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In January-April 2017, Government's Consolidated Fund registered a surplus of €21.2 million.

## Government Finance Data: January-April 2017

Compared to the same period last year, recurrent revenue registered an increase of €158.3 million whereas total expenditure went up by €59.6 million. This resulted in a positive change in the Government's Consolidated Fund by €98.7 million.

In January-April 2017, recurrent revenue was recorded at €1,221.3 million, up from €1,063.0 million last year. The comparative increase of 14.9 per cent was primarily the result of higher Grants and Income Tax which increased by €59.8 million and €22.0 million respectively. Moreover, increases were also recorded for Value Added Tax (€20.4 million), Fees of Office (€18.8 million), Social Security (€15.6 million), Customs and Excise Duties (€9.2 million), Licences, Taxes and Fines (€9.0 million) and Rents (€6.0 million) among others. Conversely, decreases were recorded in Miscellaneous Receipts (€3.8 million) and Dividends on Investment (€0.5 million).

Compared to January-April last year, total expenditure stood at €1,200.0 million up from €1,140.5 million due to added outlays on recurrent expenditure and capital expenditure which outweighed lower spending on interest payments.

Recurrent expenditure stood at €1,048.3 million from €996.2 million last year. The main contributors to this increase were Programmes and Initiatives and Contributions to Government Entities with a rise of €33.7 million and €15.8 million respectively. The main developments in the Programmes and Initiatives category involved added outlays due to Health Concession Agreements (€13.7 million), EU Presidency 2017 (€8.3 million), higher EU Own Resources (€7.6 million), state contribution (€5.4 million which also features as revenue), social security benefits (€4.7 million) and public service obligations (€2.3 million). On the other hand, lower outlays for Medicines and Surgical Materials were recorded (€11.2 million). Decreases were registered in Operational and Maintenance Expenses (€4.2 million).

The interest component of the public debt servicing costs stood at €74.1 million, down from €77.0 million last year.

Government's capital expenditure witnessed an increase of €10.3 million, and was recorded at €77.6 million. This was mainly the result of ICT Core Services Agreement (€3.9 million), higher spending on road construction improvements (€3.8 million) and investment incentives subvention (€3.1 million) (Table 1).

Table 4 and Table 5 present the Consolidated Fund year to date and monthly data respectively in ESA 2010 codes according to the EU Council Directive 85/2011 requirements.

At the end of April 2017, Central Government Debt stood at €5,613.6 million, up by €22.2 million over the corresponding month last year. This was the result of higher Malta Government Stocks and Euro coins issued in the name of the Treasury, which added €153.9 million and €4.4 million respectively. On the other hand, Treasury Bills and Foreign Loans went down by €110.7 million and €10.4 million respectively. Higher holdings by government funds in Malta Government Stocks resulted in a decrease in debt of €15.0 million (Table 6) ■

Table 1. Revenue/Expenditure categories: Year to date

Description	Jan-Apr 2015	Jan-Apr 2016	Jan-Apr 2017	Jan-Apr 2017 / Jan-Apr 2016	
				Change	% change
€ 000					
<b>(a) Total Recurrent Revenue</b>	<b>1,048,720</b>	<b>1,062,982</b>	<b>1,221,290</b>	<b>158,308</b>	<b>14.9</b>
Customs and Excise Duties	71,231	84,806	94,023	9,218	
Licences, Taxes and Fines	85,497	107,193	116,241	9,048	
Income Tax	289,949	333,459	355,434	21,974	
Value Added Tax	187,427	192,167	212,612	20,445	
Fees of Office	7,657	10,620	29,419	18,799	
Reimbursements	7,632	8,177	9,879	1,702	
Public Corporations	0	0	0	0	
Central Bank of Malta	30,000	30,000	30,000	0	
Rents	8,710	10,320	16,368	6,048	
Dividends on Investment	1,687	814	337	-477	
Interest on loans made by Government	72	3	18	15	
Social Security	209,182	236,034	251,643	15,610	
Grants	132,540	34,241	94,010	59,769	
Miscellaneous Receipts	17,135	15,149	11,307	-3,842	
<b>(b) Total Expenditure</b>	<b>1,157,274</b>	<b>1,140,475</b>	<b>1,200,047</b>	<b>59,572</b>	<b>5.2</b>
<i>Recurrent Expenditure</i>	948,122	996,201	1,048,347	52,146	5.2
Personal Emoluments	224,782	237,248	244,161	6,913	
Operational and Maintenance Expenses	52,773	64,285	60,065	-4,220	
Programmes and Initiatives	581,585	590,655	624,331	33,677	
Contributions to Government Entities	88,982	104,013	119,789	15,776	
<i>Interest</i>	78,361	76,975	74,092	-2,883	-3.7
<i>Capital Expenditure</i>	130,791	67,299	77,609	10,310	15.3
<b>(a-b) Consolidated Fund Surplus/Deficit</b>	<b>-108,553</b>	<b>-77,493</b>	<b>21,243</b>	<b>98,736</b>	<b>127.4</b>
<b>(c) Financial Transactions</b>					
<i>Revenue</i>					
Loans	168,287	279,733	182,870	-96,863	
Repayment of Loans	0	11,984	0	-11,984	
Receipts from Sale of Shares	700	1,131	889	-242	
Other extraordinary receipts	0	0	0	0	
<i>Expenditure</i>					
Contribution to Sinking Fund	0	0	0	0	
Equity Acquisition	1,059	12,484	1,877	-10,607	
Repayment of Loan	0	137,172	0	-137,172	
Loans	0	0	0	0	

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 2. Revenue/Expenditure categories: Monthly

Description	April 2015	April 2016	April 2017	April 2017 / April 2016	
				Change	% change
				€ 000	
<b>(a) Total Recurrent Revenue</b>	<b>274,032</b>	<b>318,117</b>	<b>347,552</b>	<b>29,435</b>	<b>9.3</b>
Customs and Excise Duties	20,066	21,539	21,087	-452	
Licences, Taxes and Fines	17,861	29,351	21,476	-7,875	
Income Tax	119,399	137,619	140,004	2,385	
Value Added Tax	29,601	25,193	24,372	-821	
Fees of Office	1,490	1,494	11,483	9,988	
Reimbursements	2,926	2,475	1,817	-658	
Public Corporations	0	0	0	0	
Central Bank of Malta	0	0	0	0	
Rents	1,685	2,331	5,272	2,941	
Dividends on Investment	1,612	100	200	100	
Interest on loans made by Government	0	1	1	0	
Social Security	62,325	66,814	70,200	3,386	
Grants	8,223	23,828	50,007	26,180	
Miscellaneous Receipts	8,845	7,372	1,635	-5,737	
<b>(b) Total Expenditure</b>	<b>297,250</b>	<b>272,287</b>	<b>313,501</b>	<b>41,214</b>	<b>15.1</b>
<i>Recurrent Expenditure</i>	232,764	238,103	260,931	22,827	9.6
Personal Emoluments	56,677	60,053	60,617	564	
Operational and Maintenance Expenses	10,109	15,254	14,898	-356	
Programmes and Initiatives	145,309	148,939	155,961	7,021	
Contributions to Government Entities	20,668	13,857	29,455	15,598	
<i>Interest</i>	22,086	18,940	18,760	-180	-1.0
<i>Capital Expenditure</i>	42,400	15,244	33,810	18,567	121.8
<b>(a-b) Consolidated Fund Surplus/Deficit</b>	<b>-23,219</b>	<b>45,830</b>	<b>34,051</b>	<b>-11,779</b>	<b>-25.7</b>
<b>(c) Financial Transactions</b>					
<i>Revenue</i>					
Loans	0	80,000	0	-80,000	
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>	0	0	0		
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	

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 3. Government Expenditure by COFOG category

