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By the end of April 2022, the Government's Consolidated Fund reported a deficit of €388.7 million.

Government Finance Data: January-April 2022

In the first four months of 2022, Recurrent Revenue amounted to €1,595.3 million, 16.5 per cent higher than the €1,369.7 million reported a year earlier. The largest increase was recorded under Income Tax (€82.4 million), followed by Value Added Tax (€53.0 million), Grants (€42.3 million), Social Security (€25.3 million), Customs and Excise Duties (€14.7 million), Licences, Taxes and Fines (€7.4 million), Central Bank of Malta (€7.2 million), Dividends on Investment (€3.1 million), Rents (€2.9 million) and Reimbursements (€0.8 million). The rise in revenue was partially offset by decreases under Fees of Office (€7.9 million) and Miscellaneous Receipts (€5.8 million).

By the end of April 2022, total expenditure stood at €1,983.9 million, 1.6 per cent higher than the previous year.

During the reference period, Recurrent Expenditure totalled €1,769.7 million, an increase of €35.9 million in comparison to the €1,733.8 million reported by the end of April 2021. The main contributor to this increase was a €46.2 million increase reported under Programmes and Initiatives. Furthermore, an increase was also witnessed under Contributions to Government Entities (€3.3 million). This rise in expenditure outweighed decreases under Operational and Maintenance Expenses (€10.9 million) and Personal Emoluments (€2.6 million). The main developments in the Programmes and Initiatives category involved added outlays towards Economic stimulus payments (€48.1 million), Tax relief measures (€25.7 million), Assistance to help the elderly live independently (€13.7 million), Social security benefits (€11.4 million), Residential care in private homes (€7.2 million) and Gas stabilisation fund (€5.1 million). This rise in Programmes and Initiatives was partly offset by decreases under the Pandemic assistance schemes (€46.9 million) and Hospital concession agreements (€20.7 million).

The interest component of the public debt servicing costs totalled €54.7 million, a decrease of €4.9 million when compared to the previous year.

By the end of April 2022, Government's capital spending amounted to €159.5 million, €1.0 million higher than 2021. This increase resulted from higher expenditure towards Investment incentives (€3.5 million), Property, plant and equipment (€3.2 million) and Ta' Qali National Park (€3.0 million). This rise in Capital Expenditure was partially offset by decreases under Acquisition of property for public purposes (€4.9 million) and Gozo Aquatic Centre (€3.7 million).

The difference between total revenue and expenditure resulted in a deficit of €388.7 million being reported in the Government's Consolidated Fund at the end of April 2022. Compared to the same period in 2021, there was a decrease in deficit of €193.5 million. This difference mirrors an increase in total Recurrent Revenue (€225.6 million), partly offset by a rise in total expenditure, which consists of Recurrent Expenditure (€35.9 million), Capital Expenditure (€1.0 million) and Interest (-€4.9 million) (Table 1).

At the end of April 2022, Central Government debt stood at €8,532.4 million, a €1,174.6 million rise from 2021. Increases reported under Malta Government Stocks (€932.1 million) and Foreign Loans (€176.9 million) were the main contributors to the rise in debt. Higher debt was also reported under the 62+ Malta Government Savings Bond (€93.9 million) and Euro coins issued in the name of the Treasury (€4.2 million). This increase in debt was partially offset by a decrease in Treasury Bills (€10.4 million). Finally, lower holdings by government funds in Malta Government Stocks resulted in a decrease in debt of €22.2 million (Table 6) ■

Table 1. Revenue/Expenditure categories by period and description

Description	Jan-Apr 2020	Jan-Apr 2021	Jan-Apr 2022	Jan-Apr 2022 / Jan-Apr 2021	
				Change	% change
€ 000					
(a) Total Recurrent Revenue	1,167,601	1,369,717	1,595,274	225,557	16.5
Customs and Excise Duties	74,062	69,764	84,496	14,733	
Licences, Taxes and Fines	104,468	108,589	116,009	7,419	
Income Tax	345,406	467,629	550,039	82,410	
Value Added Tax	235,195	280,602	333,623	53,021	
Fees of Office	13,918	28,099	20,198	-7,901	
Reimbursements	8,395	9,887	10,698	811	
Central Bank of Malta	15,000	15,000	22,173	7,173	
Rents	12,749	6,912	9,836	2,924	
Dividends on Investment	7,410	6,250	9,330	3,080	
Interest on loans made by Government	1	0	0	0	
Social Security	276,790	336,492	361,826	25,334	
Grants	33,555	11,442	53,759	42,317	
Miscellaneous Receipts	40,652	29,051	23,287	-5,764	
(b) Total Expenditure	1,774,748	1,951,916	1,983,927	32,011	1.6
<i>Recurrent Expenditure</i>	1,491,197	1,733,788	1,769,717	35,929	2.1
Personal Emoluments	299,720	347,661	345,078	-2,583	
Operational and Maintenance Expenses	67,981	83,771	72,849	-10,922	
Programmes and Initiatives	917,689	1,091,848	1,138,011	46,163	
Contributions to Government Entities	205,807	210,508	213,779	3,271	
<i>Interest</i>	61,725	59,663	54,742	-4,921	-8.2
<i>Capital Expenditure</i>	221,826	158,465	159,468	1,003	0.6
(a-b) Consolidated Fund Surplus/Deficit	-607,147	-582,199	-388,653	193,546	-33.2
(c) Financial Transactions					
<i>Revenue</i>					
Loans	400,000	423,000	237,400	-185,600	
Repayment of Loans	0	0	634	634	
Receipts from Sale of Shares	889	889	889	0	
Other extraordinary receipts	0	0	0	0	
<i>Expenditure</i>					
Contribution to Sinking Fund	0	0	0	0	
Equity Acquisition	26,980	0	0	0	
Repayment of Loan	159,543	1,049	1,950	901	
Loans	0	0	0	0	

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 2. Revenue/Expenditure categories by month and description

Description	April 2020	April 2021	April 2022	April 2022 / April 2021	
				Change	% change
€ 000					
(a) Total Recurrent Revenue	241,991	439,262	446,869	7,607	1.7
Customs and Excise Duties	12,137	14,888	21,141	6,253	
Licences, Taxes and Fines	17,513	33,851	28,846	-5,005	
Income Tax	104,384	185,033	200,942	15,908	
Value Added Tax	3,662	29,744	45,087	15,344	
Fees of Office	2,843	7,389	5,857	-1,532	
Reimbursements	344	867	1,319	451	
Central Bank of Malta	0	0	22,173	22,173	
Rents	2,547	3,754	2,405	-1,348	
Dividends on Investment	3,750	5,250	8,005	2,755	
Interest on loans made by Government	0	0	0	0	
Social Security	61,144	139,654	97,654	-42,000	
Grants	8,171	5,982	17,091	11,110	
Miscellaneous Receipts	25,497	12,851	-3,651	-16,502	
(b) Total Expenditure	537,410	491,571	463,923	-27,648	-5.6
<i>Recurrent Expenditure</i>	455,925	440,252	411,179	-29,073	-6.6
Personal Emoluments	74,455	84,232	87,129	2,897	
Operational and Maintenance Expenses	20,859	12,384	21,085	8,701	
Programmes and Initiatives	297,777	284,443	247,173	-37,271	
Contributions to Government Entities	62,835	59,193	55,793	-3,399	
<i>Interest</i>	16,811	15,292	18,024	2,732	17.9
<i>Capital Expenditure</i>	64,674	36,027	34,720	-1,307	-3.6
(a-b) Consolidated Fund Surplus/Deficit	-295,419	-52,309	-17,054	35,255	-67.4
(c) Financial Transactions					
<i>Revenue</i>					
Loans	300,000	0	0	0	
Repayment of Loans	0	0	634	634	
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	13,020	0	0	0	
Repayment of Loan	158,777	0	556	556	
Loans	0	0	0	0	

