

Preliminary figures show that the visible trade gap narrowed by €15.2 million in December when compared to the corresponding month in 2009.

## International Trade: December 2010

Cut-off date:  
**1 February 2011**

Provisional data for international trade show that the visible trade gap in December stood at €82.4 million, down by €15.2 million compared to the corresponding month in 2009. There were increases in imports and exports of €16.8 million and €32.0 million respectively, as shown in Table 1a. The increase in imports was mainly due to fuels and lubricants and industrial supplies, while decreases were registered in consumer goods and capital goods. Machinery and transport equipment accounted for the main increase in exports when compared to the corresponding month in 2009. Other increases were registered in miscellaneous manufactured articles, mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials, semi-manufactured goods, chemicals, miscellaneous transactions and commodities, and beverages and tobacco. Decreases were registered in food and crude materials.

### January-December 2010

The visible trade gap in 2010 widened by €34.7 million, to stand at €1,443.4 million. This was due to increases in imports and exports of €585.2 million and €550.7 million respectively, when compared to 2009. The rise in imports was due to industrial supplies, fuels and lubricants, capital goods and consumer goods. During this period the increase in exports was primarily due to machinery and transport equipment, mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials, food, chemicals and semi-manufactured goods, as shown in Table 2.

Last year the bulk of Malta's trade flows and consequent trade deficit continued to be directed towards the European Union, as shown in Table 3. Drops were registered in imports from United Kingdom, the Netherlands, France, Spain and Greece, while increases were recorded from Italy and Germany. Exports to the euro area show an increase, mainly to Germany, Italy and France, with other significant increases being recorded for Japan, the United States of America, China, United Kingdom and Singapore ■

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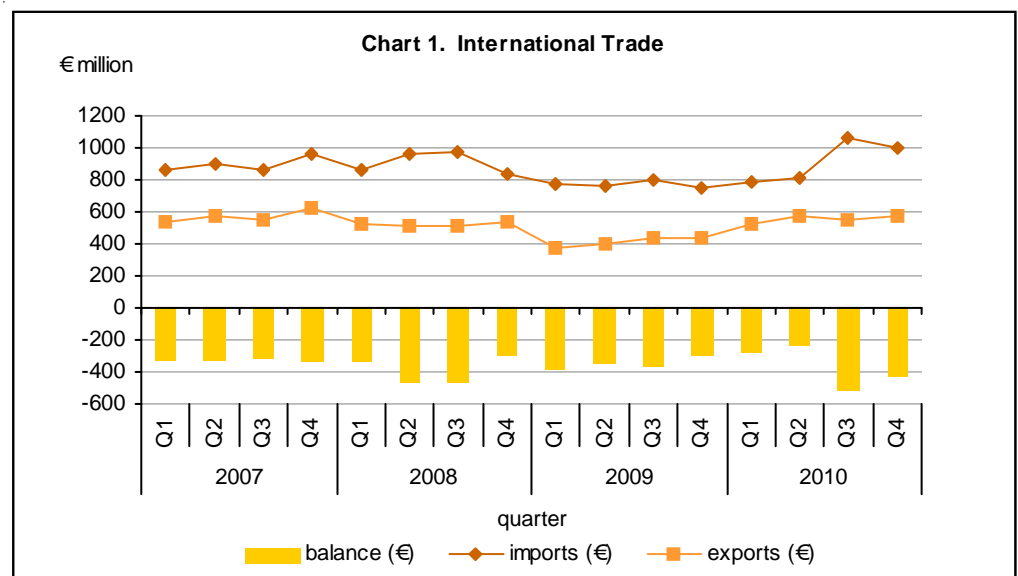


