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Provisional figures for registered trade in goods in Malta recorded a trade deficit of €349.3 million during October 2019.

International Trade in Goods: October 2019

Cut-off date:
2 December 2019

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 €349.3 million during October 2019, compared to a deficit of €304.1 million in the corresponding month of 2018. Imports experienced an increase of €35.6 million while exports registered a decrease of €9.6 million (Table 1). The increase in the value of imports was primarily due to machinery and transport equipment (€76.1 million) and chemicals (€16.6 million), partly outweighed by a decrease of €61.1 million in mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials. On the exports side, mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (€31.4 million) accounted for the main decrease, partly outweighed by an increase of €19.2 million in chemicals (Table 2).

January-October 2019

During the first ten months of the year, the trade deficit widened by €935.2 million when compared to the corresponding period of 2018, reaching €3,531.4 million. Both imports and exports increased by €1,046.5 million and €111.3 million respectively (Table 1). Higher imports were recorded mainly in machinery and transport equipment (€1,049.4 million). The main increases in exports were registered in chemicals (€72.2 million), miscellaneous manufactured articles (€71.5 million) and machinery and transport equipment (€50.7 million), partly outweighed by a decrease of €59.6 million in mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (Table 2).

For the same reference period, imports from the European Union reached €4,203.9 million, or 65.8 per cent of total imports. There was a decrease of €384.6 million in imports from euro area countries when compared to the same period in 2018. Main increases and decreases in imports were registered from the United Kingdom (€850.7 million) and Italy (€233.6 million) respectively. With respect to exports, the main increase was directed to Germany (€36.4 million), whereas Italy (€51.3 million) registered the highest decrease (Table 3) ■

Chart 1. International Trade in Goods - monthly

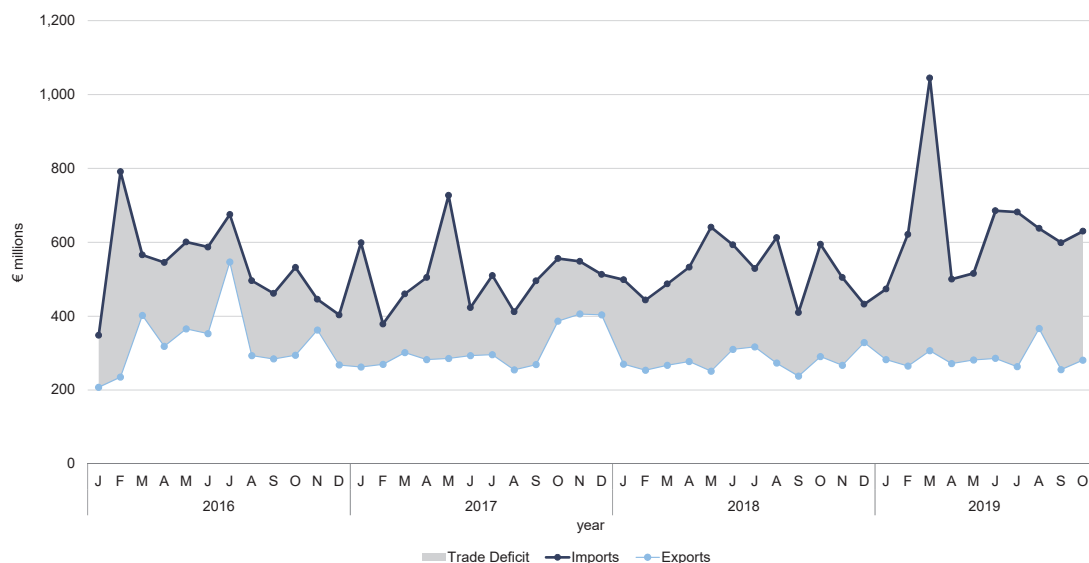


Table 1. Trade in goods by period and broad economic category

€ million

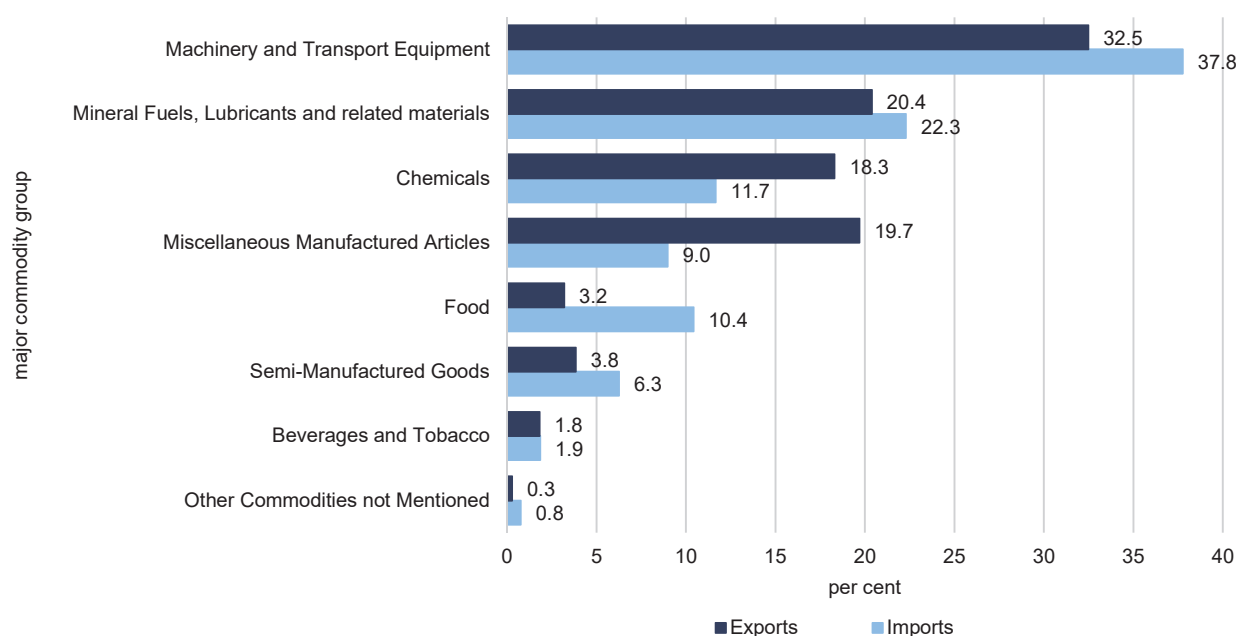
Broad economic category	2017 ^P	2018 ^P	October		January-October	
			2018 ^P	2019 ^P	2018 ^P	2019 ^P
Imports	6,126.3	6,278.6	594.4	630.0	5,341.6	6,388.1
Industrial Supplies	1,323.6	1,470.2	147.5	158.3	1,226.5	1,395.8
Primary	126.3	125.7	15.3	19.8	92.6	89.8
Semi-Finished	1,011.8	1,139.1	116.2	129.4	954.0	1,131.6
Finished	185.5	205.4	15.9	9.2	179.9	174.4
Capital Goods and Others	1,679.5	1,399.6	96.5	182.6	1,264.0	2,236.2
Consumer Goods	1,350.6	1,472.4	149.0	148.0	1,233.5	1,259.4
Food and Beverages	531.0	548.6	52.6	51.1	462.2	458.9
Durable Goods	469.4	496.0	51.5	55.3	413.0	443.8
Others	350.1	427.8	44.9	41.7	358.4	356.6
Fuels and Lubricants	1,772.6	1,936.4	201.5	141.1	1,617.6	1,496.7
Exports	3,707.7	3,340.7	290.3	280.7	2,745.4	2,856.7
<i>of which:</i>						
Exports of Fuels and Lubricants	1,420.1	986.7	81.2	57.2	866.6	829.4
Balance of Trade	-2,418.6	-2,937.9	-304.1	-349.3	-2,596.2	-3,531.4

