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In January-November 2015, Government's Consolidated Fund registered a deficit of €160.9 million.

Government Finance Data: January-November 2015

Compared to January-November 2014, recurrent revenue recorded an increase of €240.2 million which outweighed the rise in expenditure of €12.3 million, hence resulting in a positive change in the Government's Consolidated Fund of €27.9 million.

In the period under review, recurrent revenue was recorded at €3,135.7 million, up from €2,895.4 million last year. The major contributors to the comparative increase of 8.3 per cent were higher proceeds from Income Tax (€97.1 million), Value Added Tax (€54.4 million), Licences, taxes and fines (€35.0 million) and Social Security (€33.4 million), among others. Conversely, proceeds from Customs and Excise Duties, Fees of Office and the Central Bank of Malta recorded a decline of €9.7 million, €6.0 million and €2.0 million respectively (Tables 1 and 4).

Compared to the same period last year, total expenditure increased by €12.3 million due to higher recurrent and capital expenditures and interest payments (Table 1).

Recurrent expenditure went up by €202.1 million, totalling €2,705.4 million. Programmes and Initiatives recorded the highest increase at €114.4 million. The major developments in this category involved added expenditure on EU own resources (€28.6 million), social security benefits (€27.9 million), higher outlays on the provision for spare capacity electricity (€14.2 million), social security state contribution, which also features as revenue (€9.3 million), the one-time additional bonus (€7.1 million) and child care for all (€5.6 million), among others. Other increases in recurrent expenditure were recorded in Contributions to Government Entities (€38.1 million), Personal Emoluments (€34.1 million) and Operational and Maintenance Expenses (€15.6 million) (Table 4).

The interest component of the public debt servicing costs stood at €12.1 million, up by €1.5 million from last year (Table 1).

Government's capital expenditure was recorded at €379.1 million, up by €8.7 million from last year (Table 1). This increase was mainly due to outlays on the autoclave animal waste facility of €11.0 million, and added expenditure of €9.1 million funded by the external borders fund, among others. These increases were partially outweighed by a lower equity injection to the national air carrier.

Compiled by:

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At the end of November 2015, Central Government Debt stood at €5,468.7 million, an increase of €207.1 million over the corresponding period last year. This was the result of higher Malta Government Stocks by €254.2 million, partially outweighed by lower Treasury Bills and Foreign Loans by €13.1 million and €10.7 million respectively. As a result of consolidation, higher holdings by government funds in Malta Government Stocks resulted in a reduction in debt of €30.0 million. The Euro coins issued in the name of the Treasury went up by €6.7 million when compared to the coin stock as at the end of November 2014, and totalled €66.9 million (Table 3) ■

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Table 1. Government finance data: Year to date

Description	Jan-Nov 2013	Jan-Nov 2014	Jan-Nov 2015	Jan-Nov 2015 / Jan-Nov 2014	
				Change	% change
	€ 000				
(a) Recurrent Revenue	2,564,857	2,895,447	3,135,666	240,220	8.3
<i>of which:</i>					
Grants	140,167	166,412	171,419	5,007	
Customs and Excise Duties	167,192	278,756	269,037	-9,719	
Value Added Tax	551,058	593,166	647,609	54,443	
Income Tax	803,712	860,984	958,044	97,061	
Social Security	543,141	593,830	627,256	33,426	
Others	359,587	402,300	462,302	60,003	
(b) Total Expenditure	2,872,083	3,084,315	3,296,610	212,295	6.9
<i>consisting of:</i>					
Recurrent Expenditure	2,325,495	2,503,259	2,705,392	202,134	8.1
<i>of which:</i>					
Education	153,302	163,611	173,084	9,473	
Social Security Benefits	755,738	764,930	792,868	27,938	
Others	1,416,455	1,574,717	1,739,441	164,723	
Interest	207,368	210,590	212,089	1,499	0.7
Capital Expenditure	339,220	370,467	379,129	8,662	2.3
<i>of which:</i>					
Productive Investment	86,554	66,915	57,871	-9,044	
Infrastructure	201,921	232,574	246,966	14,392	
Social	50,745	70,978	74,292	3,314	
(a-b) Consolidated Fund Surplus/Deficit	-307,226	-188,868	-160,944	27,925	14.8
(c) Financial Transactions					
<i>consisting of:</i>					
<i>Revenue</i>					
Loans	629,302	648,841	473,235	-175,607	
Repayment of Loans	30	0	0	0	
Receipts from Sale of Shares	0	0	700	700	
Other extraordinary receipts	28,380	0	0	0	
<i>Expenditure</i>					
Contribution to Sinking Fund	5,661	29,863	14,863	-15,000	
Equity Acquisition	25,510	13,755	1,059	-12,696	
Repayment of Loan	370,194	357,257	217,085	-140,172	
Loans	0	0	0	0	

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 2. Government finance data: Monthly

Description	November 2013	November 2014	November 2015	November 2015 / November 2014	
				Change	% change
€000					
(a) Recurrent Revenue	248,756	395,579	369,582	-25,997	-6.6
<i>of which:</i>					
Grants	13,320	106	24	-82	
Customs and Excise Duties	11,197	151,173	58,043	-93,130	
Value Added Tax	96,090	101,697	137,945	36,247	
Income Tax	54,414	46,064	68,293	22,230	
Social Security	49,486	53,647	57,197	3,550	
Others	24,249	42,891	48,080	5,188	
(b) Total Expenditure	270,331	301,883	326,015	24,132	8.0
<i>consisting of:</i>					
Recurrent Expenditure	216,523	232,046	271,297	39,251	16.9
<i>of which:</i>					
Education	13,201	14,264	14,358	94	
Social Security Benefits	75,112	67,288	82,820	15,532	
Others	128,210	150,494	174,119	23,625	
Interest	18,334	18,516	16,240	-2,275	-12.3
Capital Expenditure	35,473	51,321	38,477	-12,844	-25.0
<i>of which:</i>					
Productive Investment	4,467	4,661	4,029	-632	
Infrastructure	21,934	35,509	25,022	-10,486	
Social	9,073	11,151	9,426	-1,726	
(a-b) Consolidated Fund Surplus/Deficit	-21,575	93,696	43,567	-50,129	-53.5
(c) Financial Transactions					
<i>consisting of:</i>					
<i>Revenue</i>					
Loans	179,981	0	35,000	35,000	
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	0	0	
Equity Acquisition	0	0	0	0	
Repayment of Loan	82	93,882	885	-92,998	
Loans	0	0	0	0	

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 3. Central Government debt

Description	November 2013	November 2014	November 2015	November 2015 / November 2014	
				Change	% change
€000					
Total Central Government Debt	5,064,877	5,261,668	5,468,720	207,052	3.9
<i>of which:</i>					
Treasury Bills	328,350	240,990	227,850	-13,140	
Malta Government Stocks	4,613,233	4,903,579	5,157,813	254,234	
Foreign Loans	53,537	43,039	32,330	-10,710	
Domestic Loans with Commercial Banks	56,379	56,379	56,379	0	
MGSF investments in Government Debt	-41,645	-42,579	-72,579	-30,000	
Euro Coins issued in the name of the Treasury	55,024	60,260	66,928	6,668	

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 4. Revenue/Expenditure categories: Year to date

Description	Jan-Nov 2013	Jan-Nov 2014	Jan-Nov 2015	Jan-Nov 2015 / Jan-Nov 2014	
				Change	% change
€000					
Total Recurrent Revenue	2,564,857	2,895,447	3,135,666	240,220	8.3
Customs and Excise Duties	167,192	278,756	269,037	-9,719	
Licences, Taxes and Fines	202,853	218,862	253,842	34,980	
Income Tax	803,712	860,984	958,044	97,061	
Value Added Tax	551,058	593,166	647,609	54,443	
Fees of Office	31,896	51,721	45,726	-5,995	
Reimbursements	21,026	22,332	25,647	3,315	
Public Corporations	0	0	0	0	
Central Bank of Malta	48,000	50,000	48,000	-2,000	
Rents	20,850	24,808	26,710	1,902	
Dividends on Investment	10,958	5,118	15,990	10,872	
Interest on loans made by Government	2,362	1,123	289	-834	
Social Security	543,141	593,830	627,256	33,426	
Grants	140,167	166,412	171,419	5,007	
Miscellaneous Receipts	21,642	28,336	46,098	17,762	
Total Non-Recurrent Revenue	657,712	648,841	473,935	-174,907	
Receipts from Sale of Shares	0	0	700	700	
Other extraordinary receipts	28,380	0	0	0	
Loans	629,302	648,841	473,235	-175,607	
Repayment of Loans	30	0	0	0	
Total Revenue	3,222,569	3,544,288	3,609,601	65,313	1.8
Recurrent Expenditure					
Personal Emoluments	543,078	591,217	625,286	34,069	
Operational and Maintenance Expenses	111,486	119,414	135,014	15,600	
Programmes and Initiatives	1,467,700	1,553,006	1,667,367	114,361	
Contributions to Government Entities	203,231	239,621	277,725	38,104	
Total Recurrent Expenditure	2,325,495	2,503,259	2,705,392	202,134	8.1

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 5. Revenue/Expenditure categories: Monthly

Description	November 2013	November 2014	November 2015	November 2015 / November 2014	
				Change	% change
€ 000					
Total Recurrent Revenue	248,756	395,579	369,582	-25,997	-6.6
Customs and Excise Duties	11,197	151,173	58,043	-93,130	
Licences, Taxes and Fines	13,395	14,300	21,419	7,118	
Income Tax	54,414	46,064	68,293	22,230	
Value Added Tax	96,090	101,697	137,945	36,247	
Fees of Office	4,394	18,610	8,130	-10,480	
Reimbursements	1,971	2,283	5,743	3,460	
Public Corporations	0	0	0	0	
Central Bank of Malta	0	6,000	6,000	0	
Rents	934	940	2,099	1,159	
Dividends on Investment	0	0	1,300	1,300	
Interest on loans made by Government	3	3	101	98	
Social Security	49,486	53,647	57,197	3,550	
Grants	13,320	106	24	-82	
Miscellaneous Receipts	3,551	756	3,289	2,533	
Total Non-Recurrent Revenue	179,981	0	35,000	35,000	
Receipts from Sale of Shares	0	0	0	0	
Other extraordinary receipts	0	0	0	0	
Loans	179,981	0	35,000	35,000	
Repayment of Loans	0	0	0	0	
Total Revenue	428,737	395,579	404,582	9,003	2.3
Recurrent Expenditure					
Personal Emoluments	44,651	51,925	59,954	8,030	
Operational and Maintenance Expenses	10,937	13,135	12,786	-349	
Programmes and Initiatives	141,320	143,922	166,441	22,519	
Contributions to Government Entities	19,615	23,064	32,116	9,051	
Total Recurrent Expenditure	216,523	232,046	271,297	39,251	16.9

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 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 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>