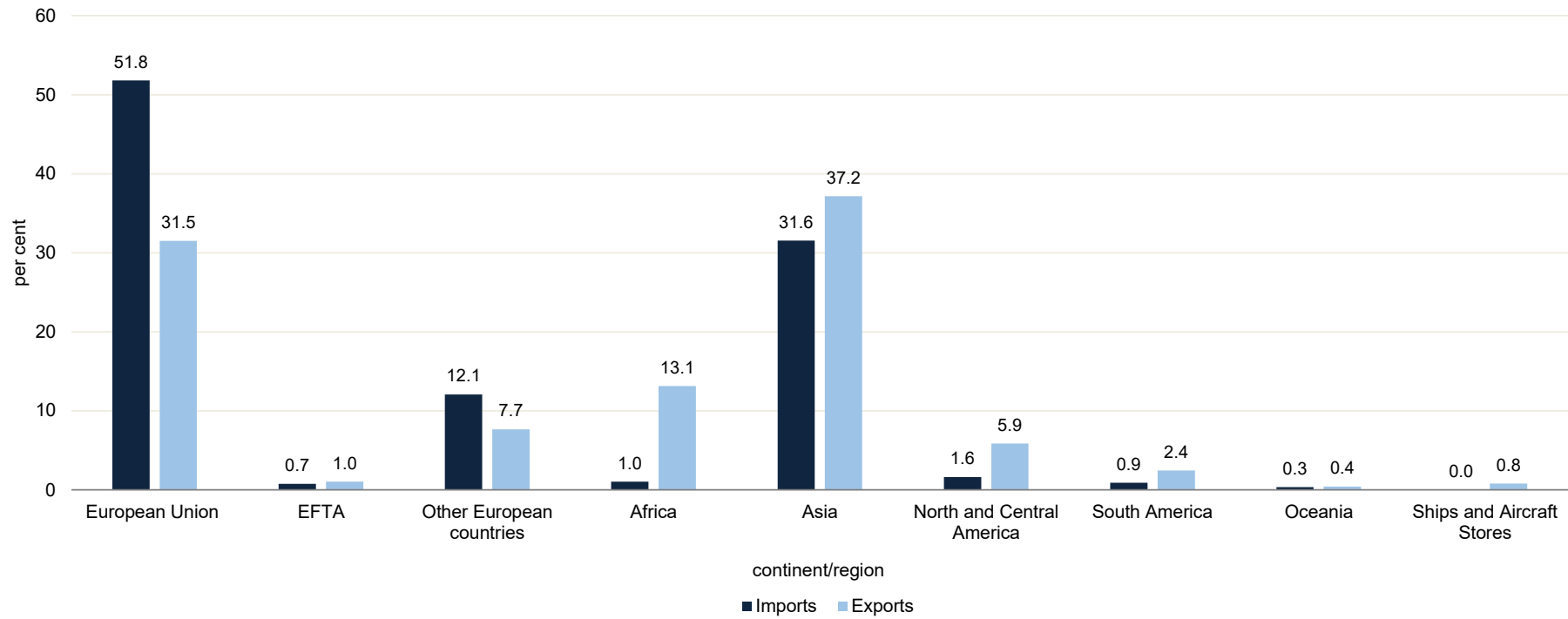
€ million

Continent/Region	December						January-December					
	2020 ^P			2021 ^P			2020 ^P			2021 ^P		
	Imports	Exports	Balance of Trade	Imports	Exports	Balance of Trade	Imports	Exports	Balance of Trade	Imports	Exports	Balance of Trade
Europe	193.7	79.3	-114.4	210.2	75.6	-134.5	2393.7	1133.5	-1,260.2	2564.5	1,186.1	-1,378.4
European Union	147.3	72.4	-74.9	168.5	59.3	-109.2	1891.1	1,039.0	-852.1	2,086.4	1,014.1	-1,072.3
Euro area	137.9	61.1	-76.9	154.2	46.2	-108.1	1756.9	856.9	-900.1	1,926.0	776.0	-1,150.0
EFTA countries	4.1	2.2	-1.9	2.3	1.9	-0.5	37.1	19.1	-18.0	53.4	34.0	-19.5
Other European countries	42.2	4.7	-37.5	39.3	14.4	-24.9	465.4	75.3	-390.1	424.7	138.0	-286.7
Africa	3.6	24.0	20.4	3.3	24.7	21.5	73.0	303.2	230.2	76.1	307.9	231.9
Asia	57.0	83.0	26.0	102.6	69.9	-32.7	773.0	719.3	-53.7	976.2	679.5	-296.7
North and Central America	5.4	13.7	8.2	5.2	11.0	5.8	71.0	121.3	50.3	92.5	146.0	53.5
South America	1.8	4.0	2.2	2.8	4.6	1.7	22.0	15.7	-6.3	23.4	28.5	5.1
Oceania	0.4	0.2	-0.2	1.0	0.8	-0.3	6.8	4.3	-2.5	9.2	5.5	-3.7
Ships and Aircraft Stores	-	0.2	0.2	-	1.5	1.5	0.0	28.6	28.6	0.0	59.7	59.7
Grand Total	261.9	204.2	-57.7	325.1	188.1	-137.0	3339.6	2,325.9	-1,013.7	3,741.8	2,413.1	-1,328.7

