

By the end of November 2022, the Government's Consolidated Fund reported a deficit of €620.5 million.

Government Finance Data: January-November 2022

Between January and November 2022, Recurrent Revenue amounted to €5,107.6 million, 12.2 per cent higher than the €4,553.2 million reported a year earlier. The largest increase was recorded under Value Added Tax (€236.0 million), followed by Income Tax (€190.6 million), Social Security (€141.0 million), Grants (€52.0 million), Reimbursements (€7.5 million), Rents (€2.9 million) and Licences, Taxes and Fines (€2.1 million). The rise in revenue was partially offset by decreases under Miscellaneous Receipts (€28.8 million), Customs and Excise Duties (€20.6 million), Central Bank of Malta (€10.9 million), Dividends on Investment (€9.5 million) and Fees of Office (€7.8 million).

By the end of November 2022, total expenditure stood at €5,728.1 million, €67.3 million higher than the previous year.

During the reference period, Recurrent Expenditure totalled €5,017.5 million, an increase of €134.8 million in comparison to the €4,882.8 million reported during the corresponding period in 2021. The main contributor to this increase was a €102.3 million rise reported under Programmes and Initiatives. Furthermore, increases were also witnessed under Personal Emoluments (€25.2 million) and Contributions to Government Entities (€18.6 million). This rise in expenditure outweighed a decrease under Operational and Maintenance Expenses (€11.3 million). The main developments in the Programmes and Initiatives category involved added outlays towards Energy support measures (€140.9 million), Economic stimulus payments (€47.5 million), Carbon credits (€40.0 million), Social security benefits (€39.4 million) and Covid 19 supplies (€38.8 million). This rise in Programmes and Initiatives was partly offset by a decrease under the Pandemic assistance schemes (€200.7 million).

The interest component of the public debt servicing costs totalled €156.5 million, a decrease of €10.7 million when compared to the previous year.

By the end of November 2022, Government's capital spending amounted to €554.1 million, €56.8 million lower than 2021. This decrease resulted from lower expenditure towards Road construction and improvements (€34.0 million), Property, plant and equipment (€15.9 million), Gozo Aquatic Centre (€9.6 million) and Acquisition of property for public purposes (€6.3 million). The drop in capital outlay was partially offset by an €11.8 million increase witnessed under Film industry incentives.

The difference between total revenue and expenditure resulted in a deficit of €620.5 million being reported in the Government's Consolidated Fund at the end of November 2022. Compared to the same period in 2021, there was a decrease in deficit of €487.1 million. This difference mirrors an increase in total Recurrent Revenue (€554.4 million), partly offset by a rise in total expenditure, which consists of Recurrent Expenditure (€134.8 million), Interest (-€10.7 million) and Capital Expenditure (-€56.8 million) (Table 1).

At the end of November 2022, Central Government debt stood at €8,864.5 million, an increase of €707.5 million from 2021. The increase reported under Malta Government Stocks (€669.4 million) was the main contributor to the rise in debt. Higher debt was also reported under Treasury Bills (€213.5 million) and Euro coins issued in the name of the Treasury (€4.9 million). This increase in debt was partially offset by a decrease in the 62+ Malta Government Savings Bond (€99.7 million) and Foreign Loans (€0.1 million). Finally, higher holdings by government funds in Malta Government Stocks resulted in a decrease in debt of €80.5 million (Table 6) ■

Table 1. Revenue/Expenditure categories by period and description

Description	Jan-Nov 2020	Jan-Nov 2021	Jan-Nov 2022	Jan-Nov 2022 / Jan-Nov 2021	
				Change	% change
				€ 000	
(a) Total Recurrent Revenue	3,732,074	4,553,174	5,107,596	554,422	12.2
Customs and Excise Duties	232,140	270,827	250,185	-20,643	
Licences, Taxes and Fines	274,071	303,021	305,107	2,086	
Income Tax	1,268,983	1,639,200	1,829,756	190,556	
Value Added Tax	724,376	923,982	1,160,004	236,022	
Fees of Office	100,909	88,701	80,873	-7,828	
Reimbursements	31,285	30,144	37,616	7,472	
Central Bank of Malta	25,000	33,045	22,173	-10,872	
Rents	30,613	24,246	27,136	2,890	
Dividends on Investment	21,910	40,695	31,204	-9,492	
Interest on loans made by Government	9	2	20	18	
Social Security	841,871	985,068	1,126,106	141,038	
Grants	90,611	119,714	171,712	51,997	
Miscellaneous Receipts	90,297	94,528	65,706	-28,822	
(b) Total Expenditure	5,066,095	5,660,778	5,728,124	67,347	1.2
<i>Recurrent Expenditure</i>	4,084,761	4,882,760	5,017,538	134,778	2.8
Personal Emoluments	823,585	926,509	951,718	25,209	
Operational and Maintenance Expenses	253,578	246,367	235,026	-11,341	
Programmes and Initiatives	2,427,968	3,073,186	3,175,457	102,271	
Contributions to Government Entities	579,630	636,697	655,338	18,640	
<i>Interest</i>	164,752	167,155	156,486	-10,669	-6.4
<i>Capital Expenditure</i>	816,582	610,863	554,100	-56,763	-9.3
(a-b) Consolidated Fund Surplus/Deficit	-1,334,021	-1,107,604	-620,528	487,075	-44.0
(c) Financial Transactions					
<i>Revenue</i>					
Loans	1,549,791	1,856,639	1,044,656	-811,983	
Repayment of Loans	668	1,592	2,541	948	
Receipts from Sale of Shares	889	889	889	0	
Other extraordinary receipts	0	0	0	0	
<i>Expenditure</i>					
Contribution to Sinking Fund	10,025	0	0	0	
Equity Acquisition	26,980	4,500	43,044	38,544	
Repayment of Loan	465,218	466,771	475,276	8,505	
Loans	0	0	0	0	

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 2. Revenue/Expenditure categories by month and description

Description	November 2020	November 2021	November 2022	November 2022 / November 2021	
				Change	% change
				€ 000	
(a) Total Recurrent Revenue	413,819	521,288	579,129	57,841	11.1
Customs and Excise Duties	15,976	28,465	15,180	-13,285	
Licences, Taxes and Fines	16,045	32,679	24,656	-8,023	
Income Tax	131,996	168,054	163,337	-4,717	
Value Added Tax	137,116	154,321	191,225	36,905	
Fees of Office	10,457	4,069	9,879	5,810	
Reimbursements	3,075	4,369	2,563	-1,807	
Central Bank of Malta	0	8,045	0	-8,045	
Rents	3,233	2,247	1,699	-547	
Dividends on Investment	0	0	4,500	4,500	
Interest on loans made by Government	0	0	0	0	
Social Security	88,930	93,278	122,153	28,875	
Grants	5,496	2,049	46,554	44,505	
Miscellaneous Receipts	1,495	23,712	-2,617	-26,329	
(b) Total Expenditure	505,621	578,757	586,267	7,510	1.3
<i>Recurrent Expenditure</i>	390,404	457,910	484,842	26,932	5.9
Personal Emoluments	70,328	81,932	85,268	3,336	
Operational and Maintenance Expenses	41,200	28,789	38,192	9,404	
Programmes and Initiatives	212,924	254,633	282,741	28,108	
Contributions to Government Entities	65,952	92,557	78,640	-13,917	
<i>Interest</i>	13,303	14,354	11,508	-2,846	-19.8
<i>Capital Expenditure</i>	101,914	106,493	89,917	-16,575	-15.6
(a-b) Consolidated Fund Surplus/Deficit	-91,802	-57,468	-7,138	50,330	-87.6
(c) Financial Transactions					
<i>Revenue</i>					
Loans	305,000	275,000	215,400	-59,600	
Repayment of Loans	0	562	390	-172	
Receipts from Sale of Shares	0	0	0	0	
Other extraordinary receipts	0	0	0	0	
<i>Expenditure</i>					
Contribution to Sinking Fund	0	0	0	0	
Equity Acquisition	0	0	8,044	8,044	
Repayment of Loan	938	173	572	399	
Loans	0	0	0	0	

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 3. Government Expenditure by COFOG category by period and description

COFOG	Personal emoluments			Operational and Maintenance Expenses			Programmes and Initiatives			Contributions to Government Entities		
	Jan-Nov 2020	Jan-Nov 2021	Jan-Nov 2022	Jan-Nov 2020	Jan-Nov 2021	Jan-Nov 2022	Jan-Nov 2020	Jan-Nov 2021	Jan-Nov 2022	Jan-Nov 2020	Jan-Nov 2021	Jan-Nov 2022
	€ 000											
General public services	89,285	117,824	122,219	76,856	59,483	51,702	212,826	474,638	501,168	42,332	128,651	145,803
Defence	35,132	53,184	46,961	6,202	7,454	8,224	729	574	638	462	0	0
Public order and safety	80,999	81,029	81,475	18,413	9,326	10,192	9,517	13,281	11,085	40,174	44,955	42,287
Economic affairs	56,190	48,876	51,569	29,628	36,037	12,135	205,012	473,893	434,503	163,432	170,557	174,026
Environment protection	6,685	5,194	4,833	134	1,026	564	58,048	35,913	27,686	23,942	15,470	15,303
Housing and community amenities	1,431	0	0	397	0	0	8,367	15,195	22,319	8,284	0	5,000
Health	270,360	304,486	314,730	65,203	79,151	83,753	279,221	321,659	311,393	70,403	75,228	81,642
Recreation, culture and religion	6,101	6,762	7,602	2,312	1,294	1,822	12,309	9,676	11,954	33,813	32,208	33,995
Education	225,945	247,484	259,366	15,248	18,091	17,768	194,332	194,049	211,060	141,023	136,795	127,282
Social protection	51,457	61,670	62,961	39,186	34,506	48,866	1,447,605	1,534,308	1,643,651	55,765	32,833	30,001
Total	823,585	926,509	951,718	253,578	246,367	235,026	2,427,968	3,073,186	3,175,457	579,630	636,697	655,338
COFOG	Interest Expenditure			Capital Expenditure			Total Expenditure					
	Jan-Nov 2020	Jan-Nov 2021	Jan-Nov 2022	Jan-Nov 2020	Jan-Nov 2021	Jan-Nov 2022	Jan-Nov 2020	Jan-Nov 2021	Jan-Nov 2022			
	€ 000											
General public services	164,752	167,155	156,486	74,549	298,148	234,752	660,600	1,245,899	1,212,129			
Defence	0	0	0	5,665	2,863	2,635	48,190	64,074	58,458			
Public order and safety	0	0	0	24,365	30,535	26,887	173,469	179,125	171,926			
Economic affairs	0	0	0	568,821	137,652	169,304	1,023,084	867,016	841,537			
Environment protection	0	0	0	39,892	25,438	18,945	128,700	83,042	67,332			
Housing and community amenities	0	0	0	177	847	2,056	18,655	16,042	29,375			
Health	0	0	0	38,999	44,152	29,919	724,187	824,676	821,438			
Recreation, culture and religion	0	0	0	21,720	11,957	20,541	76,255	61,897	75,913			
Education	0	0	0	30,695	48,914	42,505	607,243	645,333	657,981			
Social protection	0	0	0	11,700	10,357	6,557	1,605,713	1,673,674	1,792,036			
Total	164,752	167,155	156,486	816,582	610,863	554,100	5,066,095	5,660,778	5,728,124			

Table 4. Consolidated Fund data in ESA 2010 codes by period and description

Description	ESA code	Jan-Nov 2020	Jan-Nov 2021	Jan-Nov 2022	Jan-Nov 2022 / Jan-Nov 2021	
					Change	% change
€ 000						
1. Total Revenue		3,471,187	4,211,594	4,814,671	603,076	
Market Output	P11	127,794	161,804	112,795		
Taxes on Production and Imports	D2	1,177,403	1,449,027	1,673,167		
Property income receivable	D4	52,931	60,272	46,818		
Current taxes on income, wealth, etc	D5	1,325,654	1,695,610	1,880,209		
Social Contributions	D61	674,123	696,730	896,352		
Current transfers receivable	D7	5,183	6,234	29,614		
Capital transfers receivable	D9	108,099	141,917	175,715		
2. Total Expenditure		4,805,208	5,319,198	5,435,199	116,001	
Intermediate Consumption	P2	802,772	884,043	807,283		
Gross Capital Formation	P5g+NP	189,055	364,586	264,665		
Compensation of Employees	D1	986,082	973,619	1,101,299		
Property income payable	D4	114,143	141,161	144,892		
Subsidies	D3	390,277	386,422	499,999		
Social Benefits and social transfers in kind	D62+D632	1,143,785	1,243,779	1,351,285		
Current transfers payable	D7	1,105,997	1,202,133	1,115,695		
Capital transfers payable	D9	73,098	123,457	150,080		
(1-2) Consolidated Fund Surplus/Deficit		-1,334,021	-1,107,604	-620,528	487,075	-44.0

Table 5. Consolidated Fund data in ESA 2010 codes by month and description

Description	ESA code	November 2020	November 2021	November 2022	November 2022 / November 2021	
					Change	% change
€ 000						
1. Total Revenue		377,930	482,974	546,203	63,229	
Market Output	P11	1,649	22,119	7,758		
Taxes on Production and Imports	D2	164,833	211,264	231,324		
Property income receivable	D4	2,556	9,288	-1,671		
Current taxes on income, wealth, etc	D5	136,368	173,125	163,368		
Social Contributions	D61	64,568	62,459	95,673		
Current transfers receivable	D7	1,483	1,445	14,298		
Capital transfers receivable	D9	6,472	3,273	35,452		
2. Total Expenditure		469,732	540,442	553,342	12,899	
Intermediate Consumption	P2	102,845	103,331	103,826		
Gross Capital Formation	P5g+NP	15,167	58,938	26,486		
Compensation of Employees	D1	84,019	87,276	101,432		
Property income payable	D4	6,167	7,673	6,757		
Subsidies	D3	48,630	12,058	32,058		
Social Benefits and social transfers in kind	D62+D632	94,613	115,998	123,952		
Current transfers payable	D7	117,059	117,091	124,208		
Capital transfers payable	D9	1,231	38,077	34,624		
(1-2) Consolidated Fund Surplus/Deficit		-91,802	-57,468	-7,138	50,330	-87.6

Table 6. Central Government debt by month and description

Description	November 2020	November 2021	November 2022	November 2022 / November 2021	
				Change	% change
€ 000					
Total Central Government Debt	6,756,428	8,156,984	8,864,502	707,518	8.7
<i>of which:</i>					
Treasury Bills	634,500	645,000	858,475	213,475	
Malta Government Stocks	5,642,872	6,637,826	7,307,227	669,401	
62+ Malta Government Savings Bond	381,004	475,431	375,731	-99,700	
Foreign Loans	120,839	420,717	420,592	-126	
MGSF investments in Government Debt	-113,153	-114,974	-195,454	-80,480	
Euro coins issued in the name of the Treasury	90,366	92,984	97,932	4,948	

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Chart 1. Consolidated Fund Surplus/Deficit: January to November by year

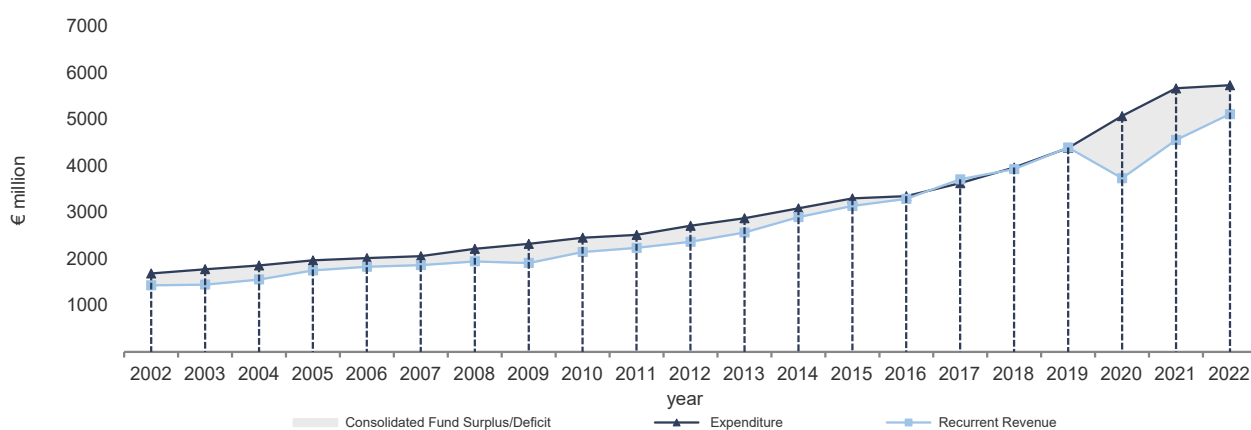


Chart 2. Recurrent Revenue by main category (%): January to November 2022

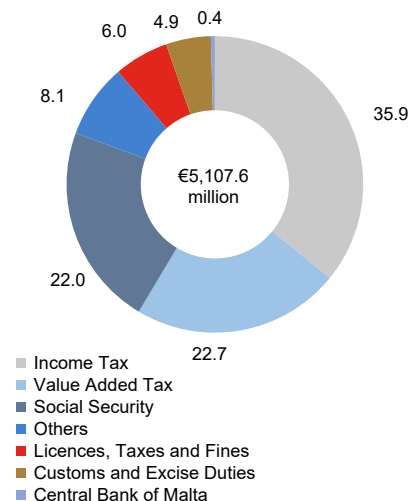
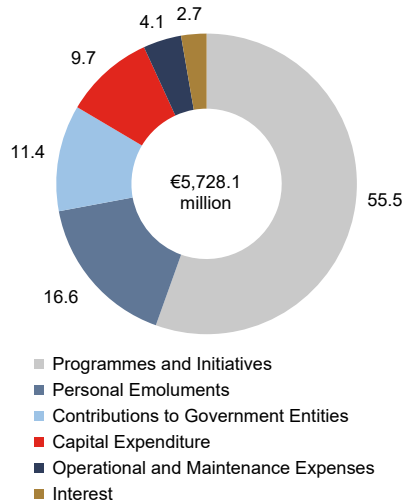


Chart 3. Expenditure by main category (%): January to November 2022



Methodological Notes

1. Data in this news release is compiled in order to provide users with regular up-to-date information on the Consolidated Fund of Government. Data are sourced as follows:
 - i. Revenue and Expenditure, and Public Debt Servicing → The Consolidated Fund, the transactions of which are consolidated at the Treasury.
 - ii. Central Government Debt (excluding EBUs and Local Councils) → Central Bank of Malta and the Treasury.

All allocations provided from the Consolidated Fund are either authorised by Parliament under an Appropriation Act, or are permanently appropriated by Parliament under other relevant legislation. On the other hand, the Treasury Clearance Fund contains all those funds and accounts the expenses in respect of which are initially defrayable out of public funds and are eventually repayable from the Consolidated Fund or other sources.

2. In this release Revenue and Expenditure categories are recorded in accordance with their presentation in the 2022 Financial Estimates.
3. This news release follows the guidelines set out in the European System of Accounts (ESA 2010) Manual on Government Deficit and Debt. Therefore, the difference between the recurrent revenue and expenditure as listed in Table 1 is essentially the cash-based position as far as the Central Government's Consolidated Fund is concerned. In this respect, financial transactions, such as proceeds from loans, proceeds from sale of financial assets, and revenue from other accounts of Government are not taken into consideration. Likewise, direct loan repayments, contributions to sinking funds, acquisition of equity, as well as transfers into other accounts of Government, are excluded from the total expenditure.
4. The debt position includes the actual debt which is held by Government. On the other hand, any investments made by Government in its own funds are excluded from the total debt. As from December 2007, the Euro coins issued in the name of the Treasury are considered as a currency liability pertaining to the Central Government.
5. Data in this release are subject to revision. Any revisions to the data are carried out at the first opportunity and published accordingly in the subsequent news release.
6. The Enhanced Economic Governance package adopted by the European Parliament and Council in November 2011 included requirements on the collection and dissemination of fiscal data, through the Council Directive 2011/85/EU. The requirements in the government finance statistics domain included a methodological reconciliation table (showing the transition between monthly data used for national policy purposes and ESA-quarterly data used to produce national accounts and EU fiscal surveillance).
 - a. The Reconciliation Table may be accessed at:
https://nso.gov.mt/en/nso/Sources_and_Methods/Unit_A2/Public_Finance/Pages/Council-Directive-852011.aspx
 - b. Refer to the ESA 2010 Glossary at:
https://nso.gov.mt/en/nso/Sources_and_Methods/Unit_A2/Public_Finance/Documents/ESA10_Glossary.pdf
 - c. Refer to the other Government Finance Statistics data requirements at:
https://nso.gov.mt/en/Services/Council_Directive/Pages/Council-Directive-85_2011.aspx
7. Data on Government Expenditure by the Classification of Functions of Government (COFOG) classifies government expenditure data by the purpose for which the funds are used. COFOG data in Table 3 refers to the total expenditure of the Consolidated Fund and is not fully consistent with the General Government sector expenditure by function and in ESA 2010 methodology, that is compiled by NSO on an annual basis with a delay of one year. The functions are in line with the COFOG classifications as published in the Government Finance Statistics Manual 2001 (ISBN 1-58906-061-X).
8. Tables 4 and 5 present the Consolidated Fund year to date and monthly data in ESA 2010 codes according to the EU Council Directive 85/2011 requirements.
9. More information relating to this news release may be accessed at:
Statistical Concepts: <https://metadata.nso.gov.mt>
Statistical Database: <https://statdb.nso.gov.mt/start>
10. Any quotations from this news release are to be cited and/or referenced.
11. Statistics in this news release should be interpreted in the context of the COVID-19 situation.
12. A detailed news release calendar is available on:
https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/Release_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx