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In January-November 2017, Government's Consolidated Fund registered a surplus of €84.6 million.

Government Finance Data: January-November 2017

Compared to the same period last year, recurrent revenue registered an increase of €421.4 million whereas total expenditure went up by €276.5 million. This resulted in a positive change in the Government's Consolidated Fund by €144.8 million.

In January-November 2017, recurrent revenue was recorded at €3,707.4 million, up from €3,286.0 million last year. The comparative increase of 12.8 per cent was primarily the result of higher Income Tax and Value Added Tax which both increased by €149.9 million and €91.4 million respectively. Moreover, increases were also recorded for Social Security (€65.8 million), Fees of Office (€47.5 million), Customs and Excise Duties (€29.6 million), Reimbursements (€19.2 million), Licences, Taxes and Fines (€11.7 million), Dividends on Investment (€7.8 million), Grants (€4.1 million) and Rents (€1.6 million). Conversely, decreases were mainly recorded in Miscellaneous Receipts (€7.3 million).

Compared to January-November last year, total expenditure stood at €3,622.8 million up from €3,346.2 million due to added outlays on recurrent expenditure and capital expenditure which outweighed lower spending on interest payments.

Recurrent expenditure stood at €3,156.4 million from €2,881.3 million last year. The main contributors to this increase were Programmes and Initiatives and Personal Emoluments with a rise of €204.7 million and €39.3 million respectively. The main developments in the Programmes and Initiatives category involved added outlays due to social security benefits (€38.3 million), Health Concession Agreements (€24.1 million), higher EU Own Resources (€21.4 million), state contribution (€19.3 million which also features as revenue), EU Presidency 2017 (€13.6 million), Jobsplus Programmes (€10.8 million), Contingency Reserve (€9.8 million), Treasury Pensions (€9.5 million), Medicines and Surgical materials (€7.1 million), Electoral Commission activities (€5.7 million), child care for all (€3.9 million), residential private care (€3.5 million), public social partnership (€3.2 million), feed in tariff (€2.9 million), solid waste management (€2.1 million), church schools (€2.0 million) and allocation to local councils (€2.0 million). Contributions to Government Entities and Operational and Maintenance Expenses increased by €24.7 million and €6.4 million respectively.

The interest component of the public debt servicing costs stood at €197.1 million, down from €205.7 million last year.

Government's capital expenditure witnessed an increase of €10.0 million, and was recorded at €269.2 million. This was mainly the result of higher spending on investment incentives (€6.1 million), construction works and equipment (€4.7 million), tomorrow schools (€3.4 million) and road construction improvements (€2.8 million). On the other hand lower outlays related to film industry incentives (€9.2 million) were recorded (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 November 2017, Central Government Debt stood at €5,398.9 million, down by €122.8 million over the corresponding month last year. This was the result of lower Malta Government Stocks and Treasury Bills which decreased by €106.0 million and €78.6 million respectively. Moreover Foreign Loans decreased by €10.4 million. On the other hand, the new 62+ Malta Government Savings Bond added €99.6 million and Euro coins issued in the name of the Treasury increased by €6.5 million. Higher holdings by government funds in Malta Government Stocks resulted in a decrease in debt of €33.9 million (Table 6) ■

Table 1. Revenue/Expenditure categories: Year to date

Description	Jan-Nov 2015	Jan-Nov 2016	Jan-Nov 2017	Jan-Nov 2017 / Jan-Nov 2016	
				Change	% change
€ 000					
(a) Total Recurrent Revenue	3,135,666	3,286,036	3,707,388	421,352	12.8
Customs and Excise Duties	269,037	249,504	279,132	29,628	
Licences, Taxes and Fines	253,842	287,702	299,447	11,744	
Income Tax	958,044	1,076,193	1,226,125	149,932	
Value Added Tax	647,609	669,194	760,609	91,415	
Fees of Office	45,726	60,547	108,029	47,482	
Reimbursements	25,647	23,980	43,171	19,191	
Public Corporations	0	0	0	0	
Central Bank of Malta	48,000	50,000	50,000	0	
Rents	26,710	28,275	29,885	1,610	
Dividends on Investment	15,990	20,898	28,737	7,839	
Interest on loans made by Government	289	97	50	-48	
Social Security	627,256	687,168	752,960	65,792	
Grants	171,419	95,579	99,642	4,063	
Miscellaneous Receipts	46,098	36,900	29,603	-7,298	
(b) Total Expenditure	3,296,610	3,346,243	3,622,766	276,523	8.3
<i>Recurrent Expenditure</i>	2,705,392	2,881,345	3,156,424	275,079	9.5
Personal Emoluments	625,286	656,482	695,749	39,267	
Operational and Maintenance Expenses	135,014	155,523	161,924	6,401	
Programmes and Initiatives	1,667,367	1,742,027	1,946,709	204,682	
Contributions to Government Entities	277,725	327,312	352,041	24,729	
<i>Interest</i>	212,089	205,712	197,144	-8,568	-4.2
<i>Capital Expenditure</i>	379,129	259,186	269,198	10,012	3.9
(a-b) Consolidated Fund Surplus/Deficit	-160,944	-60,207	84,622	144,829	240.6
(c) Financial Transactions					
<i>Revenue</i>					
Loans	473,235	597,902	357,409	-240,493	
Repayment of Loans	0	12,184	0	-12,184	
Receipts from Sale of Shares	700	1,094	889	-205	
Other extraordinary receipts	0	0	0	0	
<i>Expenditure</i>					
Contribution to Sinking Fund	14,863	14,863	27,462	12,599	
Equity Acquisition	1,059	12,484	41,441	28,957	
Repayment of Loan	217,085	481,669	361,544	-120,124	
Loans	0	0	0	0	