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Table 3. Government Expenditure by COFOG category by period and description

COFOG	Personal emoluments			Operational and Maintenance Expenses			Programmes and Initiatives			Contributions to Government Entities		
	Jan-Apr 2020	Jan-Apr 2021	Jan-Apr 2022	Jan-Apr 2020	Jan-Apr 2021	Jan-Apr 2022	Jan-Apr 2020	Jan-Apr 2021	Jan-Apr 2022	Jan-Apr 2020	Jan-Apr 2021	Jan-Apr 2022
	€ 000											
General public services	32,839	41,973	43,416	13,263	17,110	18,879	102,130	142,605	227,596	15,572	42,102	51,931
Defence	13,423	24,857	16,776	2,397	2,422	2,469	192	216	278	86	0	0
Public order and safety	29,881	30,570	29,803	3,192	2,893	3,116	2,752	4,215	4,164	16,699	15,585	20,748
Economic affairs	21,147	17,153	18,859	7,648	19,117	3,024	69,253	160,463	105,489	66,283	58,614	54,745
Environment protection	1,564	1,835	1,774	64	266	189	17,829	7,153	3,980	6,651	3,860	3,370
Housing and community amenities	535	0	0	129	0	0	6,909	6,819	6,196	3,924	0	0
Health	95,957	115,892	114,639	15,743	24,056	22,024	108,895	137,913	111,962	24,186	25,132	27,225
Recreation, culture and religion	2,127	2,438	2,647	1,735	498	462	3,941	2,994	3,725	13,505	11,425	10,969
Education	83,513	90,263	94,590	6,886	7,361	7,619	85,904	92,047	78,415	36,982	41,943	36,347
Social protection	18,732	22,678	22,574	16,924	10,048	15,068	519,884	537,423	596,208	21,918	11,848	8,445
Total	299,720	347,661	345,078	67,981	83,771	72,849	917,689	1,091,848	1,138,011	205,807	210,508	213,779
COFOG	Interest Expenditure			Capital Expenditure			Total Expenditure					
	Jan-Apr 2020	Jan-Apr 2021	Jan-Apr 2022	Jan-Apr 2020	Jan-Apr 2021	Jan-Apr 2022	Jan-Apr 2020	Jan-Apr 2021	Jan-Apr 2022			
	€ 000											
General public services	61,725	59,663	54,742	22,553	68,799	75,320	248,082	372,253	471,884			
Defence	0	0	0	517	771	285	16,615	28,266	19,808			
Public order and safety	0	0	0	3,973	11,462	8,322	56,498	64,724	66,153			
Economic affairs	0	0	0	155,908	53,822	55,656	320,240	309,169	237,773			
Environment protection	0	0	0	15,900	2,549	221	42,008	15,664	9,534			
Housing and community amenities	0	0	0	0	197	0	11,497	7,016	6,196			
Health	0	0	0	10,441	8,873	6,632	255,223	311,867	282,482			
Recreation, culture and religion	0	0	0	4,076	1,855	2,861	25,383	19,210	20,663			
Education	0	0	0	5,742	7,748	8,297	219,027	239,362	225,268			
Social protection	0	0	0	2,716	2,388	1,873	580,175	584,386	644,167			
Total	61,725	59,663	54,742	221,826	158,465	159,468	1,774,748	1,951,916	1,983,927			

Table 4. Consolidated Fund data in ESA 2010 codes by period and description

Description	ESA code	Jan-Apr 2020	Jan-Apr 2021	Jan-Apr 2022	Jan-Apr 2022 / Jan-Apr 2021	
					Change	% change
€ 000						
1. Total Revenue		1,082,385	1,272,292	1,522,060	249,769	
Market Output	P11	22,128	46,780	34,599		
Taxes on Production and Imports	D2	395,251	453,946	515,971		
Property income receivable	D4	24,411	21,167	32,835		
Current taxes on income, wealth, etc	D5	364,307	475,300	572,888		
Social Contributions	D61	233,113	254,314	300,893		
Current transfers receivable	D7	1,674	769	1,920		
Capital transfers receivable	D9	41,500	20,015	62,954		
2. Total Expenditure		1,689,531	1,854,491	1,910,714	56,223	
Intermediate Consumption	P2	274,820	279,067	258,365		
Gross Capital Formation	P5g+NP	80,709	95,301	89,277		
Compensation of Employees	D1	352,652	356,130	391,594		
Property income payable	D4	32,416	53,588	52,845		
Subsidies	D3	81,413	147,422	126,075		
Social Benefits and social transfers in kind	D62+D632	418,894	448,774	528,050		
Current transfers payable	D7	414,569	450,488	426,535		
Capital transfers payable	D9	34,058	23,721	37,973		
(1-2) Consolidated Fund Surplus/Deficit		-607,147	-582,199	-388,653	193,546	-33.2

Table 5. Consolidated Fund data in ESA 2010 codes by month and description

Description	ESA code	April 2020	April 2021	April 2022	April 2022 / April 2021	
					Change	% change
€ 000						
1. Total Revenue		206,663	410,555	424,089	13,534	
Market Output	P11	6,654	22,570	2,454		
Taxes on Production and Imports	D2	31,031	77,594	92,268		
Property income receivable	D4	1,323	2,441	27,749		
Current taxes on income, wealth, etc	D5	108,029	188,348	206,501		
Social Contributions	D61	50,165	111,422	75,782		
Current transfers receivable	D7	181	118	981		
Capital transfers receivable	D9	9,280	8,062	18,354		
2. Total Expenditure		502,082	462,864	441,143	-21,721	
Intermediate Consumption	P2	112,417	77,810	30,493		
Gross Capital Formation	P5g+NP	22,950	20,119	27,988		
Compensation of Employees	D1	87,547	88,891	95,215		
Property income payable	D4	-7,432	15,926	18,838		
Subsidies	D3	26,044	25,579	52,567		
Social Benefits and social transfers in kind	D62+D632	131,825	141,865	119,562		
Current transfers payable	D7	125,759	86,928	69,258		
Capital transfers payable	D9	2,973	5,746	27,222		
(1-2) Consolidated Fund Surplus/Deficit		-295,419	-52,309	-17,054	35,255	-67.4

Table 6. Central Government debt by month and description

Description	April 2020	April 2021	April 2022	April 2022 / April 2021	
				Change	% change
	€ 000				
Total Central Government Debt	5,936,363	7,357,840	8,532,400	1,174,560	16.0
<i>of which:</i>					
Treasury Bills	662,000	819,750	809,400	-10,350	
Malta Government Stocks	5,011,085	5,943,084	6,875,226	932,142	
62+ Malta Government Savings Bond	288,634	379,096	472,992	93,897	
Foreign Loans	903	243,779	420,656	176,877	
MGSF investments in Government Debt	-115,453	-117,853	-140,074	-22,221	
Euro coins issued in the name of the Treasury	89,196	89,984	94,200	4,216	

Note: Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Chart 1. Consolidated Fund Surplus/Deficit: January to April by year

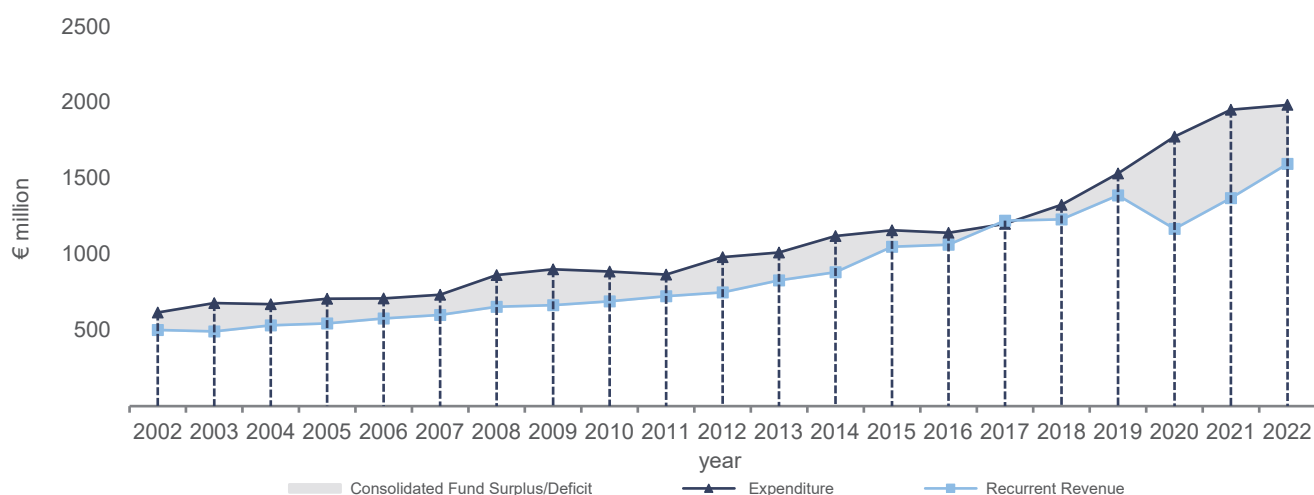


Chart 2. Recurrent Revenue by main category (%): January to April 2022

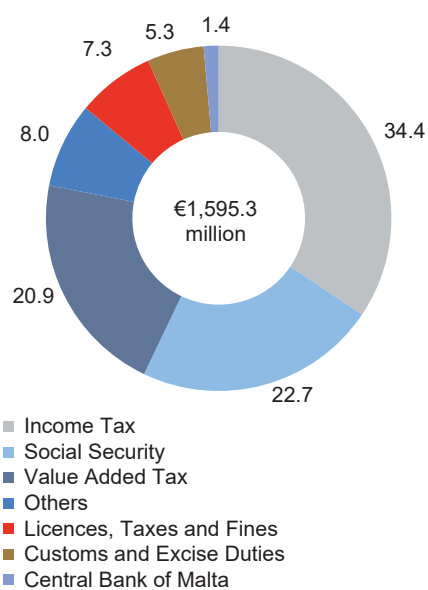
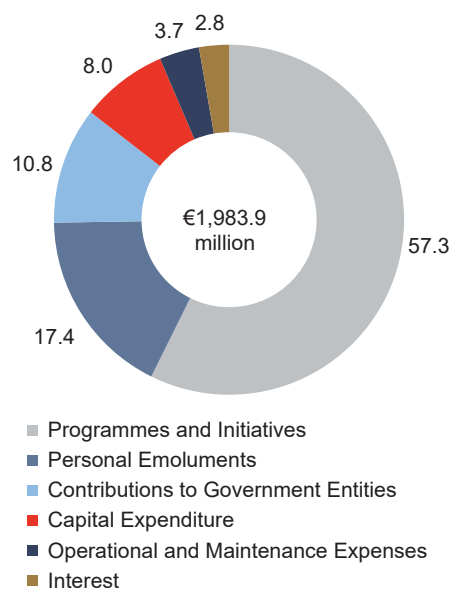


Chart 3. Expenditure by main category (%): January to April 2022



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 2022 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. Data in this release are subject to revision. 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:
https://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. Tables 4 and 5 present the Consolidated Fund year to date and monthly data in ESA 2010 codes according to the EU Council Directive 85/2011 requirements.
9. More information relating to this news release may be accessed at:
Statistical Concepts: <https://metadata.nso.gov.mt>
Statistical Database: <https://statdb.nso.gov.mt/start>
10. Any quotations from this news release are to be cited and/or referenced.
11. Statistics in this news release should be interpreted in the context of the COVID-19 situation.
12. A detailed news release calendar is available on:
https://nso.gov.mt/en/News_Releases/Release_Calendar/Pages/News-Release-Calendar.aspx