^P Provisional.¹ Data excluding chapters 27, 88 and 89. Refer to methodological note 8.

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Chart 5. Percentage distribution of Trade in Goods excluding specific chapters¹ in December 2021 by continent/region



¹ Data excluding chapters 27, 88 and 89. Refer to methodological note 8.

Table 6. Total Trade in Goods by period and main trade chapter

€ million

Trade chapter	Chapter description	December			January-December		
		2020 ^P	2021 ^P	percentage change	2020 ^P	2021 ^P	percentage change
Imports							
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	3.7	142.4	3,701.0	561.6	803.6	43.1
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	106.7	99.6	-6.6	1,229.3	1,387.5	12.9
85	Electrical machinery etc.	43.6	56.9	30.6	532.1	626.5	17.7
30	Pharmaceutical products	26.4	39.1	47.9	289.2	323.0	11.7
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	25.0	24.8	-0.7	312.6	350.0	12.0
87	Vehicles (excluding trains) and parts thereof	13.6	20.8	52.9	160.7	185.9	15.7
29	Organic chemicals	4.3	19.5	358.4	118.7	137.1	15.6
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	13.5	13.8	1.8	173.8	183.0	5.3
61	Knitted clothing	5.7	7.8	37.0	67.8	81.1	19.6
73	Articles of iron or steel	4.1	7.4	80.9	60.0	73.8	23.0
94	Furniture; bedding, etc.	6.1	7.1	16.2	74.1	84.8	14.5
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	6.2	6.8	9.4	82.0	95.8	16.8
48	Paper and paperboard articles	8.5	6.7	-21.4	118.0	116.8	-1.0
22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	5.4	5.9	9.6	62.1	74.2	19.6
19	Preparations of cereals	5.5	5.3	-2.8	63.6	64.6	1.5
Exports							
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	101.9	51.1	-49.9	1,094.1	939.3	-14.2
30	Pharmaceutical products	26.4	35.0	32.6	360.5	410.0	13.7
85	Electrical machinery etc.	56.3	35.0	-37.9	648.8	611.9	-5.7
03	Fish and crustaceans, etc.	33.0	26.0	-21.3	192.0	161.5	-15.9
49	Printed books, newspapers	12.8	18.6	45.3	259.2	273.5	5.5
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	5.3	17.5	230.2	162.4	102.3	-37.0
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	16.1	10.1	-37.2	66.4	61.3	-7.7
29	Organic chemicals	5.4	9.4	74.6	70.4	133.5	89.8
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	7.7	8.3	7.8	119.0	114.8	-3.5
95	Toys, games and sports requisites	8.5	6.6	-22.8	144.7	135.6	-6.3
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	6.7	6.2	-8.3	83.2	77.1	-7.4
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	5.0	5.6	12.7	97.1	94.0	-3.2
72	Iron and steel	0.1	3.8	3,875.0	7.0	17.4	148.4
40	Rubber and articles of rubber	4.6	3.5	-24.1	52.0	64.3	23.5
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	1.6	3.2	104.0	15.8	20.2	28.3

^P Provisional

Notes:

- Table 6 is based on the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1577. Refer to methodological note 13.
- Figures for Chapter 27 include 'Industrial supplies, primary' and 'Industrial supplies, processed'.
- A full list of chapters is available in the excel version of this news release: https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/View_by_Unit/Unit_A4/International_Trade/Pages/International-Trade-in-Goods.aspx
- Totals may not add up due to rounding.
- Data shows the top fifteen chapters, sorted in descending order according to imports/exports values for the month under review.