COFOG	Personal Emoluments			Operational and Maintenance Expenses			Programmes and Initiatives			Contributions to Government Entities		
	Jan-Apr 2015	Jan-Apr 2016	Jan-Apr 2017	Jan-Apr 2015	Jan-Apr 2016	Jan-Apr 2017	Jan-Apr 2015	Jan-Apr 2016	Jan-Apr 2017	Jan-Apr 2015	Jan-Apr 2016	Jan-Apr 2017
	€ 000											
General public services	21,267	23,318	24,974	9,067	9,187	9,897	72,299	63,222	76,894	2,507	3,059	3,048
Defence	11,362	11,872	12,130	1,823	1,638	1,585	33	146	345	0	0	52
Public order and safety	26,085	27,013	27,328	3,589	3,436	3,460	3,273	1,469	1,538	2,745	2,783	2,827
Economic affairs	21,751	21,624	22,510	4,304	5,829	3,433	23,789	32,816	33,299	19,331	25,708	34,411
Environment protection	306	285	51	42	45	111	5,406	6,814	6,479	3,803	4,832	6,844
Housing and community amenities	888	795	252	274	238	34	6	0	1,178	1,086	1,258	1,864
Health	67,085	71,976	74,883	17,627	22,846	19,823	51,537	53,582	55,703	17,625	18,324	19,849
Recreation, culture and religion	2,611	2,652	2,135	567	414	375	5,228	2,569	2,341	4,768	6,558	6,527
Education	58,466	62,309	64,169	9,266	9,814	10,135	45,634	36,544	38,730	27,417	29,325	31,401
Social protection	14,961	15,405	15,730	6,214	10,837	11,213	374,379	393,493	407,823	9,700	12,165	12,966
<b>Total</b>	<b>224,782</b>	<b>237,248</b>	<b>244,161</b>	<b>52,773</b>	<b>64,285</b>	<b>60,065</b>	<b>581,585</b>	<b>590,655</b>	<b>624,331</b>	<b>88,982</b>	<b>104,013</b>	<b>119,789</b>
COFOG	Interest Expenditure			Capital Expenditure			Total expenditure					
	Jan-Apr 2015	Jan-Apr 2016	Jan-Apr 2017	Jan-Apr 2015	Jan-Apr 2016	Jan-Apr 2017	Jan-Apr 2015	Jan-Apr 2016	Jan-Apr 2017			
	€ 000											
General public services	78,361	76,975	74,092	13,248	9,590	5,996	<b>196,749</b>	<b>185,352</b>	<b>194,901</b>			
Defence	0	0	0	14,543	4,123	3,202	<b>27,761</b>	<b>17,778</b>	<b>17,313</b>			
Public order and safety	0	0	0	1,489	7,107	3,649	<b>37,182</b>	<b>41,808</b>	<b>38,801</b>			
Economic affairs	0	0	0	37,716	27,672	42,979	<b>106,891</b>	<b>113,649</b>	<b>136,632</b>			
Environment protection	0	0	0	17,059	521	5,232	<b>26,617</b>	<b>12,497</b>	<b>18,718</b>			
Housing and community amenities	0	0	0	10,562	4,212	1,562	<b>12,816</b>	<b>6,502</b>	<b>4,891</b>			
Health	0	0	0	10,433	2,586	2,850	<b>164,307</b>	<b>169,314</b>	<b>173,108</b>			
Recreation, culture and religion	0	0	0	7,069	3,166	5,705	<b>20,242</b>	<b>15,359</b>	<b>17,083</b>			
Education	0	0	0	15,599	4,142	5,607	<b>156,382</b>	<b>142,135</b>	<b>150,042</b>			
Social protection	0	0	0	3,073	4,180	827	<b>408,327</b>	<b>436,080</b>	<b>448,558</b>			
<b>Total</b>	<b>78,361</b>	<b>76,975</b>	<b>74,092</b>	<b>130,791</b>	<b>67,299</b>	<b>77,609</b>	<b>1,157,274</b>	<b>1,140,475</b>	<b>1,200,047</b>			

Table 4. Consolidated Fund data in ESA 2010 codes: Year to date

Description	ESA CODE	Jan-Apr	Jan-Apr	Jan-Apr	Jan-Apr 2017 / Jan-Apr 2016	
		2015	2016	2017	Change	% change
		€ 000				
<b>1. Total Revenue</b>		<b>1,004,456</b>	<b>1,014,760</b>	<b>1,169,097</b>	<b>154,337</b>	
Market Output	P11	9,180	16,913	37,438		
Taxes on Production and Imports	D2	325,867	362,667	397,901		
Property income receivable	D4	36,305	35,715	36,800		
Current taxes on income, wealth, etc	D5	308,283	352,833	376,281		
Social Contributions	D61	186,930	186,196	219,594		
Current transfers receivable	D7	1,676	24,987	7,283		
Capital transfers receivable	D9	136,216	35,449	93,800		
<b>2. Total Expenditure</b>		<b>1,113,010</b>	<b>1,092,253</b>	<b>1,147,854</b>	<b>55,602</b>	
Intermediate Consumption	P2	130,825	145,438	135,872		
Gross Capital Formation	P5g+NP	50,938	34,164	38,312		
Compensation of Employees	D1	265,374	281,479	290,262		
Property income payable	D4	81,041	73,478	70,579		
Subsidies	D3	21,566	17,729	21,353		
Social Benefits and social transfers in kind	D62+D632	314,617	327,068	327,455		
Current transfers payable	D7	223,926	212,867	261,013		
Capital transfers payable	D9	24,724	31	3,009		
<b>(1-2) Consolidated Fund Surplus/Deficit</b>		<b>-108,553</b>	<b>-77,493</b>	<b>21,243</b>	<b>98,736</b>	<b>127.4</b>

