

Provisional figures for registered trade in goods for Malta recorded a deficit of €165.6 million during March 2021, compared to a deficit of €190.9 million in the corresponding month of 2020.

International Trade in Goods: March 2021

Cut-off date:
1 May 2021

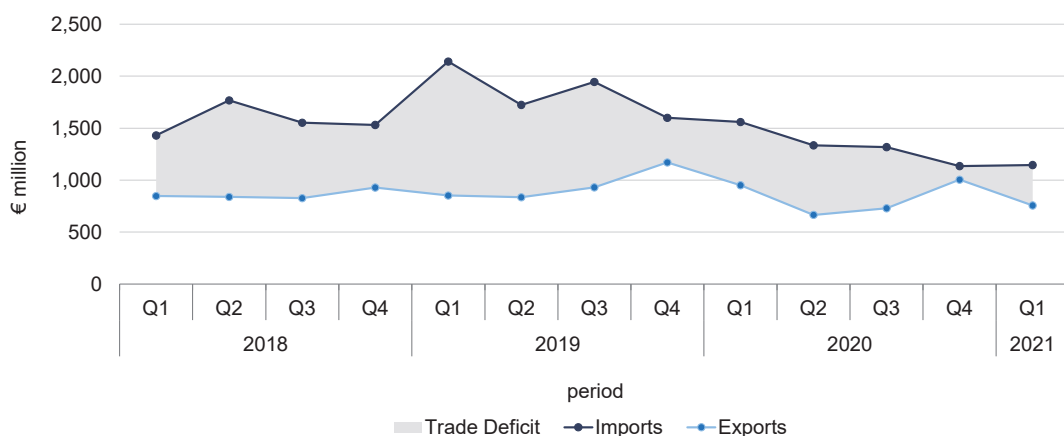
Total Trade in Goods: March 2021

Data in this news release presents all international trade in goods registered up to the indicated cut-off date. Provisional data recorded a total trade in goods deficit of €165.6 million during March 2021, compared to a deficit of €190.9 million in the corresponding month of 2020. Imports amounted to €423.0 million, while exports totalled €257.4 million. This represents a decline of €48.5 million and €23.2 million, respectively, over the same month of the previous year (Table 1). The decrease in the value of imports was primarily due to Machinery and transport equipment (€103.2 million), partly offset by increases in Chemicals (€25.8 million), Miscellaneous manufactured articles (€15.1 million) and Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€13.9 million). On the exports side, the main drop was registered in Machinery and transport equipment (€50.6 million), which exceeded the rise in Miscellaneous manufactured articles (€17.0 million) and Chemicals (€15.9 million)(Table 3).

Total Trade in Goods: January-March 2021

During the first quarter of the year, the total trade in goods deficit narrowed by €219.7 million when compared to the corresponding period of 2020, reaching €388.7 million. Both imports and exports decreased by €414.9 million and €195.2 million, respectively, and amounted to €1,145.4 million and €756.7 million (Table 1). Lower imports were mainly recorded in Machinery and transport equipment (€277.7 million) and Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€117.3 million). On the exports side, Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€131.5 million) and Machinery and transport equipment (€71.2 million) accounted for the main declines (Table 3).

Chart 1. Total Trade in Goods - quarterly



Statistics in this News Release should be interpreted in the context of the COVID-19 situation.

The major import partners were the European Union (59.2 per cent) and Asia (21.9 per cent). Similarly, exports were mostly directed to the European Union (45.5 per cent) and Asia (18.8 per cent). The main increase and decrease in imports were registered from Greece (€40.7 million) and China (€87.3 million), respectively. With respect to exports, the main increase was directed to Italy (€31.7 million), whereas Germany reported the highest decrease (€72.5 million) (Table 4).

