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Provisional figures for registered trade in Malta recorded a trade deficit of €84.2 million during October 2020, compared to a deficit of €311.1 million in the corresponding month of 2019.

International Trade in Goods: October 2020

Cut-off date:
1 December 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 €84.2 million during October, compared to a deficit of €311.1 million in the corresponding month of 2019. Both imports and exports registered decreases of €308.6 million and €81.7 million respectively when compared to the same month last year (Table 1). The major decreases in the value of imports were recorded for machinery and transport equipment (€157.6 million) and mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€64.1 million). On the exports side, the main decrease was registered in mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€49.2 million) (Table 2).

January-October 2020

During the first ten months of this year, the trade deficit narrowed by €1,529.1 million when compared to the corresponding period of 2019, reaching €1,974.0 million. Both imports and exports decreased by €1,993.5 million and €464.4 million respectively (Table 1). Lower imports were mainly recorded in machinery and transport equipment (€1,296.4 million) and mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€512.7 million). On the exports side, mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€339.0 million) and machinery and transport equipment (€100.1 million) accounted for the main decreases (Table 2).

Imports from the European Union reached €2,321.3 million, or 51.9 per cent of total imports. There was a decrease of €438.9 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 (€108.2 million) and the United Kingdom (€986.6 million) respectively. With respect to exports, the main increase was directed to Hong Kong (€13.3 million), whereas Italy registered the highest decrease (€139.0 million) (Table 3) ■

Chart 1. International Trade in Goods - monthly

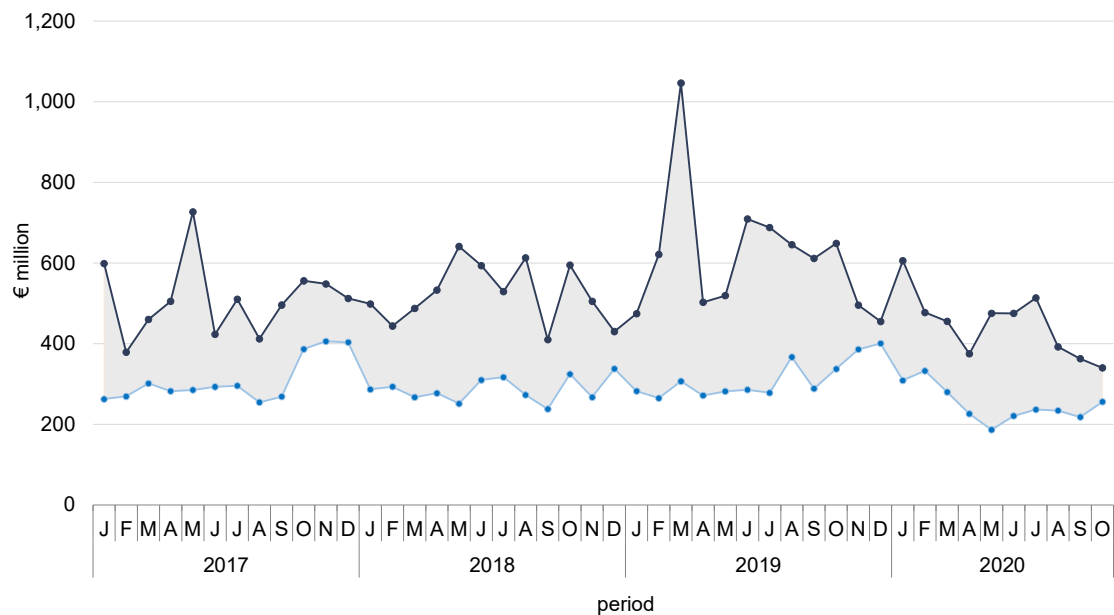


Table 1. Trade in goods by period and broad economic category

€ million

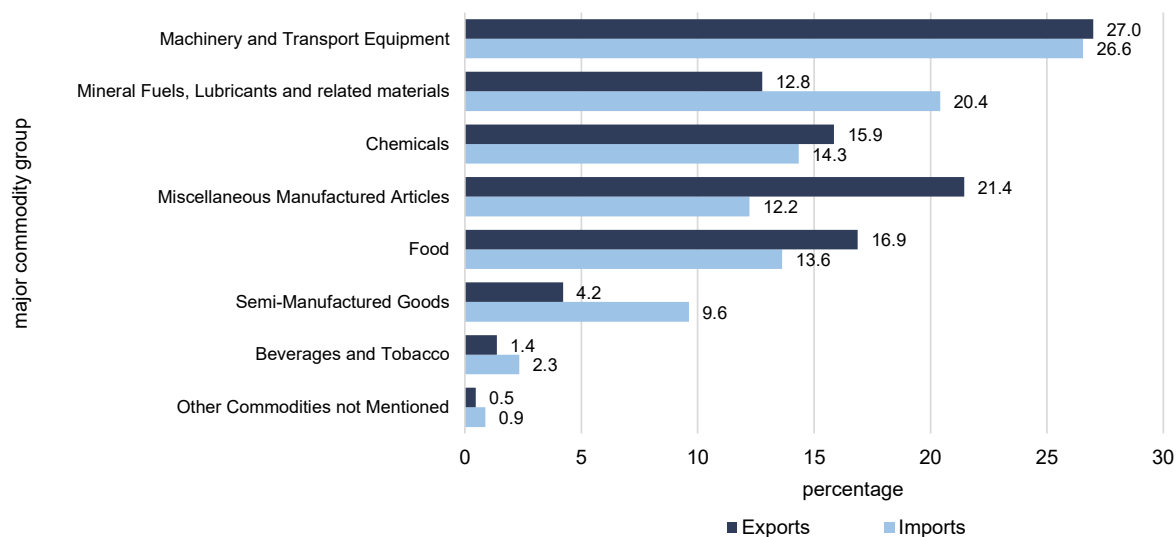
Broad economic category	2018 ^P	2019 ^P	October		January-October	
			2019 ^P	2020 ^P	2019 ^P	2020 ^P
Imports	6,279.2	7,416.5	648.5	339.9	6,465.8	4,472.3
Industrial Supplies	1,471.8	1,658.5	167.1	106.4	1,412.5	1,143.7
Primary	125.7	116.5	20.0	10.6	90.5	75.2
Semi-Finished	1,140.7	1,337.5	133.7	91.2	1,141.9	984.3
Finished	205.4	204.5	13.4	4.5	180.2	84.2
Capital Goods and Others	1,401.6	2,375.2	187.9	51.9	2,272.8	1,155.4
Consumer Goods	1,471.3	1,551.6	160.3	112.3	1,292.6	1,169.7
Food and Beverages	546.1	558.5	55.2	40.6	468.4	402.1
Durable Goods	497.2	549.5	60.4	38.9	457.3	392.2
Others	428.0	443.7	44.7	32.8	366.9	375.3
Fuels and Lubricants	1,934.5	1,831.2	133.3	69.3	1,487.9	1,003.5
Exports	3,440.9	3,748.7	337.4	255.7	2,962.7	2,498.3
<i>of which:</i>						
Exports of Fuels and Lubricants	986.6	1,079.3	81.9	32.7	891.9	580.1
Balance of Trade	-2,838.3	-3,667.8	-311.1	-84.2	-3,503.1	-1,974.0

^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:
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 October 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 group

€ million

Major commodity group	2018 ^P	2019 ^P	October		January-October	
			2019 ^P	2020 ^P	2019 ^P	2020 ^P
Imports	6,279.2	7,416.5	648.5	339.9	6,465.8	4,472.3
Food	628.7	609.7	69.9	46.3	504.3	442.1
Beverages and Tobacco	109.8	128.3	11.8	8.0	106.3	86.9
Crude Materials	27.4	36.4	3.4	2.0	31.8	25.2
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	1,947.0	1,865.1	133.5	69.4	1,521.7	1,009.0
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	9.6	9.7	0.9	0.7	8.3	7.5
Chemicals	603.1	687.8	77.3	48.7	589.4	565.0
Semi-Manufactured Goods	413.8	441.4	41.7	32.7	366.6	361.4
Machinery and Transport Equipment	2,005.0	3,055.4	247.8	90.2	2,859.7	1,563.3
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	529.5	578.2	61.3	41.6	473.9	408.7
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	5.2	4.6	0.9	0.3	3.9	3.1
Exports	3,440.9	3,748.7	337.4	255.7	2,962.7	2,498.3
Food	345.3	287.4	32.2	43.1	139.5	129.5
Beverages and Tobacco	44.6	46.9	5.1	3.5	39.0	37.8
Crude Materials	13.3	10.0	0.6	0.9	8.5	8.8
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	1,048.6	1,109.0	81.9	32.7	919.1	580.1
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chemicals	387.0	523.6	51.5	40.5	385.1	385.9
Semi-Manufactured Goods	153.8	137.8	11.7	10.8	121.7	81.8
Machinery and Transport Equipment	957.1	1,025.5	92.0	69.0	856.7	756.6
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	488.8	605.8	62.2	54.8	490.6	516.2
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	2.5	2.6	0.2	0.3	2.4	1.6
Balance of Trade	-2,838.3	-3,667.8	-311.1	-84.2	-3,503.1	-1,974.0
Food	-283.4	-322.3	-37.7	-3.2	-364.8	-312.6
Beverages and Tobacco	-65.2	-81.3	-6.7	-4.4	-67.2	-49.1
Crude Materials	-14.1	-26.4	-2.8	-1.0	-23.3	-16.3
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	-898.4	-756.1	-51.6	-36.7	-602.6	-428.9
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	-9.6	-9.6	-0.9	-0.7	-8.3	-7.5
Chemicals	-216.1	-164.3	-25.8	-8.2	-204.2	-179.1
Semi-Manufactured Goods	-260.0	-303.6	-30.0	-21.9	-244.9	-279.5
Machinery and Transport Equipment	-1,047.9	-2,029.9	-155.8	-21.3	-2,003.0	-806.8
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	-40.7	27.6	0.9	13.3	16.8	107.5
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	-2.7	-1.9	-0.7	0.0	-1.5	-1.6

^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 and by region/country

€ million

Region/Country	October						January-October					
	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	408.3	142.2	-266.1	239.0	106.1	-132.9	4,883.9	1,457.8	-3,426.1	2,943.0	1,073.5	-1,869.5
<i>of which:</i>												
European Union	263.1	131.6	-131.5	190.0	96.6	-93.4	2,975.1	1,351.6	-1,623.5	2,321.3	987.2	-1,334.1
<i>of which:</i>												
euro area	244.2	96.7	-147.5	175.7	78.1	-97.6	2,624.0	1,118.1	-1,506.0	2,185.1	834.6	-1,350.5
<i>of which:</i>												
Italy	89.9	16.5	-73.5	68.7	14.0	-54.7	1,012.7	258.4	-754.3	808.0	119.4	-688.6
France	35.2	20.4	-14.7	29.7	22.0	-7.7	391.0	237.1	-153.9	275.2	181.5	-93.6
Spain	37.1	3.4	-33.7	23.5	2.3	-21.2	228.9	76.5	-152.4	202.9	28.8	-174.0
Germany	31.6	44.0	12.5	19.4	29.6	10.2	443.5	405.6	-37.9	268.4	369.0	100.5
Netherlands	15.6	4.1	-11.5	12.7	4.1	-8.5	178.7	59.9	-118.8	136.3	45.1	-91.2
Greece	16.7	0.5	-16.1	7.2	0.8	-6.5	157.3	18.7	-138.6	77.1	11.1	-66.0
EFTA Countries	4.0	2.4	-1.6	1.9	1.6	-0.3	50.6	22.5	-28.2	35.4	16.2	-19.2
<i>of which:</i>												
Switzerland	3.7	2.1	-1.6	1.8	1.3	-0.5	33.5	19.3	-14.2	26.5	12.7	-13.8
Other European Countries	141.2	8.2	-133.1	47.0	7.9	-39.1	1,858.2	83.8	-1,774.4	586.2	70.1	-516.2
<i>of which:</i>												
United Kingdom*	51.0	5.7	-45.3	32.3	3.1	-29.2	1,306.5	50.6	-1,255.9	319.9	29.1	-290.9
Turkey	68.0	1.6	-66.4	11.4	3.3	-8.2	272.3	25.8	-246.6	163.6	19.8	-143.8
Asia	102.8	75.5	-27.2	66.7	79.8	13.1	883.8	495.5	-388.3	852.6	538.3	-314.3
<i>of which:</i>												
China	33.0	3.4	-29.6	22.2	4.2	-18.0	225.9	29.5	-196.4	334.1	30.2	-303.9
India	12.6	2.9	-9.7	13.3	4.8	-8.5	131.6	14.2	-117.4	152.1	18.3	-133.8
Japan	7.4	20.7	13.3	6.9	23.3	16.4	46.1	80.0	33.8	42.5	61.7	19.3
South Korea	4.5	4.5	0.0	4.1	11.1	7.1	35.4	47.3	11.9	42.7	24.3	-18.4
Hong Kong	3.3	10.1	6.8	3.6	5.4	1.8	21.6	94.3	72.7	21.5	107.6	86.1
North and Central America	75.9	14.2	-61.7	6.5	11.1	4.7	221.9	156.4	-65.4	248.4	116.1	-132.3
<i>of which:</i>												
United States of America	11.6	11.3	-0.4	5.9	8.5	2.6	130.8	133.5	2.7	101.8	97.8	-4.0
Canada	64.1	1.8	-62.2	0.4	1.5	1.2	85.8	13.6	-72.1	145.0	12.2	-132.8
Africa	26.0	34.7	8.7	18.3	33.9	15.7	125.6	334.3	208.7	204.8	321.5	116.7
<i>of which:</i>												
Algeria	8.0	1.4	-6.7	5.9	1.2	-4.8	8.1	30.1	22.0	100.9	9.9	-91.0
Australia and Oceania	1.1	0.4	-0.8	0.6	0.4	-0.2	112.9	5.0	-107.9	12.8	3.9	-8.9
South America	2.2	2.5	0.3	1.4	5.5	4.1	20.1	23.8	3.7	18.7	12.2	-6.5
Caribbean and Bahamas Islands	32.2	0.1	-32.1	7.5	0.3	-7.1	217.4	5.4	-212.0	192.0	4.9	-187.1
Ships and Aircraft Stores	0.0	67.8	67.8	-	18.5	18.5	0.2	484.4	484.2	0.0	428.0	427.9
Grand Total	648.5	337.4	-311.1	339.9	255.7	-84.2	6,465.8	2,962.7	-3,503.1	4,472.3	2,498.3	-1,974.0

^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:

https://nsso.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	October		January-October	
		2019 ^P	2020 ^P	2019 ^P	2020 ^P
Main imports					
02	Meat and edible offal	5,161	3,816	51,393	43,807
03	Fish and crustaceans, etc.	22,238	10,460	91,126	72,919
04	Dairy produce; birds' eggs	5,044	3,981	45,160	41,464
08	Edible fruit and nuts	4,030	3,033	33,290	30,724
16	Preparations of meat/fish	4,720	4,189	44,616	41,771
19	Preparations of cereals	7,632	5,405	58,791	50,285
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	4,022	3,098	36,988	31,743
22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	6,763	5,332	70,210	50,547
23	Food residues and waste	3,111	2,365	26,233	27,004
24	Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	5,141	2,671	36,741	36,982
25	Salt/sulphur/earths/plastering materials and cement	3,771	3,310	33,512	34,395
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	133,543	69,394	1,525,521	1,009,002
29	Organic chemicals	26,944	5,212	156,500	108,401
30	Pharmaceutical products	23,345	20,523	201,432	235,994
32	Tanning/dyeing extracts and paints	5,971	3,977	44,724	44,566
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	4,320	2,960	39,827	31,769
38	Miscellaneous chemical products	2,569	3,529	22,138	26,364
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	17,514	15,117	148,234	142,931
48	Paper and paperboard articles	12,389	8,354	88,663	93,979
61	Knitted clothing	10,499	6,762	65,930	54,074
62	Woven clothing	5,411	4,415	46,857	48,515
64	Footwear, gaiters etc.and parts	7,422	2,726	51,913	31,405
73	Articles of iron or steel	5,277	3,969	57,924	48,763
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	33,552	20,944	339,067	249,148
85	Electrical machinery etc.	51,708	42,626	487,394	412,785
87	Vehicles (excluding trains) and parts thereof	30,272	13,609	173,308	129,149
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	71,867	3,520	446,142	552,529
89	Ships, boats and floating structures	59,217	10,345	1,417,561	221,145
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	6,949	6,486	64,960	67,774
94	Furniture; bedding, etc.	7,156	5,622	64,608	55,586
Main exports					
03	Fish and crustaceans, etc.	23,716	33,333	82,493	72,359
19	Preparations of cereals	2,159	3,401	12,169	13,983
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	5,823	6,092	40,886	39,593
24	Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	2,354	2,280	14,492	27,590
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	81,801	32,560	918,337	579,279
29	Organic chemicals	19,764	10,805	70,343	62,117
30	Pharmaceutical products	23,796	24,820	248,429	267,710
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	2,255	1,377	16,863	12,087
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	9,053	6,318	73,892	69,144
40	Rubber and articles of rubber	5,243	5,712	49,132	41,640
49	Printed books, newspapers	24,252	27,561	151,616	220,835
60	Knitted/crocheted fabrics	1,935	2,987	19,924	19,352
61	Knitted clothing	2,375	1,875	18,979	18,309
64	Footwear, gaiters, etc. and parts	2,025	1,066	25,220	15,561
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	23,885	10,292	168,071	96,667
85	Electrical machinery etc.	58,767	54,475	548,143	503,752
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	7,966	3,574	134,211	150,228
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	5,508	7,633	66,033	81,301
95	Toys, games and sports requisites	14,953	11,255	131,029	122,126

^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: <https://metadata.nso.gov.mt/concepts.aspx>

Metadata: <https://metadata.nso.gov.mt/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