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Provisional figures for registered trade in Malta recorded a trade deficit of €177.4 million during March 2020, compared to a deficit of €738.9 million in the corresponding month of 2019.

International Trade in Goods: March 2020

Cut-off date:
3 May 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 €177.4 million during March, compared to a deficit of €738.9 million in the corresponding month of 2019. Both imports and exports registered decreases of €622.5 million and €61.0 million respectively (Table 1). The decrease in the value of imports was primarily due to machinery and transport equipment (€501.7 million) and mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€87.6 million). On the exports side mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€63.8 million) accounted to the main decrease (Table 2).

January-March 2020

During the first quarter of this year, the trade deficit narrowed by €660.9 million when compared to the corresponding period of 2019, reaching €627.8 million. Both imports and exports decreased by €688.0 million and €27.1 million respectively (Table 1). Lower imports were mainly in machinery and transport equipment (€626.3 million) and chemicals (€32.6 million). The main decreases in exports were registered in mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€56.1 million) and food (€24.7 million), partly outweighed by an increase of €52.1 million in machinery and transport equipment (Table 2).

Imports from the European Union reached €714.7 million, or 49.1 per cent of total imports. There was a decrease of €15.0 million in imports from euro area countries when compared to the same period in 2019. Main increases and decreases in imports were registered from China (€88.9 million) and the United Kingdom (€652.2 million) respectively. With respect to exports, the main increase was directed to Germany (€32.5 million), whereas Italy (€43.1 million) registered the highest decrease (Table 3) ■

Chart 1. International Trade in Goods - quarterly



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

€ million

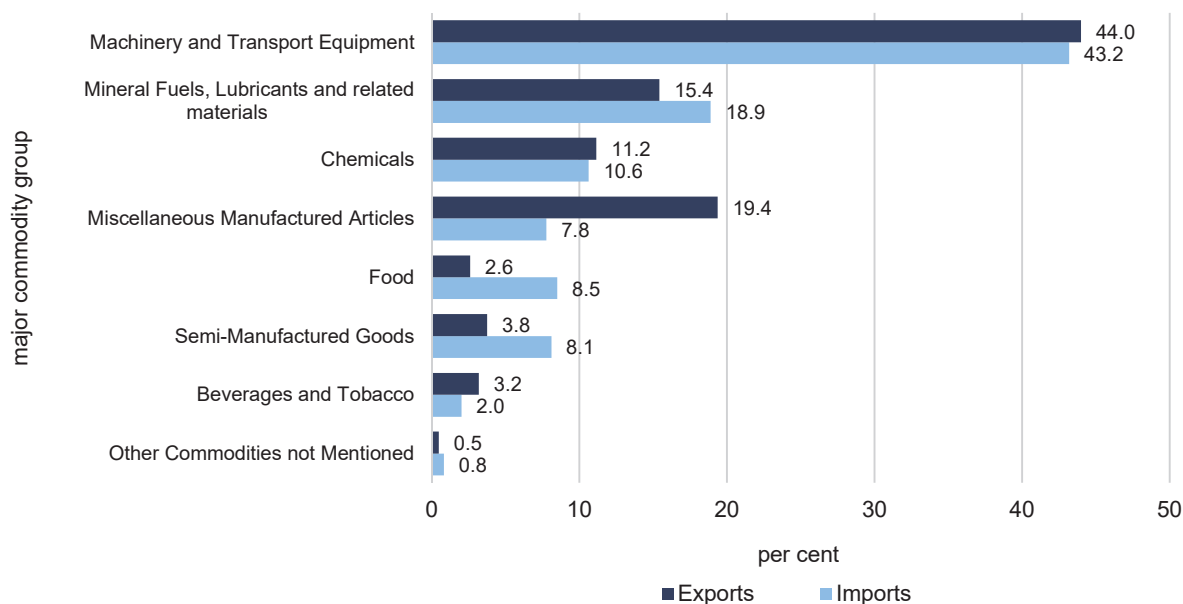
Broad economic category	2018 ^P	2019 ^P	March		January-March	
			2019 ^P	2020 ^P	2019 ^P	2020 ^P
Imports	6,280.8	7,394.6	1,045.7	423.2	2,142.5	1,454.5
Industrial Supplies	1,471.1	1,654.7	121.7	99.3	395.0	320.4
Primary	125.7	116.0	4.0	4.9	13.1	11.9
Semi-Finished	1,140.0	1,335.3	95.3	86.8	322.1	271.8
Finished	205.4	203.4	22.4	7.6	59.9	36.6
Capital Goods and Others	1,401.5	2,368.5	623.8	140.4	998.0	401.5
Consumer Goods	1,473.7	1,540.2	136.9	103.5	373.2	342.2
Food and Beverages	548.7	557.2	42.7	36.5	126.5	112.8
Durable Goods	497.1	546.2	48.9	33.2	131.0	114.5
Others	428.0	436.8	45.2	33.8	115.7	114.9
Fuels and Lubricants	1,934.5	1,831.1	163.3	80.0	376.3	390.4
Exports	3,440.9	3,745.2	306.8	245.8	853.8	826.7
<i>of which:</i>						
Exports of Fuels and Lubricants	986.6	1,079.3	96.2	37.9	238.4	195.7
Balance of Trade	-2,840.0	-3,649.4	-738.9	-177.4	-1,288.7	-627.8

^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 March 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	March		January-March	
			2019 ^P	2020 ^P	2019 ^P	2020 ^P
			Imports	6,280.8	7,394.6	1,045.7
Food	628.7	606.2	42.0	36.0	121.9	110.3
Beverages and Tobacco	112.3	130.2	9.1	8.6	25.8	26.2
Crude Materials	27.4	36.2	2.4	2.4	9.4	7.8
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	1,947.0	1,865.0	167.6	80.0	389.3	391.9
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	9.6	9.6	0.7	0.9	2.5	2.3
Chemicals	603.1	681.9	54.6	45.0	179.2	146.6
Semi-Manufactured Goods	413.8	440.3	35.5	34.3	108.4	102.9
Machinery and Transport Equipment	2,005.0	3,046.1	684.5	182.8	1,169.8	543.5
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	528.8	574.5	48.9	32.9	135.2	122.2
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	5.2	4.5	0.4	0.3	1.0	0.9
Exports	3,440.9	3,745.2	306.8	245.8	853.8	826.7
Food	345.3	284.1	12.1	6.4	71.6	46.9
Beverages and Tobacco	44.6	46.9	3.1	7.8	8.9	16.5
Crude Materials	13.3	10.0	1.3	1.1	2.2	3.1
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	1,048.6	1,109.0	101.7	37.9	251.8	195.7
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chemicals	387.0	524.0	34.2	27.4	96.6	90.6
Semi-Manufactured Goods	153.8	137.8	14.7	9.3	45.1	28.1
Machinery and Transport Equipment	957.0	1,025.5	85.1	108.1	231.2	283.3
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	488.8	605.1	54.1	47.6	144.8	162.3
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	2.5	2.6	0.4	0.1	1.6	0.3
Balance of Trade	-2,840.0	-3,649.4	-738.9	-177.4	-1,288.7	-627.8
Food	-283.4	-322.1	-29.9	-29.6	-50.3	-63.4
Beverages and Tobacco	-67.7	-83.2	-6.0	-0.8	-16.9	-9.7
Crude Materials	-14.1	-26.2	-1.2	-1.3	-7.2	-4.6
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	-898.4	-756.0	-65.9	-42.1	-137.5	-196.2
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	-9.6	-9.6	-0.7	-0.9	-2.5	-2.3
Chemicals	-216.1	-157.9	-20.3	-17.6	-82.6	-56.0
Semi-Manufactured Goods	-260.0	-302.5	-20.8	-25.1	-63.3	-74.8
Machinery and Transport Equipment	-1,048.0	-2,020.6	-599.3	-74.6	-938.6	-260.3
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	-39.9	30.7	5.2	14.7	9.5	40.1
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	-2.7	-1.9	0.0	-0.2	0.5	-0.6

^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	March						January-March					
	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	868.7	169.7	-699.0	247.6	96.8	-150.7	1,672.1	386.9	-1,285.2	928.9	352.2	-576.7
<i>of which:</i>												
European Union	284.3	160.1	-124.2	183.2	88.0	-95.2	744.6	356.7	-387.9	714.7	323.6	-391.1
<i>of which:</i>												
euro area	265.5	140.4	-125.0	170.9	78.3	-92.7	686.6	306.4	-380.2	671.6	280.8	-390.8
<i>of which:</i>												
Italy	105.3	40.8	-64.5	61.7	7.7	-54.0	284.7	75.9	-208.7	232.1	32.8	-199.3
Luxembourg	0.0	0.0	0.0	34.1	0.0	-34.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	69.4	0.1	-69.3
Germany	42.6	45.3	2.7	21.2	39.1	17.9	113.1	109.3	-3.8	90.0	141.8	51.8
France	23.4	26.3	3.0	11.7	18.4	6.7	74.4	70.3	-4.1	104.2	60.0	-44.2
Netherlands	33.6	14.6	-19.0	11.0	4.2	-6.8	66.3	22.7	-43.6	53.5	11.7	-41.8
Belgium	6.0	0.6	-5.4	4.8	0.2	-4.6	17.6	1.6	-16.0	18.0	1.2	-16.7
EFTA Countries	4.5	2.9	-1.6	6.2	1.8	-4.4	17.8	9.0	-8.8	15.7	6.3	-9.5
<i>of which:</i>												
Norway	0.0	0.4	0.3	3.7	0.7	-2.9	7.2	1.5	-5.8	7.1	1.5	-5.5
Other European Countries	579.9	6.7	-573.3	58.2	7.1	-51.1	909.7	21.2	-888.5	198.5	22.3	-176.1
<i>of which:</i>												
United Kingdom*	498.3	4.9	-493.4	30.3	3.0	-27.3	773.4	16.8	-756.6	121.2	9.7	-111.5
Gibraltar	-	0.0	0.0	14.8	-	-14.8	0.1	0.0	-0.1	14.8	1.8	-13.0
Asia	73.3	41.7	-31.6	54.8	48.4	-6.4	235.5	169.4	-66.2	289.8	169.1	-120.7
<i>of which:</i>												
China	16.4	2.7	-13.7	15.7	3.2	-12.4	58.5	6.3	-52.1	147.4	8.0	-139.4
India	14.6	1.1	-13.5	12.1	1.7	-10.4	44.7	5.5	-39.2	46.2	3.8	-42.4
Singapore	1.7	12.4	10.7	8.0	17.3	9.4	12.2	37.5	25.3	11.7	47.0	35.4
South Korea	2.6	0.7	-2.0	4.2	0.8	-3.4	10.0	9.3	-0.7	13.3	8.6	-4.7
Japan	3.8	2.3	-1.6	3.2	1.2	-1.9	14.8	47.0	32.2	10.8	29.5	18.7
North and Central America	10.9	12.7	1.9	80.4	37.9	-42.5	37.2	55.9	18.8	138.4	59.3	-79.2
<i>of which:</i>												
Canada	0.4	2.3	1.9	54.8	1.6	-53.3	12.9	4.7	-8.2	96.3	4.1	-92.2
United States of America	10.2	9.7	-0.5	25.4	35.8	10.4	23.8	48.8	25.0	41.7	52.6	11.0
Africa	15.0	36.2	21.1	21.9	36.1	14.2	37.0	86.5	49.5	73.3	137.1	63.8
<i>of which:</i>												
Algeria	0.0	1.9	1.9	15.6	2.2	-13.5	0.0	5.1	5.1	37.7	5.2	-32.5
Australia and Oceania	75.8	0.6	-75.2	7.2	0.6	-6.6	90.1	1.1	-89.0	8.3	1.2	-7.1
South America	1.8	0.2	-1.6	1.3	0.3	-0.9	5.5	13.2	7.7	5.7	4.3	-1.4
Caribbean and Bahamas Islands	0.1	0.5	0.3	10.1	0.8	-9.3	65.1	0.6	-64.4	10.1	2.4	-7.8
Ships and Aircraft Stores	0.0	45.2	45.2	-	25.0	25.0	0.1	140.2	140.1	-	101.2	101.2
Grand Total	1,045.7	306.8	-738.9	423.2	245.8	-177.4	2,142.5	853.8	-1,288.7	1,454.5	826.7	-627.8

^P Provisional

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

Notes:

1. Ranking is based according to top countries of import for the current period 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. 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	March		January-March	
		2019 ^P	2020 ^P	2019 ^P	2020 ^P
Main imports					
02	Meat and edible offal	4,709	4,125	14,401	13,784
04	Dairy produce; birds' eggs	4,807	4,122	13,028	12,089
08	Edible fruit and nuts	2,995	2,582	8,693	8,199
10	Cereals	2,658	2,913	6,502	6,562
16	Preparations of meat/fish	4,096	3,120	11,988	10,616
19	Preparations of cereals	6,197	4,941	16,321	13,802
20	Preparations of vegetables, fruit and nuts	2,301	2,453	7,294	6,456
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	3,392	2,771	9,915	8,457
22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	5,117	4,548	16,847	14,629
24	Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	4,074	4,148	9,125	11,771
25	Salt/sulphur/earths/plastering materials and cement	3,456	3,970	8,995	10,705
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	167,552	80,039	391,774	391,865
29	Organic chemicals	6,666	5,268	37,411	17,208
30	Pharmaceutical products	28,224	19,767	73,260	71,408
32	Tanning/dyeing extracts and paints	2,802	2,438	13,086	8,510
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	3,706	3,855	10,028	9,176
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	14,701	13,202	44,594	41,485
48	Paper and paperboard articles	7,846	10,862	26,772	28,137
61	Knitted clothing	5,827	4,030	17,232	20,004
62	Woven clothing	5,670	2,852	13,484	11,658
64	Footwear, gaiters etc.and parts	6,375	3,866	17,931	13,561
69	Ceramic products	2,650	2,529	7,150	6,667
73	Articles of iron or steel	5,826	5,041	18,974	15,694
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	29,651	19,738	95,283	71,726
85	Electrical machinery etc.	45,137	39,947	139,883	126,541
87	Vehicles (excluding trains) and parts thereof	22,585	14,049	51,286	45,054
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	51,687	99,284	120,757	284,431
89	Ships, boats and floating structures	535,791	10,046	764,281	16,595
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	7,516	4,979	20,738	17,365
94	Furniture; bedding, etc.	6,542	4,786	18,115	14,804
Main exports					
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	7,733	4,264	16,356	9,676
24	Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	1,372	7,062	4,187	12,944
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	101,584	37,801	251,602	195,325
29	Organic chemicals	2,012	1,917	5,915	4,384
30	Pharmaceutical products	25,657	18,503	72,859	67,663
38	Miscellaneous chemical products	822	966	2,273	2,696
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	7,315	9,437	21,170	23,740
40	Rubber and articles of rubber	5,595	4,768	16,625	14,956
49	Printed books, newspapers	20,825	18,794	49,340	66,354
60	Knitted/crocheted fabrics	2,288	2,111	6,774	6,812
61	Knitted clothing	1,271	1,804	3,375	6,767
64	Footwear, gaiters etc.and parts	2,886	1,765	7,756	7,742
73	Articles of iron or steel	5,171	1,360	9,770	2,416
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	11,018	10,237	32,589	30,491
85	Electrical machinery etc.	59,298	62,314	167,052	170,325
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	14,513	35,177	29,989	81,543
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	8,106	4,663	23,914	17,489
95	Toys, games and sports requisites	12,069	12,373	34,349	42,507
99	Special classifications	2,431	1,455	5,908	5,403

^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