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 2. Revenue/Expenditure categories: Monthly

Description	November 2015	November 2016	November 2017	November 2017 / November 2016	
				Change	% change
	€ 000				
(a) Total Recurrent Revenue	369,582	378,868	425,310	46,442	12.3
Customs and Excise Duties	58,043	24,902	24,737	-166	
Licences, Taxes and Fines	21,419	27,367	21,279	-6,088	
Income Tax	68,293	75,593	124,961	49,368	
Value Added Tax	137,945	145,587	136,393	-9,194	
Fees of Office	8,130	7,931	22,873	14,942	
Reimbursements	5,743	2,957	2,359	-598	
Public Corporations	0	0	0	0	
Central Bank of Malta	6,000	8,000	8,000	0	
Rents	2,099	1,299	5,584	4,285	
Dividends on Investment	1,300	1,050	2,214	1,164	
Interest on loans made by Government	101	0	1	0	
Social Security	57,197	65,149	74,178	9,029	
Grants	24	17,535	13	-17,522	
Miscellaneous Receipts	3,289	1,498	2,719	1,221	
(b) Total Expenditure	326,015	334,224	344,992	10,767	3.2
<i>Recurrent Expenditure</i>	271,297	286,796	297,330	10,534	3.7
Personal Emoluments	59,954	58,475	67,193	8,718	
Operational and Maintenance Expenses	12,786	9,505	7,441	-2,064	
Programmes and Initiatives	166,441	174,347	178,296	3,949	
Contributions to Government Entities	32,116	44,469	44,401	-68	
<i>Interest</i>	16,240	18,712	15,491	-3,221	-17.2
<i>Capital Expenditure</i>	38,477	28,716	32,170	3,454	12.0
(a-b) Consolidated Fund Surplus/Deficit	43,567	44,643	80,319	35,675	79.9
(c) Financial Transactions					
<i>Revenue</i>					
Loans	35,000	0	0	0	
Repayment of Loans	0	0	0	0	
Receipts from Sale of Shares	0	-37	0	37	
Other extraordinary receipts	0	0	0	0	
<i>Expenditure</i>					
Contribution to Sinking Fund	0	0	10,000	10,000	
Equity Acquisition	0	0	39,340	39,340	
Repayment of Loan	885	186,352	263,164	76,812	
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-Nov 2015	Jan-Nov 2016	Jan-Nov 2017	Jan-Nov 2015	Jan-Nov 2016	Jan-Nov 2017	Jan-Nov 2015	Jan-Nov 2016	Jan-Nov 2017	Jan-Nov 2015	Jan-Nov 2016	Jan-Nov 2017
	€ 000											
General public services	63,553	67,441	73,434	22,682	25,998	28,678	170,056	164,071	221,627	7,640	8,711	8,412
Defence	31,436	33,257	35,358	5,804	5,486	8,089	228	359	585	0	0	191
Public order and safety	71,240	73,327	76,872	9,719	9,331	10,346	7,232	3,699	4,685	7,082	7,497	7,424
Economic affairs	59,722	60,847	63,299	10,119	14,086	11,879	111,200	120,641	135,293	58,300	82,055	96,343
Environment protection	658	766	702	71	160	270	15,878	21,093	23,043	18,481	20,859	22,698
Housing and community amenities	2,448	2,263	625	1,051	803	89	56	8	6,708	3,701	2,122	9,067
Health	187,810	198,952	214,296	49,630	57,320	54,297	115,156	133,185	175,147	45,722	47,605	43,910
Recreation, culture and religion	6,900	7,485	5,792	1,151	363	1,179	13,206	9,889	11,000	15,137	19,399	21,933
Education	159,940	169,408	180,147	15,829	18,341	20,070	99,292	108,132	114,846	93,747	98,212	110,596
Social protection	41,578	42,735	45,225	18,957	23,636	27,028	1,135,062	1,180,949	1,253,775	27,918	40,851	31,468
Total	625,286	656,482	695,749	135,014	155,523	161,924	1,667,367	1,742,027	1,946,709	277,725	327,312	352,041
COFOG	Interest Expenditure			Capital Expenditure			Total expenditure					
	Jan-Nov 2015	Jan-Nov 2016	Jan-Nov 2017	Jan-Nov 2015	Jan-Nov 2016	Jan-Nov 2017	Jan-Nov 2015	Jan-Nov 2016	Jan-Nov 2017	Jan-Nov 2015	Jan-Nov 2016	Jan-Nov 2017
	€ 000											
General public services	212,089	205,712	197,144	35,337	25,359	24,545	511,358	497,292	553,840			
Defence	0	0	0	30,808	7,786	7,065	68,276	46,888	51,289			
Public order and safety	0	0	0	4,110	21,027	25,485	99,382	114,881	124,812			
Economic affairs	0	0	0	121,369	126,442	132,950	360,710	404,071	439,763			
Environment protection	0	0	0	53,700	4,233	9,962	88,789	47,112	56,675			
Housing and community amenities	0	0	0	14,487	9,262	2,296	21,743	14,458	18,783			
Health	0	0	0	29,458	10,394	10,386	427,776	447,456	498,036			
Recreation, culture and religion	0	0	0	30,090	21,238	25,689	66,484	58,375	65,592			
Education	0	0	0	49,422	26,809	25,670	418,230	420,903	451,328			
Social protection	0	0	0	10,347	6,636	5,150	1,233,862	1,294,808	1,362,646			
Total	212,089	205,712	197,144	379,129	259,186	269,198	3,296,610	3,346,243	3,622,766			

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

Description	ESA CODE	Jan-Nov	Jan-Nov	Jan-Nov	Jan-Nov 2017 / Jan-Nov 2016	
		2015	2016	2017	Change	% change
		€ 000				
1. Total Revenue		2,964,407	3,108,343	3,520,549	412,206	
Market Output	P11	57,382	83,663	149,579		
Taxes on Production and Imports	D2	1,125,251	1,149,484	1,278,510		
Property income receivable	D4	73,954	74,947	75,841		
Current taxes on income, wealth, etc	D5	1,003,912	1,124,973	1,275,677		
Social Contributions	D61	516,300	541,794	619,057		
Current transfers receivable	D7	4,627	37,649	12,385		
Capital transfers receivable	D9	182,982	95,832	109,500		
2. Total Expenditure		3,125,351	3,168,549	3,435,926	267,377	
Intermediate Consumption	P2	337,470	358,372	397,428		
Gross Capital Formation	P5g+NP	151,538	103,364	128,668		
Compensation of Employees	D1	738,632	773,565	827,682		
Property income payable	D4	205,534	197,040	193,758		
Subsidies	D3	82,043	85,992	76,055		
Social Benefits and social transfers in kind	D62+D632	930,781	959,538	1,007,605		
Current transfers payable	D7	606,192	664,070	794,535		
Capital transfers payable	D9	73,162	26,609	10,194		
(1-2) Consolidated Fund Surplus/Deficit		-160,944	-60,207	84,622	144,829	240.6

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

Description	ESA CODE	November	November	November	November 2017 / November 2016	
		2015	2016	2017	Change	% change
		€ 000				
1. Total Revenue		351,516	362,074	409,980	47,906	
Market Output	P11	9,635	8,461	25,533		
Taxes on Production and Imports	D2	216,005	191,273	176,585		
Property income receivable	D4	9,279	9,978	13,625		
Current taxes on income, wealth, etc	D5	70,714	80,421	128,687		
Social Contributions	D61	44,148	52,416	63,438		
Current transfers receivable	D7	257	544	260		
Capital transfers receivable	D9	1,479	18,981	1,852		
2. Total Expenditure		307,950	317,431	329,662	12,231	
Intermediate Consumption	P2	33,164	36,316	35,805		
Gross Capital Formation	P5g+NP	16,783	8,660	18,383		
Compensation of Employees	D1	68,962	68,281	80,854		
Property income payable	D4	16,402	18,878	15,601		
Subsidies	D3	13,731	27,659	9,984		
Social Benefits and social transfers in kind	D62+D632	94,318	84,273	98,059		
Current transfers payable	D7	58,026	70,706	69,767		
Capital transfers payable	D9	6,563	2,657	1,208		
(1-2) Consolidated Fund Surplus/Deficit		43,567	44,643	80,319	35,675	79.9