^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; 'Fuels and lubricants, primary' and 'Fuels and lubricants, processed' respectively.
2. Totals may not add up due to rounding.
3. 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 trade in goods in October 2019 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 groups

€ million

Major commodity group	2017 ^P	2018 ^P	October		January-October	
			2018 ^P	2019 ^P	2018 ^P	2019 ^P
Imports	6,126.3	6,278.6	594.4	630.0	5,341.6	6,388.1
Food	625.1	628.7	67.4	65.7	522.1	492.8
Beverages and Tobacco	96.1	112.3	10.3	11.7	91.9	107.6
Crude Materials	26.2	27.4	2.2	3.1	22.9	31.4
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	1,775.0	1,947.0	201.5	140.4	1,626.3	1,528.5
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	9.3	9.6	0.9	0.8	8.4	8.2
Chemicals	522.2	603.0	56.9	73.5	512.3	578.1
Semi-Manufactured Goods	361.3	413.0	41.3	39.4	351.0	361.2
Machinery and Transport Equipment	2,236.2	2,005.0	161.7	237.8	1,767.3	2,816.7
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	469.7	527.5	51.9	56.6	435.6	459.8
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	5.3	5.2	0.4	0.9	3.9	3.9
Exports	3,707.7	3,340.7	290.3	280.7	2,745.4	2,856.7
Food	283.4	245.6	18.3	9.0	124.0	116.3
Beverages and Tobacco	38.6	44.6	5.9	5.1	36.8	39.0
Crude Materials	13.4	13.3	0.9	0.6	11.6	8.5
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	1,469.1	1,048.6	88.6	57.2	916.0	856.4
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chemicals	383.1	387.0	32.2	51.4	313.2	385.4
Semi-Manufactured Goods	150.7	153.7	13.4	10.8	136.0	119.5
Machinery and Transport Equipment	987.8	956.8	83.0	91.1	803.8	854.5
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	380.7	488.8	47.8	55.3	403.1	474.6
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	0.8	2.5	0.1	0.2	0.9	2.4
Balance of Trade	-2,418.6	-2,937.9	-304.1	-349.3	-2,596.2	-3,531.4
Food	-341.6	-383.1	-49.0	-56.7	-398.1	-376.5
Beverages and Tobacco	-57.5	-67.7	-4.4	-6.6	-55.1	-68.6
Crude Materials	-12.9	-14.1	-1.3	-2.5	-11.3	-22.9
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	-305.9	-898.4	-112.9	-83.2	-710.3	-672.2
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	-9.3	-9.6	-0.9	-0.8	-8.4	-8.1
Chemicals	-139.1	-216.1	-24.7	-22.1	-199.0	-192.7
Semi-Manufactured Goods	-210.6	-259.3	-27.8	-28.6	-215.0	-241.7
Machinery and Transport Equipment	-1,248.3	-1,048.2	-78.7	-146.7	-963.5	-1,962.2
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	-89.0	-38.7	-4.1	-1.3	-32.4	14.9
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	-4.5	-2.7	-0.2	-0.7	-3.0	-1.4