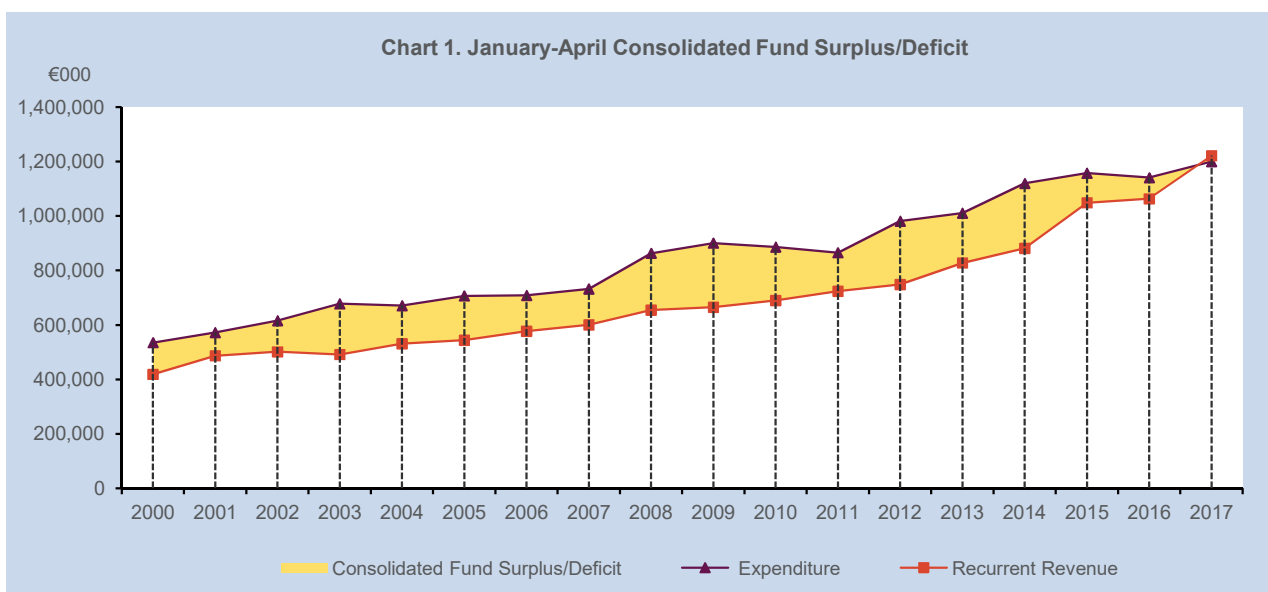
Table 5. Consolidated Fund data in ESA 2010 codes: Monthly

Description	ESA CODE	April	April	April	April 2017 / April 2016	
		2015	2016	2017	Change	% change
		€ 000				
<b>1. Total Revenue</b>		<b>255,021</b>	<b>297,780</b>	<b>331,966</b>	<b>34,186</b>	
Market Output	P11	2,343	2,631	11,483		
Taxes on Production and Imports	D2	63,814	70,847	62,258		
Property income receivable	D4	2,502	949	4,841		
Current taxes on income, wealth, etc	D5	122,368	142,463	144,358		
Social Contributions	D61	54,321	34,651	57,493		
Current transfers receivable	D7	319	22,863	-268		
Capital transfers receivable	D9	9,355	23,375	51,801		
<b>2. Total Expenditure</b>		<b>278,239</b>	<b>251,949</b>	<b>297,914</b>	<b>45,965</b>	
Intermediate Consumption	P2	31,464	32,821	36,852		
Gross Capital Formation	P5g+NP	12,904	7,311	14,938		
Compensation of Employees	D1	66,544	71,533	72,136		
Property income payable	D4	22,164	15,083	18,860		
Subsidies	D3	435	4,207	3,103		
Social Benefits and social transfers in kind	D62+D632	73,666	76,265	78,805		
Current transfers payable	D7	61,161	44,699	71,112		
Capital transfers payable	D9	9,903	31	2,107		
<b>(1-2) Consolidated Fund Surplus/Deficit</b>		<b>-23,219</b>	<b>45,830</b>	<b>34,051</b>	<b>-11,779</b>	<b>-25.7</b>

