

27 February 2015 | 1100 hrs | 040/2015

In January 2015, Government's Consolidated Fund registered a surplus of €12.1 million.

Government Finance Data: January 2015

During the first month of the year, recurrent revenue registered an increase of €78.3 million whilst expenditure went down by €22.7 million, thereby resulting in a positive change in the Government's Consolidated Fund of €101.1 million.

During January, recurrent revenue was recorded at €276.4 million, up from €198.1 million last year. The major contributors to the comparative increase of 39.5 per cent were higher proceeds from Grants by €74.0 million. Moreover, Value Added Tax and Miscellaneous Receipts increased by €3.4 million and €2.7 million respectively. On the contrary, Customs and Excise Duties registered a fall of €4.0 million.

Compared to January last year, lower spending was registered on recurrent and capital expenditures and interest payments resulting in a decline in total expenditure of €22.7 million (Table 1).

Recurrent expenditure went down by €11.5 million, totalling €220.1 million. Lower outlays were primarily registered in Programmes and Initiatives by €31.9 million. The major declines in the Programmes and Initiatives category were recorded in social security benefits (€12.5 million), medicines and surgical materials (€8.5 million) and Feed-in tariff (€5.0 million). Conversely, added outlays were registered in the Contributions to Government Entities (€14.0 million), Operational and Maintenance Expenses (€3.5 million) and Personal Emoluments (€3.0 million) (Table 3).

The interest component of the public debt servicing costs for the period under review declined to €14.2 million from €17.8 million last year (Table 1).

In addition, Government's Capital Expenditure for January stood at €30.0 million from €37.7 million last year. This was mainly due to a lower equity injection to the national air carrier in January this year which was only partially outweighed by added outlays on enterprise investment incentives (Table 1).

As illustrated in Table 2, at the end of January, Central Government Debt stood at €5,197.6 million, up by €180.4 million, over the corresponding period last year. This was the result of higher Malta Government Stocks, which added €288.7 million. On the other hand, Treasury Bills and Foreign Loans went down by €77.1 million and €10.6 million respectively. As a result of consolidation, higher holdings by government funds in Malta Government Stocks resulted in a reduction in debt of €25.9 million. The Euro coins issued in the name of the Treasury went up by €5.3 million when compared to the coin stock as at the end of January 2014, and totalled €60.3 million ■

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Table 1. Government Finance Data

Description	January 2013	January 2014	January 2015	Jan 2015 / Jan 2014	
				Change	% change
	€000				
(a) Recurrent Revenue	218,513	198,128	276,435	78,307	39.5
<i>of which:</i>					
Grants	33,983	1,533	75,528	73,994	-
Customs and Excise Duties	10,069	15,287	11,284	-4,003	-
Value Added Tax	39,528	40,069	43,419	3,350	-
Income Tax	60,243	68,466	69,132	666	-
Social Security	34,957	35,174	36,354	1,180	-
Others	39,734	37,598	40,718	3,120	-
(b) Total Expenditure	276,654	287,089	264,343	-22,745	-7.9
<i>consisting of:</i>					
Recurrent Expenditure	222,401	231,581	220,103	-11,478	-5.0
<i>of which:</i>					
Education	11,569	15,209	16,756	1,547	-
Social Security Benefits	94,313	71,137	58,590	-12,547	-
Others	116,518	145,235	144,757	-478	-
Interest	18,253	17,826	14,207	-3,619	-20.3
Capital Expenditure	36,000	37,681	30,033	-7,648	-20.3
<i>of which:</i>					
Productive Investment	24,256	18,467	10,134	-8,332	-
Infrastructure	7,818	15,905	15,787	-118	-
Social	3,926	3,310	4,112	802	-
(a-b) Consolidated Fund Surplus/Deficit	-58,141	-88,961	12,092	101,053	113.6
(c) Financial Transactions					
<i>consisting of:</i>					
<i>Revenue</i>					
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	0	0	-
Equity Acquisition	0	0	0	0	-
Repayment of Loan	0	0	0	0	-
Loans	0	0	0	0	-

Table 2. Central Government Debt

Description	January 2013	January 2014	January 2015	Jan 2015 / Jan 2014	
				Change	% change
	€000				
Total Central Government Debt	4,765,460	5,017,128	5,197,566	180,437	3.6
<i>of which:</i>					
Treasury Bills	270,349	285,667	208,540	-77,127	-
Malta Government Stocks	4,351,639	4,610,859	4,899,575	288,716	-
Foreign Loans	61,942	50,965	40,401	-10,564	-
Domestic Loans with Commercial Banks	56,379	56,379	56,379	0	-
MGSF investments in Government Debt	-25,055	-41,645	-67,579	-25,934	-
Euro Coins issued in the name of the Treasury	50,207	54,903	60,250	5,347	-

Table 3. Revenue / Expenditure Categories

Description	January 2013	January 2014	January 2015	Jan 2015 / Jan 2014	
				Change	% change
	€000				
Total Recurrent Revenue	218,513	198,128	276,435	78,307	39.5
Customs and Excise Duties	10,069	15,287	11,284	-4,003	-
Licences, Taxes and Fines	24,297	21,683	22,475	792	-
Income Tax	60,243	68,466	69,132	666	-
Value Added Tax	39,528	40,069	43,419	3,350	-
Fees of Office	1,787	1,662	1,312	-350	-
Reimbursements	1,185	1,619	655	-964	-
Public Corporations	0	0	0	0	-
Central Bank of Malta	10,000	10,000	10,000	0	-
Rents	1,004	2,051	3,018	967	-
Dividends on Investment	0	0	0	0	-
Interest on loans made by Government	86	2	0	-1	-
Social Security	34,957	35,174	36,354	1,180	-
Grants	33,983	1,533	75,528	73,994	-
Miscellaneous Receipts	1,375	581	3,258	2,676	-
Total Non-Recurrent Revenue	0	0	0	0	-
Receipts from Sale of Shares	0	0	0	0	-
Other extraordinary receipts	0	0	0	0	-
Loans	0	0	0	0	-
Total Revenue	218,513	198,128	276,435	78,307	39.5
Recurrent Expenditure					
Personal Emoluments	46,747	50,710	53,668	2,959	-
Operational and Maintenance Expenses	8,581	10,849	14,370	3,521	-
Programmes and Initiatives	158,198	156,499	124,579	-31,921	-
Contributions to Government Entities	8,874	13,523	27,486	13,963	-
Total Recurrent Expenditure	222,401	231,581	220,103	-11,478	-5.0

Methodological Notes

1. Data in this news release are 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 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 2015 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. Government Finance data for December 2014 will be published on 30 March 2015.
7. Totals may not add up due to rounding.
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>