

11 March 2020 | 1100 hrs | 041/2020

Provisional figures for registered trade in goods in Malta recorded a trade deficit of €294.3 million during January 2020.

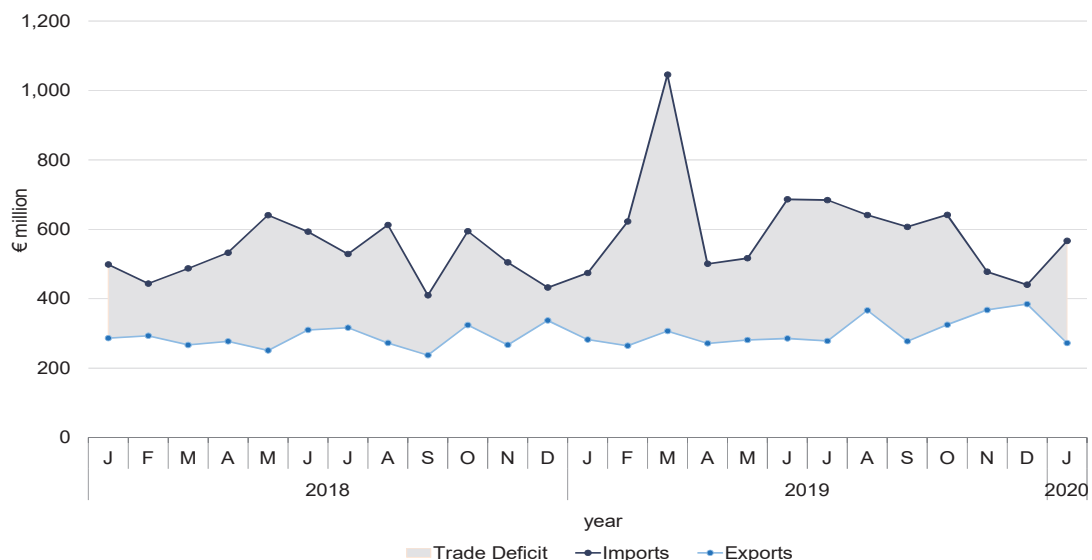
## International Trade in Goods: January 2020

Cut-off date:  
3 March 2020

Data in this news release presents all international trade in goods registered up to the indicated cut-off date (refer to methodological notes). Provisional data for registered international trade recorded a trade deficit of €294.3 million during January 2020, compared to a deficit of €191.9 million in the corresponding month of 2019. Imports registered an increase of €92.5 million, while exports decreased by €9.9 million (Table 1). The increase in the value of imports was primarily due to mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€71.9 million) and machinery and transport equipment (€49.5 million), partly outweighed by decreases of €14.8 million in chemicals and €6.6 million in semi-manufactured goods. On the exports side, food (€28.6 million) accounted for the main decrease, partly outweighed by increases of €8.8 million and €8.7 million in machinery and transport equipment and miscellaneous manufactured articles respectively (Table 2).

Imports from the European Union reached €256.9 million, or 45.3 per cent of total imports. There was a decrease of €4.8 million in imports from euro area countries when compared to January 2019. Main increases and decreases in imports were registered from China (€94.7 million) and Italy (€14.9 million) respectively. With respect to exports, the main increase was directed to Germany (€21.7 million), whereas Japan (€25.3 million) registered the highest decrease (Table 3) ■

**Chart 1. International Trade in Goods - monthly**



**Table 1. Trade in goods by period and broad economic category**

€ million

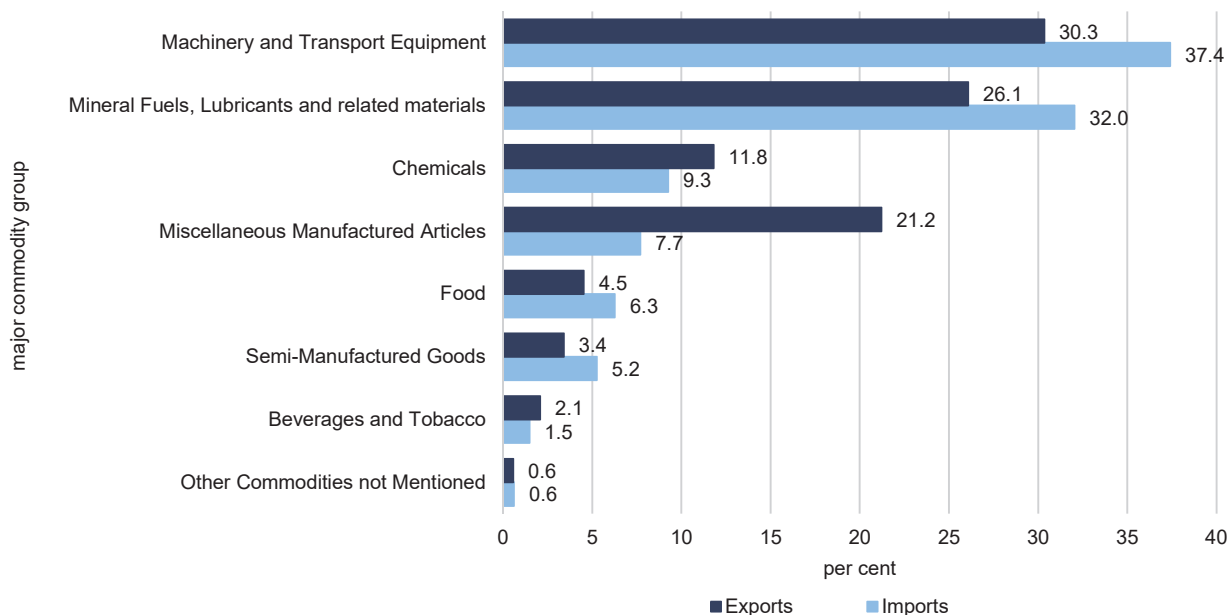
Broad economic category	2016 <sup>P</sup>	2017 <sup>P</sup>	2018 <sup>P</sup>	2019 <sup>P</sup>	January	
					2019 <sup>P</sup>	2020 <sup>P</sup>
<b>Imports</b>	<b>6,451.8</b>	<b>6,125.4</b>	<b>6,279.0</b>	<b>7,337.7</b>	<b>474.2</b>	<b>566.7</b>
<b>Industrial Supplies</b>	<b>1,335.0</b>	<b>1,322.9</b>	<b>1,470.3</b>	<b>1,640.9</b>	<b>144.2</b>	<b>95.9</b>
Primary	112.7	126.3	125.7	116.0	3.5	4.3
Semi-Finished	1,028.8	1,011.1	1,139.2	1,328.8	122.9	83.1
Finished	193.5	185.5	205.4	196.1	17.8	8.5
<b>Capital Goods and Others</b>	<b>2,282.2</b>	<b>1,680.4</b>	<b>1,401.5</b>	<b>2,341.6</b>	<b>108.2</b>	<b>172.5</b>
<b>Consumer Goods</b>	<b>1,241.6</b>	<b>1,350.4</b>	<b>1,472.7</b>	<b>1,524.1</b>	<b>119.1</b>	<b>116.7</b>
Food and Beverages	499.5	530.8	548.7	550.6	41.4	35.0
Durable Goods	432.3	469.4	496.3	540.4	41.4	38.8
Others	309.8	350.1	427.8	433.1	36.4	43.0
<b>Fuels and Lubricants</b>	<b>1,593.0</b>	<b>1,771.7</b>	<b>1,934.5</b>	<b>1,831.1</b>	<b>102.6</b>	<b>181.5</b>
<b>Exports</b>	<b>3,927.8</b>	<b>3,708.0</b>	<b>3,440.8</b>	<b>3,692.1</b>	<b>282.3</b>	<b>272.4</b>
<i>of which:</i>						
Exports of Fuels and Lubricants	1,130.1	1,419.9	986.6	1,027.9	66.6	71.0
<b>Balance of Trade</b>	<b>-2,523.9</b>	<b>-2,417.5</b>	<b>-2,838.2</b>	<b>-3,645.6</b>	<b>-191.9</b>	<b>-294.3</b>

<sup>P</sup> Provisional

Notes:

1. Table 1 is based on the United Nations Statistical Division BEC codes (Broad Economic Categories). Figures for 'Fuels and Lubricants' refer to BEC 0031 and BEC 0032; 'Fuels and lubricants, primary' and 'Fuels and lubricants, processed' respectively.
2. Totals may not add up due to rounding.
3. A disaggregation by quarter is available on 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](https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/View_by_Unit/Unit_A4/International_Trade/Pages/International-Trade-in-Goods.aspx)

**Chart 2. Percentage distribution of trade in goods in January 2020 by major commodity group**



Notes:

1. The commodity breakdown is in accordance with the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) Rev. 3.
2. "Other Commodities not Mentioned" includes the commodity groups "Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities", "Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats" and "Crude Materials".
3. Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 2. Balance of trade in goods by period and major commodity groups

€ million

Major commodity group	2016 <sup>P</sup>	2017 <sup>P</sup>	2018 <sup>P</sup>	2019 <sup>P</sup>	January	
					2019 <sup>P</sup>	2020 <sup>P</sup>
<b>Imports</b>	<b>6,451.8</b>	<b>6,125.4</b>	<b>6,279.0</b>	<b>7,337.7</b>	<b>474.2</b>	<b>566.7</b>
Food	571.9	625.1	628.7	599.8	39.1	35.5
Beverages and Tobacco	98.0	95.9	112.3	129.8	7.3	8.4
Crude Materials	26.4	26.2	27.4	36.1	3.7	2.6
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	1,600.3	1,775.0	1,947.0	1,865.0	109.6	181.5
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	9.4	9.3	9.6	9.6	1.0	0.6
Chemicals	466.4	521.5	603.1	676.5	67.3	52.5
Semi-Manufactured Goods	376.0	361.3	413.1	437.3	36.3	29.7
Machinery and Transport Equipment	2,852.8	2,236.2	2,005.0	3,012.3	162.5	212.0
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	439.0	469.7	527.7	566.7	47.0	43.6
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	11.7	5.3	5.2	4.5	0.3	0.3
<b>Exports</b>	<b>3,927.8</b>	<b>3,708.0</b>	<b>3,440.8</b>	<b>3,692.1</b>	<b>282.3</b>	<b>272.4</b>
Food	257.1	283.4	345.3	284.1	40.9	12.3
Beverages and Tobacco	41.1	38.6	44.6	46.9	1.5	5.6
Crude Materials	12.6	13.4	13.3	10.0	0.7	1.3
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	1,162.6	1,469.1	1,048.6	1,057.5	71.9	71.0
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	0.0	0.0	-	0.0	0.0	-
Chemicals	965.0	383.1	387.0	522.6	25.6	32.1
Semi-Manufactured Goods	121.0	150.8	153.8	137.8	18.6	9.3
Machinery and Transport Equipment	961.9	988.0	957.0	1,025.3	73.9	82.7
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	405.8	380.7	488.8	605.1	49.1	57.8
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	0.7	0.8	2.5	2.6	0.1	0.2
<b>Balance of Trade</b>	<b>-2,523.9</b>	<b>-2,417.5</b>	<b>-2,838.2</b>	<b>-3,645.6</b>	<b>-191.9</b>	<b>-294.3</b>
Food	-314.7	-341.6	-283.4	-315.6	1.7	-23.2
Beverages and Tobacco	-56.9	-57.3	-67.7	-82.9	-5.7	-2.7
Crude Materials	-13.8	-12.9	-14.1	-26.1	-3.1	-1.3
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	-437.7	-305.9	-898.4	-807.5	-37.8	-110.5
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	-9.4	-9.3	-9.6	-9.6	-1.0	-0.6
Chemicals	498.6	-138.4	-216.1	-153.9	-41.7	-20.3
Semi-Manufactured Goods	-255.0	-210.6	-259.2	-299.6	-17.7	-20.5
Machinery and Transport Equipment	-1,890.9	-1,248.1	-1,048.0	-1,987.0	-88.6	-129.3
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	-33.2	-88.9	-38.9	38.4	2.2	14.2
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	-10.9	-4.5	-2.7	-1.9	-0.2	0.0

<sup>P</sup> Provisional

Notes:

1. The commodity breakdown is in accordance with the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) Rev. 3.
2. Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 3. Direction of trade in goods by period and country/region

€ million

Country/Region	January					
	2019 <sup>P</sup>			2020 <sup>P</sup>		
	Arrivals/ Imports	Dispatches/ Exports	Balance of Trade	Arrivals/ Imports	Dispatches/ Exports	Balance of Trade
<b>Europe</b>	<b>281.1</b>	<b>107.4</b>	<b>-173.6</b>	<b>296.9</b>	<b>118.6</b>	<b>-178.2</b>
<i>of which:</i>						
<b>European Union</b>	<b>249.3</b>	<b>103.3</b>	<b>-146.0</b>	<b>256.9</b>	<b>113.2</b>	<b>-143.7</b>
<i>of which:</i>						
United Kingdom	32.2	5.3	-26.8	43.7	3.1	-40.5
<b>euro area</b>	<b>197.3</b>	<b>81.7</b>	<b>-115.6</b>	<b>192.5</b>	<b>92.8</b>	<b>-99.7</b>
<i>of which:</i>						
Italy	83.6	17.9	-65.7	68.7	10.5	-58.2
France	22.4	23.3	0.9	45.2	17.6	-27.6
Germany	30.9	31.1	0.2	22.3	52.8	30.5
Netherlands	21.3	3.0	-18.3	15.7	3.4	-12.3
Spain	7.5	2.6	-4.9	14.7	3.6	-11.1
Belgium	6.3	0.3	-6.1	7.1	0.5	-6.6
<b>EFTA Countries</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>-6.8</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>-1.9</b>
<i>of which:</i>						
Switzerland	2.6	2.7	0.1	3.6	2.3	-1.2
<b>Other European Countries</b>	<b>21.6</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>-20.9</b>	<b>35.4</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>-32.6</b>
<i>of which:</i>						
Russian Federation	1.6	0.0	-1.6	19.1	0.1	-19.0
<b>Asia</b>	<b>96.5</b>	<b>79.3</b>	<b>-17.2</b>	<b>180.6</b>	<b>52.4</b>	<b>-128.2</b>
<i>of which:</i>						
China	23.2	1.7	-21.5	117.9	2.5	-115.4
India	15.8	0.8	-15.0	18.0	1.0	-17.0
Israel	10.3	0.2	-10.1	15.9	0.1	-15.8
Japan	4.4	33.8	29.4	5.2	8.5	3.3
South Korea	3.3	4.3	1.0	4.9	2.5	-2.4
<b>North and Central America</b>	<b>19.5</b>	<b>32.4</b>	<b>12.9</b>	<b>47.8</b>	<b>10.7</b>	<b>-37.2</b>
<i>of which:</i>						
Canada	11.9	1.0	-10.9	40.9	1.5	-39.4
United States of America	7.5	30.4	22.9	6.8	8.2	1.3
<b>Africa</b>	<b>17.5</b>	<b>27.5</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>38.0</b>	<b>20.9</b>	<b>-17.1</b>
<i>of which:</i>						
Egypt	12.7	9.7	-2.9	21.6	1.6	-20.0
<b>Australia and Oceania</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>-13.2</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>-0.2</b>
<b>South America</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>0.9</b>
<b>Caribbean and Bahamas Islands</b>	<b>43.9</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>-43.8</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.7</b>
<b>Ships and Aircraft Stores</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>25.1</b>	<b>25.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>65.0</b>	<b>65.0</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>474.2</b>	<b>282.3</b>	<b>-191.9</b>	<b>566.7</b>	<b>272.4</b>	<b>-294.3</b>

<sup>P</sup> Provisional

Notes:

1. Ranking is based according to top countries of import for the current month under review.
2. Arrivals/Dispatches relate to registered transactions with EU Member States.
3. Imports/Exports relate to registered transactions with Non-EU Member States (see methodological notes for country groupings).
4. Totals may not add up due to rounding.
5. Data for the full list of countries is available on 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](https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/View_by_Unit/Unit_A4/International_Trade/Pages/International-Trade-in-Goods.aspx)

Table 4. Trade in goods by period and principal traded commodities

€ 000

Chapter number	Commodity description	January	
		2019 <sup>P</sup>	2020 <sup>P</sup>
<b>Main imports</b>			
02	Meat and edible offal	5,172	4,143
04	Dairy produce; birds' eggs	3,999	4,100
08	Edible fruit and nuts	2,676	2,267
10	Cereals	824	2,736
16	Preparations of meat/fish	4,280	3,982
19	Preparations of cereals	5,262	3,963
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	3,103	2,499
22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	4,482	3,858
23	Food residues and waste	2,046	3,016
24	Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	2,793	4,592
25	Salt/sulphur/earths/plastering materials and cement	3,028	3,375
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	110,884	181,537
29	Organic chemicals	20,161	7,182
30	Pharmaceutical products	23,155	26,910
32	Tanning/dyeing extracts and paints	3,743	2,558
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	2,554	2,792
38	Miscellaneous chemical products	2,514	2,367
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	16,516	13,961
48	Paper and paperboard articles	11,515	8,904
61	Knitted clothing	6,294	9,278
62	Woven clothing	4,168	4,350
64	Footwear, gaiters etc.and parts	6,670	5,200
72	Iron and steel	1,085	2,548
73	Articles of iron or steel	6,106	4,265
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	32,954	23,812
85	Electrical machinery etc.	50,796	39,285
87	Vehicles (excluding trains) and parts thereof	13,099	13,825
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	53,394	135,076
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	7,746	5,738
94	Furniture; bedding, etc.	4,985	4,689
<b>Main exports</b>			
03	Fish and crustaceans, etc.	35,757	9,028
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	3,863	2,503
24	Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	-	4,363
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	71,822	70,900
29	Organic chemicals	848	994
30	Pharmaceutical products	18,772	25,200
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	7,354	7,555
40	Rubber and articles of rubber	5,947	4,968
49	Printed books, newspapers	16,042	27,138
60	Knitted/crocheted fabrics	2,177	2,522
61	Knitted clothing	1,309	1,125
64	Footwear, gaiters etc.and parts	2,475	2,390
72	Iron and steel	219	979
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	10,888	8,969
85	Electrical machinery etc.	55,732	48,644
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	7,089	24,857
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	8,954	5,871
95	Toys, games and sports requisites	11,184	14,846
99	Special classifications	1,835	1,977

<sup>P</sup> Provisional

## Notes:

- Table 4 is based on the World Customs Organisations Harmonised System (HS) codes. Figures for chapter 27 include 'Industrial supplies, primary' and 'Industrial supplies, processed'.
- Data for the full list of chapters is available on 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](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.

## 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.
7.
  - i. Up to 31 December 2014, the euro area 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 European Union includes Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia (from July 2013), Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom. From reference month February 2020, the United Kingdom is excluded from the European Union computation.
  - iii. EFTA (European Free Trade Association) countries comprise Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.
8. 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.
9. 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](https://nso.gov.mt/en/nso/Sources_and_Methods/Unit_A4/International_Trade/Pages/External-Trade-Statistics.aspx)  
Statistical Concepts: <http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/concepts.aspx>  
Metadata: <http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/reports.aspx?id=7>  
Classification: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/ramon/index.cfm?>
10. References to this news release are to be cited appropriately.
11. A detailed news release calendar is available on: [https://nso.gov.mt/en/News\\_Releases/Release\\_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx](https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/Release_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx)