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Provisional figures for registered trade in Malta recorded a trade deficit of €134.2 million during February 2020, compared to a deficit of €357.8 million in the corresponding month of 2019.

International Trade in Goods: February 2020

Cut-off date:
1 April 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 €134.2 million during February, compared to a deficit of €357.8 million in the corresponding month of 2019. Imports registered a decrease of €196.5 million, while exports increased by €27.1 million (Table 1). The decrease in the value of imports was primarily due to machinery and transport equipment (€190.9 million). On the exports side, machinery and transport equipment (€16.2 million) and miscellaneous manufactured articles (€11.0 million) accounted to the main increase (Table 2).

January-February 2020

During the first two months of this year, the trade deficit narrowed by €106.7 million when compared to the corresponding period of 2019, reaching €443.0 million. Imports decreased by €84.1 million while exports showed an increase of €22.6 million (Table 1). Lower imports were mainly in machinery and transport equipment (€134.2 million) and chemicals (€25.8 million), partly outweighed by an increase of €90.1 million in mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials. The main increases in exports were registered in machinery and transport equipment (€25.3 million) and miscellaneous manufactured articles (€21.7 million), partly outweighed by a decrease of €19.1 million in food (Table 2).

Imports from the European Union reached €514.0 million, or 50.8 per cent of total imports. There was an increase of €62.2 million in imports from euro area countries when compared to the same month in 2019. Main increases and decreases in imports were registered from China (€89.6 million) and the United Kingdom (€185.4 million) respectively. With respect to exports, the main increase was directed to Germany (€37.9 million), whereas the United States of America (€22.3 million) registered the highest decrease (Table 3) ■

Chart 1. International Trade in Goods - monthly

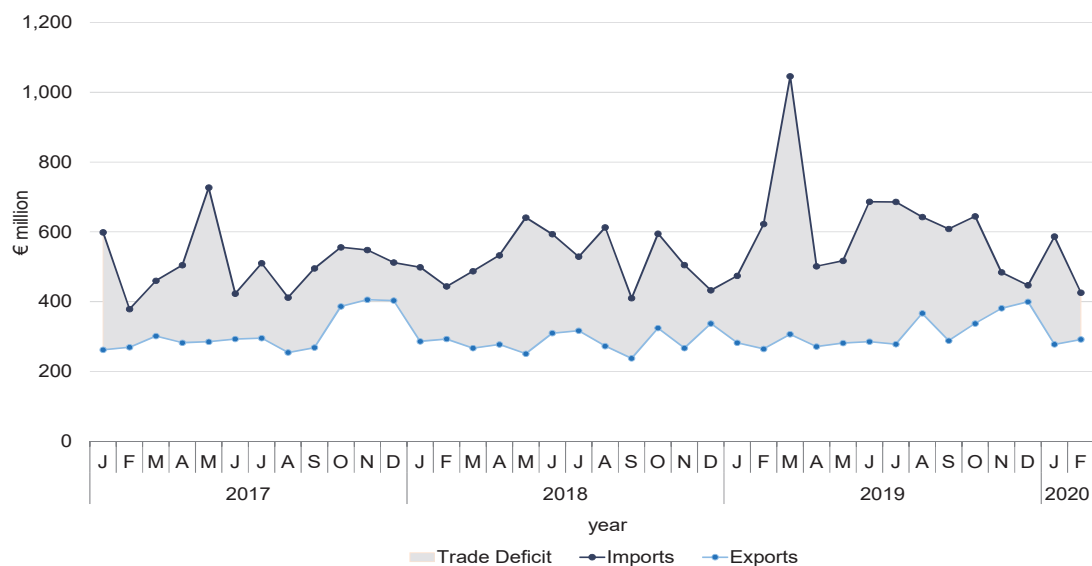


Table 1. Trade in goods by period and broad economic category

€ million

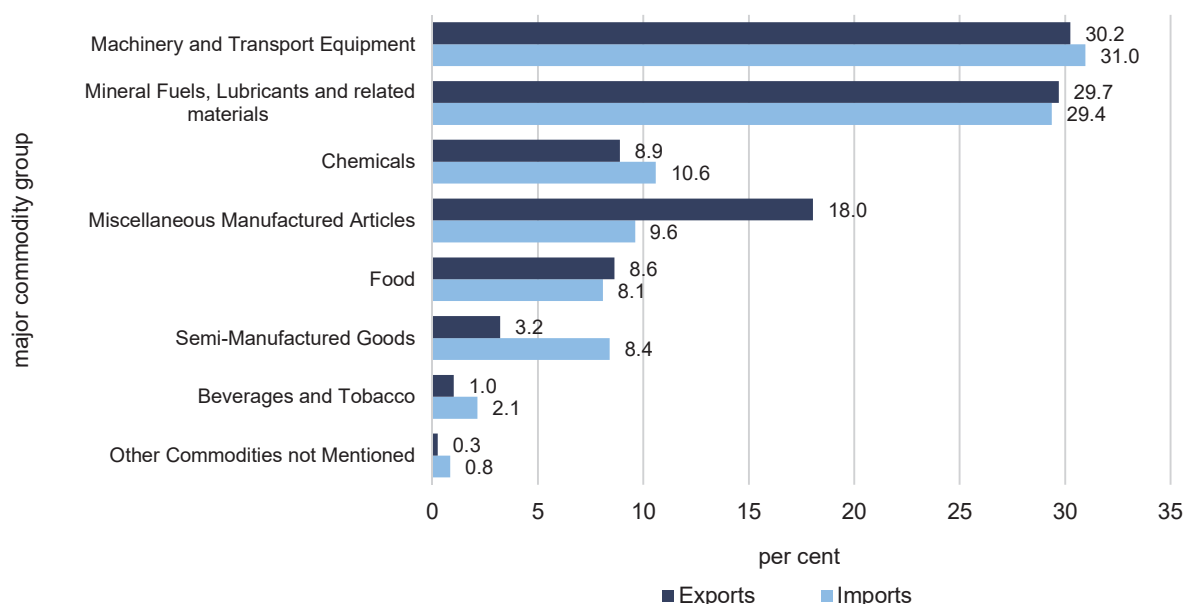
Broad economic category	2018 ^P	2019 ^P	February		January-February	
			2019 ^P	2020 ^P	2019 ^P	2020 ^P
			Imports	6,280.8	7,359.6	622.5
Industrial Supplies	1,471.1	1,648.6	129.1	110.3	273.3	213.8
Primary	125.7	116.0	5.6	2.5	9.1	6.9
Semi-Finished	1,140.0	1,331.9	103.8	94.0	226.8	180.4
Finished	205.4	200.7	19.7	13.9	37.5	26.5
Capital Goods and Others	1,401.5	2,345.9	266.0	81.1	374.2	256.5
Consumer Goods	1,473.7	1,533.9	117.1	110.8	236.2	231.9
Food and Beverages	548.7	556.5	42.3	37.1	83.7	74.3
Durable Goods	497.1	543.0	40.7	36.7	82.0	77.0
Others	428.0	434.4	34.1	37.0	70.5	80.5
Fuels and Lubricants	1,934.5	1,831.1	110.3	123.8	213.0	310.4
Exports	3,440.9	3,743.8	264.7	291.8	547.0	569.6
<i>of which:</i>						
Exports of Fuels and Lubricants	986.6	1,079.3	75.5	86.7	142.2	157.7
Balance of Trade	-2,840.0	-3,615.8	-357.8	-134.2	-549.7	-443.0

^P Provisional

Notes:

- 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; respectively 'Fuels and lubricants, primary' and 'Fuels and lubricants, processed'.
- Totals may not add up due to rounding.
- A disaggregation by quarter is available on the excel version of this news release:
http://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/View_by_Unit/Unit_A4/International_Trade/Pages/International-Trade.aspx

