Government Finance Data: January-August 2026

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Salient Points

- By the end of August 2026, Government's Consolidated Fund registered a deficit of €376.2 million.
- Recurrent revenue rose by €723.6 million while total expenditure increased by €896.4 million. The increase in expenditure outweighed that in recurrent revenue leading to a negative change in the Government's Consolidated Fund by €172.8 million.
- The largest increase in revenue was recorded under Income Tax (€397.6 million), while Programmes and Initiatives (€374.2 million) reported the biggest growth among the expenditure categories.
- As at the end of August 2026, Central Government Debt totalled €12,002.3 million, €864.1 million higher than the corresponding month in 2025.

Commentary

By the end of August 2026, the Government's Consolidated Fund reported a deficit of €376.2 million.

Between January and August 2026, Recurrent Revenue amounted to €5,749.2 million, €723.6 million higher than the figure reported a year earlier. The largest increases were recorded under Income Tax (€397.6 million), Value Added Tax (€146.6 million) and Social Security (€81.2 million). On the other hand, lower revenue was recorded under Fees of Office (€19.6 million), Reimbursements (€2.8 million) and Interest on loans made by Government (€0.2 million).

Total expenditure by the close of August 2026 stood at €6,125.4 million, €896.4 million higher than the previous year.

During the reference period, Recurrent Expenditure totalled €5,233.6 million, an increase of €687.2 million compared to the €4,546.4 million reported the year prior. The main contributor to this increase was a €374.2 million rise reported under Programmes and Initiatives. Further increases were also recorded under Operational and Maintenance Expenses (€111.9 million), Personal Emoluments (€106.1 million), and Contributions to Government Entities (€95.0 million).

The main developments in the Programmes and Initiatives category involved higher outlays towards Social security benefits (€109.7 million), EU own resources (€39.2 million) and Energy support measures (€38.1 million).

The interest component of the public debt servicing costs totalled €218.6 million, an increase of €26.1 million when compared to the previous year.

By the end of August 2026, Government's capital spending amounted to €673.1 million, €183.1 million higher than the comparative period in 2025. Higher outlay was, among others, reported towards Acquisition of property for public purposes (€43.5 million), RRP Grant schemes (€19.7 million) and Property, plant and equipment (€16.6 million).

The difference between total revenue and expenditure resulted in a deficit of €376.2 million being reported in the Government's Consolidated Fund at the end of August 2026, in comparison to the €203.4 million deficit registered the year prior. This difference mirrors an increase in total Recurrent Revenue (€723.6 million), offset by a higher rise in total expenditure, which consists of Recurrent Expenditure (€687.2 million), Interest (€26.1 million) and Capital Expenditure (€183.1 million) (Table 1).

At the end of August 2026, Central Government debt stood at €12,002.3 million, an increase of €864.1 million when compared to 2025. The increase reported under Malta Government Stocks (€658.9 million) was the main contributor to the rise in debt. Higher debt was also reported under Treasury Bills (€306.5 million) and Euro coins issued in the name of the Treasury (€4.8 million). This increase in debt was partially offset by a drop in Foreign Loans (€80.1 million) and in the 62+ Malta Government Savings Bond (€5.3 million). Moreover, higher holdings by government funds in Malta Government Stocks resulted in a decrease in debt of €20.7 million (Table 6).

