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Provisional figures for registered trade in Malta recorded a trade deficit of €231.0 million during July 2020, compared to a deficit of €409.7 million in the corresponding month of 2019.

International Trade in Goods: July 2020

Cut-off date:
1 September 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 €231.0 million during July, compared to a deficit of €409.7 million in the corresponding month of 2019. Both imports and exports registered decreases of €221.7 million and €43.1 million respectively when compared to the same month last year (Table 1). The decrease in the value of imports was primarily due to mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€100.3 million) and machinery and transport equipment (€79.3 million). On the exports side, the main decreases were registered in machinery and transport equipment (€29.9 million) and in mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€29.3 million) (Table 2).

January-July 2020

During the first seven months of this year, the trade deficit narrowed by €1,120.5 million when compared to the corresponding period of 2019, reaching €1,470.9 million. Both imports and exports decreased by €1,326.0 million and €205.5 million respectively (Table 1). Lower imports were mainly recorded in machinery and transport equipment (€867.3 million) and mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€342.5 million). On the exports side mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€203.2 million) accounted for the main decrease (Table 2).

Imports from the European Union reached €1,632.8 million, or 50.5 per cent of total imports. There was a decrease of €283.6 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 (€206.4 million) and the United Kingdom (€952.5 million) respectively. With respect to exports, the main increase was directed to Germany (€7.1 million), whereas Italy registered the highest decrease (€104.6 million) (Table 3) ■