Methodological Notes

1. Figures presented in this news release are based on register data available as at the cut-off date printed on the front page of this release. These are provisional figures based on information provided by traders and customs declarations on a monthly basis. Regular revisions to monthly and annual trade data may be carried out for up to two (2) years after the reference period. No estimations are included in these figures to compensate for late or non-response by traders or late documentation of customs declarations.
2. Data in this release are based on:
 - a. The Intrastat Supplementary Declaration that traders in merchandise goods must submit in respect of arrivals (imports) and dispatches (exports) of goods from and to the Member States of the European Union (EU) in compliance with Legal Notice 131 of 2004, and
 - b. The Customs Declarations for imports from and exports to countries that are not Member States of the EU.
3. The Intrastat Supplementary Declaration for the collection of data on trade in goods between the Member States of the EU replaced the Customs Declaration as from 1 May 2004. The requirements of the Supplementary Declaration, which at EU level were introduced as from 1 January 1993, are similar in all the Member States of the EU.
4. As from May 2004, with the introduction of the Intrastat Supplementary Declaration as the source document for trade statistics, it was no longer possible to disaggregate total exports into domestic exports and re-exports.
5. The 'Balance of Trade' is the difference between a country's exports and imports. A country has a trade deficit if it imports more than it exports; the opposite scenario signifies a trade surplus.
6. National concepts differ from the harmonised methodology used by Eurostat, leading to differences between figures in this release and those published by Eurostat. Malta uses the "General Trade" system for dissemination purposes in line with UN recommendations. On the other hand, monthly data sent to Eurostat for both Intra-EU and Extra-EU are compiled according to the "Special Trade" methodology. A more detailed explanation of these two concepts can be found in the "Statistical Concepts" link below (see point 13).
7.
 - i. Up to 31 December 2014, the euro area (Trading Partners) included Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia (from 2014), Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain. From 1 January 2015, the euro area also includes Lithuania. Trade data for Lithuania is included with the euro area data as from reference month January 2015.
 - ii. The EU (Trading Partners) include Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia (from July 2013), Cyprus, Czech Republic (Czechia), Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden. As of 1 February 2020, the United Kingdom is no longer part of the EU.

For reference periods February 2020 onwards, monthly news releases having a country breakdown will carry EU data excluding the United Kingdom. Users are advised to use data with caution when making comparisons since this will result in discrepancies, unless United Kingdom information is removed from previous figures.
 - iii. EFTA (European Free Trade Association) countries comprise Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.
 - iv. As from 1st January 2021, following the Withdrawal Agreement (Brexit) between the United Kingdom and the EU, Northern Ireland is to be considered as part of the EU for International Trade purposes.
8. As from the publication relating to the January 2021 reference period, the format of the news release changed. The main enhancement was the reporting of statistics which exclude specific chapters, namely Mineral fuels, oils and products (Chapter 27), Aircrafts/spacecrafts and parts thereof (Chapter 88) and Ships, boats and floating structures (Chapter 89). These are categories which are dominated by one-off transactions that could weigh heavily on the overall headline figures. Therefore, while the official figures remain those for total trade, data excluding these specific chapters is, in many cases, more suitable to analyse underlying economic trends.
9. As from the reference period January 2021, data in Table 3 is based on the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) Rev.4.
10. As from the reference period January 2021, the Caribbean and the Bahamas Islands are included under North and Central America.
11. The percentage change for the Balance of Trade between the current month (y) and the corresponding month of the previous year (x), is worked using the formula $((y-x)/abs(x))*100$. A negative percentage change in the Balance of Trade means that it has widened (deteriorated), while a positive percentage change means that the Balance of Trade has narrowed (improved).
12. More detailed and disaggregated data not appearing in this release is available in the excel version of this release or upon request from the NSO.

13. More information relating to this news release may be accessed at:
Sources and Methods: https://nso.gov.mt/en/nso/Sources_and_Methods/Unit_A4/International_Trade/Pages/External-Trade-Statistics.aspx
Statistical Concepts: <https://metadata.nso.gov.mt/concepts.aspx>
Metadata: <https://metadata.nso.gov.mt/reports.aspx?id=7>
BEC Classification: <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/classifications/bec.asp>
SITC Rev. 4: <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/sitcrev4.htm>
Combined Nomenclature Classification: <https://eurostat.prod.3ceonline.com/>
Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1577 link:
<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L:2020:361:FULL&from=EN>
14. References to this news release are to be cited appropriately.
15. A detailed news release calendar is available on:
https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/Release_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx
16. For more information on International Trade in Goods visit the website:
https://nso.gov.mt/Home/International_Trade_In_Goods_Statistics/Pages/International_Trade_In_Goods_Statistics.aspx