Chart 1. Consolidated Fund Surplus/Deficit

January-August by year

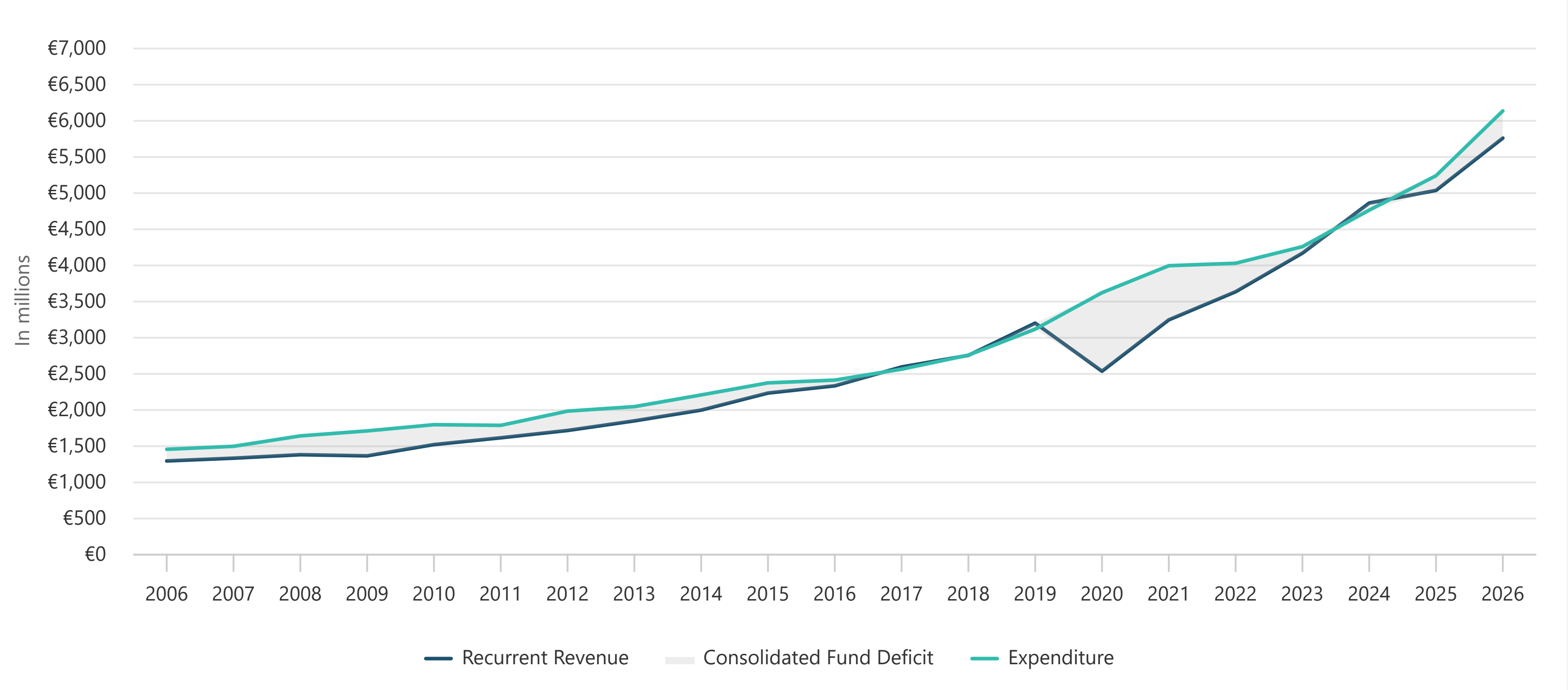

Chart 2. Recurrent Revenue by main category

January-August 2026

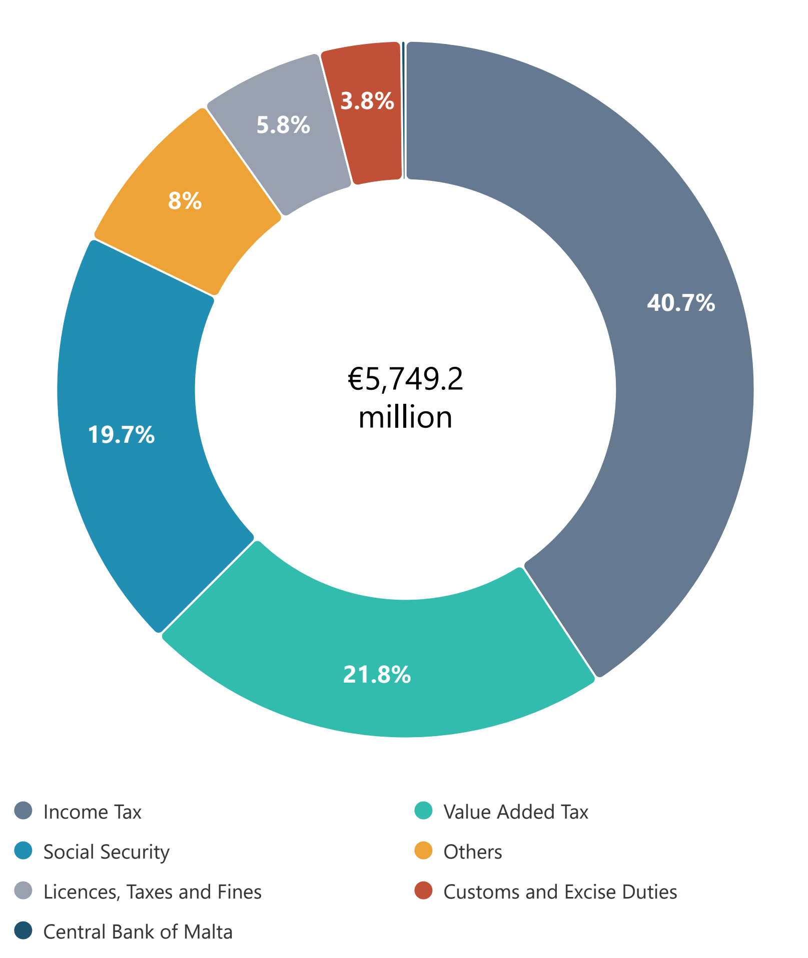

Chart 3. Expenditure by main category

January-August 2026

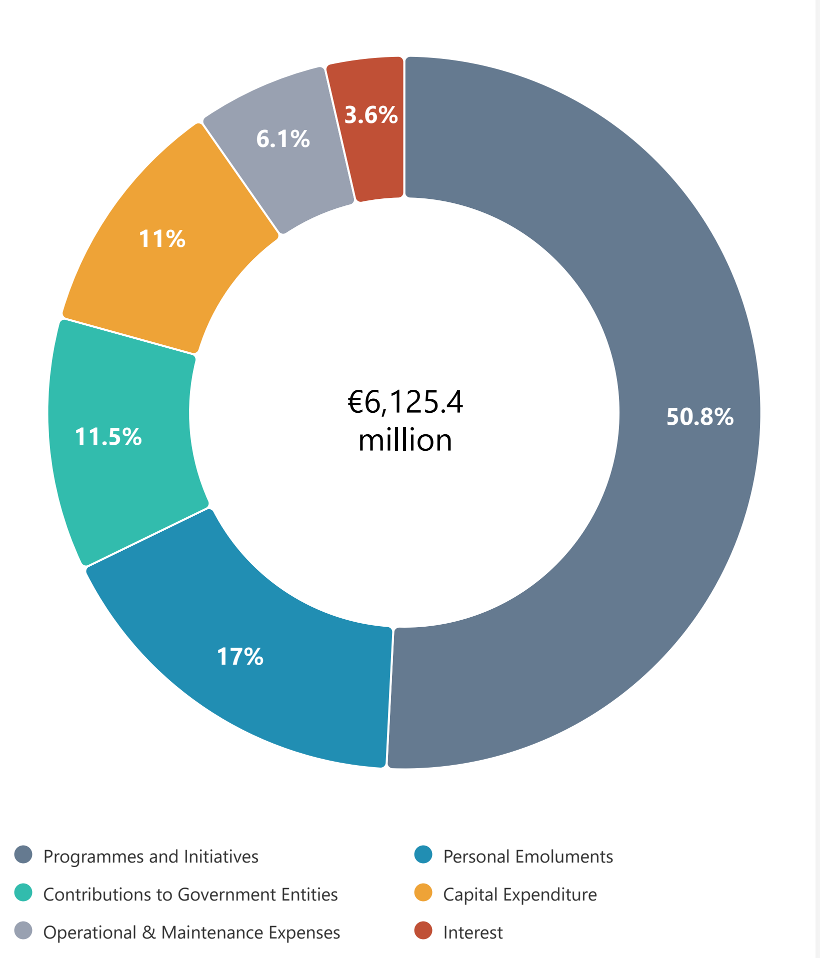

Table 1. Revenue/Expenditure categories by period and description

Description	Jan-Aug 2024	Jan-Aug 2025	Jan-Aug 2026	Jan- Aug 2026 / Jan-Aug 2025	
				Change	% change
	€ 000				
(a) Total Recurrent Revenue	**4,851,015**	**5,025,565**	**5,749,182**	**723,617**	**14.4**
Customs and Excise Duties	208,679	214,110	218,531	4,421	
Licences, Taxes and Fines	279,248	311,184	331,847	20,663	
Income Tax	1,973,746	1,945,340	2,342,976	397,636	
Value Added Tax	1,018,239	1,105,291	1,251,878	146,587	
Fees of Office	79,092	78,485	58,859	-19,626	
Sales-Goods	1,440	1,526	2,572	1,045	
Sales-Services	28,386	37,191	39,139	1,948	
Sales-Others	26,780	35,184	36,249	1,065	
Reimbursements	2,446	16,013	13,225	-2,788	
Central Bank of Malta	-	-	10,000	10,000	
Rents	16,651	22,816	33,333	10,517	
Dividends on Investment	25,533	23,908	37,639	13,730	
Interest on loans made by Government	845	488	328	-160	
Social Security	954,547	1,053,634	1,134,790	81,155	
Grants	210,806	166,238	214,731	48,493	
Miscellaneous Receipts	24,577	14,155	23,085	8,929	
(b) Total Expenditure	**4,752,382**	**5,228,964**	**6,125,355**	**896,392**	**17.1**
