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In January 2016, Government's Consolidated Fund registered a deficit of €48.8 million.

Government Finance Data: January 2016

Compared to the first month of last year, recurrent revenue registered a decrease of €67.0 million whilst total expenditure went down by €6.1 million, thereby resulting in a negative change in the Government's Consolidated Fund of €60.9 million.

In January, recurrent revenue was recorded at €209.4 million, down from €276.4 million last year. The major contributors to the comparative decrease of 24.3 per cent were lower proceeds from Grants by €73.0 million. Moreover, Value Added Tax and Miscellaneous Receipts declined by €15.4 million and €2.9 million respectively. On the contrary, increases were recorded in Customs and Excise Duties (€10.4 million), Social Security (€7.9 million) and Income Tax (€4.5 million).

Compared to January last year, total expenditure went down by €6.1 million mainly as result of lower spending on capital expenditures whereas a marginal decline was registered in recurrent expenditure. Conversely, a slight increase was recorded in interest payments.

Recurrent expenditure stood at €220.0 million from €220.1 million in January last year. This was the result of lower Contributions to Government Entities by €9.8 million which were outweighed by increases in Programmes and Initiatives (€4.0 million), Personal Emoluments (€3.0 million) and Operational and Maintenance Expenses (€2.7 million).

The interest component of the public debt servicing costs stood at €15.2 million, up by €1.0 million from last year.

Government's Capital expenditure witnessed a decline of €7.0 million, and was recorded at €23.0 million.

At the end of January 2016, Central Government Debt stood at €5,438.0 million, up by €240.4 million over the corresponding period last year. This was the result of higher Malta Government Stocks and Treasury Bills, which added €126.0 million and €117.5 million respectively. On the other hand, Foreign Loans went down by €10.6 million. Holdings by Government funds in Malta Government Stocks remained at the same level of last year. The Euro coins issued in the name of the Treasury went up by €7.5 million when compared to the coin stock as at the end of January 2015, and totalled €67.8 million ■

Compiled by:

Unit A2: Public Finance

**Directorate A: Economic
Statistics**

Further information on data:

Mr Mark GALEA

T. +356 2599 7240

E. mark.b.galea@gov.mt

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Issued by: **Dissemination Unit, National Statistics Office, Lascaris, Valletta VLT 2000, Malta.**

T. +356 2599 7219 F. +356 2599 7205 E. nso@gov.mt

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Table 1. Revenue/Expenditure categories: Year to date

Description	January 2014	January 2015	January 2016	Jan 2016 / Jan 2015	
				Change	% change
	€ 000				
(a) Total Recurrent Revenue	198,128	276,435	209,397	-67,038	-24.3
Customs and Excise Duties	15,287	11,284	21,707	10,423	
Licences, Taxes and Fines	21,683	22,475	24,443	1,968	
Income Tax	68,466	69,132	73,592	4,460	
Value Added Tax	40,069	43,419	28,032	-15,387	
Fees of Office	1,662	1,312	1,102	-210	
Reimbursements	1,619	655	1,069	413	
Public Corporations	0	0	0	0	
Central Bank of Malta	10,000	10,000	10,000	0	
Rents	2,051	3,018	2,357	-662	
Dividends on Investment	0	0	0	0	
Interest on loans made by Government	2	0	0	0	
Social Security	35,174	36,354	44,237	7,883	
Grants	1,533	75,528	2,506	-73,022	
Miscellaneous Receipts	581	3,258	353	-2,905	
(b) Total Expenditure	287,089	264,343	258,224	-6,120	-2.3
<i>Recurrent Expenditure</i>	231,581	220,103	220,025	-79	0.0
Personal Emoluments	50,710	53,668	56,698	3,030	
Operational and Maintenance Expenses	10,849	14,370	17,030	2,660	
Programmes and Initiatives	156,499	124,579	128,611	4,032	
Contributions to Government Entities	13,523	27,486	17,686	-9,801	
<i>Interest</i>	17,826	14,207	15,165	958	6.7
<i>Capital Expenditure</i>	37,681	30,033	23,034	-6,999	-23.3
(a-b) Consolidated Fund Surplus/Deficit	-88,961	12,092	-48,826	-60,918	-503.8
(c) Financial Transactions					
<i>Revenue</i>					
Loans	0	0	0	0	
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	500	500	
Repayment of Loan	0	0	0	0	
Loans	0	0	0	0	

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 2. Central Government debt

Description	January 2014	January 2015	January 2016	Jan 2016 / Jan 2015	
				Change	% change
€ 000					
Total Central Government Debt	5,017,128	5,197,566	5,437,959	240,393	4.6
<i>of which:</i>					
Treasury Bills	285,667	208,540	326,050	117,510	
Malta Government Stocks	4,610,859	4,899,575	5,025,589	126,014	
Foreign Loans	50,965	40,401	29,768	-10,633	
Domestic Loans with Commercial Banks	56,379	56,379	56,379	0	
MGSF investments in Government Debt	-41,645	-67,579	-67,579	0	
Euro Coins issued in the name of the Treasury	54,903	60,250	67,753	7,503	

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 2016 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>