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In the first four months of 2015, Government's Consolidated Fund registered a deficit of €108.6 million.

## Government Finance Data: January-April 2015

During January-April, recurrent revenue registered an increase of €167.6 million which outweighed the rise in expenditure of €37.9 million, hence resulting in a positive change in the Government's Consolidated Fund of €129.7 million.

In January-April, recurrent revenue was recorded at €1,048.7 million, up from €881.1 million last year. The major contributor to the comparative increase of 19.0 per cent was higher proceeds from Grants, by €110.7 million. Other significant increases were registered in Customs and Excise Duties (€27.0 million), Social Security (€9.4 million), Miscellaneous Receipts (€9.0 million) and Income Tax (€5.7 million), among others. On the other hand, Fees of Office registered a decrease of €3.3 million.

Compared to the first four months last year, total expenditure recorded an increase of €37.9 million due to higher recurrent and capital expenditures and interest payments (Table 1).

Recurrent expenditure went up by €18.4 million, totalling €948.1 million. Personal Emoluments and Operational and Maintenance Expenses recorded increases of €14.0 million and €3.1 million respectively. Contributions to Government Entities and Programmes and Initiatives registered marginal increases (Table 4). The major developments in the Programmes and Initiatives category involved lower outlays on social security benefits (€7.7 million) and medicines and surgical materials (€1.4 million), offset by added expenditure on the one-time additional bonus (€7.1 million) and child care for all (€3.0 million).

The interest component of the public debt servicing costs for the first four months of 2015 stood at €78.4 million from €72.2 million last year (Table 1).

In addition, Government's Capital Expenditure stood at €130.8 million, up by €13.4 million from last year (Table 1). This increase was mainly due to added outlays on the acquisition of property for public purposes (€8.6 million), enterprise investment incentives (€6.7 million), ICT core services agreement (€3.2 million) and EU funded expenditure on agriculture (€3.1 million). These were partially outweighed by a lower equity injection to the national air carrier.

At the end of April 2015, Central Government Debt stood at €5,364.0 million, an increase of €68.6 million over the corresponding period last year. This was the result of higher Malta Government Stocks, which added €266.6 million. On the other hand, Treasury Bills and Foreign Loans went down by €165.3 million and €10.5 million respectively. As a result of consolidation, higher holdings by government funds in Malta Government Stocks resulted in a reduction in debt of €27.6 million. The Euro coins issued in the name of the Treasury went up by €5.4 million when compared to the coin stock as at the end of April 2014, and totalled €60.8 million (Table 3) ■

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Table 1. Government finance data: Year to date

Description	Jan-Apr 2013	Jan-Apr 2014	Jan-Apr 2015	Jan-Apr 2015 / Jan-Apr 2014	
				Change	% change
€000					
<b>(a) Recurrent Revenue</b>	<b>827,839</b>	<b>881,118</b>	<b>1,048,720</b>	<b>167,602</b>	<b>19.0</b>
<i>of which:</i>					
Grants	52,351	21,866	132,540	110,674	
Customs and Excise Duties	37,068	44,222	71,231	27,008	
Value Added Tax	158,029	183,461	187,427	3,966	
Income Tax	254,772	284,230	289,949	5,719	
Social Security	182,020	199,819	209,182	9,363	
Others	143,600	147,519	158,391	10,872	
<b>(b) Total Expenditure</b>	<b>1,010,833</b>	<b>1,119,341</b>	<b>1,157,274</b>	<b>37,932</b>	<b>3.4</b>
<i>consisting of:</i>					
Recurrent Expenditure	816,123	929,722	948,122	18,400	2.0
<i>of which:</i>					
Education	56,041	61,866	66,888	5,021	
Social Security Benefits	279,967	266,702	259,027	-7,675	
Others	480,115	601,154	622,207	21,054	
Interest	70,255	72,210	78,361	6,151	8.5
Capital Expenditure	124,455	117,409	130,791	13,382	11.4
<i>of which:</i>					
Productive Investment	49,763	39,127	18,415	-20,712	
Infrastructure	61,462	64,107	86,079	21,972	
Social	13,230	14,176	26,297	12,121	
<b>(a-b) Consolidated Fund Surplus/Deficit</b>	<b>-182,994</b>	<b>-238,224</b>	<b>-108,553</b>	<b>129,670</b>	<b>54.4</b>
<b>(c) Financial Transactions</b>					
<i>consisting of:</i>					
<i>Revenue</i>					
Loans	199,621	214,872	168,287	-46,584	
Repayment of Loans	30	0	0	0	
Receipts from Sale of Shares	0	0	0	0	
Other extraordinary receipts	0	0	700	700	
<i>Expenditure</i>					
Contribution to Sinking Fund	0	25,000	0	-25,000	
Equity Acquisition	11,696	12,755	1,059	-11,696	
Repayment of Loan	7,250	24,459	0	-24,459	
Loans	0	0	0	0	