^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 country/region

€ million

Country/Region	October						January-October					
	2018 ^P			2019 ^P			2018 ^P			2019 ^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	404.6	140.5	-264.1	389.7	133.3	-256.4	3,908.4	1,362.4	-2,546.0	4,806.2	1,437.3	-3,368.9
<i>of which:</i>												
European Union	368.0	136.7	-231.4	295.5	128.4	-167.0	3,568.0	1,280.2	-2,287.8	4,203.9	1,381.6	-2,822.2
<i>of which:</i>												
United Kingdom	54.6	6.1	-48.4	47.5	5.6	-41.9	447.2	51.6	-395.6	1,297.9	50.4	-1,247.5
euro area	286.4	109.9	-176.4	230.4	89.2	-141.2	2,940.9	1,048.1	-1,892.7	2,556.3	1,100.1	-1,456.2
<i>of which:</i>												
Italy	102.2	31.4	-70.8	90.4	9.6	-80.8	1,233.9	293.5	-940.5	1,000.3	242.2	-758.0
Spain	32.4	1.9	-30.5	35.0	3.4	-31.6	271.4	44.0	-227.4	223.4	76.2	-147.2
France	32.3	23.1	-9.2	34.1	20.3	-13.8	253.6	230.8	-22.8	367.2	236.8	-130.4
Germany	52.8	35.6	-17.2	24.1	43.7	19.6	378.7	368.1	-10.6	426.8	404.5	-22.3
Greece	13.7	1.0	-12.7	16.2	0.5	-15.7	202.0	7.2	-194.8	156.3	18.7	-137.6
Netherlands	16.1	14.1	-2.0	14.3	4.1	-10.2	266.4	63.4	-203.0	174.8	59.9	-114.9
EFTA Countries	4.3	2.1	-2.1	4.0	2.4	-1.6	44.6	20.0	-24.6	50.6	22.5	-28.2
<i>of which:</i>												
Switzerland	3.0	1.1	-2.0	3.7	2.1	-1.6	31.4	15.3	-16.1	33.5	19.3	-14.2
Other European Countries	32.3	1.8	-30.5	90.3	2.5	-87.8	295.7	62.2	-233.5	551.7	33.2	-518.5
<i>of which:</i>												
Turkey	31.1	1.3	-29.8	68.0	1.6	-66.4	163.0	27.9	-135.1	272.3	25.7	-246.6
Asia	85.4	50.3	-35.1	102.8	52.3	-50.4	789.6	423.1	-366.5	883.8	472.3	-411.5
<i>of which:</i>												
China	23.8	2.2	-21.5	33.0	3.4	-29.6	189.4	28.9	-160.5	225.9	29.5	-196.4
Saudi Arabia	0.1	4.1	4.0	21.6	4.2	-17.4	26.0	9.0	-17.0	98.1	11.2	-87.0
India	13.6	0.7	-13.0	12.6	2.9	-9.7	118.9	10.0	-108.9	131.6	14.2	-117.4
Japan	5.5	11.1	5.6	7.4	1.7	-5.7	61.1	62.0	1.0	46.1	61.0	14.9
South Korea	5.6	2.4	-3.2	4.5	0.8	-3.7	36.9	13.0	-23.9	35.4	43.5	8.1
North and Central America	49.8	14.7	-35.1	75.9	14.2	-61.7	237.9	149.9	-88.0	221.9	156.4	-65.4
<i>of which:</i>												
Canada	10.3	1.3	-9.0	64.1	1.8	-62.2	108.1	16.8	-91.3	85.8	13.6	-72.1
United States of America	39.3	12.6	-26.7	11.6	11.3	-0.4	127.8	122.8	-5.0	130.8	133.5	2.7
Africa	34.1	23.5	-10.6	26.0	34.7	8.7	191.0	376.7	185.7	125.6	334.6	209.1
<i>of which:</i>												
Algeria	2.0	1.6	-0.4	8.0	1.4	-6.7	2.0	6.4	4.4	8.1	30.1	22.0
Australia and Oceania	0.6	0.5	-0.1	1.1	0.4	-0.8	13.2	4.2	-9.1	112.9	5.1	-107.8
South America	2.0	8.0	6.1	2.2	2.5	0.3	51.2	42.7	-8.5	20.1	23.8	3.7
Caribbean and Bahamas Islands	17.7	0.2	-17.5	32.2	0.1	-32.1	150.0	2.9	-147.1	217.4	5.4	-212.0
Ships and Aircraft Stores	0.1	52.6	52.4	0.0	43.2	43.2	0.3	383.5	383.2	0.2	421.7	421.6
Grand Total	594.4	290.3	-304.1	630.0	280.7	-349.3	5,341.6	2,745.4	-2,596.2	6,388.1	2,856.7	-3,531.4

