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At the end of 2013, the General Government debt amounted to €5,243.1 million, or 73.0 per cent of GDP.

Structure of General Government Debt: 2013

Last year the biggest share of debt was held by the Financial Corporations sector, with 60.5 per cent, followed by the Households and Non-profit institutions serving households (NPISH), with 31.4 per cent. The share of non-residents was 7.0 per cent, up from 6.1 per cent in 2012. The Non-Financial Corporations sector held 1.2 per cent of the debt. Table 1 shows the institutional holders of the General Government debt.

'Securities other than shares', which includes the Malta Government Stocks and Treasury Bills, is by far the preferred debt instrument for General Government, with €4,813.7 million or 91.8 per cent of the total debt in 2013. Other debt instruments are the 'loans' and 'currency' with 7.1 per cent and 1.1 per cent respectively. Table 2 gives the breakdown of the General Government debt by instrument.

Almost all the debt owed by the General Government Sector is in national currency, as shown in Table 3. The debt issued in foreign currencies is decreasing and last year it amounted to €0.5 million. The apparent cost of debt, which is the interest rate applicable to the whole nominal debt, was 4.3 per cent in 2013, a decrease from 4.5 per cent in 2012 (Table 4).

Table 5 presents the market value of the total General Government debt. For 2013, this is estimated at €5,725.3 million compared to the nominal value of €5,243.1 million. The differences are explained in methodological note 2.

Tables 6 and 7 analyse the General Government debt by initial and remaining maturity respectively. For 2013, the time structure of the debt by initial maturity shows that €1,928.9 million, or 36.8 per cent, was issued with a maturity of 15 to 30 years. This was followed with debt issued for 10 to 15 years (23.3 per cent), 5 to 7 years (13.8 per cent) and 1 to 5 years (10.4 per cent). The average remaining maturity of total debt for 2013 increased to seven years nine months from seven years three months in 2012. In 2010, the average remaining maturity was five years ten months, showing that debt is being issued on a longer term basis. The biggest share of debt by remaining maturity in 2013 is in the 1 to 5 year category, with €1,609.2 million, followed by categories 15 to 30 years (€942.5 million) and 7 to 10 years (€855.6 million).

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The Government guarantees on borrowing amounted to €1,192.8 million, an increase of €6.8 million over the comparative period of 2012. The majority of Government guarantees are issued towards the Public Non-Financial Corporations, which account for 78.8 per cent of the total guarantees.

The data in this release are consistent with the first notification for 2014 of the gross General Government nominal debt reported under the Maastricht Treaty¹ ■

¹ News Release 75/2014 published on 23 April 2014.

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The advance release calendar may be consulted at www.nso.gov.mt

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Table 1. Structure of General Government Debt by debt holders

€000

	Sector	2010	2011	2012	2013
Non-Financial Corporations	S11	53,858	56,046	64,166	60,721
Financial Corporations	S12	2,845,340	3,005,295	3,003,356	3,171,016
Households and NPISHs	S14+S15	1,175,982	1,340,503	1,504,699	1,645,139
Rest of the World	S2	182,518	205,414	299,001	366,221
Total General Government Debt		4,257,698	4,607,258	4,871,222	5,243,097

Table 2. Structure of General Government Debt by instrument

€000

	ESA code	2010	2011	2012	2013
Currency	AF21	40,957	45,836	50,446	55,279
Securities other than shares	AF33	3,981,376	4,303,493	4,476,911	4,813,680
Loans	AF4	235,365	257,930	343,865	374,138
Total General Government Debt		4,257,698	4,607,258	4,871,222	5,243,097

Table 3. Structure of General Government Debt by currency of issuance

€000

	2010	2011	2012	2013
Debt in national currency	4,256,141	4,606,007	4,870,372	5,242,567
Debt in foreign currencies	1,557	1,251	850	530
of which: US Dollar	866	726	542	351
Japan Yen	351	234	70	0
Other currencies	340	291	238	179

Table 4. Apparent cost of debt (%)

	2010	2011	2012	2013
Apparent cost of debt *	4.53	4.53	4.50	4.29

* The apparent cost of debt may be defined as the interest rate applicable to the whole nominal debt

Table 5. Market value of debt

€000

	2010	2011	2012	2013
Market value of total debt	4,585,873	4,931,042	5,285,963	5,725,313

Table 6. Structure of General Government Debt by initial maturity

€000

	2010	2011	2012	2013
Initial maturity in years:				
<1 (including)	459,400	354,293	283,576	386,605
1-5	660,560	801,456	743,157	547,293
5-7	339,919	258,754	257,654	721,713
7-10	379,325	428,029	531,512	381,871
10-15	1,261,818	1,234,859	1,170,132	1,220,188
15-30	1,156,675	1,529,868	1,848,428	1,928,851
>30	0	0	36,763	56,576
Total General Government Debt	4,257,698	4,607,258	4,871,222	5,243,097

Table 7. Structure of General Government Debt by remaining maturity

€000

	2010	2011	2012	2013
Average remaining maturity of total debt, in years and months	5 years, 10 months	6 years, 3 months	7 years, 3 months	7 years, 9 months
Remaining maturity in years:				
<1 (including)	588,245	704,993	656,391	734,631
1-5	1,859,582	1,909,321	1,723,875	1,609,170
5-7	347,471	474,243	483,056	615,666
7-10	558,058	786,338	963,742	855,569
10-15	607,635	153,450	218,446	422,968
15-30	296,707	578,912	756,020	942,494
>30	0	0	69,692	62,599
Total General Government Debt	4,257,698	4,607,258	4,871,222	5,243,097

Table 8. Government Guarantees by holders

€000

	Sector	2010	2011	2012	2013
Non-Financial Corporations	S11	964,272	1,047,614	923,324	939,886
Financial Corporations	S12	0	0	243,500	235,334
Households and NPISHs	S14+S15	26,795	21,296	19,202	17,615
Rest of the World	S2	0	0	0	0
Total Government Guarantees		991,066	1,068,910	1,186,026	1,192,835

Methodological Notes

1. This release presents Government debt in line with the procedure defined in the Maastricht Treaty (Article 104). The basic conceptual reference framework for this exercise is the ESA 95 Manual on Government Deficit and Debt (2012 edition) which is in turn based on the European System of National and Regional Accounts (ESA 95). This compliance with the reference framework allows for the international comparability of the data. The data contained in this news release have been drawn up in line with the ESA95 methodologies. The glossary provides the necessary definitions and is available online: http://www.nso.gov.mt/docs/ESA95_Glossary.pdf
2. The compilation of General Government debt data according to Maastricht debt complies with ESA95 rules, especially concerning the sector classification of institutional units, the consolidation rules, the classification of financial transactions and of financial assets and liabilities, and the time of recording, but not on valuation rules. Maastricht debt is in nominal value, which is considered equivalent to the face value, representing in some cases the value of right/commitment on principal resulting from a financial instrument. ESA95 debt is market value, based on the price of a security as determined dynamically by buyers and sellers in an open market and includes also accrued interest.
3. General Government Sector (S.13 sector according to the ESA95 definitions) is made up of the Central Government Sector (S.1311) and the Local Government Sector (S.1313). The Central Government Sector includes the Budgetary Central Government, made up of Government ministries and departments and the Extra Budgetary Units (EBUs), which are classified as forming part of this sector.
4. Government guarantees exclude guarantees on Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) and International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and on foreign loans taken by the Central Bank of Malta on behalf of government, which loans already feature in the calculation of government external debt. Government guarantees include guarantees granted by the EBUs but exclude those provided to EBUs.
5. The data contained in this release may be reviewed. Figures may not add up due to rounding.

European statistics comparable to data in this News Release are available at:

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Data Navigation Tree

- >Database by themes
 - >Economy and Finance
 - >Government statistics
 - >Government deficit and debt
 - >Structure of government debt

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