

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

Years 2017-2020

In this release, Istat provides government deficit and debt data based on figures reported in the first 2021 notification by Italy to the EC<sup>1</sup> for the years 2017-2020, 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 2nd of April: “Quarterly non-financial accounts of General Government, income and savings of households and profits of non-financial corporations” (<https://www.istat.it/en/archivio/256230>).

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 increases from 1.6% in 2019 to 9.5% in 2020. The primary balance as a percentage of GDP is -6% in 2020, down by 7.8 percentage points with respect to 2019.

The government debt to GDP ratio is 155.8% at the end of 2020, increasing of 21.2 percentage points with respect to 2019. Data concerning the general government debt are compiled and disseminated by the Bank of Italy<sup>2</sup>.

**TABLE 1. MAIN AGGREGATES OF GOVERNMENT FINANCE STATISTICS**  
YEARS 2017-2020(a), data in millions of euro and in percentage of GDP

	2017 (b)	2018 (b)	2019 (c)	2020 (c)
Net borrowing (-)	-42,000	-38,628	-27,901	-156,860
<i>as a percentage of GDP</i>	-2.4	-2.2	-1.6	-9.5
General government consolidated gross debt (d)	2,329,374	2,380,982	2,409,942	2,573,386
<i>as a percentage of GDP</i>	134.1	134.4	134.6	155.8
Interest expenditure	65,457	64,595	60,351	57,309
<i>as a percentage of GDP</i>	3.8	3.6	3.4	3.5
Net borrowing net of interest	23,457	25,967	32,450	-99,551
<i>as a percentage of GDP</i>	1.4	1.5	1.8	-6.0
<b>GDP</b>	<b>1,736,593</b>	<b>1,771,566</b>	<b>1,790,942</b>	<b>1,651,595</b>

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

(b) Final data.

(c) Half-finalized data.

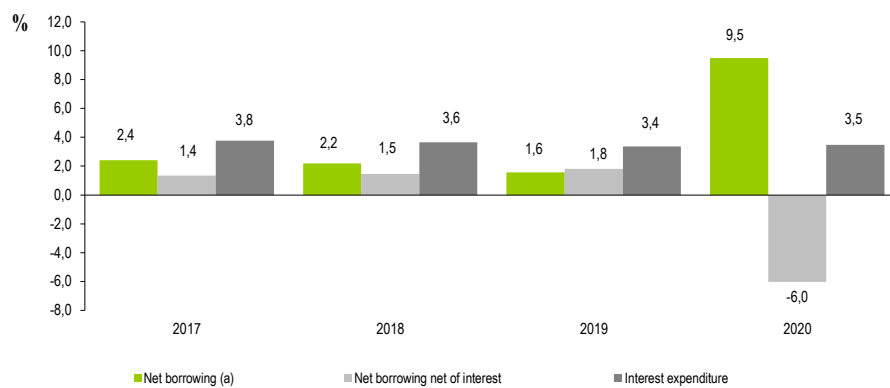
(d) Final data for the years 2017-2020.

<sup>1</sup> 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>.

<sup>2</sup> See “The Public Finances: Borrowing Requirement and Debt – February 2021”; 15 April 2021.

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

Years 2017-2020, 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

Contact person:

**Marinella Cosco**

tel.+39 06 4673.3189

[cosco@istat.it](mailto:cosco@istat.it)