Chart 1. International Trade in Goods - monthly

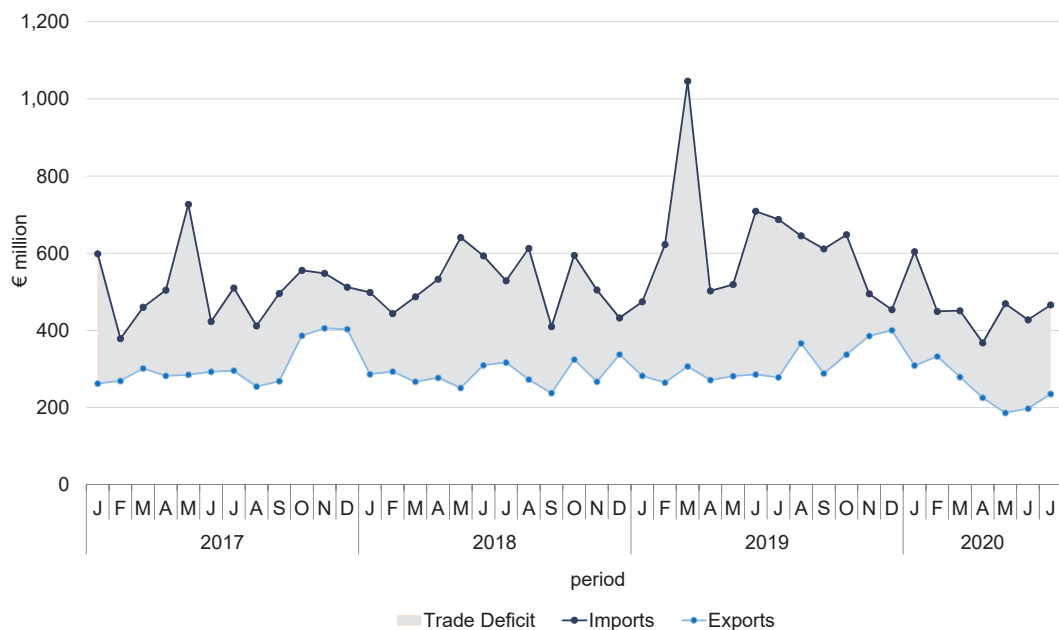


Table 1. Trade in goods by period and broad economic category

€ million

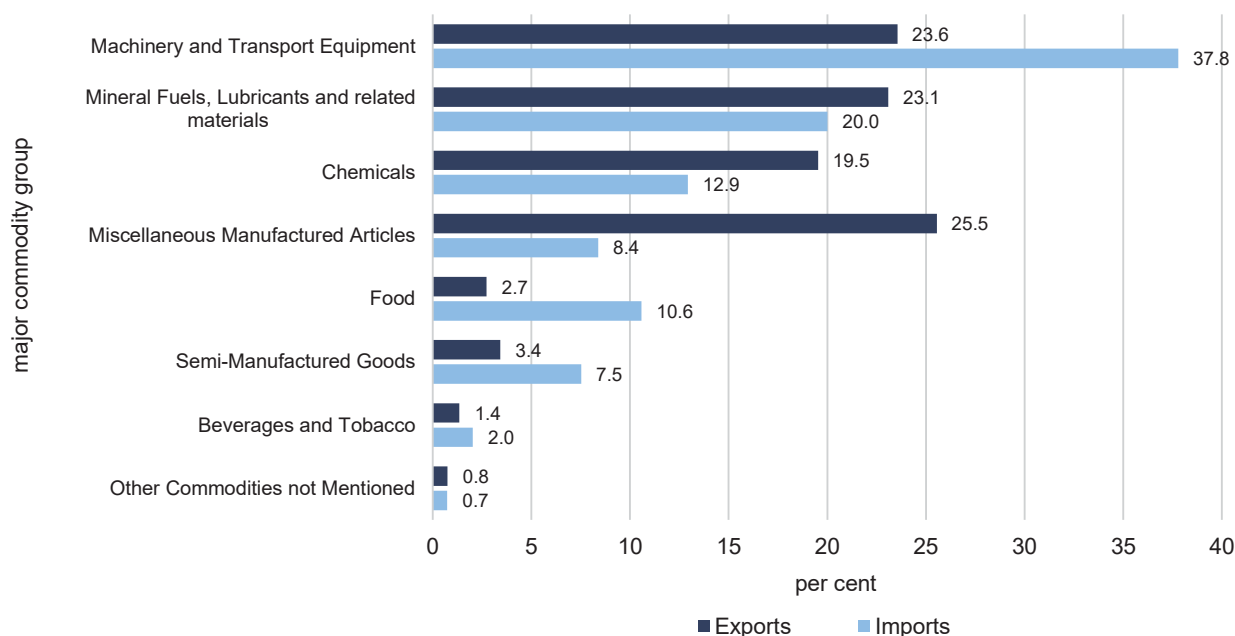
Broad economic category	2018 ^P	2019 ^P	July		January-July	
			2019 ^P	2020 ^P	2019 ^P	2020 ^P
Imports	6,280.9	7,415.6	687.9	466.2	4,562.1	3,236.1
Industrial Supplies	1,471.1	1,657.4	163.9	120.6	972.5	784.3
Primary	125.7	116.5	13.2	14.0	61.8	48.8
Semi-Finished	1,140.0	1,336.6	118.7	101.5	760.8	668.8
Finished	205.4	204.4	32.1	5.0	149.9	66.7
Capital Goods and Others	1,401.5	2,374.4	181.2	134.0	1,694.6	956.3
Consumer Goods	1,473.7	1,552.5	149.3	118.3	893.0	810.1
Food and Beverages	548.7	560.4	55.7	38.1	322.2	271.1
Durable Goods	497.1	548.8	52.1	39.2	314.8	274.3
Others	428.0	443.4	41.5	41.1	255.9	264.7
Fuels and Lubricants	1,934.5	1,831.2	193.5	93.2	1,002.0	685.3
Exports	3,440.9	3,749.1	278.3	235.2	1,970.7	1,765.2
<i>of which:</i>						
Exports of Fuels and Lubricants	986.6	1,079.3	78.1	54.3	590.5	411.9
Balance of Trade	-2,840.0	-3,666.5	-409.7	-231.0	-2,591.4	-1,470.9

^P 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; respectively 'Fuels and lubricants, primary' and 'Fuels and lubricants, processed'.
2. Totals may not add up due to rounding.
3. 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 July 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 group

€ million

Major commodity group	2018 ^P	2019 ^P	July		January-July	
			2019 ^P	2020 ^P	2019 ^P	2020 ^P
Imports	6,280.9	7,415.6	687.9	466.2	4,562.1	3,236.1
Food	628.7	609.6	63.5	49.3	337.3	289.8
Beverages and Tobacco	112.3	130.3	16.0	9.5	75.4	61.2
Crude Materials	27.4	36.4	3.3	2.5	21.8	18.1
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	1,947.0	1,865.1	193.6	93.3	1,033.0	690.5
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	9.6	9.7	0.9	0.5	5.8	5.5
Chemicals	603.1	687.6	59.3	60.3	383.1	373.0
Semi-Manufactured Goods	413.8	441.1	41.7	35.1	257.2	258.4
Machinery and Transport Equipment	2,005.0	3,054.4	255.4	176.1	2,123.4	1,256.1
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	528.8	577.0	53.9	39.1	323.1	281.3
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	5.2	4.5	0.3	0.4	2.1	2.2
Exports	3,440.9	3,749.1	278.3	235.2	1,970.7	1,765.2
Food	345.3	287.4	3.8	6.4	91.5	68.9
Beverages and Tobacco	44.6	46.9	5.6	3.2	25.2	28.9
Crude Materials	13.3	10.0	1.1	1.3	6.4	6.4
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	1,048.6	1,109.0	83.6	54.3	615.1	411.9
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chemicals	387.0	523.9	39.5	45.9	254.1	263.7
Semi-Manufactured Goods	153.8	137.8	11.8	8.1	91.1	58.1
Machinery and Transport Equipment	957.0	1,025.5	85.3	55.4	570.9	566.3
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	488.8	605.8	47.3	60.1	314.4	359.9
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	2.5	2.6	0.2	0.5	2.1	1.0
Balance of Trade	-2,840.0	-3,666.5	-409.7	-231.0	-2,591.4	-1,470.9
Food	-283.4	-322.2	-59.7	-42.9	-245.8	-220.8
Beverages and Tobacco	-67.7	-83.3	-10.4	-6.3	-50.2	-32.3
Crude Materials	-14.1	-26.4	-2.2	-1.2	-15.5	-11.8
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	-898.4	-756.1	-110.0	-39.0	-417.9	-278.6
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	-9.6	-9.6	-0.9	-0.5	-5.8	-5.5
Chemicals	-216.1	-163.7	-19.8	-14.4	-128.9	-109.3
Semi-Manufactured Goods	-260.0	-303.2	-29.9	-27.0	-166.1	-200.3
Machinery and Transport Equipment	-1,048.0	-2,028.8	-170.1	-120.7	-1,552.5	-689.8
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	-40.0	28.8	-6.7	21.0	-8.7	78.6
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	-2.7	-1.9	-0.1	0.1	-0.1	-1.2

^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 and by region/country

€ million

Region/Country	July						January-July					
	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	550.9	132.5	-418.5	276.8	94.2	-182.6	3,522.4	1,032.3	-2,490.1	2,075.6	770.1	-1,305.5
<i>of which:</i>												
European Union	371.4	122.5	-248.9	226.8	86.7	-140.0	1,941.2	964.8	-976.4	1,632.8	714.6	-918.2
<i>of which:</i>												
euro area	355.2	95.3	-260.0	213.2	69.4	-143.8	1,827.0	818.7	-1,008.3	1,543.4	610.8	-932.6
<i>of which:</i>												
Italy	126.4	18.2	-108.2	90.8	10.6	-80.2	706.2	185.9	-520.2	534.2	81.3	-452.8
Luxembourg	0.1	0.1	0.0	34.1	0.0	-34.1	0.5	0.4	-0.1	206.9	0.2	-206.7
France	65.8	25.2	-40.7	23.8	11.8	-12.0	283.1	179.2	-103.9	196.1	119.3	-76.8
Germany	84.5	40.6	-43.9	21.9	31.5	9.6	309.9	278.6	-31.4	205.1	285.7	80.6
Spain	23.2	2.2	-21.0	12.8	2.8	-10.1	113.4	67.2	-46.2	112.5	22.2	-90.3
Netherlands	18.5	4.0	-14.6	9.6	8.1	-1.4	126.7	47.0	-79.7	93.8	33.4	-60.4
EFTA Countries	3.7	2.2	-1.4	3.0	2.0	-1.0	33.5	15.9	-17.6	28.2	11.8	-16.4
<i>of which:</i>												
Switzerland	3.4	1.9	-1.4	2.6	1.8	-0.9	24.9	13.4	-11.5	19.6	9.2	-10.4
Other European Countries	175.8	7.7	-168.1	47.0	5.5	-41.5	1,547.7	51.6	-1,496.1	414.6	43.7	-370.9
<i>of which:</i>												
Turkey	24.5	3.2	-21.3	19.0	2.1	-17.0	179.3	12.4	-166.9	115.1	13.2	-101.8
United Kingdom*	106.5	3.9	-102.6	17.7	2.7	-15.1	1,169.5	34.8	-1,134.6	217.0	21.3	-195.8
Asia	85.7	38.1	-47.6	96.9	48.3	-48.6	570.0	309.0	-261.0	598.0	347.8	-250.1
<i>of which:</i>												
China	29.5	1.9	-27.6	29.2	3.4	-25.8	148.4	17.5	-131.0	268.9	19.7	-249.2
India	14.0	0.9	-13.1	26.6	1.6	-25.0	95.0	9.6	-85.4	108.3	10.7	-97.6
Israel	0.8	0.1	-0.7	11.8	2.2	-9.6	102.2	1.7	-100.5	46.5	3.5	-43.1
South Korea	3.8	0.8	-3.0	5.2	1.1	-4.1	25.8	12.1	-13.6	30.3	11.9	-18.4
Japan	4.2	2.0	-2.2	4.3	1.5	-2.7	31.0	55.9	24.9	26.2	36.9	10.7
North and Central America	26.4	13.4	-13.0	29.4	9.5	-19.9	102.1	119.3	17.2	233.3	89.1	-144.2
<i>of which:</i>												
United States of America	20.5	10.9	-9.6	28.9	7.6	-21.3	76.7	102.3	25.6	88.6	76.2	-12.4
Canada	5.7	1.3	-4.5	0.4	1.3	0.9	20.7	10.0	-10.6	143.7	8.7	-135.0
Africa	15.3	39.1	23.8	28.9	34.1	5.1	85.5	181.8	96.3	159.6	243.2	83.6
<i>of which:</i>												
Algeria	-	1.2	1.2	9.0	1.0	-8.0	0.0	9.8	9.8	85.4	7.4	-78.0
Australia and Oceania	0.6	1.1	0.5	1.0	0.4	-0.6	110.7	3.8	-106.8	11.0	2.5	-8.6
South America	2.5	2.4	-0.1	2.6	0.3	-2.3	14.1	18.5	4.4	13.0	5.5	-7.5
Caribbean and Bahamas Islands	6.5	0.0	-6.5	30.5	0.1	-30.4	157.1	2.5	-154.6	145.6	4.1	-141.5
Ships and Aircraft Stores	-	51.6	51.6	-	48.3	48.3	0.2	303.5	303.4	-	302.8	302.8
Grand Total	687.9	278.3	-409.7	466.2	235.2	-231.0	4,562.1	1,970.7	-2,591.4	3,236.1	1,765.2	-1,470.9

^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 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	July		January-July	
		2019 ^P	2020 ^P	2019 ^P	2020 ^P
Main imports					
02	Meat and edible offal	6,475	4,036	35,658	29,283
03	Fish and crustaceans, etc.	17,656	16,507	51,824	33,282
04	Dairy produce; birds' eggs	4,894	3,996	31,773	30,040
08	Edible fruit and nuts	3,469	2,847	22,531	21,656
16	Preparations of meat/fish	5,581	5,388	30,488	28,888
19	Preparations of cereals	6,146	4,220	40,667	34,936
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	4,671	3,223	25,932	22,326
22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	9,439	5,402	50,151	32,663
24	Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	6,612	4,217	25,728	28,965
25	Salt/sulphur/earths/plastering materials and cement	3,460	3,218	23,059	25,033
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	193,608	93,269	1,035,470	690,515
29	Organic chemicals	16,289	8,050	79,893	55,149
30	Pharmaceutical products	19,016	29,767	144,866	167,093
32	Tanning/dyeing extracts and paints	4,381	6,440	27,689	30,475
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	4,597	2,926	26,317	21,341
38	Miscellaneous chemical products	2,522	3,055	16,043	17,610
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	15,622	12,250	104,146	100,173
48	Paper and paperboard articles	10,090	7,110	58,164	66,132
61	Knitted clothing	8,504	4,795	41,074	34,922
62	Woven clothing	4,785	4,339	32,383	35,311
69	Ceramic products	2,860	2,640	18,030	16,018
72	Iron and steel	4,401	5,011	18,764	24,047
73	Articles of iron or steel	6,301	4,819	41,933	35,873
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	49,556	26,489	246,406	179,294
85	Electrical machinery etc.	48,723	43,446	338,388	293,293
87	Vehicles (excluding trains) and parts thereof	18,122	17,653	114,316	94,526
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	102,059	60,547	319,507	543,723
89	Ships, boats and floating structures	37,215	27,944	1,109,088	145,050
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	6,662	7,213	46,587	49,841
94	Furniture; bedding, etc.	8,144	6,446	47,326	36,638
Main exports					
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	2,256	4,646	28,565	23,876
24	Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	2,987	2,270	9,693	22,862
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	83,605	54,151	614,582	411,271
29	Organic chemicals	8,802	4,469	34,546	28,090
30	Pharmaceutical products	23,387	36,616	174,277	195,454
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	2,850	1,242	11,230	7,146
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	7,061	7,362	49,255	51,366
40	Rubber and articles of rubber	4,075	3,298	35,833	29,122
49	Printed books, newspapers	15,192	23,826	92,009	151,974
60	Knitted/crocheted fabrics	1,241	1,306	14,180	13,258
61	Knitted clothing	2,534	1,273	9,213	11,993
63	Made up textile articles	229	1,368	777	2,466
64	Footwear, gaiters, etc. and parts	2,287	1,572	17,347	12,685
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	13,647	8,872	85,095	70,044
85	Electrical machinery etc.	51,875	41,161	381,733	349,654
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	19,483	4,769	100,200	141,686
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	4,577	13,037	50,717	53,085
94	Furniture, bedding, etc.	301	1,338	1,636	3,850
95	Toys, games and sports requisites	12,903	12,504	85,406	87,787

^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