

Provisional figures for registered trade in Malta recorded a trade deficit of €38.4 million during November 2020, compared to a deficit of €93.9 million in the corresponding month of 2019.

International Trade in Goods: November 2020

Cut-off date:
4 January 2021

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 €38.4 million during November, compared to a deficit of €93.9 million in the corresponding month of 2019. Both imports and exports registered decreases of €130.4 million and €75.0 million respectively when compared to the same month of 2019 (Table 1). The major decreases in the value of imports were recorded for mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€79.7 million) and food (€32.0 million). On the exports side, the main decrease was registered in mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€54.1 million) (Table 2).

January-November 2020

During the first eleven months of 2020, the trade deficit narrowed by €1,578.4 million when compared to the corresponding period of 2019, reaching €2,003.6 million. Both imports and exports decreased by €2,103.2 million and €525.0 million respectively (Table 1). Lower imports were mainly recorded in machinery and transport equipment (€1,290.1 million) and mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€592.4 million). On the exports side, mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€403.4 million) and machinery and transport equipment (€88.9 million) accounted for the main decreases (Table 2).

Imports from the European Union reached €2,559.9 million, or 52.7 per cent of total imports. There was a decrease of €514.0 million in imports from euro area countries when compared to the same period in 2019. The main increase and decrease in imports were registered from China (€103.1 million) and the United Kingdom (€977.0 million) respectively. With respect to exports, the main increase was directed to India (€5.4 million), whereas Italy registered the highest decrease (€129.4 million) (Table 3) ■

Chart 1. International Trade in Goods - monthly

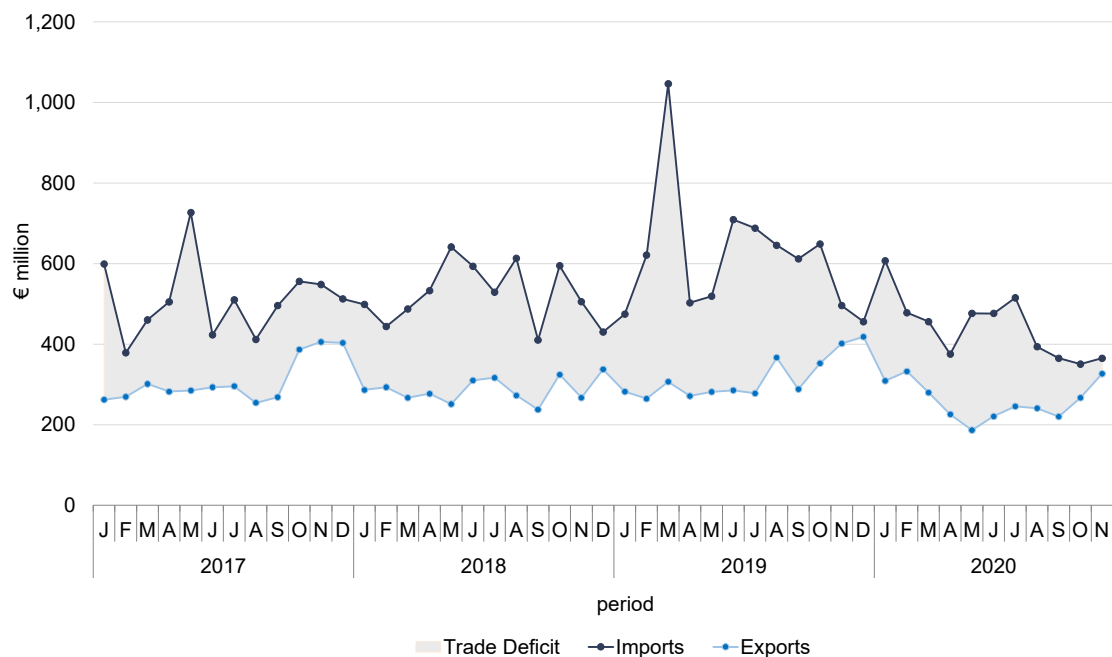


Table 1. Trade in goods by period and broad economic category

€ million

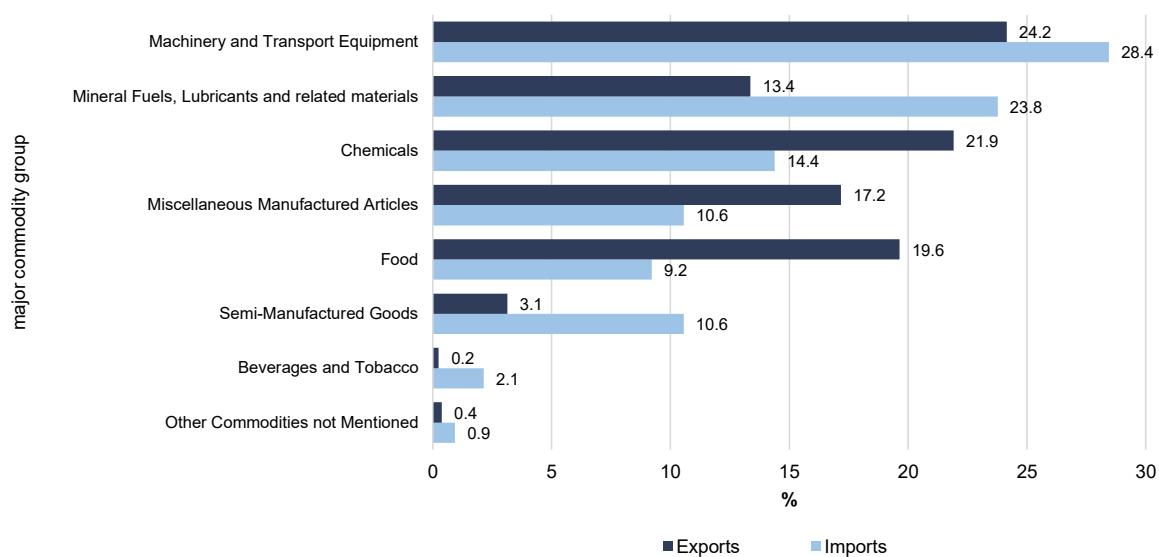
Broad economic category	2018 ^P	2019 ^P	November		January-November	
			2019 ^P	2020 ^P	2019 ^P	2020 ^P
Imports	6,279.3	7,417.5	495.6	365.2	6,961.6	4,858.4
Industrial Supplies	1,471.8	1,658.7	133.9	122.6	1,546.5	1,274.5
Primary	125.7	116.5	23.0	4.1	113.5	79.4
Semi-Finished	1,140.7	1,337.6	97.7	111.8	1,239.5	1,103.4
Finished	205.4	204.5	13.3	6.8	193.5	91.7
Capital Goods and Others	1,401.6	2,375.4	56.3	49.0	2,329.3	1,209.0
Consumer Goods	1,471.4	1,552.2	138.9	107.9	1,431.5	1,285.8
Food and Beverages	546.1	558.5	48.5	33.5	516.9	438.5
Durable Goods	497.3	549.8	49.3	38.5	506.6	434.1
Others	428.0	443.9	41.1	35.9	408.0	413.2
Fuels and Lubricants	1,934.5	1,831.2	166.5	85.6	1,654.3	1,089.1
Exports	3,440.9	3,798.0	401.7	326.7	3,379.7	2,854.7
<i>of which:</i>						
Exports of Fuels and Lubricants	986.6	1,128.6	95.3	43.7	1,002.5	628.8
Balance of Trade	-2,838.4	-3,619.4	-93.9	-38.4	-3,582.0	-2,003.6

^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 November 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	November		January-November	
			2019 ^P	2020 ^P	2019 ^P	2020 ^P
Imports	6,279.3	7,417.5	495.6	365.2	6,961.6	4,858.4
Food	628.7	609.7	65.6	33.6	569.9	478.5
Beverages and Tobacco	109.8	128.3	11.7	7.8	118.0	94.8
Crude Materials	27.4	36.4	2.6	2.4	34.4	27.6
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	1,947.0	1,865.1	166.5	86.8	1,688.2	1,095.8
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	9.6	9.7	0.7	0.6	9.0	8.2
Chemicals	603.1	688.0	50.7	52.5	640.1	620.0
Semi-Manufactured Goods	413.8	441.5	36.7	38.6	403.3	405.5
Machinery and Transport Equipment	2,005.0	3,055.8	104.3	103.9	2,964.2	1,674.1
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	529.6	578.4	56.5	38.6	530.4	450.3
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	5.2	4.6	0.3	0.4	4.2	3.6
Exports	3,440.9	3,798.0	401.7	326.7	3,379.7	2,854.7
Food	345.3	287.4	52.5	64.2	192.0	193.7
Beverages and Tobacco	44.6	46.9	3.6	0.8	42.6	38.7
Crude Materials	13.3	10.0	1.1	1.2	9.6	10.0
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	1,048.6	1,158.3	97.8	43.7	1,032.2	628.8
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chemicals	387.0	523.6	86.8	71.6	472.0	465.2
Semi-Manufactured Goods	153.8	137.8	10.2	10.2	131.9	92.6
Machinery and Transport Equipment	957.1	1,025.5	83.3	78.9	940.0	851.1
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	488.8	605.8	66.2	56.1	556.8	573.1
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	2.5	2.6	0.1	0.0	2.5	1.6
Balance of Trade	-2,838.4	-3,619.4	-93.9	-38.4	-3,582.0	-2,003.6
Food	-283.4	-322.3	-13.1	30.5	-377.9	-284.8
Beverages and Tobacco	-65.2	-81.3	-8.1	-7.0	-75.4	-56.2
Crude Materials	-14.1	-26.4	-1.4	-1.2	-24.8	-17.6
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	-898.4	-706.8	-68.6	-43.1	-656.0	-467.0
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	-9.6	-9.6	-0.7	-0.6	-9.0	-8.1
Chemicals	-216.1	-164.5	36.1	19.1	-168.1	-154.8
Semi-Manufactured Goods	-260.0	-303.7	-26.5	-28.3	-271.4	-312.9
Machinery and Transport Equipment	-1,047.9	-2,030.2	-21.0	-25.0	-2,024.3	-823.0
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	-40.8	27.4	9.7	17.5	26.5	122.8
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	-2.7	-1.9	-0.2	-0.4	-1.7	-2.0

^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	November						January-November					
	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	371.8	130.0	-241.9	274.8	139.2	-135.5	5,256.0	1,587.8	-3,668.2	3,238.7	1,242.4	-1,996.3
<i>of which:</i>												
European Union	307.9	120.2	-187.7	219.9	121.9	-98.0	3,283.2	1,471.8	-1,811.5	2,559.9	1,138.4	-1,421.5
<i>of which:</i>												
euro area	289.9	97.2	-192.7	200.3	81.6	-118.7	2,914.0	1,215.3	-1,698.7	2,400.0	941.0	-1,459.0
<i>of which:</i>												
Italy	135.5	16.5	-119.0	78.2	19.5	-58.7	1,148.2	274.8	-873.3	890.6	145.4	-745.2
Spain	16.8	8.2	-8.6	28.2	2.6	-25.6	245.7	84.7	-160.9	231.8	31.6	-200.2
Germany	34.2	43.5	9.3	25.3	29.6	4.3	477.7	449.1	-28.6	298.9	399.5	100.7
France	30.4	20.2	-10.3	24.5	19.6	-5.0	421.4	257.3	-164.2	300.7	216.6	-84.1
Netherlands	14.9	4.3	-10.7	22.8	3.2	-19.6	193.7	64.2	-129.5	161.0	48.3	-112.7
Greece	38.7	0.6	-38.2	8.5	0.3	-8.2	196.0	19.2	-176.8	86.2	11.7	-74.4
EFTA Countries	3.0	3.5	0.5	1.8	0.9	-0.8	53.6	25.9	-27.7	37.2	17.1	-20.1
<i>of which:</i>												
Switzerland	2.8	3.1	0.3	1.7	0.7	-1.0	36.3	22.4	-13.9	28.1	13.3	-14.8
Other European Countries	60.9	6.3	-54.6	53.1	16.4	-36.7	1,919.1	90.0	-1,829.1	641.7	86.9	-554.8
<i>of which:</i>												
United Kingdom*	28.1	3.0	-25.1	35.4	13.2	-22.3	1,334.6	53.6	-1,281.0	357.6	42.7	-314.9
Turkey	23.6	2.6	-21.1	8.8	2.1	-6.8	296.0	28.3	-267.7	172.5	21.9	-150.6
Asia	63.7	112.7	49.0	62.8	104.5	41.7	947.5	608.2	-339.3	915.4	642.8	-272.6
<i>of which:</i>												
China	24.6	4.2	-20.4	19.5	5.5	-13.9	250.5	33.7	-216.8	353.6	35.7	-317.9
India	14.5	1.5	-12.9	14.0	2.9	-11.1	146.0	15.8	-130.3	166.1	21.2	-144.9
Turkmenistan	-	-	-	5.9	2.3	-3.6	15.1	-	-15.1	20.8	2.3	-18.5
Japan	5.6	24.6	19.0	3.7	45.7	41.9	51.7	104.6	52.9	46.2	107.4	61.2
South Korea	2.7	12.3	9.6	3.4	6.4	3.0	38.2	59.6	21.4	46.1	30.7	-15.4
North and Central America	8.2	12.0	3.8	10.7	12.0	1.3	230.0	168.4	-61.6	259.1	128.1	-131.0
<i>of which:</i>												
United States of America	7.3	9.8	2.5	10.2	7.7	-2.5	138.2	143.3	5.2	112.0	105.5	-6.5
Canada	0.6	1.2	0.6	0.5	2.5	2.0	86.4	14.8	-71.6	145.5	14.7	-130.8
Africa	25.3	44.6	19.3	13.5	31.7	18.2	150.9	378.8	228.0	218.3	353.2	134.9
<i>of which:</i>												
Algeria	5.2	1.9	-3.3	8.1	1.2	-6.9	13.3	32.0	18.7	109.0	11.1	-97.9
Australia and Oceania	0.4	0.6	0.1	1.6	0.3	-1.3	113.3	5.6	-107.7	14.4	4.2	-10.2
South America	3.3	0.2	-3.1	1.6	0.3	-1.3	23.4	24.0	0.6	20.3	12.5	-7.8
Caribbean and Bahamas Islands	22.9	0.6	-22.3	0.1	0.5	0.4	240.3	6.0	-234.3	192.1	5.4	-186.7
Ships and Aircraft Stores	0.0	101.2	101.2	0.2	38.2	38.0	0.2	600.8	600.7	0.2	466.2	466.0
Grand Total	495.6	401.7	-93.9	365.2	326.7	-38.4	6,961.6	3,379.7	-3,582.0	4,858.4	2,854.7	-2,003.6

^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://ns0.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	November		January-November	
		2019 ^P	2020 ^P	2019 ^P	2020 ^P
Main imports					
02	Meat and edible offal	6,126	4,356	57,519	48,233
03	Fish and crustaceans, etc.	21,136	2,594	112,263	75,520
04	Dairy produce; birds' eggs	4,308	3,412	49,468	44,970
16	Preparations of meat/fish	5,065	2,433	49,681	44,228
19	Preparations of cereals	6,157	4,551	64,948	55,254
22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	6,556	5,211	76,766	55,862
23	Food residues and waste	2,322	2,603	28,555	30,084
24	Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	5,305	2,675	42,047	39,657
25	Salt/sulphur/earths/plastering materials and cement	3,213	3,958	36,726	38,382
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	166,477	86,808	1,691,998	1,095,829
29	Organic chemicals	5,110	5,925	161,610	114,344
30	Pharmaceutical products	22,884	24,937	224,316	261,375
32	Tanning/dyeing extracts and paints	3,817	4,661	48,541	49,602
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	4,729	2,971	44,556	35,604
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	14,185	12,438	162,421	156,061
48	Paper and paperboard articles	8,890	10,834	97,554	108,560
61	Knitted clothing	7,199	5,866	73,128	60,141
62	Woven clothing	5,257	3,478	52,114	52,000
64	Footwear, gaiters etc. and parts	3,653	3,213	55,566	35,092
69	Ceramic products	2,583	2,921	27,713	27,006
72	Iron and steel	2,073	3,027	29,147	33,061
73	Articles of iron or steel	5,635	4,409	63,563	53,583
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	25,941	26,005	365,010	278,083
85	Electrical machinery etc.	51,669	59,326	539,064	475,115
87	Vehicles (excluding trains) and parts thereof	17,602	9,766	191,100	139,374
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	7,032	4,548	453,174	557,596
89	Ships, boats and floating structures	2,015	4,225	1,419,576	225,380
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	10,188	5,496	75,148	73,470
94	Furniture; bedding, etc.	7,129	6,062	71,744	62,880
95	Toys, games and sports requisites	2,849	2,880	25,968	19,838
Main exports					
03	Fish and crustaceans, etc.	34,251	50,328	116,744	122,687
19	Preparations of cereals	3,818	2,721	15,988	16,704
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	14,043	10,763	54,930	50,356
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	97,738	43,629	1,031,334	628,018
29	Organic chemicals	53,524	7,642	123,867	69,759
30	Pharmaceutical products	25,483	58,650	273,911	334,119
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	2,235	2,096	19,097	14,183
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	8,082	5,262	81,975	74,477
40	Rubber and articles of rubber	5,193	5,441	54,325	47,429
49	Printed books, newspapers	28,357	24,405	179,973	245,269
60	Knitted/crocheted fabrics	1,968	2,408	21,892	21,760
61	Knitted clothing	2,032	1,067	21,011	19,727
64	Footwear, gaiters, etc. and parts	2,561	1,312	27,781	16,951
72	Iron and steel	757	855	5,448	6,962
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	10,789	13,295	178,859	109,970
85	Electrical machinery etc.	55,867	58,453	604,010	577,727
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	14,406	6,679	148,617	156,937
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	7,992	10,743	74,025	92,045
95	Toys, games and sports requisites	13,923	13,944	144,952	136,077

^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