Table 1a. Trade by final use

€ million

	2007 <sup>P</sup>	2008 <sup>P</sup>	2009 <sup>P</sup>	2010 <sup>P</sup>	December	
					2009 <sup>P</sup>	2010 <sup>P</sup>
<b>Imports</b>	<b>3,578.0</b>	<b>3,641.0</b>	<b>3,073.9</b>	<b>3,659.1</b>	<b>238.5</b>	<b>255.3</b>
<b>Industrial Supplies</b>	<b>1,610.6</b>	<b>1,564.3</b>	<b>1,204.1</b>	<b>1,540.9</b>	<b>106.5</b>	<b>116.4</b>
Primary	104.7	94.9	50.2	49.8	6.6	3.2
Semi-Finished	1,414.6	1,373.2	1,033.7	1,327.8	88.6	103.8
Finished	91.3	96.3	120.3	163.3	11.3	9.4
<b>Capital Goods and Others</b>	<b>635.8</b>	<b>605.5</b>	<b>677.3</b>	<b>778.8</b>	<b>32.5</b>	<b>30.8</b>
<b>Consumer Goods</b>	<b>913.8</b>	<b>968.5</b>	<b>887.3</b>	<b>898.0</b>	<b>71.4</b>	<b>66.5</b>
Food and Beverages	319.9	361.6	366.4	366.9	29.4	28.3
Durable Goods	385.4	380.3	319.7	320.4	26.7	22.7
Others	208.5	226.6	201.1	210.7	15.3	15.4
<b>Fuels and Lubricants</b>	<b>417.8</b>	<b>502.7</b>	<b>305.2</b>	<b>441.4</b>	<b>28.1</b>	<b>41.6</b>
<b>Exports</b>	<b>2,287.6</b>	<b>2,090.8</b>	<b>1,665.1</b>	<b>2,215.8</b>	<b>140.9</b>	<b>172.9</b>
<b>Visible Trade Gap</b>	<b>-1,290.4</b>	<b>-1,550.3</b>	<b>-1,408.7</b>	<b>-1,443.4</b>	<b>-97.6</b>	<b>-82.4</b>

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

<sup>P</sup> Provisional

Table 1b. Trade by final use - Previous Six Quarters

€ million

	2009Q3 <sup>P</sup>	2009Q4 <sup>P</sup>	2010Q1 <sup>P</sup>	2010Q2 <sup>P</sup>	2010Q3 <sup>P</sup>	2010Q4 <sup>P</sup>
<b>Imports</b>	<b>799.5</b>	<b>745.8</b>	<b>791.4</b>	<b>810.6</b>	<b>1,062.9</b>	<b>994.3</b>
<b>Industrial Supplies</b>	<b>295.5</b>	<b>328.1</b>	<b>326.6</b>	<b>340.3</b>	<b>400.3</b>	<b>473.7</b>
Primary	13.9	13.8	8.5	13.6	13.4	14.2
Semi-Finished	256.3	278.7	275.4	292.7	339.7	420.0
Finished	25.2	35.7	42.7	34.0	47.1	39.5
<b>Capital Goods and Others</b>	<b>178.6</b>	<b>99.8</b>	<b>170.0</b>	<b>149.0</b>	<b>314.7</b>	<b>145.1</b>
<b>Consumer Goods</b>	<b>219.3</b>	<b>239.1</b>	<b>205.4</b>	<b>232.9</b>	<b>230.3</b>	<b>229.4</b>
Food and Beverages	92.0	100.4	81.0	93.0	95.4	97.5
Durable Goods	76.6	90.0	74.8	87.0	80.2	78.4
Others	50.7	48.6	49.6	52.9	54.7	53.6
<b>Fuels and Lubricants</b>	<b>106.1</b>	<b>78.8</b>	<b>89.4</b>	<b>88.3</b>	<b>117.6</b>	<b>146.1</b>
<b>Exports</b>	<b>439.1</b>	<b>441.7</b>	<b>519.9</b>	<b>575.8</b>	<b>544.8</b>	<b>575.3</b>
<b>Visible Trade Gap</b>	<b>-360.5</b>	<b>-304.1</b>	<b>-271.5</b>	<b>-234.8</b>	<b>-518.1</b>	<b>-419.0</b>

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

<sup>P</sup> Provisional

Table 2. Balance of trade by major commodity groups

€ million

	2007 <sup>P</sup>	2008 <sup>P</sup>	2009 <sup>P</sup>	2010 <sup>P</sup>	December	
					2009 <sup>P</sup>	2010 <sup>P</sup>
					<b>Imports</b>	<b>3,578.0</b>
Food	412.6	435.5	381.8	375.1	33.7	29.3
Beverages and Tobacco	50.5	61.7	59.2	60.2	4.3	4.7
Crude Materials	26.8	25.8	31.0	30.6	2.1	2.0
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	421.2	516.0	305.8	443.5	28.1	41.7
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	8.5	9.0	6.9	6.9	0.5	0.6
Chemicals	336.7	340.9	310.4	357.3	24.9	26.2
Semi-Manufactured Goods	349.7	354.1	287.8	319.7	21.5	27.1
Machinery and Transport Equipment	1,520.3	1,447.9	1,310.9	1,652.8	95.0	94.1
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	420.8	424.3	357.9	373.9	26.3	24.6
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	31.0	25.7	22.3	39.2	2.2	5.0
<b>Exports</b>	<b>2,287.6</b>	<b>2,090.8</b>	<b>1,665.1</b>	<b>2,215.8</b>	<b>140.9</b>	<b>172.9</b>
Food	158.4	161.3	69.6	135.4	5.7	3.0
Beverages and Tobacco	16.1	15.8	17.7	22.3	1.3	1.4
Crude Materials	14.2	12.5	9.6	13.7	1.0	0.8
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	53.6	49.5	26.6	173.4	1.9	6.5
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chemicals	199.4	221.9	204.5	268.1	21.3	22.8
Semi-Manufactured Goods	115.3	112.9	89.0	123.0	8.5	11.1
Machinery and Transport Equipment	1,373.4	1,173.5	939.1	1,145.5	82.5	100.4
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	355.3	335.7	307.2	324.9	18.5	26.5
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	1.8	7.1	1.9	9.5	0.1	0.4
<b>Total Balance</b>	<b>-1,290.4</b>	<b>-1,550.3</b>	<b>-1,408.7</b>	<b>-1,443.4</b>	<b>-97.6</b>	<b>-82.4</b>
Food	-254.1	-274.2	-312.2	-239.7	-28.1	-26.2
Beverages and Tobacco	-34.4	-45.9	-41.5	-37.9	-3.0	-3.4
Crude Materials	-12.6	-13.3	-21.4	-16.9	-1.1	-1.2
Mineral Fuels, Lubricants and related materials	-367.7	-466.5	-279.2	-270.1	-26.2	-35.2
Animal and Vegetable Oils and Fats	-8.5	-8.5	-6.9	-6.9	-0.5	-0.6
Chemicals	-137.2	-119.1	-105.9	-89.2	-3.5	-3.4
Semi-Manufactured Goods	-234.3	-241.3	-198.8	-196.7	-12.9	-16.0
Machinery and Transport Equipment	-146.9	-274.3	-371.8	-507.4	-12.5	6.3
Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles	-65.4	-88.6	-50.7	-49.0	-7.8	1.9
Miscellaneous Transactions and Commodities	-29.2	-18.5	-20.4	-29.6	-2.0	-4.6

Notes: The commodity breakdown is in accordance with S.I.T.C. Rev. 3.

Totals may not add up due to rounding.

<sup>P</sup> Provisional

Table 3. Direction of trade

€ million

Region and Country	December						January-December					
	2009 <sup>P</sup>			2010 <sup>P</sup>			2009 <sup>P</sup>			2010 <sup>P</sup>		
	Arrivals/ Imports	Dispatches/ Exports	Balance	Arrivals/ Imports	Dispatches/ Exports	Balance	Arrivals/ Imports	Dispatches/ Exports	Balance	Arrivals/ Imports	Dispatches/ Exports	Balance
<b>Europe</b>	<b>187.3</b>	<b>66.0</b>	<b>-121.3</b>	<b>185.8</b>	<b>73.8</b>	<b>-112.0</b>	<b>2,382.2</b>	<b>790.8</b>	<b>-1,591.3</b>	<b>2,624.4</b>	<b>1,011.5</b>	<b>-1,612.9</b>
<i>of which:</i>												
<b>European Union</b>	<b>176.0</b>	<b>63.3</b>	<b>-112.7</b>	<b>175.4</b>	<b>68.9</b>	<b>-106.4</b>	<b>2,200.0</b>	<b>754.8</b>	<b>-1,445.3</b>	<b>2,349.5</b>	<b>961.4</b>	<b>-1,388.1</b>
<i>of which:</i>												
United Kingdom	27.1	9.2	-17.9	16.7	9.0	-7.7	363.8	99.0	-264.7	314.2	125.3	-189.0
Euro Area	143.9	47.9	-96.0	144.6	51.4	-93.2	1,767.1	592.6	-1,174.5	1,879.6	728.1	-1,151.5
<i>of which:</i>												
Italy	65.7	7.3	-58.4	69.7	9.8	-59.8	761.3	94.8	-666.6	923.1	133.2	-789.9
France	28.9	17.2	-11.7	26.3	17.6	-8.7	315.1	187.5	-127.7	293.5	220.3	-73.2
Germany	20.5	14.5	-6.0	19.5	15.9	-3.6	270.4	221.9	-48.5	287.5	270.1	-17.5
Netherlands	9.1	1.3	-7.8	7.0	2.3	-4.7	155.4	20.3	-135.0	121.5	21.5	-100.0
Greece	1.3	0.2	-1.1	6.6	0.6	-6.0	31.8	1.5	-30.3	27.6	15.3	-12.3
Spain	8.2	1.7	-6.5	5.8	1.0	-4.8	102.7	18.0	-84.8	98.0	20.2	-77.8
<b>EFTA Countries</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>-3.1</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>-3.3</b>	<b>110.2</b>	<b>16.4</b>	<b>-93.8</b>	<b>110.2</b>	<b>26.5</b>	<b>-83.7</b>
<i>of which:</i>												
Switzerland	4.1	0.8	-3.3	6.0	2.1	-3.9	107.9	10.6	-97.3	107.9	17.3	-90.6
<b>Other European Countries</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>-5.5</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>-2.3</b>	<b>71.9</b>	<b>19.6</b>	<b>-52.3</b>	<b>164.7</b>	<b>23.6</b>	<b>-141.1</b>
<i>of which:</i>												
Turkey	1.6	1.1	-0.5	2.2	1.8	-0.3	28.6	13.2	-15.4	51.5	18.3	-33.2
<b>Asia</b>	<b>34.2</b>	<b>44.6</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>49.2</b>	<b>61.5</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>437.5</b>	<b>528.1</b>	<b>90.6</b>	<b>568.6</b>	<b>686.5</b>	<b>117.9</b>
<i>of which:</i>												
China	7.0	3.1	-3.9	10.5	12.7	2.2	117.0	27.0	-90.0	117.8	61.2	-56.7
Singapore	8.6	16.6	8.1	9.7	22.0	12.2	106.6	204.2	97.6	127.4	229.4	102.0
Korea Republic	3.2	1.2	-2.0	8.7	2.8	-5.8	43.6	26.5	-17.1	82.2	36.3	-45.9
India	2.6	0.2	-2.4	5.7	1.1	-4.7	32.5	3.3	-29.3	60.2	9.9	-50.3
Japan	4.8	7.5	2.7	4.4	3.6	-0.9	40.1	58.2	18.1	53.8	104.3	50.5
Malaysia	1.9	0.8	-1.2	2.6	0.7	-1.8	17.7	20.7	3.1	22.9	5.7	-17.2
<b>North and Central America</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>18.5</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>19.3</b>	<b>11.7</b>	<b>173.1</b>	<b>168.2</b>	<b>-4.9</b>	<b>211.0</b>	<b>213.8</b>	<b>2.8</b>
<i>of which:</i>												
United States of America	6.8	17.0	10.2	6.6	17.7	11.1	84.2	152.3	68.1	92.3	196.1	103.8
<b>Africa</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>10.7</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>11.7</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>52.2</b>	<b>137.2</b>	<b>85.0</b>	<b>107.5</b>	<b>154.3</b>	<b>46.8</b>
<i>of which:</i>												
Libya	0.0	8.8	8.8	9.3	6.7	-2.6	22.7	83.9	61.2	34.3	85.3	50.9
<b>Australia and Oceania</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>-0.6</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>10.7</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>-6.2</b>	<b>80.1</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>-69.0</b>
<b>South America</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>-1.4</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>15.5</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>18.9</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>-7.3</b>
<b>Ships and Aircraft Stores</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>-1.1</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>19.2</b>	<b>16.9</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>123.5</b>	<b>121.5</b>
<b>Caribbean and Bahamas Islands</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>46.6</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>-43.2</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>238.5</b>	<b>140.9</b>	<b>-97.6</b>	<b>255.3</b>	<b>172.9</b>	<b>-82.4</b>	<b>3,073.9</b>	<b>1,665.1</b>	<b>-1,408.7</b>	<b>3,659.1</b>	<b>2,215.8</b>	<b>-1,443.4</b>

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Arrivals/Dispatches relate to transactions with EU Member States

<sup>P</sup> Provisional

Imports/Exports relate to transactions with non-EU Member States

Table 4. Trade by principal traded commodities

		€ 000			
CHP NO	Commodity description	December		January-December	
		2009 <sup>P</sup>	2010 <sup>P</sup>	2009 <sup>P</sup>	2010 <sup>P</sup>
		<b>Main imports</b>			
02	Meat and edible offal	3,193	3,796	46,610	43,999
04	Dairy produce; birds' eggs	3,262	3,105	36,017	36,789
10	Cereals	5,107	2,257	22,457	19,197
16	Preparations of meat/fish	2,414	2,736	33,689	36,161
18	Cocoa and cocoa preparations	1,256	1,764	14,853	14,018
19	Preparations of cereals	4,266	3,884	53,020	50,469
20	Preparations of vegetables, fruit and nuts	1,642	1,702	22,125	20,710
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	2,778	2,011	32,867	32,457
22	Beverages, spirits and vinegar	3,378	3,418	42,681	44,706
23	Food residues and waste	2,544	2,605	27,732	26,825
25	Salt/sulphur/earths/plastering materials and cement	1,730	1,799	25,390	23,078
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	28,112	41,728	306,972	444,724
29	Organic chemicals	3,870	5,206	61,795	82,736
30	Pharmaceutical products	7,126	7,354	77,799	86,076
32	Tanning/dyeing extracts and paints	1,809	1,899	25,611	24,747
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	2,685	2,536	37,565	37,772
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	9,857	8,427	113,085	130,858
44	Wood and articles of wood; wood charcoal	1,999	1,724	17,603	18,804
48	Paper and paperboard articles	4,847	5,728	76,830	78,791
61	Knitted clothing	2,074	1,521	33,908	33,885
69	Ceramic products	1,943	1,821	23,022	23,078
71	Pearls, precious stones/metals and imitation jewellery	4,293	8,604	48,172	68,634
72	Iron and steel	564	2,589	26,862	31,018
73	Articles of iron or steel	3,508	6,452	35,333	50,670
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	15,314	19,124	232,271	242,100
85	Electrical machinery etc.	57,855	61,121	598,890	848,817
87	Vehicles (excluding trains) and parts thereof	11,120	8,070	109,782	100,076
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	7,996	6,393	265,489	245,794
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	2,812	4,425	53,151	63,275
94	Furniture; bedding, etc;	4,409	4,005	52,329	54,233
		<b>Main exports</b>			
03	Fish and crustaceans, etc	3,582	796	14,810	69,838
21	Miscellaneous edible preparations	1,356	1,622	39,166	44,386
27	Mineral fuels, oils and products	1,848	6,323	25,088	172,083
29	Organic chemicals	3,681	1,438	26,160	38,736
30	Pharmaceutical products	16,529	19,841	157,496	208,720
33	Essential oils and toilet preparations	554	788	8,843	10,709
39	Plastics and articles of plastics	2,666	3,352	36,094	42,167
40	Rubber and articles of rubber	2,384	2,896	25,007	41,831
49	Printed books, newspapers	5,148	8,399	97,043	85,151
60	Knitted/crocheted fabrics	3,898	5,618	35,217	49,781
71	Pearls, precious stones/metals and imitation jewellery	1,720	5,334	14,152	47,578
73	Articles of iron or steel	1,026	1,317	15,578	13,750
84	Machinery and mechanical appliances	6,193	5,162	78,416	74,071
85	Electrical machinery etc.	73,130	91,055	826,633	1,010,486
88	Aircraft/spacecraft and parts thereof	2,640	3,702	22,031	47,882
90	Optical/photographic/cinematographic instruments	4,229	2,630	60,102	51,719
91	Clocks and watches/parts	756	1,450	5,193	6,358
95	Toys, games and sports requisites	3,159	4,480	68,044	78,777
99	Special classifications	1,136	1,196	18,491	20,117

<sup>P</sup> Provisional

## Methodological notes

1. The data in this release are based on:
  - a. the Customs Declarations for imports from and exports to countries that are not Member States of the European Union (EU) and, on
  - b. 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 EU, in compliance with Legal Notice 131 of 2004.
2. 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 the 1 May 2004. The requirements of the Supplementary Declaration, which at EU level was introduced as from the 1 January 1993, are similar in all the Member States of the EU.
3. 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.
4. The data in this release are provisional and therefore subject to revision. Regular revisions to monthly and annual trade data may be carried out for up to two (2) years after the reference period.
5. Individual countries' data not appearing in the release are available from the NSO upon request.
6. The euro area includes Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Spain.

The European Union includes Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom.

EFTA (European Free Trade Area) countries comprise Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.