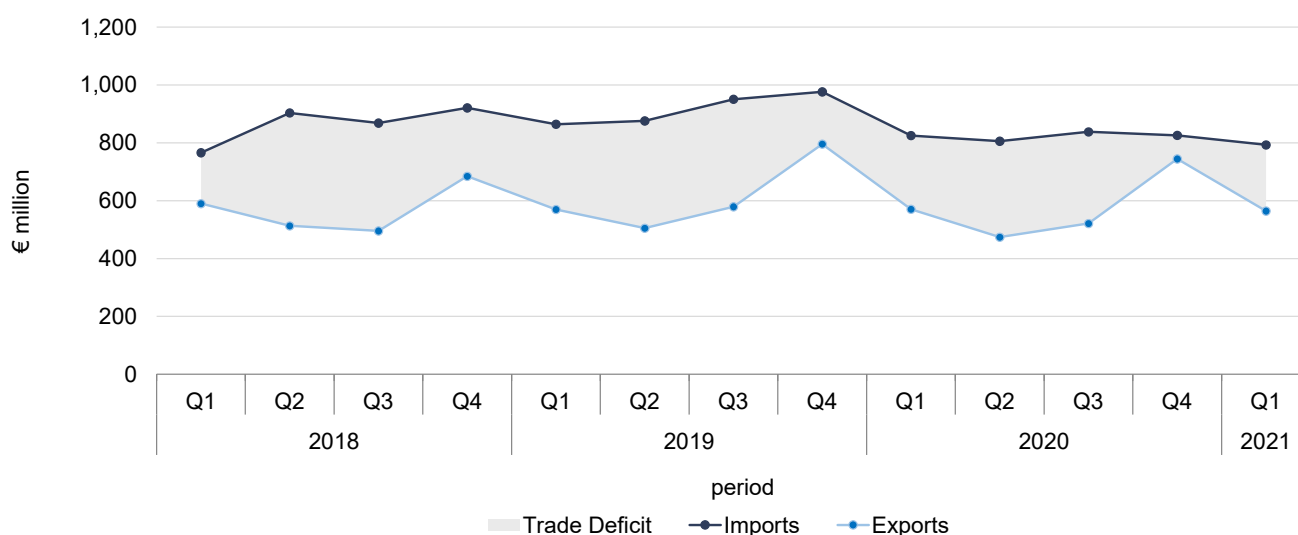
Trade in Goods excluding specific chapters¹: March 2021

In March, the deficit of trade in goods excluding specific chapters amounted to €107.6 million, compared to a deficit of €80.4 million recorded in the same month of 2020. Imports and exports amounted to €314.8 million and €207.2 million, respectively, thus increasing by 17.5 per cent and 10.5 per cent over the corresponding month of the previous year (Table 1).

Trade in Goods excluding specific chapters¹: January-March 2021

During the first three months of 2021, the deficit of trade in goods excluding specific chapters narrowed by €26.1 million when compared to the same period of 2020, reaching €228.7 million. Both imports and exports declined by 3.9 per cent and 1.0 per cent, respectively, and amounted to €793.3 million and €564.6 million (Table 1).

Chart 2. Trade in Goods excluding specific chapters¹ - quarterly



¹ Data excluding Mineral oils, fuels and products (Chapter 27), Aircrafts/spacecrafts and parts thereof (Chapter 88) and Ships, boats and floating structures (Chapter 89). See methodological note 8.

Table 1. Trade in Goods by period and trade flow

€ million

Trade flow	2019 ^P	2020 ^P	percentage change	March			January-March		
				2020 ^P	2021 ^P	percentage change	2020 ^P	2021 ^P	percentage change
Imports	7,409.2	5,349.8	-27.8	471.5	423.0	-10.3	1,560.3	1,145.4	-26.6
Imports excluding specific chapters ¹	3,667.8	3,295.5	-10.1	268.0	314.8	17.5	825.3	793.3	-3.9
Exports	3,788.9	3,353.0	-11.5	280.6	257.4	-8.3	951.9	756.7	-20.5
Exports excluding specific chapters ¹	2,449.3	2,310.5	-5.7	187.6	207.2	10.5	570.4	564.6	-1.0
Balance of Trade	-3,620.3	-1,996.8	-44.8	-190.9	-165.6	-13.3	-608.4	-388.7	-36.1
Balance of Trade excluding specific chapters ¹	-1,218.4	-985.0	-19.2	-80.4	-107.6	33.9	-254.8	-228.7	-10.3

^P Provisional

¹ Data excluding chapters 27, 88 and 89. See methodological note 8.

Notes: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Chart 3. Percentage change of Trade in Goods over the corresponding month of the previous year