^P Provisional

Notes:

1. Ranking is based according to top countries of import for the current month 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. Data for the 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	October		January-October	
		2018 ^P	2019 ^P	2018 ^P	2019 ^P
		Main imports			
2	Meat and edible offal	5,602	4,698	51,936	50,559
3	Fish and crustaceans, etc.	22,393	22,217	120,875	91,069
4	Dairy produce; birds' eggs	4,428	4,699	45,563	44,268
8	Edible fruit and nuts	4,079	3,873	33,561	32,737
16	Preparations of meat/fish	4,337	4,487	45,426	44,176
19	Preparations of cereals	7,364	6,114	55,000	54,644
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	3,128	3,854	35,988	36,456
22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	6,814	6,639	65,004	71,556
24	Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	3,535	5,141	27,658	36,741
25	Salt/sulphur/earths/plastering materials and cement	2,436	3,689	25,347	33,379
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	201,451	140,478	1,627,792	1,532,338
29	Organic chemicals	5,813	26,886	76,392	156,435
30	Pharmaceutical products	27,138	21,954	214,515	198,317
32	Tanning/dyeing extracts and paints	3,420	5,774	40,013	43,832
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	4,141	3,440	34,334	35,021
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	16,137	16,176	144,235	145,871
42	Articles of leather; saddlery	1,374	3,172	12,030	22,009
48	Paper and paperboard articles	14,002	11,987	83,266	88,070
61	Knitted clothing	7,477	10,175	53,462	64,869
62	Woven clothing	4,575	5,115	45,253	45,553
64	Footwear, gaiters etc.and parts	5,407	7,122	44,481	51,104
71	Pearls, precious stones/metals and imitation jewellery	3,115	4,349	19,834	23,355
73	Articles of iron or steel	4,558	4,842	61,374	56,449
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	38,047	30,389	369,306	329,599
85	Electrical machinery etc.	61,078	49,806	421,525	483,337
87	Vehicles (excluding trains) and parts thereof	22,949	28,680	149,401	168,100
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	22,223	68,543	429,133	442,132
89	Ships, boats and floating structures	18,043	59,216	398,338	1,397,244
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	7,775	6,566	78,380	64,003
94	Furniture; bedding, etc.	6,961	5,770	57,764	59,779
		Main exports			
19	Preparations of cereals	1,681	2,159	13,243	12,169
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	4,740	5,823	43,058	40,886
24	Tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes	2,911	2,354	12,264	14,492
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	88,403	57,115	914,611	855,656
29	Organic chemicals	2,528	19,764	22,584	70,343
30	Pharmaceutical products	23,683	23,796	245,236	248,484
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	1,492	2,255	12,499	16,863
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	7,288	7,195	57,421	70,540
40	Rubber and articles of rubber	4,917	5,240	54,743	49,129
49	Printed books, newspapers	16,433	24,150	108,809	151,344
60	Knitted/crocheted fabrics	2,691	1,935	21,594	19,924
64	Footwear, gaiters etc.and parts	1,696	1,593	15,917	23,668
73	Articles of iron or steel	2,568	1,663	32,611	26,309
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	9,070	23,624	127,402	167,213
85	Electrical machinery etc.	63,037	58,545	570,719	547,740
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	10,630	7,677	94,878	133,388
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	8,766	4,547	74,298	65,003
95	Toys, games and sports requisites	9,987	14,953	121,627	131,028
99	Special classifications	2,447	3,799	26,521	29,793

^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'.
- Data for the 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, Sweden and the United Kingdom.
 - 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/metadadata/concepts.aspx>
Metadata: <http://nso.gov.mt/metadadata/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