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 2. Government finance data: Monthly

Description	April 2013	April 2014	April 2015	April 2015 / April 2014	
				Change	% change
	€000				
<b>(a) Recurrent Revenue</b>	<b>231,296</b>	<b>243,321</b>	<b>274,032</b>	<b>30,711</b>	<b>12.6</b>
<i>of which:</i>					
Grants	23	568	8,223	7,655	
Customs and Excise Duties	7,930	11,256	20,066	8,810	
Value Added Tax	34,345	35,437	29,601	-5,836	
Income Tax	106,524	101,283	119,399	18,116	
Social Security	50,130	57,350	62,325	4,974	
Others	32,343	37,428	34,418	-3,009	
<b>(b) Total Expenditure</b>	<b>246,826</b>	<b>255,972</b>	<b>297,250</b>	<b>41,279</b>	<b>16.1</b>
<i>consisting of:</i>					
Recurrent Expenditure	207,637	216,850	232,764	15,913	7.3
<i>of which:</i>					
Education	17,929	15,627	16,719	1,092	
Social Security Benefits	78,159	60,410	62,168	1,757	
Others	111,549	140,813	153,877	13,064	
Interest	18,860	18,406	22,086	3,680	20.0
Capital Expenditure	20,329	20,715	42,400	21,685	104.7
<i>of which:</i>					
Productive Investment	-602	702	3,143	2,440	
Infrastructure	16,946	14,959	34,733	19,775	
Social	3,985	5,054	4,524	-530	
<b>(a-b) Consolidated Fund Surplus/Deficit</b>	<b>-15,530</b>	<b>-12,651</b>	<b>-23,219</b>	<b>-10,568</b>	<b>-83.5</b>
<b>(c) Financial Transactions</b>					
<i>consisting of:</i>					
<i>Revenue</i>					
Loans	0	54,950	0	-54,950	
Repayment of Loans	30	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	11,696	11,696	0	-11,696	
Repayment of Loan	0	0	0	0	
Loans	0	0	0	0	

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 3. Central Government debt

Description	April 2013	April 2014	April 2015	April 2015 / April 2014	
				Change	% change
€000					
<b>Total Central Government Debt</b>	<b>4,936,379</b>	<b>5,295,440</b>	<b>5,364,031</b>	<b>68,591</b>	<b>1.3</b>
<i>of which:</i>					
Treasury Bills	292,299	371,450	206,190	-165,260	
Malta Government Stocks	4,544,011	4,801,272	5,067,862	266,591	
Foreign Loans	61,580	50,897	40,353	-10,544	
Domestic Loans with Commercial Banks	56,379	56,379	56,379	0	
MGSF investments in Government Debt	-69,055	-39,983	-67,579	-27,596	
Euro Coins issued in the name of the Treasury	51,166	55,425	60,826	5,401	

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 4. Revenue/Expenditure categories: Year to date

Description	Jan-Apr 2013	Jan-Apr 2014	Jan-Apr 2015	Jan-Apr 2015 / Jan-Apr 2014	
				Change	% change
€000					
<b>Total Recurrent Revenue</b>	<b>827,839</b>	<b>881,118</b>	<b>1,048,720</b>	<b>167,602</b>	<b>19.0</b>
Customs and Excise Duties	37,068	44,222	71,231	27,008	
Licences, Taxes and Fines	80,140	83,300	85,497	2,198	
Income Tax	254,772	284,230	289,949	5,719	
Value Added Tax	158,029	183,461	187,427	3,966	
Fees of Office	9,504	11,004	7,657	-3,347	
Reimbursements	7,606	7,170	7,632	462	
Public Corporations	0	0	0	0	
Central Bank of Malta	30,000	30,000	30,000	0	
Rents	6,315	6,893	8,710	1,817	
Dividends on Investment	570	75	1,687	1,612	
Interest on loans made by Government	1,192	933	72	-860	
Social Security	182,020	199,819	209,182	9,363	
Grants	52,351	21,866	132,540	110,674	
Miscellaneous Receipts	8,273	8,145	17,135	8,990	
<b>Total Non-Recurrent Revenue</b>	<b>199,652</b>	<b>214,872</b>	<b>168,987</b>	<b>-45,884</b>	
Receipts from Sale of Shares	0	0	0	0	
Other extraordinary receipts	0	0	700	700	
Loans	199,621	214,872	168,287	-46,584	
Repayment of Loans	30	0	0	0	
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>1,027,491</b>	<b>1,095,989</b>	<b>1,217,708</b>	<b>121,718</b>	<b>11.1</b>
<b>Recurrent Expenditure</b>					
Personal Emoluments	200,445	210,811	224,782	13,971	
Operational and Maintenance Expenses	35,706	49,644	52,773	3,128	
Programmes and Initiatives	514,228	581,044	581,585	541	
Contributions to Government Entities	65,743	88,223	88,982	759	
<b>Total Recurrent Expenditure</b>	<b>816,123</b>	<b>929,722</b>	<b>948,122</b>	<b>18,400</b>	<b>2.0</b>

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 5. Revenue/Expenditure categories: Monthly

Description	April 2013	April 2014	April 2015	April 2015 / April 2014	
				Change	% change
	€000				
<b>Total Recurrent Revenue</b>	<b>231,296</b>	<b>243,321</b>	<b>274,032</b>	<b>30,711</b>	<b>12.6</b>
Customs and Excise Duties	7,930	11,256	20,066	8,810	
Licences, Taxes and Fines	24,217	25,881	17,861	-8,020	
Income Tax	106,524	101,283	119,399	18,116	
Value Added Tax	34,345	35,437	29,601	-5,836	
Fees of Office	1,886	3,613	1,490	-2,123	
Reimbursements	1,771	1,920	2,926	1,006	
Public Corporations	0	0	0	0	
Central Bank of Malta	0	0	0	0	
Rents	2,042	1,633	1,685	52	
Dividends on Investment	50	75	1,612	1,537	
Interest on loans made by Government	899	926	0	-926	
Social Security	50,130	57,350	62,325	4,974	
Grants	23	568	8,223	7,655	
Miscellaneous Receipts	1,478	3,380	8,845	5,465	
<b>Total Non-Recurrent Revenue</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>54,950</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-54,950</b>	
Receipts from Sale of Shares	0	0	0	0	
Other extraordinary receipts	0	0	0	0	
Loans	0	54,950	0	-54,950	
Repayment of Loans	30	0	0	0	
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>231,326</b>	<b>298,271</b>	<b>274,032</b>	<b>-24,239</b>	<b>-8.1</b>
<b>Recurrent Expenditure</b>					
Personal Emoluments	53,686	52,821	56,677	3,856	
Operational and Maintenance Expenses	8,847	11,053	10,109	-943	
Programmes and Initiatives	128,200	137,295	145,309	8,015	
Contributions to Government Entities	16,904	15,682	20,668	4,986	
<b>Total Recurrent Expenditure</b>	<b>207,637</b>	<b>216,850</b>	<b>232,764</b>	<b>15,913</b>	<b>7.3</b>

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

## 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. 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>