Recurrent Expenditure	4,162,491	4,546,447	5,233,647	687,200	15.1
Personal Emoluments	810,981	933,745	1,039,893	106,148	
Operational and Maintenance Expenses	223,697	263,565	375,452	111,887	
Programmes and Initiatives	2,559,474	2,737,782	3,111,980	374,197	
Contributions to Government Entities	568,338	611,355	706,323	94,968	
Interest	173,195	192,529	218,582	26,052	13.5
Capital Expenditure	416,695	489,988	673,127	183,139	37.4
(a-b) Consolidated Fund Surplus/Deficit	**98,634**	**-203,398**	**-376,174**	**-172,775**	**84.9**
(c) Financial Transactions					
Revenue					
Loans	859,807	971,360	999,047	27,687	
Repayment of Loans	-	250	6,652	6,402	
Receipts from Sale of Shares	-	-	-	-	
Other extraordinary receipts	-	-	-	-	
Expenditure					
Contribution to Sinking Fund	15,015	15,015	15,015	-	
Equity Acquisition	241,839	-	10,000	10,000	
Repayment of Loan	298,504	233,554	540,562	307,007	
Loans	-	-	-	-	

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 2. Revenue/Expenditure categories by month and description

Description	August 2024	August 2025	August 2026	August 2026 / August 2025	
				Change	% change
	€ 000				
(a) Total Recurrent Revenue	**761,495**	**922,374**	**928,642**	**6,269**	**0.7**
Customs and Excise Duties	56,692	28,390	31,789	3,400	
Licences, Taxes and Fines	32,643	39,837	33,339	-6,498	
Income Tax	301,599	294,808	329,678	34,869	
Value Added Tax	190,455	321,849	315,155	-6,694	
Fees of Office	10,437	3,870	9,438	5,568	
Sales -Goods	85	241	39	-203	
Sales-Services	181	5,400	7,277	1,877	
Sales-Others	5,573	1,258	10,404	9,146	
Reimbursements	81	2,407	292	-2,114	
Central Bank of Malta	-	-	0	0	
Rents	8	1,640	5,154	3,513	
Dividends on Investment	0	2,000	15,151	13,151	
Interest on loans made by Government	1	0	167	167	
Social Security	143,297	143,953	157,851	13,898	
Grants	18,727	75,367	13,535	-61,832	
Miscellaneous Receipts	1,717	1,353	-626	-1,979	
(b) Total Expenditure	**723,196**	**607,819**	**752,652**	**144,833**	**23.8**
Recurrent Expenditure	625,525	537,176	671,964	134,788	25.1
Personal Emoluments	115,609	121,405	131,778	10,373	
Operational and Maintenance Expenses	36,962	35,040	38,320	3,280	
Programmes and Initiatives	362,148	322,336	424,090	101,754	
Contributions to Government Entities	110,806	58,394	77,775	19,381	
Interest	25,483	24,457	28,517	4,061	16.6
Capital Expenditure	72,187	46,186	52,171	5,985	13.0
(a-b) Consolidated Fund Surplus/Deficit	**38,299**	**314,555**	**175,990**	**-138,565**	**-44.1**
(c) Financial Transactions					
Revenue					
Loans	388,436	-	499,742	499,742	

Repayment of Loans	-	250	6,652	6,402
Receipts from Sale of Shares	-	-	-	-
Other extraordinary receipts	-	-	-	-
Expenditure				
Contribution to Sinking Fund	15,000	-	-	-
Equity Acquisition	50,000	-	-	-
Repayment of Loan	1,710	2,586	178,018	175,431
Loans	-	-	-	-

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 3. Government expenditure by COFOG[1] category, period and description

COFOG	Personal Emoluments			Operational and Maintenance Expenses			Programmes and Initiatives			Contributions to Government Entities		
	Jan-Aug 2024	Jan-Aug 2025	Jan-Aug 2026	Jan-Aug 2024	Jan-Aug 2025	Jan-Aug 2026	Jan-Aug 2024	Jan-Aug 2025	Jan-Aug 2026	Jan-Aug 2024	Jan-Aug 2025	Jan-Aug 2026
	€ 000											
General public services	105,010	121,027	137,216	45,324	60,289	61,912	412,707	355,862	449,852	123,562	133,410	165,464
Defence	41,086	43,966	55,687	7,031	8,498	8,935	611	555	528	-	-	-
Public order and safety	71,532	82,630	93,938	11,207	12,062	10,254	40,588	48,595	53,776	45,354	50,644	59,883
Economic affairs	47,124	52,688	55,154	10,504	11,760	10,620	215,002	207,943	241,437	148,099	162,892	191,450
Environment protection	-	780	-	26	181	15	21	-	-	7,350	12,200	10,910
Housing and community amenities	-	-	-	-	-	-	26,241	30,214	38,529	5,250	5,750	3,000
Health	262,919	294,196	322,980	62,232	80,772	152,909	195,314	225,444	277,628	57,617	71,837	75,819
Recreation, culture and religion	6,655	7,987	9,592	1,332	2,129	2,467	17,007	19,409	28,610	22,865	36,090	42,146
Education	222,418	271,145	300,188	20,051	21,850	28,247	193,825	242,125	283,211	125,364	109,147	120,703
Social protection	54,238	59,325	65,139	65,990	66,023	100,093	1,458,156	1,607,636	1,738,408	32,876	29,386	36,948
Total	**810,981**	**933,745**	**1,039,893**	**223,697**	**263,565**	**375,452**	**2,559,474**	**2,737,782**	**3,111,980**	**568,338**	**611,355**	**706,323**

COFOG	Interest Expenditure			Capital Expenditure			Total Expenditure		
	Jan-Aug 2024	Jan-Aug 2025	Jan-Aug 2026	Jan-Aug 2024	Jan-Aug 2025	Jan-Aug 2026	Jan-Aug 2024	Jan-Aug 2025	Jan-Aug 2026
	€ 000								
General public services	173,195	192,529	218,582	213,239	159,718	204,786	**1,073,038**	**1,022,835**	**1,237,811**
Defence	-	-	-	2,864	4,727	7,148	**51,592**	**57,746**	**72,299**
Public order and safety	-	-	-	23,200	21,816	32,674	**191,882**	**215,747**	**250,524**
Economic affairs	-	-	-	76,909	186,563	206,622	**497,639**	**621,846**	**705,283**
Environment protection	-	-	-	130	3,647	8,244	**7,527**	**16,808**	**19,169**
Housing and community amenities	-	-	-	14	16	10	**31,505**	**35,980**	**41,539**
Health	-	-	-	18,495	30,173	55,132	**596,577**	**702,422**	**884,468**
Recreation, culture and religion	-	-	-	28,082	30,522	89,639	**75,942**	**96,137**	**172,455**
Education	-	-	-	47,834	46,589	60,976	**609,492**	**690,856**	**793,324**
Social protection	-	-	-	5,928	6,215	7,896	**1,617,187**	**1,768,586**	**1,948,483**
Total	**173,195**	**192,529**	**218,582**	**416,695**	**489,988**	**673,127**	**4,752,382**	**5,228,964**	**6,125,355**

[1]Refer to methodological note 7.

Table 4. Consolidated Fund data in ESA 2010[1] codes by period and description

Description	ESA code	Jan-Aug 2024	Jan-Aug 2025	Jan-Aug 2026	Jan-Aug 2026 / Jan-Aug 2025	
					Change	% change
		€ 000				
1. Total Revenue		**4,634,258**	**4,760,299**	**5,475,365**	**715,066**	
Market Output	P11	115,087	142,737	145,720		
Taxes on Production and Imports	D2	1,470,334	1,598,887	1,776,562		
Property income receivable	D4	23,912	27,054	55,933		
Current taxes on income, wealth, etc	D5	2,044,064	1,999,443	2,385,469		
Net social contributions	D61	744,534	794,482	864,299		
Current transfers receivable	D7	19,345	84,060	168,101		
Capital transfers receivable	D9	216,982	113,636	79,282		
2. Total Expenditure		**4,535,625**	**4,963,698**	**5,851,539**	**887,841**	
Intermediate Consumption	P2	634,383	716,398	940,150		
Gross Capital Formation	P5g+NP	182,033	280,589	384,389		
Compensation of Employees	D1	915,969	1,035,182	1,140,315		
Property income payable	D4	173,200	192,529	218,581		
Subsidies	D3	293,120	273,107	310,347		
Social Benefits and social transfers in kind	D62+D632	1,226,200	1,319,202	1,461,207		
Current transfers payable	D7	998,920	999,315	1,202,509		
Capital transfers payable	D9	111,799	147,375	194,040		
(1-2) Consolidated Fund Surplus/Deficit		***98,634***	***-203,398***	***-376,174***	***-172,775***	**84.9**

[1]Refer to methodological note 8.

Table 5. Consolidated Fund data in ESA 2010[1] codes by month and description

Description	ESA code	August 2024	August 2025	August 2026	August 2026 / August 2025	
					Change	% change
		€ 000				
1. Total Revenue		**728,754**	**881,244**	**885,320**	**4,076**	
Market Output	P11	7,823	12,012	24,597		
Taxes on Production and Imports	D2	279,455	383,693	387,607		
Property income receivable	D4	1,499	3,136	10,811		
Current taxes on income, wealth, etc	D5	306,708	298,599	329,682		
Net social contributions	D61	111,559	104,053	114,937		
Current transfers receivable	D7	102	25,610	11,719		
Capital transfers receivable	D9	21,608	54,141	5,969		
2. Total Expenditure		**690,455**	**566,689**	**709,330**	**142,641**	
Intermediate Consumption	P2	91,885	103,359	108,163		
Gross Capital Formation	P5g+NP	18,708	27,037	28,269		
Compensation of Employees	D1	131,083	134,974	145,645		
Property income payable	D4	25,483	24,457	28,517		
Subsidies	D3	60,985	28,211	68,492		
Social Benefits and social transfers in kind	D62+D632	142,664	127,868	141,460		
Current transfers payable	D7	204,242	112,941	171,919		
Capital transfers payable	D9	15,403	7,842	16,865		
(1-2) Consolidated Fund Surplus/Deficit		***38,299***	***314,555***	***175,990***	***-138,565***	**-44.1**

[1]Refer to methodological note 8.

Table 6. Central Government debt by month and description

Description	August 2024	August 2025	August 2026	August 2026 / August 2025	
				Change	% change
	€ 000				
Total Central Government Debt	**10,050,355**	**11,138,181**	**12,002,269**	**864,088**	**7.8**
of which:					
Treasury Bills	428,240	599,228	905,706	306,478	
Malta Government Stocks	8,930,923	9,833,025	10,491,954	658,929	
62+ Malta Government Savings Bond	327,712	289,279	283,983	-5,296	
Foreign Loans	492,398	570,136	490,022	-80,114	
MGSF investments in Government Debt	-234,512	-263,403	-284,065	-20,662	
Euro coins issued in the name of the Treasury	105,594	109,916	114,668	4,752	

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

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 Extra Budgetary Units (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 2026 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 data contained in this release is subject to revision. For an updated time-series which includes past data, please refer to the Statistical Indicators for this domain.

6. The original requirements on the collection and dissemination of fiscal data were introduced through Council Directive 2011/85/EU as part of the Enhanced Economic Governance package adopted by the European Parliament and Council in November 2011. These provisions have since been updated by Council Directive (EU) 2024/1265 of 29 April 2024, which amends Directive 2011/85/EU to align with the reformed EU Economic Governance Framework. 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. Reconciliation Table
b. ESA 2010 Glossary.

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. Data in this release does not align with that published in the Expenditure of General Government Sector by Function News Release, which is compiled by the NSO in line with the ESA 2010 methodology 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 2014.

8. Tables 4 and 5 present the Consolidated Fund year to date in ESA 2010 codes.

9. More information relating to this news release may be accessed at:

Statistical Concepts
Statistical Database

10. A detailed news release calendar is available online.

11. For guidance on access and re-use of data please visit our dedicated webpage.

12. For further assistance send your request through our online request form.