Chart 2. Percentage distribution of registered trade in February 2020 by major commodity group



Notes:

- The commodity breakdown is in accordance with the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) Rev. 3.
- "Other Commodities not Mentioned" includes the commodity groups "Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities", "Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats" and "Crude Materials".
- 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	2018 ^P	2019 ^P	February		January-February	
			2019 ^P	2020 ^P	2019 ^P	2020 ^P
Imports	6,280.8	7,359.6	622.5	426.0	1,096.7	1,012.6
Food	628.7	605.5	40.7	34.4	79.9	72.3
Beverages and Tobacco	112.3	130.1	9.4	9.1	16.6	17.5
Crude Materials	27.4	36.2	3.2	2.5	7.0	5.1
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	1,947.0	1,865.0	112.1	125.1	221.7	311.8
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	9.6	9.6	0.8	0.8	1.8	1.4
Chemicals	603.1	678.3	57.3	45.1	124.7	98.9
Semi-Manufactured Goods	413.8	438.7	36.6	35.8	72.9	67.5
Machinery and Transport Equipment	2,005.0	3,021.2	322.8	131.9	485.3	351.1
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	528.8	570.4	39.3	40.9	86.2	86.4
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	5.2	4.5	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.6
Exports	3,440.9	3,743.8	264.7	291.8	547.0	569.6
Food	345.3	284.1	18.6	25.2	59.5	40.4
Beverages and Tobacco	44.6	46.9	4.3	3.0	5.8	8.7
Crude Materials	13.3	10.0	0.3	0.7	0.9	2.0
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	1,048.6	1,109.0	78.3	86.7	150.1	157.7
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chemicals	387.0	522.6	36.8	26.0	62.4	58.1
Semi-Manufactured Goods	153.8	137.8	11.8	9.4	30.4	18.7
Machinery and Transport Equipment	957.0	1,025.5	72.1	88.3	146.0	171.3
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	488.8	605.1	41.6	52.6	90.7	112.4
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	2.5	2.6	1.0	0.0	1.1	0.3
Balance of Trade	-2,840.0	-3,615.8	-357.8	-134.2	-549.7	-443.0
Food	-283.4	-321.4	-22.1	-9.2	-20.4	-31.8
Beverages and Tobacco	-67.7	-83.2	-5.1	-6.1	-10.8	-8.9
Crude Materials	-14.1	-26.1	-3.0	-1.7	-6.0	-3.1
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	-898.4	-756.0	-33.9	-38.4	-71.6	-154.0
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	-9.6	-9.6	-0.8	-0.8	-1.8	-1.4
Chemicals	-216.1	-155.7	-20.5	-19.2	-62.3	-40.8
Semi-Manufactured Goods	-260.0	-300.9	-24.7	-26.5	-42.5	-48.8
Machinery and Transport Equipment	-1,048.0	-1,995.7	-250.7	-43.6	-339.3	-179.8
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	-39.9	34.7	2.3	11.7	4.4	26.1
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	-2.7	-1.9	0.7	-0.3	0.5	-0.3

^P 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

€ million

Country/Region	February						January-February					
	2019 ^P			2020 ^P			2019 ^P			2020 ^P		
	Arrivals/ Imports	Dispatches/ Exports	Balance of Trade	Arrivals/ Imports	Dispatches/ Exports	Balance of Trade	Arrivals/ Imports	Dispatches/ Exports	Balance of Trade	Arrivals/ Imports	Dispatches/ Exports	Balance of Trade
Europe	522.2	109.8	-412.4	346.1	123.0	-223.1	803.3	217.2	-586.1	662.6	244.1	-418.5
<i>of which:</i>												
European Union	243.1	98.7	-144.4	281.3	112.1	-169.3	460.2	196.6	-263.6	514.0	224.6	-289.4
<i>of which:</i>												
euro area	223.7	84.2	-139.4	271.6	98.1	-173.5	420.9	165.9	-255.0	483.1	193.2	-289.8
<i>of which:</i>												
Italy	95.8	17.2	-78.6	88.3	9.1	-79.2	179.4	35.1	-144.3	164.8	21.7	-143.1
France	28.7	20.7	-8.0	44.7	21.7	-23.0	51.0	44.0	-7.0	91.2	39.4	-51.9
Luxembourg	0.1	0.1	0.0	35.3	0.0	-35.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	35.3	0.1	-35.2
Germany	39.6	32.9	-6.7	32.2	49.0	16.8	70.5	64.0	-6.5	61.7	101.9	40.2
Netherlands	11.4	5.1	-6.3	24.7	3.1	-21.6	32.7	8.1	-24.6	41.8	6.5	-35.3
Spain	11.7	4.4	-7.3	21.3	3.4	-17.9	19.2	7.0	-12.2	37.0	7.1	-29.9
EFTA Countries	3.1	2.7	-0.4	4.9	1.7	-3.2	13.3	6.1	-7.2	9.5	4.5	-5.1
<i>of which:</i>												
Norway	0.3	0.4	0.1	2.4	0.4	-2.1	7.2	1.1	-6.1	3.4	0.8	-2.6
Other European Countries	276.0	8.4	-267.6	59.8	9.1	-50.7	329.8	14.5	-315.3	139.1	15.1	-124.0
<i>of which:</i>												
United Kingdom*	242.9	6.5	-236.3	45.9	3.4	-42.5	275.1	11.9	-263.2	89.7	6.6	-83.2
Turkey	9.2	1.4	-7.7	9.3	1.4	-8.0	27.7	2.0	-25.6	24.6	3.5	-21.0
Asia	65.7	48.3	-17.4	54.1	65.4	11.2	162.2	127.7	-34.5	234.9	120.7	-114.3
<i>of which:</i>												
India	14.2	3.6	-10.7	16.1	1.1	-14.9	30.1	4.4	-25.7	34.1	2.1	-32.0
China	18.9	1.9	-16.9	13.7	2.2	-11.5	42.1	3.6	-38.5	131.7	4.7	-127.0
South Korea	4.0	4.3	0.3	4.2	5.4	1.2	7.3	8.6	1.3	9.1	7.8	-1.3
Israel	0.2	0.4	0.2	3.9	0.2	-3.7	10.5	0.6	-9.9	19.8	0.3	-19.5
Japan	6.6	10.9	4.4	2.5	16.9	14.4	11.0	44.7	33.7	7.7	28.2	20.6
North and Central America	6.8	10.9	4.0	10.1	10.7	0.6	26.3	43.2	16.9	58.0	21.4	-36.6
<i>of which:</i>												
United States of America	6.1	8.7	2.6	9.3	8.7	-0.7	13.6	39.1	25.5	16.2	16.8	0.6
Canada	0.7	1.4	0.8	0.6	1.0	0.4	12.5	2.4	-10.1	41.5	2.5	-39.0
Africa	4.4	22.9	18.4	13.4	80.0	66.7	22.0	50.4	28.4	51.4	101.0	49.6
<i>of which:</i>												
Algeria	0.0	1.6	1.6	7.9	1.7	-6.2	0.0	3.2	3.2	22.1	3.0	-19.0
Australia and Oceania	0.7	0.1	-0.6	0.6	0.3	-0.3	14.3	0.5	-13.8	1.1	0.6	-0.5
South America	1.6	2.8	1.2	1.7	0.4	-1.4	3.6	13.0	9.3	4.4	4.0	-0.4
Caribbean and Bahamas Islands	21.0	0.1	-20.9	0.0	0.8	0.8	64.9	0.2	-64.8	0.1	1.6	1.5
Ships and Aircraft Stores	0.1	69.9	69.8	-	11.3	11.3	0.1	95.0	94.9	-	76.3	76.3
Grand Total	622.5	264.7	-357.8	426.0	291.8	-134.2	1,096.7	547.0	-549.7	1,012.6	569.6	-443.0

^P Provisional

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

Notes:

- Ranking is based according to top countries of import for the current period under review.
- Arrivals/Dispatches relate to registered transactions with EU Member States.
- Imports/Exports relate to registered transactions with Non-EU Member States (see methodological notes for country groupings).
- Totals may not add up due to rounding.
- A full list of countries is available on the excel version of this news release:

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

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

€ 000

Chapter number	Commodity description	February		January-February	
		2019 ^P	2020 ^P	2019 ^P	2020 ^P
Main imports					
02	Meat and edible offal	4,521	4,890	9,693	9,659
04	Dairy produce; birds' eggs	4,222	3,745	8,221	7,916
16	Preparations of meat/fish	3,612	3,455	7,892	7,490
19	Preparations of cereals	4,862	4,463	10,124	8,468
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	3,420	2,973	6,523	5,482
22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	7,249	6,139	11,730	10,012
23	Food residues and waste	3,867	2,600	5,913	5,628
24	Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	2,258	3,030	5,051	7,622
25	Salt/sulphur/earths/plastering materials and cement	2,510	3,253	5,538	6,650
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	113,337	125,105	224,221	311,766
29	Organic chemicals	10,583	4,499	30,745	11,707
30	Pharmaceutical products	21,881	24,390	45,036	51,410
32	Tanning/dyeing extracts and paints	6,541	2,647	10,285	6,243
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	3,765	2,412	6,319	5,219
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	13,375	12,107	29,892	26,170
48	Paper and paperboard articles	7,411	6,810	18,926	17,146
49	Printed books, newspapers	1,162	3,455	2,495	4,981
61	Knitted clothing	5,066	6,185	11,360	15,676
62	Woven clothing	3,580	4,026	7,748	8,567
64	Footwear, gaiters etc.and parts	4,875	3,782	11,545	9,205
72	Iron and steel	3,883	3,125	4,968	5,683
73	Articles of iron or steel	7,041	6,299	13,148	10,717
76	Aluminium and articles thereof	1,635	2,438	3,544	3,787
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	32,678	24,527	65,632	49,360
85	Electrical machinery etc.	43,949	43,516	94,746	84,522
87	Vehicles (excluding trains) and parts thereof	15,602	13,620	28,701	28,237
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	15,676	44,045	69,070	182,916
89	Ships, boats and floating structures	214,859	6,236	228,489	6,400
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	5,476	5,493	13,221	11,631
94	Furniture; bedding, etc.	6,584	5,113	11,569	10,045
Main exports					
03	Fish and crustaceans, etc.	12,791	20,596	48,548	32,521
19	Preparations of cereals	804	1,527	1,856	1,998
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	4,761	2,908	8,624	5,412
24	Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	2,814	1,518	2,814	5,881
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	78,195	86,585	150,018	157,514
29	Organic chemicals	3,056	1,464	3,903	2,467
30	Pharmaceutical products	28,431	19,086	47,202	44,286
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	6,501	6,126	13,855	13,757
40	Rubber and articles of rubber	5,083	5,211	11,030	10,181
49	Printed books, newspapers	12,473	20,421	28,515	47,559
60	Knitted/crocheted fabrics	2,309	2,179	4,486	4,701
61	Knitted clothing	794	1,483	2,103	3,893
64	Footwear, gaiters etc.and parts	2,394	3,166	4,870	5,924
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	10,683	8,875	21,571	18,082
85	Electrical machinery etc.	52,021	57,688	107,754	106,334
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	8,388	21,383	15,477	46,366
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	6,854	6,901	15,808	12,822
95	Toys, games and sports requisites	11,096	15,289	22,281	30,134
99	Special classifications	1,642	1,963	3,477	3,948

^P 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'.
- A full list of chapters is available on the excel version of this news release:
http://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/View_by_Unit/Unit_A4/International_Trade/Pages/International-Trade.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 and Sweden. As of February 1, 2020, the United Kingdom is no longer part of the European Union.

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.
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

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