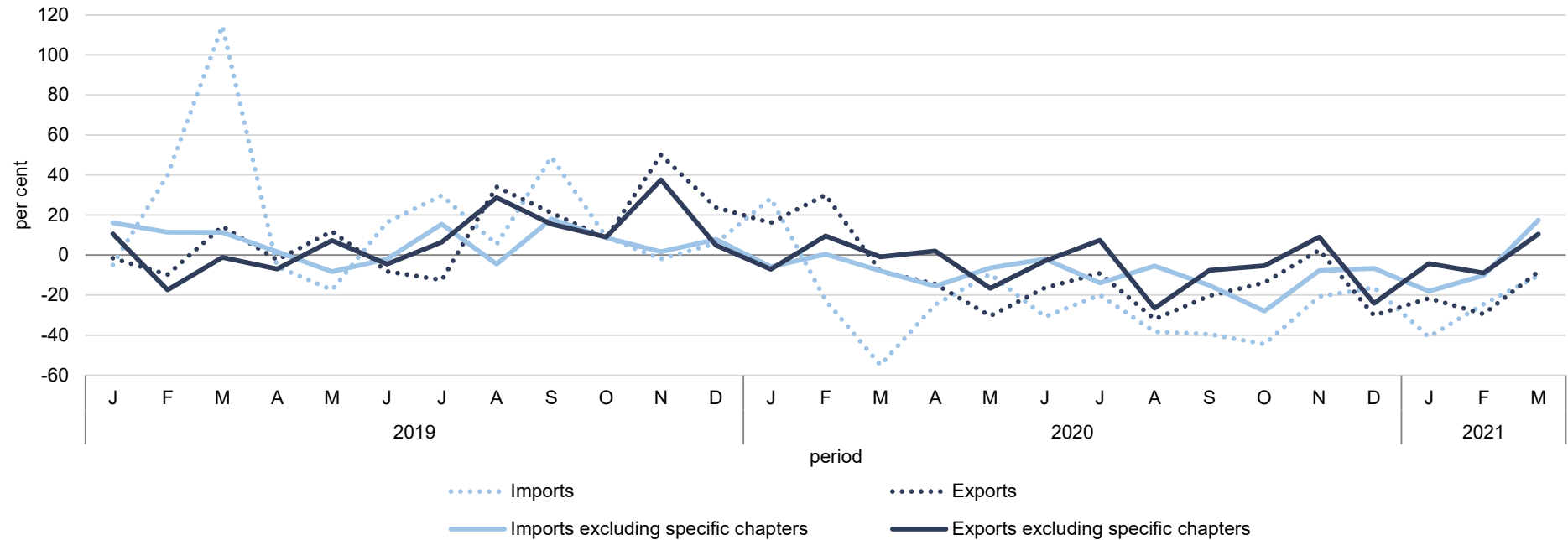


Table 2. Total Trade in Goods by period and broad economic category

€ million

Broad economic category	2019 ^P	2020 ^P	percentage change	March			January-March		
				2020 ^P	2021 ^P	percentage change	2020 ^P	2021 ^P	percentage change
Imports	7,409.2	5,349.8	-27.8	471.5	423.0	-10.3	1,560.3	1,145.4	-26.6
Industrial supplies	1,639.1	1,379.6	-15.8	110.1	141.1	28.1	342.4	349.0	1.9
Primary	116.5	84.3	-27.6	5.1	5.7	12.4	12.4	11.5	-7.2
Semi-finished	1,318.1	1,196.7	-9.2	94.8	129.2	36.3	286.4	314.6	9.9
Finished	204.5	98.5	-51.8	10.2	6.1	-39.7	43.7	22.9	-47.5
Capital goods and others	2,375.0	1,314.9	-44.6	150.6	42.4	-71.8	444.0	179.4	-59.6
Consumer goods	1,553.0	1,443.6	-7.0	118.4	133.3	12.6	372.0	331.3	-10.9
Food and beverages	559.8	498.5	-11.0	44.7	40.5	-9.3	127.5	101.9	-20.1
Durable goods	549.5	488.9	-11.0	37.4	52.1	39.3	124.1	120.9	-2.6
Others	443.6	456.2	2.8	36.3	40.7	12.1	120.4	108.6	-9.9
Fuels and lubricants	1,842.1	1,211.7	-34.2	92.4	106.2	14.9	401.8	285.6	-28.9
Exports	3,788.9	3,353.0	-11.5	280.6	257.4	-8.3	951.9	756.7	-20.5
Industrial supplies	1,386.4	1,165.5	-15.9	122.9	126.9	3.3	353.1	328.5	-7.0
Primary	14.3	10.4	-27.2	1.0	1.5	43.4	3.1	5.8	90.1
Semi-finished	1,143.4	1,026.4	-10.2	97.3	119.9	23.2	262.3	303.3	15.6
Finished	228.7	128.6	-43.8	24.5	5.5	-77.4	87.7	19.4	-77.9
Capital goods and others	288.4	307.6	6.7	42.2	22.3	-47.1	86.1	95.4	10.8
Consumer goods	985.5	999.6	1.4	68.3	64.1	-6.1	237.6	189.3	-20.4
Food and beverages	302.3	285.3	-5.6	7.2	7.5	4.2	50.1	16.2	-67.6
Durable goods	262.4	230.2	-12.3	20.7	20.1	-2.8	72.9	59.3	-18.6
Others	420.8	484.0	15.0	40.5	36.6	-9.6	114.6	113.7	-0.8
Fuels and lubricants	1,128.6	880.3	-22.0	47.1	44.0	-6.6	275.1	143.6	-47.8
Balance of Trade	-3,620.3	-1,996.8	-44.8	-190.9	-165.6	-13.3	-608.4	-388.7	-36.1