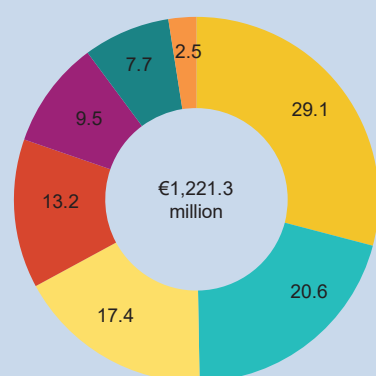
Table 6. Central Government debt

Description	April 2015	April 2016	April 2017	April 2017 / April 2016	
				Change	% change
€ 000					
<b>Total Central Government Debt</b>	<b>5,364,031</b>	<b>5,591,368</b>	<b>5,613,575</b>	<b>22,206</b>	<b>0.4</b>
<i>of which:</i>					
Treasury Bills	206,190	329,650	219,000	-110,650	
Malta Government Stocks	5,067,862	5,235,439	5,389,324	153,885	
Foreign Loans	40,353	29,718	19,303	-10,415	
Domestic Loans with Commercial Banks	56,379	0	0	0	
MGSF investments in Government Debt	-67,579	-72,058	-87,054	-14,996	
Euro Coins issued in the name of the Treasury	60,826	68,620	73,002	4,382	

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

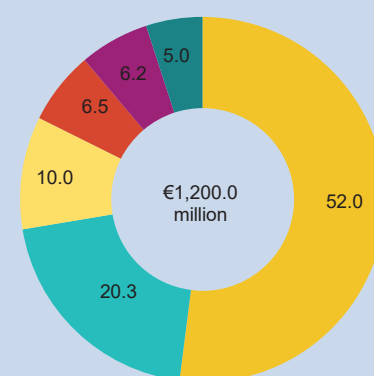


**Chart 2. Recurrent Revenue by main category (%): January-April 2017**



- Income Tax
- Social Security
- Value Added Tax
- Others
- Licences, Taxes and Fines
- Customs and Excise Duties
- Central Bank of Malta

**Chart 3. Expenditure by main category (%): January-April 2017**



- Programmes and Initiatives
- Personal Emoluments
- Contributions to Government Entities
- Capital Expenditure
- Interest
- Operational and Maintenance Expenses

## 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 2017 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. The Enhanced Economic Governance package adopted by the European Parliament and Council in November 2011 included requirements on the collection and dissemination of fiscal data, through the Council Directive 2011/85/EU. The requirements in the government finance statistics domain included a methodological reconciliation table (showing the transition between monthly data used for national policy purposes and ESA-quarterly data used to produce national accounts and EU fiscal surveillance).
  - a. The Reconciliation Table may be accessed at:  
[http://nso.gov.mt/en/nso/Sources\\_and\\_Methods/Unit\\_A2/Public\\_Finance/Pages/Council-Directive-852011.aspx](http://nso.gov.mt/en/nso/Sources_and_Methods/Unit_A2/Public_Finance/Pages/Council-Directive-852011.aspx)
  - b. Refer to the ESA 2010 Glossary at:  
[https://nso.gov.mt/en/nso/Sources\\_and\\_Methods/Unit\\_A2/Public\\_Finance/Documents/ESA10\\_Glossary.pdf](https://nso.gov.mt/en/nso/Sources_and_Methods/Unit_A2/Public_Finance/Documents/ESA10_Glossary.pdf)
  - c. Refer to the other Government Finance Statistics data requirements at:  
[https://nso.gov.mt/en/Services/Council\\_Directive/Pages/Council-Directive-85\\_2011.aspx](https://nso.gov.mt/en/Services/Council_Directive/Pages/Council-Directive-85_2011.aspx)
7. Data on Government Expenditure by the Classification of Functions of Government (COFOG) classifies government expenditure data by the purpose for which the funds are used. COFOG data in Table 3 refers to the total expenditure of the Consolidated Fund and is not fully consistent with the General Government sector expenditure by function and in ESA 2010 methodology, that is compiled by NSO on an annual basis with a delay of one year. The functions are in line with the COFOG classifications as published in the Government Finance Statistics Manual 2001 (ISBN 1-58906-061-X).
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>
9. Kindly indicate source when quoting from this release.
10. The advanced news release calendar may be accessed at [www.nso.gov.mt](http://www.nso.gov.mt)