

Notification of general government deficit and debt according to the excessive deficit procedure

Years 2015-2018

In this release, Istat provides government deficit and debt data based on figures reported in the second 2019 notification by Italy to the EC¹ for the years 2015-2018, for the application of the excessive deficit procedure (EDP). This notification is based on the ESA 2010 system of national accounts. No reservations have been expressed by Eurostat on the data reported by Italy.

The data published today are the same already disseminated on the 4th of October:

(<https://www.istat.it/en/archivio/233958> “Quarterly non-financial accounts for General Government, households income and savings and non-financial corporation profits”).

Istat also provides information on the underlying government sector accounts, as well as on the contribution of deficit/surplus and other relevant factors to the variation in the debt level (stock-flow adjustment).

According to the Protocol on the excessive deficit procedure annexed to the EC Treaty, government deficit (surplus) means the net borrowing (net lending) of the whole general government sector (central government, state government, local government and social security funds). It is calculated according to national accounts concepts (European System of Accounts, ESA 2010). Government debt is the consolidated gross debt of the whole general government sector outstanding at the end of the year (at face value). For further references see the "[Manual on government deficit and debt – Implementation of ESA 2010](#)", 2019 edition.

The government deficit to GDP ratio decreased from 2.4% in 2017 to 2.2% in 2018. The primary surplus as a percentage of GDP was 1.5% in 2018, up by 0.2 percentage points with respect to 2017.

The government debt to GDP ratio was 134.8% at the end of 2018, up by 0.7 percentage points with respect to the end of 2017. Data concerning the general government debt are compiled and disseminated by the Bank of Italy².

TABLE 1. MAIN AGGREGATES OF GOVERNMENT FINANCE STATISTICS
YEARS 2015-2018(a), data in millions of euro and in percentage of GDP

	2015 (b)	2016 (b)	2017 (c)	2018 (c)
Net borrowing (-)	-42.248	-40.857	-42.047	-38.551
<i>as a percentage of GDP</i>	-2,6	-2,4	-2,4	-2,2
General government consolidated gross debt (d)	2.239.304	2.285.254	2.328.697	2.380.306
<i>as a percentage of GDP</i>	135,3	134,8	134,1	134,8
Interest expenditure	68.093	66.233	65.297	64.662
<i>as a percentage of GDP</i>	4,1	3,9	3,8	3,7
Net borrowing net of interest	25.845	25.376	23.250	26.111
<i>as a percentage of GDP</i>	1,6	1,5	1,3	1,5
GDP	1.655.355	1.695.590	1.736.602	1.765.421

(a) Possible differences in the sums are due to rounding off.

(b) Final data.

(c) Half-finalized data.

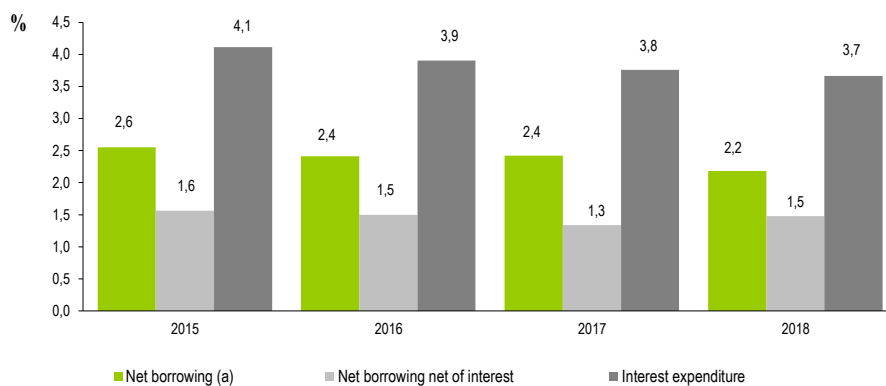
(d) Final data for the years 2015-2018.

¹ Notification Tables concerning all EU Countries can be found on the Eurostat web page <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/government-finance-statistics/excessive-deficit-procedure/edp-notification-tables>

² See “The Public Finances: Borrowing Requirement and Debt – August 2019”; 15 October 2019.

FIGURE 1. NET BORROWING, NET BORROWING NET OF INTEREST AND INTEREST EXPENDITURE ON GDP.

Years 2015-2018, percentage values



(a) Please note that here the sign convention of the net borrowing is positive.

For more details please refer to the Italian version

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