^P Provisional

Notes:

- Table 2 is based on the United Nations' Statistical Division Broad Economic Categories (BEC) codes. Figures for 'Fuels and Lubricants' refer to 'Fuels and Lubricants, primary' (BEC 0031) and 'Fuels and Lubricants, processed' (BEC 0032).
- Totals may not add up due to rounding.
- A disaggregation by quarter is available in 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 3. Total Trade in Goods by period and major commodity group

€ million

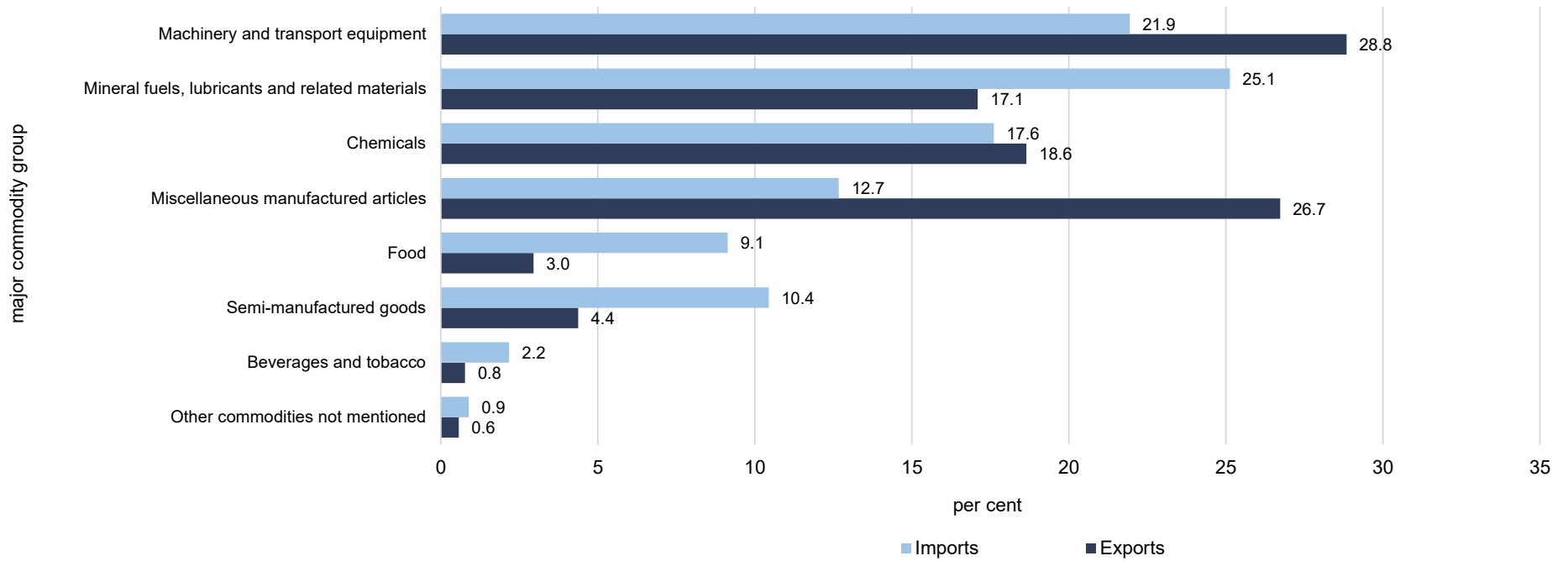
Major commodity group	2019 ^P	2020 ^P	percentage change	March			January-March		
				2020 ^P	2021 ^P	percentage change	2020 ^P	2021 ^P	percentage change
Imports	7,409.2	5,349.8	-27.8	471.5	423.0	-10.3	1,560.3	1,145.4	-26.6
Food	611.4	538.3	-12.0	44.1	38.6	-12.4	124.8	97.8	-21.6
Beverages and tobacco	128.1	104.7	-18.3	8.9	9.2	3.7	26.7	22.2	-17.0
Crude materials	36.3	30.8	-15.0	2.7	2.4	-8.2	8.2	7.3	-11.1
Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	1,858.3	1,218.4	-34.4	92.4	106.3	14.9	403.3	286.0	-29.1
Animal and vegetable oils and fats	9.7	9.2	-6.0	1.0	1.1	9.2	2.4	2.4	-0.1
Chemicals	682.9	671.3	-1.7	48.7	74.5	52.9	153.3	170.6	11.3
Semi-manufactured goods	440.6	445.6	1.1	38.9	44.2	13.5	112.0	113.4	1.3
Machinery and transport equipment	3,055.3	1,822.0	-40.4	196.0	92.8	-52.6	595.1	317.4	-46.7
Miscellaneous manufactured articles	582.0	505.5	-13.1	38.5	53.6	39.4	133.7	127.3	-4.8
Miscellaneous transactions and commodities	4.6	4.0	-13.1	0.3	0.3	-7.9	0.9	1.0	11.6
Exports	3,788.9	3,353.0	-11.5	280.6	257.4	-8.3	951.9	756.7	-20.5
Food	287.4	283.8	-1.3	6.4	7.6	18.3	46.9	15.6	-66.6
Beverages and tobacco	46.9	41.4	-11.8	7.8	2.0	-74.8	16.5	6.0	-63.5
Crude materials	10.0	10.4	4.5	1.1	1.5	36.0	3.1	5.8	87.5
Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	1,158.3	880.3	-24.0	47.1	44.0	-6.6	275.1	143.6	-47.8
Animal and vegetable oils and fats	0.0	0.0	-	0.0	0.0	-	0.0	0.0	-
Chemicals	496.4	487.0	-1.9	32.1	48.0	49.6	90.9	136.1	49.7
Semi-manufactured goods	137.8	102.4	-25.7	9.3	11.3	21.0	28.3	32.5	14.7
Machinery and transport equipment	1,025.5	918.5	-10.4	124.8	74.2	-40.5	314.1	242.9	-22.7
Miscellaneous manufactured articles	623.9	627.1	0.5	51.8	68.8	32.9	176.7	173.7	-1.7
Miscellaneous transactions and commodities	2.6	1.9	-26.6	0.1	-	-100.0	0.3	0.5	57.0
Balance of Trade	-3,620.3	-1,996.8	-44.8	-190.9	-165.6	-13.3	-608.4	-388.7	-36.1
Food	-324.0	-254.5	-21.5	-37.7	-31.0	-17.7	-78.0	-82.2	5.4
Beverages and tobacco	-81.2	-63.3	-22.0	-1.0	-7.2	598.7	-10.2	-16.1	58.5
Crude materials	-26.3	-20.4	-22.4	-1.6	-1.0	-38.8	-5.1	-1.4	-71.8
Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	-700.0	-338.1	-51.7	-45.3	-62.3	37.4	-128.2	-142.5	11.1
Animal and vegetable oils and fats	-9.7	-9.1	-6.0	-1.0	-1.1	9.1	-2.4	-2.4	-1.0
Chemicals	-186.5	-184.3	-1.2	-16.7	-26.5	59.1	-62.4	-34.6	-44.6
Semi-manufactured goods	-302.8	-343.2	13.3	-29.6	-32.9	11.1	-83.6	-80.9	-3.3
Machinery and transport equipment	-2,029.8	-903.5	-55.5	-71.1	-18.6	-73.9	-281.0	-74.5	-73.5
Miscellaneous manufactured articles	41.9	121.7	190.1	13.3	15.2	14.1	43.0	46.4	7.9
Miscellaneous transactions and commodities	-1.9	-2.0	5.2	-0.2	-0.3	31.2	-0.6	-0.5	-15.5

^P Provisional

Notes:

1. The commodity grouping is in accordance with the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) Rev. 4.
2. Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Chart 4. Percentage distribution of total Trade in Goods in March 2021 by major commodity group



Notes:

1. The commodity grouping is in accordance with the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) Rev. 4.
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 4. Direction of total Trade in Goods by period and continent/region/country

€ million

Continent/Region/Country	March						January-March					
	2020 ^P			2021 ^P			2020 ^P			2021 ^P		
	Imports	Exports	Balance of Trade	Imports	Exports	Balance of Trade	Imports	Exports	Balance of Trade	Imports	Exports	Balance of Trade
Europe	295.8	122.3	-173.4	279.6	115.6	-164.0	1,034.6	397.9	-636.7	824.3	384.1	-440.3
<i>of which:</i>												
European Union	218.3	113.3	-105.1	225.8	100.7	-125.1	804.1	368.7	-435.5	677.8	344.0	-333.8
<i>of which:</i>												
Euro area	204.9	100.5	-104.5	207.8	87.4	-120.5	758.5	322.5	-436.0	631.5	305.6	-325.9
<i>of which:</i>												
Italy	71.7	10.4	-61.3	65.9	22.1	-43.8	274.4	39.9	-234.5	197.0	71.6	-125.4
France	13.9	23.4	9.5	42.3	18.9	-23.5	108.4	65.0	-43.4	140.2	56.4	-83.8
Spain	20.9	3.7	-17.3	35.6	2.2	-33.4	61.0	11.7	-49.3	79.6	8.1	-71.5
Germany	32.3	52.5	20.2	24.9	30.0	5.2	111.2	169.0	57.8	71.7	96.5	24.8
Netherlands	13.5	4.6	-9.0	13.5	4.7	-8.7	58.5	13.6	-44.9	38.4	13.1	-25.2
Greece	4.9	0.6	-4.3	12.7	0.5	-12.1	17.0	2.4	-14.6	57.7	1.4	-56.3
EFTA Countries	6.2	1.8	-4.4	15.0	2.3	-12.7	15.7	6.3	-9.5	20.4	8.1	-12.3
<i>of which:</i>												
Switzerland	2.5	1.1	-1.5	14.7	1.9	-12.8	8.5	4.7	-3.8	19.6	6.8	-12.9
Other European Countries	71.3	7.3	-64.0	38.9	12.6	-26.2	214.8	23.0	-191.8	126.1	31.9	-94.2
<i>of which:</i>												
United Kingdom	43.3	3.2	-40.2	25.1	6.7	-18.4	137.5	10.3	-127.1	75.3	18.8	-56.5
Turkey	9.3	3.4	-5.8	9.2	2.8	-6.3	33.8	7.0	-26.9	26.4	7.7	-18.7
Africa	21.9	37.2	15.3	5.7	35.5	29.8	73.3	167.6	94.3	13.5	105.4	91.9
<i>of which:</i>												
Tunisia	2.9	3.6	0.8	2.7	1.9	-0.8	4.4	6.6	2.2	3.9	7.7	3.9
Asia	54.8	48.4	-6.4	104.2	65.9	-38.3	289.8	169.1	-120.7	251.1	142.2	-109.0
<i>of which:</i>												
Saudi Arabia	0.0	0.5	0.5	27.6	2.5	-25.1	0.2	2.1	1.9	35.0	6.5	-28.5
China	15.7	3.2	-12.4	21.4	6.4	-15.0	147.4	8.0	-139.4	60.1	16.5	-43.7
India	12.1	1.7	-10.4	15.0	3.6	-11.4	46.2	3.8	-42.4	44.1	10.0	-34.1
Taiwan	2.3	0.3	-2.0	7.7	0.3	-7.4	5.2	0.6	-4.6	11.2	0.9	-10.3
Israel	0.6	0.4	-0.2	7.1	0.3	-6.8	20.4	0.7	-19.7	25.3	0.7	-24.6
North and Central America	90.5	38.7	-51.9	30.0	13.7	-16.3	148.6	61.6	-87.0	47.1	36.7	-10.4
<i>of which:</i>												
Trinidad & Tobago	0.1	0.3	0.2	22.9	-	-22.9	0.1	0.3	0.2	22.9	-	-22.9
United States Of America	25.4	35.8	10.4	5.7	10.5	4.9	41.7	52.6	11.0	19.7	28.0	8.4
South America	1.3	0.3	-0.9	2.5	2.9	0.4	5.7	4.3	-1.4	4.8	6.1	1.2
Oceania	7.2	0.6	-6.6	0.9	0.9	-0.1	8.3	1.2	-7.1	4.5	1.9	-2.6
Ships and Aircraft Stores	-	33.0	33.0	-	23.0	23.0	-	150.1	150.1	-	80.5	80.5
Grand Total	471.5	280.6	-190.9	423.0	257.4	-165.6	1,560.3	951.9	-608.4	1,145.4	756.7	-388.7

^P Provisional¹ For the exclusion/inclusion of the United Kingdom in the European Union computation, refer to methodological note 7 (ii).

Notes:

1. The selection of countries is based on the highest values of imports in the month under review.
2. Totals may not add up due to rounding.
3. A full list of countries is available in the excel version of this news release:

https://hso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/View_by_Unit/Unit_A4/International_Trade/Pages/International-Trade-in-Goods.aspx

Table 5. Direction of Trade in Goods excluding specific chapters¹ by period and continent/region

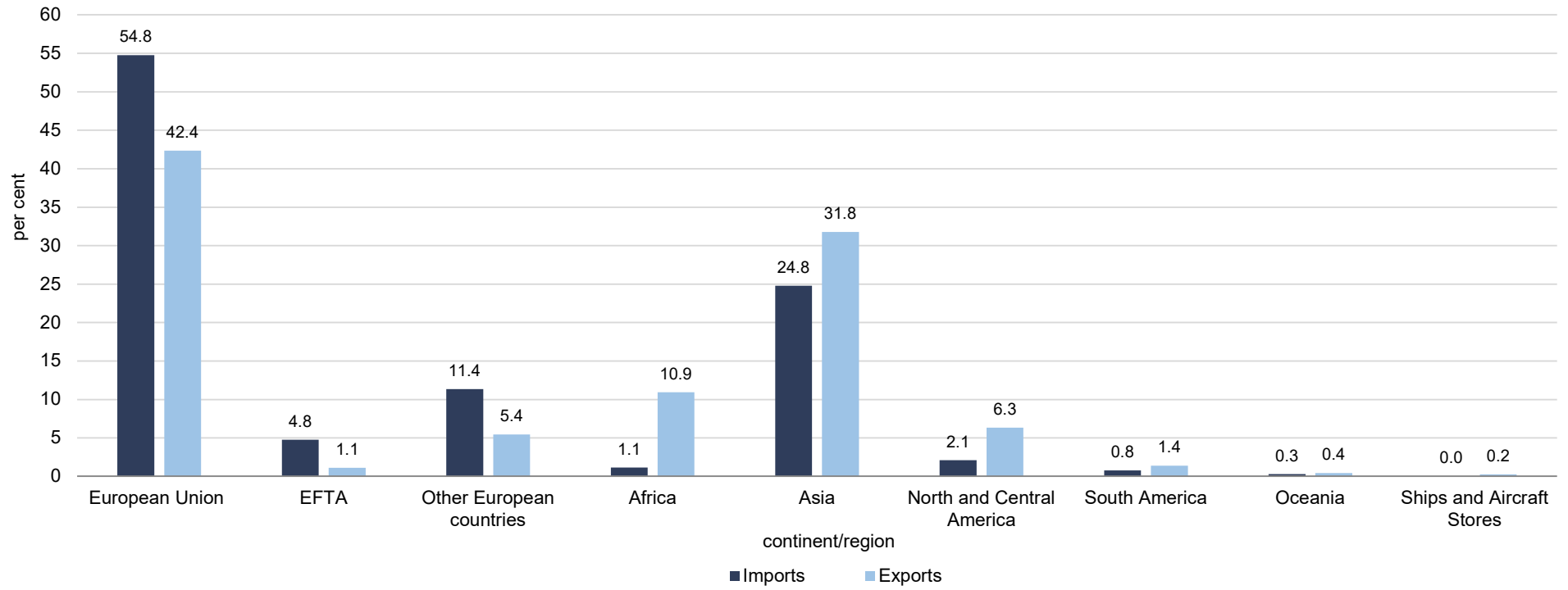
€ million

Continent/Region	March						January-March					
	2020 ^P			2021 ^P			2020 ^P			2021 ^P		
	Imports	Exports	Balance of Trade	Imports	Exports	Balance of Trade	Imports	Exports	Balance of Trade	Imports	Exports	Balance of Trade
Europe	208.0	96.6	-111.4	223.2	101.4	-121.8	613.8	291.1	-322.7	549.7	288.5	-261.3
European Union	166.0	87.7	-78.4	172.5	87.8	-84.7	484.8	264.7	-220.1	447.3	254.7	-192.6
Euro area	152.7	77.4	-75.3	154.5	75.2	-79.3	452.7	232.1	-220.6	404.0	218.6	-185.4
EFTA countries	2.6	1.8	-0.8	15.0	2.3	-12.7	12.0	6.2	-5.8	20.2	7.6	-12.6
Other European countries	39.4	7.1	-32.3	35.7	11.3	-24.5	117.0	20.1	-96.8	82.2	26.2	-56.0
Africa	4.2	31.1	26.9	3.6	22.7	19.1	14.2	79.0	64.8	10.6	76.7	66.1
Asia	48.1	42.9	-5.3	78.0	65.8	-12.2	171.0	154.7	-16.3	205.5	142.0	-63.4
North and Central America	5.9	15.7	9.7	6.6	13.1	6.5	19.0	38.1	19.2	20.0	35.7	15.6
South America	1.3	0.3	-0.9	2.5	2.9	0.4	5.7	4.3	-1.4	4.8	5.8	1.0
Oceania	0.5	0.6	0.1	0.9	0.9	-0.1	1.6	1.2	-0.4	2.6	1.9	-0.7
Ships and Aircraft Stores	-	0.5	0.5	-	0.5	0.5	-	2.1	2.1	-	14.0	14.0
Grand Total	268.0	187.6	-80.4	314.8	207.2	-107.6	825.3	570.4	-254.8	793.3	564.6	-228.7

^P Provisional.¹ Data excluding chapters 27, 88 and 89. See methodological note 8.