Table 6. Central Government debt

Description	November 2015	November 2016	November 2017	November 2017 / November 2016	
				Change	% change
Total Central Government Debt	5,468,720	5,521,730	5,398,918	-122,812	-2.2
<i>of which:</i>					
Treasury Bills	227,850	271,000	192,400	-78,600	
Malta Government Stocks	5,157,813	5,209,845	5,103,835	-106,010	
62+ Malta Government Savings Bond	0	0	99,639	99,639	
Foreign Loans	32,330	21,919	11,500	-10,419	
Domestic Loans with Commercial Banks	56,379	0	0	0	
MGSF investments in Government Debt	-72,579	-52,729	-86,617	-33,887	
Euro Coins issued in the name of the Treasury	66,928	71,695	78,161	6,466	

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Chart 1. January-November Consolidated Fund Surplus/Deficit

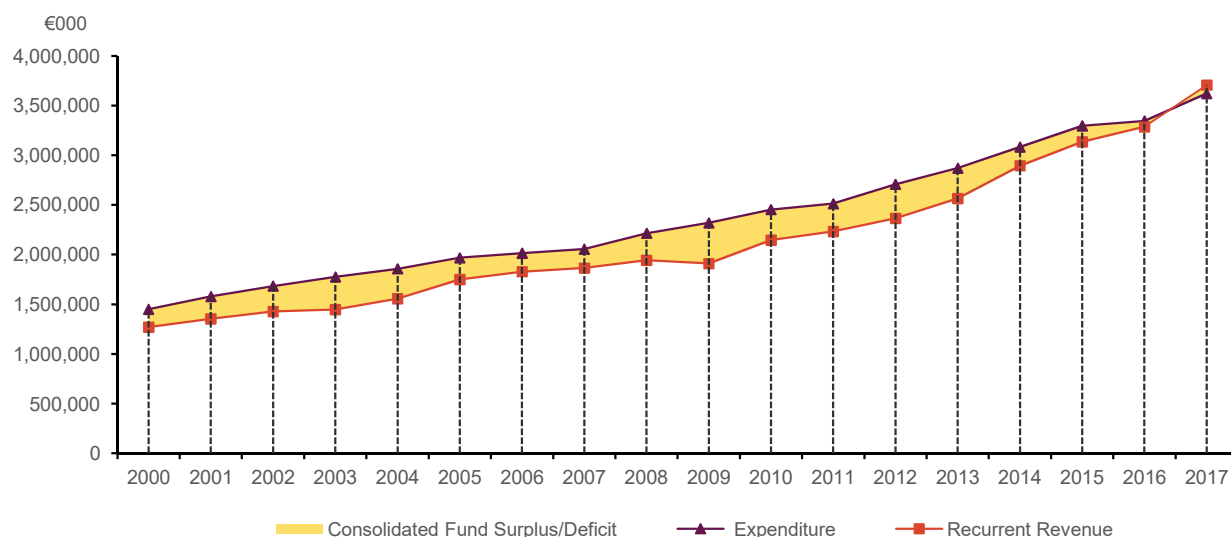
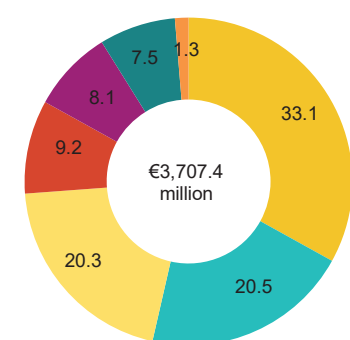
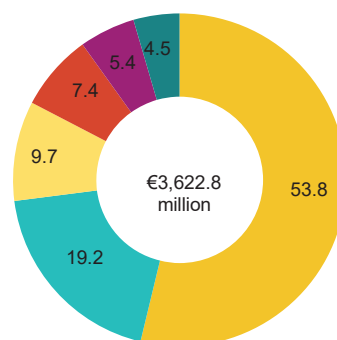


Chart 2. Recurrent Revenue by main category (%): January-November 2017



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

Chart 3. Expenditure by main category (%): January-November 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
 - 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
 - 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
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. Any quotations from this news release are to be cited and/or referenced.
10. A detailed news release calendar is available on
https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/Release_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx