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By the end of April 2019, Government's Consolidated Fund registered a deficit of €144.0 million.

## Government Finance Data: January-April 2019

Between January and April 2019, recurrent revenue rose by €158.1 million and amounted to €1,387.7 million. This represented a 12.9 per cent increase from the €1,229.6 million reported in revenue during the corresponding period in 2018. The increase was primarily the result of a €75.8 million rise in Income Tax. Further increases were also registered under Grants (€29.9 million), Value Added Tax (€28.3 million), Social Security (€28.1 million), Customs and Excise Duties (€4.1 million), Miscellaneous Receipts (€3.0 million), Rents (€0.8 million) and Fees of Office (€0.7 million). Conversely, drops in outlay were recorded under Central Bank of Malta (€6.0 million), Licences, Taxes and Fines (€3.5 million), Dividends on Investment (€1.8 million) and Reimbursements (€1.4 million).

Total expenditure by the end of April 2019 stood at €1,531.7 million, a 15.6 per cent increase from the corresponding period in 2018.

Recurrent expenditure stood at €1,321.1 million, €163.6 million higher than the corresponding amount reported by the end of April 2018. The main contributor to this increase was a €100.6 million rise reported under Programmes and Initiatives. Furthermore, rises in outlay were also registered by Contributions to Government Entities (€26.0 million), Personal Emoluments (€24.3 million) and Operational and Maintenance Expenses (€12.7 million). The main developments in the Programmes and Initiatives category involved added outlays due to EU own resources (€25.6 million), tax relief measures (€11.4 million), extension of school transport network (€11.1 million), state contribution (€10.2 million that also features as revenue), social security benefits (€8.9 million), cancer treatment (€6.0 million), church schools (€4.2 million), landscaping - Malta (€4.0 million), medicines and surgical materials (€3.3 million), residential care in private homes (€3.2 million), solid waste management strategy, public service obligation - public transport, feed in tariff (all rose by €2.5 million), child care for all (€2.3 million) and health concession agreements (€2.1 million).

The interest component of the public debt servicing costs amounted to €66.2 million, which is €8.6 million less than the same period in 2018.

Government's capital expenditure registered an increase of €51.2 million from the same period last year and amounted to €144.4 million. The rise in outlay was due to added expenditure reported on road construction and improvements (€18.8 million), investment incentives (€14.6 million), EU Internal Security Fund - Borders and Visa (€10.9 million) and EU structural funds 2014-2020 (€7.9 million).

The difference between total revenue and expenditure resulted in a deficit of €144.0 million being reported in the Government's Consolidated Fund by the end of April 2019, compared to a deficit of €95.9 million in the same period in 2018. The main catalysts in the difference were increased outlays in both recurrent and capital expenditure (Table 1).

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.

During April 2019, Central Government Debt stood at €5,503.0 million, a €121.6 million rise from the corresponding month last year. This was primarily the result of increases reported under the 62+ Malta Government Savings Bond (€192.2 million) and Treasury Bills (€28.8 million). Euro coins issued in the name of the Treasury also rose by €5.6 million. On the other hand, Malta Government Stocks and Foreign Loans decreased by €79.7 million and €7.9 million respectively. Higher holdings by government funds in Malta Government Stocks also resulted in a decrease in debt of €17.4 million (Table 6) ■

Table 1. Revenue/Expenditure categories: Year to date

Description	Jan-Apr 2017	Jan-Apr 2018	Jan-Apr 2019	Jan-Apr 2019 / Jan-Apr 2018	
				Change	% change
	€ 000				
<b>(a) Total Recurrent Revenue</b>	<b>1,221,290</b>	<b>1,229,624</b>	<b>1,387,711</b>	<b>158,087</b>	<b>12.9</b>
Customs and Excise Duties	94,023	93,941	98,057	4,116	
Licences, Taxes and Fines	116,241	133,319	129,845	-3,474	
Income Tax	355,434	378,634	454,446	75,812	
Value Added Tax	212,612	238,828	267,127	28,299	
Fees of Office	29,419	22,351	23,095	744	
Reimbursements	9,879	15,037	13,601	-1,436	
Central Bank of Malta	30,000	21,000	15,000	-6,000	
Rents	16,368	11,922	12,761	839	
Dividends on Investment	337	5,000	3,200	-1,800	
Interest on loans made by Government	18	15	18	3	
Social Security	251,643	270,756	298,833	28,077	
Grants	94,010	27,191	57,074	29,883	
Miscellaneous Receipts	11,307	11,629	14,655	3,025	
<b>(b) Total Expenditure</b>	<b>1,200,047</b>	<b>1,325,475</b>	<b>1,531,697</b>	<b>206,222</b>	<b>15.6</b>
<i>Recurrent Expenditure</i>	1,048,347	1,157,575	1,321,131	163,556	14.1
Personal Emoluments	244,161	270,743	295,051	24,308	
Operational and Maintenance Expenses	60,065	61,048	73,700	12,652	
Programmes and Initiatives	624,331	696,935	797,485	100,550	
Contributions to Government Entities	119,789	128,849	154,895	26,046	
<i>Interest</i>	74,092	74,738	66,161	-8,577	-11.5
<i>Capital Expenditure</i>	77,609	93,162	144,405	51,242	55.0
<b>(a-b) Consolidated Fund Surplus/Deficit</b>	<b>21,243</b>	<b>-95,851</b>	<b>-143,986</b>	<b>-48,135</b>	<b>-50.2</b>
<b>(c) Financial Transactions</b>					
<i>Revenue</i>					
Loans	182,870	0	179,713	179,713	
Repayment of Loans	0	0	0	0	
Receipts from Sale of Shares	889	889	889	0	
Other extraordinary receipts	0	0	0	0	
<i>Expenditure</i>					
Contribution to Sinking Fund	0	0	10,000	10,000	
Equity Acquisition	1,877	58,034	308	-57,726	
Repayment of Loan	0	121,876	41,352	-80,524	
Loans	0	0	0	0	

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 2. Revenue/Expenditure categories: Monthly

Description	April 2017	April 2018	April 2019	April 2019 / April 2018	
				Change	% change
	€ 000				
<b>(a) Total Recurrent Revenue</b>	<b>347,552</b>	<b>314,777</b>	<b>373,176</b>	<b>58,398</b>	<b>18.6</b>
Customs and Excise Duties	21,087	24,448	21,785	-2,664	
Licences, Taxes and Fines	21,476	43,376	35,677	-7,700	
Income Tax	140,004	132,119	189,044	56,926	
Value Added Tax	24,372	20,463	27,124	6,662	
Fees of Office	11,483	7,966	6,969	-997	
Reimbursements	1,817	4,178	2,615	-1,563	
Central Bank of Malta	0	0	0	0	
Rents	5,272	4,672	3,014	-1,658	
Dividends on Investment	200	0	0	0	
Interest on loans made by Government	1	0	0	0	
Social Security	70,200	71,563	78,357	6,795	
Grants	50,007	5,942	6,070	127	
Miscellaneous Receipts	1,635	50	2,520	2,470	
<b>(b) Total Expenditure</b>	<b>313,501</b>	<b>349,794</b>	<b>382,947</b>	<b>33,153</b>	<b>9.5</b>
<i>Recurrent Expenditure</i>	260,931	285,015	328,072	43,057	15.1
Personal Emoluments	60,617	68,539	72,141	3,602	
Operational and Maintenance Expenses	14,898	14,632	17,681	3,049	
Programmes and Initiatives	155,961	166,408	198,154	31,746	
Contributions to Government Entities	29,455	35,437	40,096	4,659	
<i>Interest</i>	18,760	18,883	16,462	-2,421	-12.8
<i>Capital Expenditure</i>	33,810	45,895	38,412	-7,483	-16.3
<b>(a-b) Consolidated Fund Surplus/Deficit</b>	<b>34,051</b>	<b>-35,016</b>	<b>-9,771</b>	<b>25,245</b>	<b>72.1</b>
<b>(c) Financial Transactions</b>					
<i>Revenue</i>					
Loans	0	0	0	0	
Repayment of Loans	0	0	0	0	
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	10,000	10,000	
Equity Acquisition	0	0	0	0	
Repayment of Loan	0	121,830	157	-121,673	
Loans	0	0	0	0	

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 3. Government Expenditure by COFOG category

COFOG	Personal Emoluments			Operational and Maintenance Expenses			Programmes and Initiatives			Contributions to Government Entities		
	Jan-Apr 2017	Jan-Apr 2018	Jan-Apr 2019	Jan-Apr 2017	Jan-Apr 2018	Jan-Apr 2019	Jan-Apr 2017	Jan-Apr 2018	Jan-Apr 2019	Jan-Apr 2017	Jan-Apr 2018	Jan-Apr 2019
	€ 000											
General public services	24,974	29,615	32,447	9,897	11,626	18,406	76,894	67,978	107,404	3,048	4,755	13,204
Defence	12,130	13,354	13,331	1,585	1,691	2,086	345	179	258	52	59	58
Public order and safety	27,328	30,743	34,924	3,460	3,634	6,636	1,538	1,859	1,974	2,827	3,045	3,534
Economic affairs	22,510	21,236	20,189	3,433	3,670	4,372	33,299	60,012	59,974	34,411	43,902	59,109
Environment protection	51	0	1,419	111	116	82	6,479	7,652	16,467	6,844	6,900	6,209
Housing and community amenities	252	468	427	34	95	206	1,178	298	1,939	1,864	1,528	427
Health	74,883	82,579	93,700	19,823	18,133	18,503	55,703	70,592	82,245	19,849	16,128	22,000
Recreation, culture and religion	2,135	2,262	2,383	375	560	786	2,341	1,779	2,674	6,527	9,325	10,517
Education	64,169	73,254	77,685	10,135	10,540	7,521	38,730	42,037	60,626	31,401	29,503	22,776
Social protection	15,730	17,233	18,545	11,213	10,984	15,101	407,823	444,550	463,925	12,966	13,704	17,061
<b>Total</b>	<b>244,161</b>	<b>270,743</b>	<b>295,051</b>	<b>60,065</b>	<b>61,048</b>	<b>73,700</b>	<b>624,331</b>	<b>696,935</b>	<b>797,485</b>	<b>119,789</b>	<b>128,849</b>	<b>154,895</b>
	€ 000											
<b>COFOG</b>	<b>Interest Expenditure</b>			<b>Capital Expenditure</b>			<b>Total expenditure</b>					
	Jan-Apr 2017	Jan-Apr 2018	Jan-Apr 2019	Jan-Apr 2017	Jan-Apr 2018	Jan-Apr 2019	Jan-Apr 2017	Jan-Apr 2018	Jan-Apr 2019	Jan-Apr 2017	Jan-Apr 2018	Jan-Apr 2019
General public services	74,092	74,738	66,161	5,996	10,903	20,851	194,901	199,614	258,473			
Defence	0	0	0	3,202	111	1,334	17,313	15,393	17,067			
Public order and safety	0	0	0	3,649	6,744	18,357	38,801	46,023	65,426			
Economic affairs	0	0	0	42,979	51,200	71,665	136,632	180,020	215,309			
Environment protection	0	0	0	5,232	5,712	15,183	18,718	20,380	39,361			
Housing and community amenities	0	0	0	1,562	206	89	4,891	2,596	3,089			
Health	0	0	0	2,850	3,574	3,443	173,108	191,005	219,892			
Recreation, culture and religion	0	0	0	5,705	5,116	4,653	17,083	19,041	21,014			
Education	0	0	0	5,607	7,848	8,183	150,042	163,182	176,791			
Social protection	0	0	0	827	1,749	644	448,558	488,220	515,276			
<b>Total</b>	<b>74,092</b>	<b>74,738</b>	<b>66,161</b>	<b>77,609</b>	<b>93,162</b>	<b>144,405</b>	<b>1,200,047</b>	<b>1,325,475</b>	<b>1,531,697</b>			

Table 4. Consolidated Fund data in ESA 2010 codes: Year to date

Description	ESA CODE	Jan-Apr 2017	Jan-Apr 2018	Jan-Apr 2019	Jan-Apr 2019 / Jan-Apr 2018	
					Change	% change
					€ 000	
<b>1. Total Revenue</b>		<b>1,169,097</b>	<b>1,173,352</b>	<b>1,303,551</b>	<b>130,199</b>	
Market Output	P11	37,438	29,060	28,337		
Taxes on Production and Imports	D2	397,901	439,071	458,170		
Property income receivable	D4	36,800	31,404	23,819		
Current taxes on income, wealth, etc	D5	376,281	401,957	482,006		
Social Contributions	D61	219,594	235,625	245,343		
Current transfers receivable	D7	7,283	5,869	9,929		
Capital transfers receivable	D9	93,800	30,367	55,947		
<b>2. Total Expenditure</b>		<b>1,147,854</b>	<b>1,269,203</b>	<b>1,447,536</b>	<b>178,333</b>	
Intermediate Consumption	P2	135,872	135,360	224,559		
Gross Capital Formation	P5g+NP	38,312	34,416	75,401		
Compensation of Employees	D1	290,262	324,366	339,988		
Property income payable	D4	70,579	76,497	66,232		
Subsidies	D3	21,353	30,648	27,407		
Social Benefits and social transfers in kind	D62+D632	327,455	357,577	355,367		
Current transfers payable	D7	261,013	307,885	347,465		
Capital transfers payable	D9	3,009	2,455	11,116		
<b>(1-2) Consolidated Fund Surplus/Deficit</b>		<b>21,243</b>	<b>-95,851</b>	<b>-143,986</b>	<b>-48,135</b>	<b>-50.2</b>

Table 5. Consolidated Fund data in ESA 2010 codes: Monthly

Description	ESA CODE	April 2017	April 2018	April 2019	April 2019 / April 2018	
					Change	% change
					€ 000	
<b>1. Total Revenue</b>		<b>331,966</b>	<b>301,539</b>	<b>344,496</b>	<b>42,957</b>	
Market Output	P11	11,483	6,959	6,954		
Taxes on Production and Imports	D2	62,258	82,196	70,765		
Property income receivable	D4	4,841	4,387	1,717		
Current taxes on income, wealth, etc	D5	144,358	139,754	192,780		
Social Contributions	D61	57,493	60,778	64,259		
Current transfers receivable	D7	-268	4,356	6,384		
Capital transfers receivable	D9	51,801	3,109	1,636		
<b>2. Total Expenditure</b>		<b>297,914</b>	<b>336,555</b>	<b>354,267</b>	<b>17,712</b>	
Intermediate Consumption	P2	36,852	37,091	55,509		
Gross Capital Formation	P5g+NP	14,938	13,513	18,816		
Compensation of Employees	D1	72,136	82,335	83,497		
Property income payable	D4	18,860	19,041	18,037		
Subsidies	D3	3,103	5,777	5,614		
Social Benefits and social transfers in kind	D62+D632	78,805	84,458	83,905		
Current transfers payable	D7	71,112	92,647	83,397		
Capital transfers payable	D9	2,107	1,693	5,492		
<b>(1-2) Consolidated Fund Surplus/Deficit</b>		<b>34,051</b>	<b>-35,016</b>	<b>-9,771</b>	<b>25,245</b>	<b>72.1</b>

Table 6. Central Government debt

Description	April 2017	April 2018	April 2019	April 2019 / April 2018	
				Change	% change
<b>Total Central Government Debt</b>	<b>5,613,575</b>	<b>5,381,393</b>	<b>5,502,972</b>	<b>121,579</b>	<b>2.3</b>
<i>of which:</i>					
Treasury Bills	219,000	313,000	341,800	28,800	
Malta Government Stocks	5,389,324	4,971,738	4,891,999	-79,739	
62+ Malta Government Savings Bond	0	99,538	291,693	192,155	
Foreign Loans	19,303	8,888	1,026	-7,861	
Domestic Loans with Commercial Banks	0	0	0	0	
MGSF investments in Government Debt	-87,054	-90,796	-108,153	-17,357	
Euro Coins issued in the name of the Treasury	73,002	79,025	84,607	5,582	

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Chart 1. January-April Consolidated Fund Surplus/Deficit

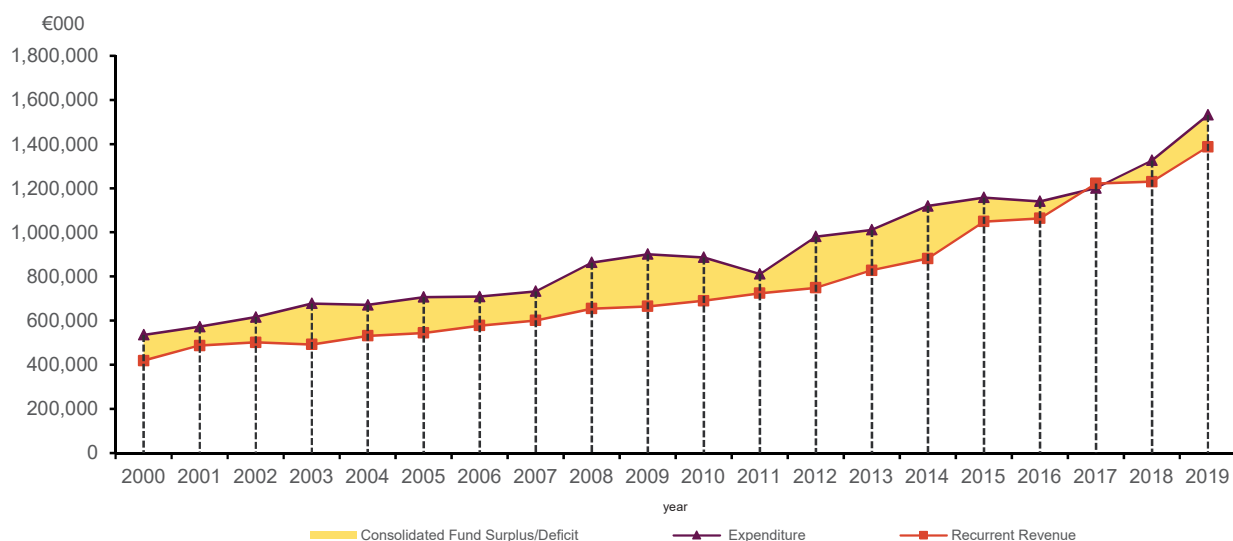


Chart 2. Recurrent Revenue by main category (%): January-April 2019

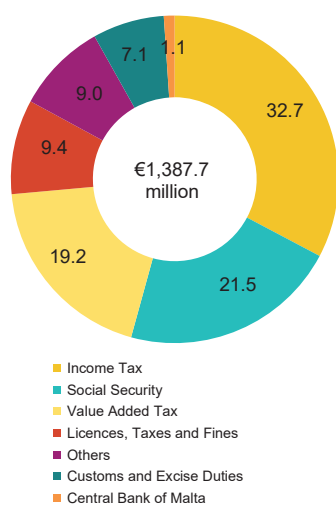
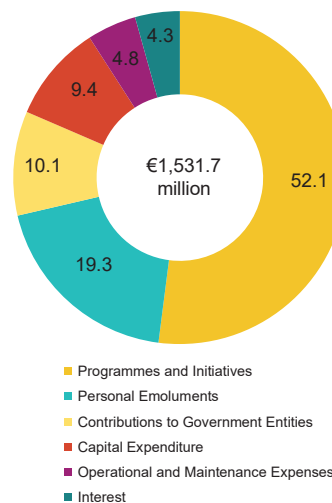


Chart 3. Expenditure by main category (%): January-April 2019



## 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 2019 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. The revenue and expenditure figures are based on actual cash transactions, and are therefore not normally subject to revision. Although revisions to debt data are uncommon, it is prudent to consider debt figures for the three months preceding the reference period as provisional. 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:  
[http://nso.gov.mt/en/nso/Sources\\_and\\_Methods/Unit\\_A2/Public\\_Finance/Pages/Council-Directive-852011.aspx](http://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](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](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-
8. More information relating to this news release may be accessed at:  
Statistical Concepts: <http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/concepts.aspx>  
Statistical Database: <http://nso.gov.mt/statdb/start>
9. Any quotations from this news release are to be cited and/or referenced.
10. A detailed news release calendar is available on  
[https://nso.gov.mt/en/News\\_Releases/Release\\_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx](https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/Release_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx)