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Provisional figures for registered trade in Malta recorded a trade deficit of €139.4 million during April 2020, compared to a deficit of €230.2 million in the corresponding month of 2019.

International Trade in Goods: April 2020

Cut-off date:
2 June 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 €139.4 million during April, compared to a deficit of €230.2 million in the corresponding month of 2019. Both imports and exports registered decreases of €146.0 million and €55.1 million respectively (Table 1). The decrease in the value of imports was primarily due to machinery and transport equipment (€95.9 million). On the exports side mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€30.5 million) and machinery and transport equipment (€17.8 million) accounted to the main decrease (Table 2).

January-April 2020

During the first four months of this year, the trade deficit narrowed by €793.8 million when compared to the corresponding period of 2019, reaching €725.4 million. Both imports and exports decreased by €807.3 million and €13.5 million respectively (Table 1). Lower imports were mainly in machinery and transport equipment (€707.5 million), chemicals (€34.0 million) and miscellaneous manufactured articles (€29.2 million). The main decreases in exports were registered in mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€37.7 million) and food (€26.8 million), partly outweighed by an increase of €40.0 million in machinery and transport equipment (Table 2).

Imports from the European Union reached €935.3 million, or 50.9 per cent of total imports. There was a decrease of €14.5 million in imports from euro area countries when compared to the same period in 2019. Main increases and decreases in imports were registered from Luxembourg (€104.5 million) and the United Kingdom (€677.4 million) respectively. With respect to exports, the main increase was directed to Germany (€15.4 million), whereas Italy (€57.5 million) registered the highest decrease (Table 3) ■

Chart 1. International Trade in Goods - monthly

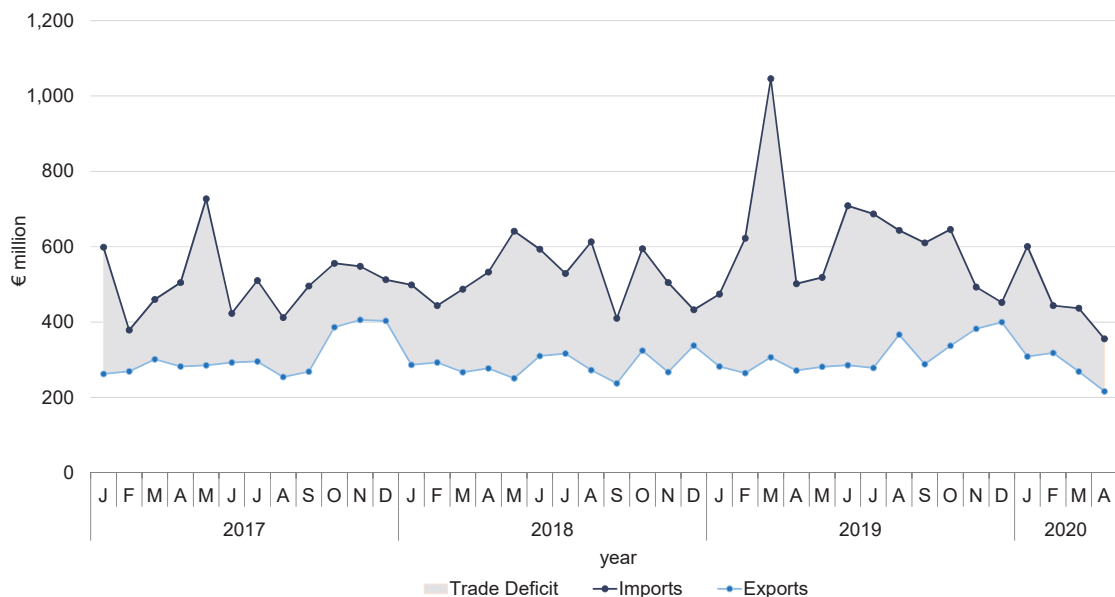


Table 1. Trade in goods by period and broad economic category

€ million

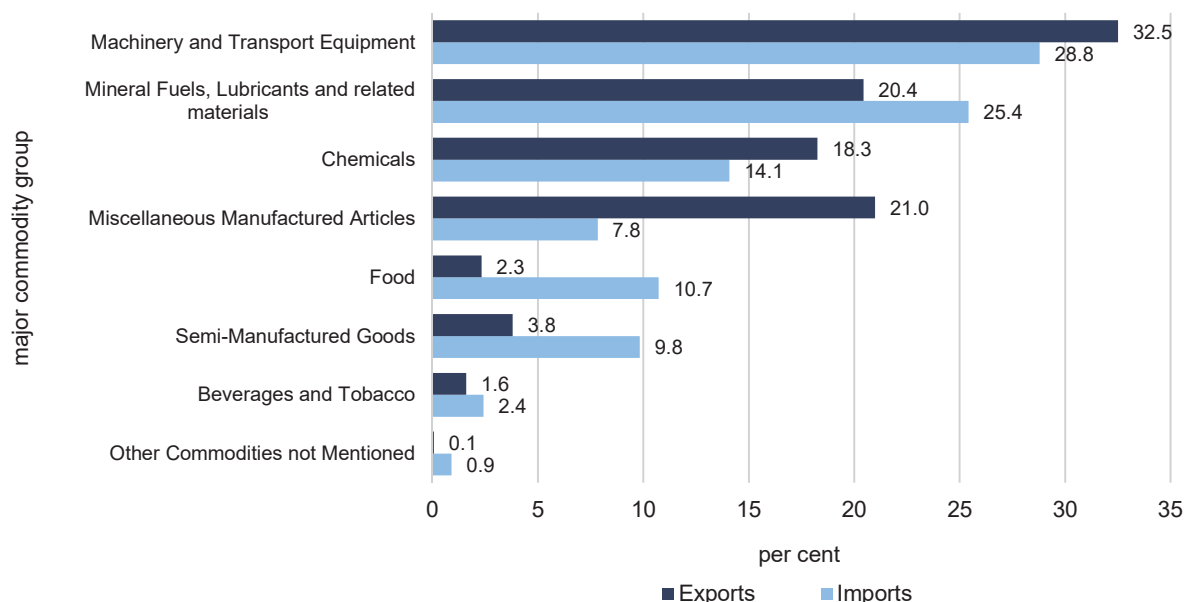
Broad economic category	2018 ^P	2019 ^P	April		January-April	
			2019 ^P	2020 ^P	2019 ^P	2020 ^P
			Imports	6,280.9	7,403.2	501.7
Industrial Supplies	1,471.1	1,655.4	128.0	88.0	523.0	419.1
Primary	125.7	116.0	3.1	4.7	16.1	16.8
Semi-Finished	1,140.0	1,335.9	101.8	78.9	423.8	357.5
Finished	205.4	203.4	23.1	4.3	83.0	44.8
Capital Goods and Others	1,401.5	2,372.4	137.1	78.2	1,135.1	489.6
Consumer Goods	1,473.7	1,544.3	125.9	99.7	499.3	451.2
Food and Beverages	548.7	558.4	47.2	37.9	173.7	155.2
Durable Goods	497.1	547.9	44.7	28.6	175.8	146.7
Others	428.0	438.0	34.0	33.3	149.9	149.3
Fuels and Lubricants	1,934.5	1,831.1	110.7	89.8	486.9	477.2
Exports	3,440.9	3,745.2	271.4	216.3	1,125.2	1,111.7
<i>of which:</i>						
Exports of Fuels and Lubricants	986.6	1,079.3	71.9	44.2	310.3	288.8
Balance of Trade	-2,840.0	-3,658.0	-230.2	-139.4	-1,519.2	-725.4

^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:
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 registered trade in April 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	April		January-April	
			2019 ^P	2020 ^P	2019 ^P	2020 ^P
Imports	6,280.9	7,403.2	501.7	355.7	2,644.4	1,837.1
Food	628.7	607.4	43.0	38.2	164.9	152.8
Beverages and Tobacco	112.3	130.2	9.9	8.6	35.7	35.0
Crude Materials	27.4	36.2	2.7	2.0	12.0	9.9
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	1,947.0	1,865.0	110.7	90.4	500.0	479.3
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	9.6	9.6	0.8	0.9	3.3	3.2
Chemicals	603.1	683.0	53.5	50.1	232.9	198.9
Semi-Manufactured Goods	413.8	440.7	34.7	35.0	143.1	142.3
Machinery and Transport Equipment	2,005.0	3,051.3	198.3	102.4	1,368.1	660.6
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	528.8	575.1	47.8	27.9	183.1	153.9
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	5.2	4.5	0.3	0.3	1.3	1.2
Exports	3,440.9	3,745.2	271.4	216.3	1,125.2	1,111.7
Food	345.3	284.1	7.1	5.0	78.7	51.9
Beverages and Tobacco	44.6	46.9	3.4	3.5	12.3	20.0
Crude Materials	13.3	10.0	0.3	0.2	2.5	3.3
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	1,048.6	1,109.0	74.7	44.2	326.5	288.8
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	0.0	0.0
Chemicals	387.0	524.0	46.2	39.5	142.8	136.9
Semi-Manufactured Goods	153.8	137.8	9.0	8.2	54.1	36.6
Machinery and Transport Equipment	957.0	1,025.5	88.1	70.3	319.2	359.2
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	488.8	605.1	42.5	45.4	187.3	214.7
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	2.5	2.6	0.1	-	1.7	0.3
Balance of Trade	-2,840.0	-3,658.0	-230.2	-139.4	-1,519.2	-725.4
Food	-283.4	-323.3	-35.9	-33.1	-86.2	-100.9
Beverages and Tobacco	-67.7	-83.2	-6.6	-5.2	-23.4	-15.1
Crude Materials	-14.1	-26.2	-2.4	-1.9	-9.5	-6.6
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	-898.4	-756.0	-36.0	-46.2	-173.5	-190.5
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	-9.6	-9.6	-0.8	-0.9	-3.3	-3.2
Chemicals	-216.1	-159.1	-7.3	-10.6	-90.0	-62.0
Semi-Manufactured Goods	-260.0	-302.8	-25.7	-26.7	-89.0	-105.7
Machinery and Transport Equipment	-1,048.0	-2,025.8	-110.2	-32.1	-1,048.8	-301.5
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	-40.0	30.0	-5.3	17.5	4.2	60.8
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	-2.7	-1.9	-0.2	-0.3	0.4	-0.9

^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	April						January-April					
	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	327.4	167.4	-160.0	240.5	84.1	-156.4	1,999.7	554.3	-1,445.4	1,196.2	456.1	-740.1
<i>of which:</i>												
European Union	230.2	159.3	-70.9	191.8	79.2	-112.6	975.0	516.1	-459.0	935.3	422.3	-513.0
<i>of which:</i>												
euro area	208.3	139.2	-69.1	181.1	67.8	-113.4	895.1	445.6	-449.5	880.6	365.1	-515.5
<i>of which:</i>												
Italy	84.1	30.9	-53.2	65.8	9.6	-56.2	368.8	106.8	-262.0	302.3	49.3	-253.0
Luxembourg	0.1	0.1	0.0	35.3	0.1	-35.3	0.2	0.2	0.0	104.7	0.2	-104.6
Germany	40.0	52.9	12.9	24.1	33.3	9.2	153.3	162.2	8.9	125.6	177.6	52.0
Spain	12.1	17.4	5.3	15.2	2.1	-13.1	44.9	28.9	-16.0	73.5	13.8	-59.8
Greece	8.6	1.1	-7.5	12.2	0.2	-12.0	81.1	2.4	-78.7	28.9	2.7	-26.3
Netherlands	15.0	3.8	-11.1	8.5	4.4	-4.0	81.3	26.5	-54.8	63.3	16.2	-47.1
EFTA Countries	3.1	1.7	-1.4	3.0	1.3	-1.7	20.9	10.7	-10.2	18.7	7.5	-11.2
<i>of which:</i>												
Switzerland	3.0	1.5	-1.5	2.5	1.0	-1.5	12.9	9.0	-3.9	11.0	5.7	-5.2
Other European Countries	94.1	6.4	-87.7	45.8	3.7	-42.1	1,003.8	27.6	-976.2	242.2	26.2	-215.9
<i>of which:</i>												
United Kingdom*	46.1	3.7	-42.4	23.0	2.1	-20.9	819.5	20.6	-798.9	142.1	12.0	-130.1
Turkey	8.2	1.5	-6.8	13.8	1.0	-12.8	99.4	4.9	-94.5	47.6	8.0	-39.6
Asia	89.4	28.7	-60.7	72.1	47.9	-24.2	325.0	198.1	-126.9	361.9	217.0	-144.9
<i>of which:</i>												
China	19.0	2.3	-16.7	23.7	3.6	-20.1	77.5	8.7	-68.8	171.1	11.6	-159.6
India	12.2	1.0	-11.2	11.9	0.8	-11.1	56.9	6.5	-50.4	58.1	4.6	-53.5
Israel	24.7	0.4	-24.3	6.5	0.2	-6.2	57.6	1.2	-56.4	26.8	0.9	-25.9
Japan	4.3	2.4	-1.9	5.5	2.3	-3.2	19.1	49.4	30.3	16.3	31.8	15.5
Saudi Arabia	9.2	0.1	-9.1	5.3	0.1	-5.2	27.8	2.5	-25.3	5.5	2.2	-3.4
North and Central America	7.3	13.6	6.3	7.1	7.3	0.2	44.5	69.5	25.1	145.5	66.6	-79.0
<i>of which:</i>												
United States of America	6.5	11.6	5.1	6.5	6.4	0.0	30.2	60.3	30.1	48.1	59.1	10.9
Canada	0.6	1.3	0.7	0.4	0.4	0.1	13.5	6.1	-7.5	96.7	4.5	-92.2
Africa	4.9	21.9	17.0	34.1	31.8	-2.3	41.9	108.4	66.5	107.4	168.9	61.5
<i>of which:</i>												
Algeria	0.0	0.9	0.9	25.7	0.3	-25.4	0.0	6.1	6.0	63.4	5.5	-57.9
Australia and Oceania	17.4	0.4	-16.9	0.4	0.2	-0.2	107.5	1.6	-105.9	8.7	1.4	-7.3
South America	3.0	1.9	-1.1	1.5	0.5	-1.1	8.5	15.1	6.6	7.2	4.8	-2.4
Caribbean and Bahamas Islands	52.2	0.2	-52.0	0.0	0.4	0.4	117.3	0.8	-116.5	10.2	2.8	-7.4
Ships and Aircraft Stores	0.1	37.3	37.2	-	44.1	44.1	0.2	177.5	177.3	-	194.2	194.2
Grand Total	501.7	271.4	-230.2	355.7	216.3	-139.4	2,644.4	1,125.2	-1,519.2	1,837.1	1,111.7	-725.4

^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:

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	April		January-April	
		2019 ^P	2020 ^P	2019 ^P	2020 ^P
Main imports					
02	Meat and edible offal	5,437	3,854	19,839	17,958
04	Dairy produce; birds' eggs	4,655	4,245	17,683	16,890
10	Cereals	988	2,968	7,490	9,530
16	Preparations of meat/fish	3,967	4,554	15,955	15,776
19	Preparations of cereals	6,250	5,269	22,571	20,664
20	Preparations of vegetables, fruit and nuts	2,754	2,213	10,048	8,852
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	3,428	3,626	13,343	12,402
22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	7,328	5,636	24,175	20,446
23	Food residues and waste	2,959	3,000	10,668	10,827
24	Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	2,699	3,027	11,824	14,798
25	Salt/sulphur/earths/plastering materials and cement	3,313	3,397	12,308	14,107
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	110,705	90,416	502,479	479,277
29	Organic chemicals	13,742	9,181	51,153	26,404
30	Pharmaceutical products	18,009	22,148	91,269	93,752
32	Tanning/dyeing extracts and paints	3,333	2,375	16,419	11,443
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	3,405	2,315	13,616	11,660
38	Miscellaneous chemical products	1,974	2,821	8,541	9,026
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	15,264	13,146	59,858	57,010
48	Paper and paperboard articles	7,322	8,327	34,095	37,472
61	Knitted clothing	5,956	2,706	23,188	22,732
63	Made up textile articles	1,255	3,784	4,127	7,293
64	Footwear, gaiters etc.and parts	5,634	2,557	23,565	16,202
72	Iron and steel	1,787	3,183	9,484	12,104
73	Articles of iron or steel	5,612	4,288	24,588	20,882
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	39,334	24,848	134,617	102,646
85	Electrical machinery etc.	49,670	28,466	189,553	160,185
87	Vehicles (excluding trains) and parts thereof	13,263	10,019	64,549	55,455
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	20,281	37,329	141,038	324,862
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	5,663	9,094	26,401	27,418
94	Furniture; bedding, etc.	6,723	3,653	24,838	18,818
Main exports					
03	Fish and crustaceans, etc.	1,423	951	50,611	34,352
19	Preparations of cereals	539	749	5,537	3,605
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	4,818	2,535	21,174	12,211
24	Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	1,010	3,214	5,196	16,157
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	74,658	44,175	326,259	288,419
29	Organic chemicals	14,978	3,809	20,893	8,193
30	Pharmaceutical products	24,278	29,967	97,138	104,438
38	Miscellaneous chemical products	1,089	902	3,362	3,598
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	7,538	6,392	28,708	31,290
40	Rubber and articles of rubber	4,626	4,106	21,251	19,066
48	Paper and paperboard articles	944	801	4,901	2,841
49	Printed books, newspapers	11,495	22,417	60,835	89,379
60	Knitted/crocheted fabrics	2,122	1,693	8,896	8,505
64	Footwear, gaiters etc.and parts	2,251	1,283	10,007	9,393
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	11,846	12,361	44,436	43,832
85	Electrical machinery etc.	46,834	50,848	213,886	225,782
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	29,201	4,305	59,190	85,862
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	8,120	8,523	32,033	27,960
95	Toys, games and sports requisites	12,131	11,385	46,480	53,892

^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:
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 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