Notes: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Chart 5. Percentage distribution of Trade in Goods excluding specific chapters¹ in March 2021 by continent/region



¹ Data excluding chapters 27, 88 and 89. See methodological note 8.

Table 6. Total Trade in Goods by period and main trade chapter

€ million

Trade chapter	Chapter description	March			January-March		
		2020 ^P	2021 ^P	percentage change	2020 ^P	2021 ^P	percentage change
Imports							
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	92.4	106.3	14.9	403.3	286.0	-29.1
85	Electrical machinery etc.	44.0	52.8	20.0	134.7	140.8	4.5
30	Pharmaceutical products	20.5	30.8	50.1	73.3	74.1	1.1
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	26.7	26.6	-0.3	82.9	79.1	-4.7
29	Organic chemicals	5.3	18.5	246.9	17.3	35.4	104.8
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	15.1	15.9	5.6	45.2	38.0	-16.0
48	Paper and paperboard articles	12.1	13.6	12.5	29.6	35.6	20.4
97	Works of art, collector's pieces and antiques	0.3	13.3	3,961.9	1.0	13.8	1,329.7
87	Vehicles (excluding trains) and parts thereof	14.5	11.6	-20.1	46.5	31.8	-31.7
32	Tanning/dyeing extracts and paints	3.2	7.4	133.5	9.4	17.9	90.7
94	Furniture; bedding, etc.	5.8	7.0	20.0	17.1	18.6	8.7
22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	4.8	6.7	38.7	15.1	13.5	-10.8
73	Articles of iron or steel	6.4	6.3	-2.4	17.9	14.4	-19.2
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	6.8	5.1	-24.8	20.0	13.8	-30.9
19	Preparations of cereals	6.8	5.0	-26.9	17.4	12.6	-27.5
Exports							
85	Electrical machinery etc.	67.1	58.3	-13.2	174.9	164.3	-6.0
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	47.0	43.9	-6.6	274.8	143.3	-47.8
49	Printed books, newspapers	19.4	35.9	85.1	66.9	83.3	24.5
30	Pharmaceutical products	25.5	27.5	8.0	75.3	85.6	13.6
29	Organic chemicals	1.9	15.8	726.4	4.4	38.0	767.3
95	Toys, games and sports requisites	12.4	13.3	7.7	42.5	37.3	-12.2
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	11.4	9.0	-20.9	31.6	27.9	-11.7
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	5.6	8.0	43.1	19.5	21.2	8.8
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	9.8	6.7	-31.4	26.0	18.5	-28.7
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	45.9	5.2	-88.8	106.6	46.9	-56.1
40	Rubber and articles of rubber	4.8	5.0	5.2	15.0	15.3	2.6
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	4.3	4.4	2.9	9.7	8.4	-13.4
60	Knitted/crocheted fabrics	2.1	2.4	11.4	6.8	7.2	5.5
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	0.7	1.8	148.4	2.6	5.0	91.8
64	Footwear, gaiters etc.and parts	2.0	1.6	-18.5	8.1	5.7	-29.2

^P Provisional

Notes:

- Table 6 is based on the World Customs Organisation's Harmonised System (HS) codes. Figures for Chapter 27 include 'Industrial supplies, primary' and 'Industrial supplies, processed'.
- A full list of chapters is available in 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.
- Data is sorted in descending order according to imports/exports values for the month under review.

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 (Trading Partners) 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 EU (Trading Partners) include Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia (from July 2013), Cyprus, Czech Republic (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 1 February 2020, the United Kingdom is no longer part of the EU.

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.
 - iv. As from January 2021, following the Withdrawal Agreement (Brexit) between the United Kingdom and the EU, Northern Ireland is to be considered as part of the EU for International Trade purposes.
8. As from the publication relating to the January 2021 reference period, the format of the news release changed. The main enhancement was the reporting of statistics which exclude specific chapters, namely Mineral fuels, oils and products (Chapter 27), Aircrafts/spacecrafts and parts thereof (Chapter 88) and Ships, boats and floating structures (Chapter 89). These are categories which are dominated by one-off transactions that could weigh heavily on the overall headline figures. Therefore, while the official figures remain those for total trade, data excluding these specific chapters is, in many cases, more suitable to analyse underlying economic trends.
9. As from the reference period January 2021, data in Table 3 is based on the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) Rev.4.
10. As from the reference period January 2021, the Caribbean and the Bahamas Islands are included under North and Central America.
11. 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.
12. 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?>
13. References to this news release are to be cited appropriately.
14. A detailed news release calendar is available on: https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/Release_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx