



## 4.13 Central government finances

	Current revenue <sup>a</sup>		Total expenditure		Overall budget deficit (including grants)		Financing from abroad		Domestic financing		Debt and interest payments	
	% of GDP		% of GDP		% of GDP		% of GDP		% of GDP		Total debt % of GDP	Interest % of current revenue
	1980	1997	1980	1997	1980	1997	1980	1997	1980	1997	1997	1997
Albania	..	15.5	..	28.5	..	-12.0	..	1.2	..	10.8	51.5	35.4
Algeria	..	32.2	..	29.2	..	2.9	..	3.9	..	-6.9	64.1	10.4
Angola	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Argentina	15.6	13.6	18.2	15.3	-2.6	-1.5	0.0	1.5	2.6	0.0	..	14.4
Armenia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Australia	21.7	24.6	22.7	25.7	-1.5	0.4	0.2	-0.6	1.3	0.2	21.3	7.2
Austria	33.9	37.3	36.6	40.5	-3.3	-2.7	0.8	-0.1	2.5	2.7	..	10.0
Azerbaijan	..	14.9	..	19.2	..	-2.2	..	..	..	..	..	3.0
Bangladesh	8.4	..	7.4	..	1.8	..	1.8	..	0.5	..	..	..
Belarus	..	33.3	..	34.7	..	-1.6	..	0.5	..	1.2	12.7	2.0
Belgium	43.0	44.0	50.1	46.6	-8.0	-2.0	2.4	0.0	5.7	2.0	120.9	17.5
Benin	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bolivia	..	16.9	..	22.0	..	-2.3	..	2.0	..	0.3	46.3	10.0
Bosnia and Herzegovina	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Botswana	29.8	44.3	29.8	35.3	-0.1	8.4	1.2	0.5	-1.1	-8.9	11.0	1.3
Brazil	22.6	..	20.2	..	-2.4	..	0.0	..	2.4	..	..	..
Bulgaria	..	32.1	..	33.6	..	2.1	..	0.3	..	-2.4	..	26.3
Burkina Faso	11.8	..	12.2	..	0.2	..	0.4	..	0.0	..	..	..
Burundi	13.9	13.7	21.5	24.0	-3.9	-5.5	2.0	3.1	1.9	2.4	136.4	13.2
Cambodia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cameroon	16.4	13.0	15.7	12.7	0.5	0.2	0.7	0.3	-1.2	-0.3	139.6	23.0
Canada	18.5	20.4	21.1	24.7	-3.5	-3.5	0.6	0.0	2.9	3.5	80.7	22.3
Central African Republic	16.5	..	22.0	..	-3.5	..	2.1	..	1.5	..	..	..
Chad	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chile	32.0	22.7	28.0	20.7	5.4	1.9	-0.8	-0.5	-4.7	-1.4	14.2	1.9
China	..	5.8	..	8.1	..	-1.5	..	0.1	..	1.4	..	..
Hong Kong, China	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Colombia	10.3	12.3	11.5	15.8	-1.5	-3.6	..	0.9	..	2.8	17.4	16.3
Congo, Dem. Rep.	9.4	5.3	12.4	10.4	-0.8	-0.8	0.3	0.0	0.5	0.8	160.4	0.2
Congo, Rep.	35.3	29.6	49.4	38.4	-5.2	-8.6	3.8	..	1.4	..	258.0	44.1
Costa Rica	17.8	26.3	25.0	30.1	-7.4	-3.8	1.1	-1.1	6.3	4.0	0.0	22.8
Côte d'Ivoire	22.9	22.2	31.7	25.0	-10.8	0.4	6.5	1.0	4.4	-1.4	168.0	22.8
Croatia	..	42.5	..	43.9	..	-1.3	..	2.5	..	-1.2	..	3.4
Cuba	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Czech Republic	..	33.3	..	35.2	..	-1.1	..	-0.2	..	1.3	11.4	3.3
Denmark	34.7	38.8	38.6	41.4	-2.6	-1.9	..	..	..	..	..	14.2
Dominican Republic	14.2	16.9	16.9	16.7	-2.6	0.4	1.4	-1.0	1.2	0.6	..	3.1
Ecuador	12.8	..	14.2	..	-1.4	..	0.5	..	0.9	..	..	..
Egypt, Arab Rep.	44.1	26.3	50.3	30.6	-11.7	-2.0	3.6	-0.6	8.0	2.6	..	23.0
El Salvador	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Eritrea	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Estonia	..	33.9	..	32.0	..	2.5	..	-1.0	..	-1.5	..	1.0
Ethiopia	16.6	..	19.9	..	-3.1	..	1.2	..	1.9	..	..	..
Finland	27.2	32.0	28.1	35.3	-2.2	-2.5	0.8	-3.0	1.4	5.5	67.4	12.4
France	39.6	41.8	39.5	46.6	-0.1	-3.5	0.0	0.2	0.1	5.1	..	7.4
Gabon	35.5	..	36.5	..	6.1	..	0.0	..	-6.1	..	..	..
Gambia, The	23.1	..	31.7	..	-4.4	..	1.2	..	3.2	..	..	..
Georgia	..	6.7	..	9.7	..	-2.7	..	1.6	..	1.1	29.1	15.4
Germany	..	31.9	..	33.5	..	-1.4	..	2.2	..	-0.8	39.3	7.4
Ghana	6.9	..	10.9	..	-4.2	..	0.7	..	3.5	..	..	..
Greece	25.3	22.9	29.3	34.0	-4.1	-8.4	1.6	3.3	2.6	5.2	116.2	54.9
Guatemala	11.2	..	14.3	..	-3.9	..	1.5	..	2.4	..	..	..
Guinea	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Guinea-Bissau	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Haiti	10.6	..	17.4	..	-4.7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Honduras	14.6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..



## Central government finances 4.13

	Current revenue <sup>a</sup>		Total expenditure		Overall budget deficit (including grants)		Financing from abroad		Domestic financing		Debt and interest payments	
	% of GDP		% of GDP		% of GDP		% of GDP		% of GDP		Total debt % of GDP	Interest % of current revenue
	1980	1997	1980	1997	1980	1997	1980	1997	1980	1997	1997	1997
Hungary	53.4	37.2	56.2	42.8	-2.8	-2.6	2.1	0.3	0.7	2.2	62.9	26.1
India	10.8	12.1	12.3	15.0	-6.0	-5.6	0.5	0.1	5.6	5.5	46.9	32.2
Indonesia	21.3	18.1	22.1	18.0	-2.3	-0.7	2.1	-0.7	0.2	1.4	23.9	9.5
Iran, Islamic Rep.	21.6	24.3	35.7	25.0	-13.8	-0.5	-0.6	0.1	14.4	0.4	..	0.1
Iraq	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ireland	34.7	33.2	45.1	35.5	-12.5	-0.4	..	..	..	..	..	14.0
Israel	52.2	42.3	72.8	48.1	-16.2	0.4	8.2	1.1	8.1	-1.5	113.2	13.6
Italy	31.4	45.3	41.3	48.2	-10.8	-3.1	0.2	..	10.6	..	..	20.1
Jamaica	29.0	..	41.5	..	-15.5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Japan	11.6	..	18.4	..	-7.0	..	..	..	6.7	..	..	..
Jordan	17.9	26.5	41.3	34.0	-9.3	-3.3	5.7	4.1	3.6	-0.8	104.3	15.3
Kazakhstan	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Kenya	21.9	27.2	25.3	29.0	-4.5	-0.9	2.4	-0.2	2.1	1.1	..	28.0
Korea, Dem. Rep.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Korea, Rep.	17.7	20.0	17.3	17.4	-2.2	-1.3	0.9	1.5	1.4	-0.3	10.4	2.5
Kuwait	89.3	..	27.7	41.8	58.7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Kyrgyz Republic	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lao PDR	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Latvia	..	31.8	..	31.4	..	0.8	..	0.9	..	-1.7	14.4	3.0
Lebanon	..	16.3	..	42.2	..	-25.6	..	3.2	..	22.4	102.0	92.8
Lesotho	34.2	51.3	45.3	53.3	-7.4	1.9	2.6	7.9	4.8	-9.8	62.2	4.0
Libya	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lithuania	..	26.4	..	27.4	..	-1.9	..	0.7	..	1.2	15.3	3.3
Macedonia, FYR	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Madagascar	13.2	8.7	..	17.3	..	-1.3	..	1.4	..	-0.1	119.8	54.1
Malawi	19.1	..	34.6	..	-15.9	..	8.3	..	7.7	..	..	..
Malaysia	26.3	23.1	28.5	19.7	-6.0	2.9	0.6	-0.1	5.4	-1.2	..	10.2
Mali	9.9	..	19.4	..	-4.2	..	3.9	..	0.3	..	..	..
Mauritania	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mauritius	20.8	21.3	27.2	23.6	-10.3	-4.0	2.5	-0.6	7.8	4.6	36.8	12.6
Mexico	15.1	14.7	15.7	16.3	-3.0	-1.1	-0.4	-0.7	3.4	1.8	25.9	15.1
Moldova	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mongolia	..	21.3	..	23.2	..	-8.7	..	12.0	..	-3.3	65.1	11.2
Morocco	23.3	28.5	33.1	33.3	-9.7	-4.4	5.3	-0.7	4.4	5.1	79.4	20.9
Mozambique	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Myanmar	16.0	7.7	15.8	8.9	1.2	-0.9	1.2	0.0	-2.4	0.9	..	..
Namibia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nepal	7.8	10.4	14.3	16.8	-3.0	-3.9	1.9	2.5	1.2	1.4	59.9	13.9
Netherlands	49.4	45.7	52.9	47.6	-4.6	-1.7	0.0	0.5	4.6	1.2	58.9	9.5
New Zealand	34.2	33.7	38.3	32.0	-6.7	4.0	3.6	..	3.1	..	37.0	9.3
Nicaragua	23.3	25.4	30.4	33.2	-6.8	-0.6	3.6	0.2	3.2	0.5	..	15.8
Niger	14.6	..	18.6	..	-4.8	..	4.1	..	0.7	..	..	..
Nigeria	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Norway	37.2	43.2	34.4	35.7	-1.7	0.7	-0.7	-2.2	2.4	1.4	22.0	4.2
Oman	38.2	30.8	38.5	30.7	0.4	-0.5	-3.6	-0.1	3.1	0.6	24.0	5.7
Pakistan	16.2	15.6	17.5	22.3	-5.7	-7.7	2.3	1.9	3.4	5.8	..	38.1
Panama	25.3	25.4	30.5	27.0	-5.2	0.2	5.4	1.3	-0.2	-1.5	..	13.3
Papua New Guinea	23.0	..	34.4	..	-1.9	..	2.5	..	-0.5	..	..	..
Paraguay	10.7	..	9.9	..	0.3	..	2.2	..	-2.5	..	..	..
Peru	17.1	16.0	19.5	15.7	-2.4	0.5	0.6	-0.2	1.8	-0.3	45.9	10.1
Philippines	14.0	19.0	13.4	19.3	-1.4	0.1	0.9	-0.3	0.5	0.2	55.8	16.9
Poland	..	36.6	..	39.0	..	-1.3	..	0.0	..	1.3	47.2	9.4
Portugal	26.0	35.8	33.1	40.8	-8.4	-2.1	1.9	2.2	6.5	-0.1	0.9	10.6
Puerto Rico	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Romania	45.3	26.5	44.8	31.9	0.5	-3.9	..	0.9	..	3.0	..	13.9
Russian Federation	..	19.5	..	25.4	..	-4.7	..	1.6	..	3.1	..	17.0



## 4.13 Central government finances

	Current revenue <sup>a</sup>		Total expenditure		Overall budget deficit (including grants)		Financing from abroad		Domestic financing		Debt and interest payments	
	% of GDP		% of GDP		% of GDP		% of GDP		% of GDP		Total debt % of GDP	Interest % of current revenue
	1980	1997	1980	1997	1980	1997	1980	1997	1980	1997	1997	1997
Rwanda	12.8	..	14.3	..	-1.7	..	2.6	..	-0.9	..	..	..
Saudi Arabia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Senegal	24.3	..	23.3	..	0.9	..	-2.7	..	1.8	..	..	..
Sierra Leone	15.1	10.6	26.5	17.7	-11.8	-6.0	3.5	5.1	8.3	0.9	116.2	21.0
Singapore	25.4	24.5	20.0	16.8	2.1	11.7	-0.2	0.0	-2.0	-11.7	75.1	2.9
Slovak Republic	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Slovenia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
South Africa	22.9	25.6	21.6	29.3	-2.3	-3.4	-0.2	0.6	2.5	2.8	..	22.5
Spain	24.0	30.1	26.5	36.1	-4.2	-5.5	0.0	0.3	4.2	5.2	59.4	14.8
Sri Lanka	20.2	18.5	41.4	25.7	-18.3	-4.5	4.5	1.1	13.8	3.4	86.1	33.5
Sudan	12.3	..	17.4	..	-2.9	..	2.5	..	0.4	..	..	..
Sweden	35.0	42.0	39.3	44.3	-8.1	-1.4	3.2	1.6	4.9	-0.2	..	13.5
Switzerland	18.6	23.7	19.2	27.9	-0.2	-1.3	..	0.0	..	1.3	26.2	3.8
Syrian Arab Republic	26.8	24.2	48.2	24.6	-9.7	-0.2	-0.2	..	9.8	..	..	..
Tajikistan	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tanzania	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Thailand	14.3	18.6	18.8	19.3	-4.9	-0.9	1.1	0.2	3.7	0.7	4.7	1.8
Togo	30.3	..	30.8	..	-2.0	..	1.6	..	0.4	..	..	..
Trinidad and Tobago	43.2	27.2	30.9	28.2	7.4	0.2	..	2.6	..	-2.8	51.6	18.3
Tunisia	31.3	29.6	31.6	32.6	-2.8	-3.1	2.3	2.8	0.5	0.4	55.3	13.4
Turkey	18.1	21.9	21.3	29.9	-3.1	-8.4	0.4	-0.9	2.6	9.3	44.7	36.1
Turkmenistan	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Uganda	3.2	..	6.2	..	-3.1	..	0.0	..	3.1	..	..	..
Ukraine	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
United Arab Emirates	0.2	3.1	12.1	10.0	2.1	0.5	0.0	0.0	-2.1	-0.5	..	0.0
United Kingdom	35.2	36.6	38.3	39.1	-4.6	-2.1	0.3	-0.2	4.3	2.3	51.2	9.8
United States	20.2	21.2	22.0	21.6	-2.8	-0.3	0.0	2.4	2.8	-2.1	48.2	15.3
Uruguay	22.3	31.7	21.8	33.1	0.0	-1.3	0.9	..	-0.9	..	..	5.0
Uzbekistan	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Venezuela, RB	22.3	23.7	18.7	20.6	0.0	2.2	1.8	0.9	-1.9	-3.1	..	10.1
Vietnam	..	20.0	..	22.0	..	-0.8	..	0.1	..	0.8	..	3.0
West Bank and Gaza	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Yemen, Rep.	..	38.7	..	38.6	..	-1.2	..	0.5	..	0.7	..	7.2
Yugoslavia, FR (Serb./Mont.)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Zambia	25.0	..	37.1	..	-18.5	..	8.8	..	9.7	..	..	..
Zimbabwe	19.3	29.4	27.9	35.7	-8.8	-5.0	1.8	-0.1	6.9	5.1	58.1	24.2
<b>World</b>	<b>22.2 w</b>	<b>27.0 w</b>	<b>25.3 w</b>	<b>28.7 w</b>	<b>-4.2 w</b>	<b>-1.3 w</b>	<b>.. m</b>	<b>.. m</b>	<b>2.5 m</b>	<b>.. m</b>	<b>.. m</b>	<b>12.4 m</b>
<b>Low income</b>	..	10.1	..	12.4	..	-2.6	..	..	..	..	..	..
Excl. China & India	18.0	17.5	19.8	18.3	-2.9	-1.2	..	..	..	..	..	..
<b>Middle income</b>	20.2	..	20.9	..	-3.1	..	..	0.5	..	0.6	..	10.2
Lower middle income	..	21.5	..	24.0	..	-2.1	..	0.4	..	0.3	..	11.7
Upper middle income	20.1	..	19.5	..	-2.4	..	1.1	0.0	1.9	0.0	..	10.1
<b>Low &amp; middle income</b>	19.3	17.3	20.1	18.9	-3.3	-1.7	..	..	..	..	..	..
East Asia & Pacific	..	13.5	..	13.8	..	-1.0	1.1	0.1	0.5	0.7	..	9.5
Europe & Central Asia	..	24.7	..	29.1	..	-3.6	..	..	..	..	..	6.4
Latin America & Carib.	19.7	..	19.0	..	-2.2	..	0.9	..	0.9	..	..	13.9
Middle East & N. Africa	..	..	..	..	..	..	2.3	3.3	4.4	0.1	..	11.2
South Asia	11.7	12.8	13.5	16.4	-5.8	-5.8	2.1	1.5	4.5	4.5	59.9	32.9
Sub-Saharan Africa	20.9	..	22.1	..	-3.1	..	2.4	..	1.9	..	..	..
<b>High income</b>	22.8	29.6	26.4	31.2	-4.4	-1.2	0.3	0.0	3.0	0.7	49.7	9.6
Europe EMU	..	38.5	..	41.4	..	-2.3	0.5	0.2	4.4	1.6	58.9	10.3

a. Excluding grants.

## Central government finances 4.13



## About the data

Tables 4.13–4.15 present an overview of the size and role of central governments relative to national economies. The International Monetary Fund's (IMF) *Manual on Government Finance Statistics* describes the government as the sector of the economy responsible for "implementation of public policy through the provision of primarily nonmarket services and the transfer of income, supported mainly by compulsory levies on other sectors" (1986, p. 3). In general, the definition of government excludes nonfinancial public enterprises and public financial institutions (such as the central bank).

Units of government meeting this definition exist at many levels, from local administrative units to the highest level of national government. Inadequate statistical coverage precludes the presentation of subnational data, however, making cross-country comparisons potentially misleading.

*Central government* can refer to one of two accounting concepts: consolidated or budgetary. For most countries central government finance data have been consolidated into one account, but for others only budgetary central government accounts are available. Countries reporting budgetary data are noted in *Primary data documentation*. Because budgetary accounts do not necessarily include all central gov-

ernment units, the picture they provide of central government activities is usually incomplete. A key issue is the failure to include the quasi-fiscal operations of the central bank. Central bank losses arising from monetary operations and subsidized financing can result in sizable quasi-fiscal deficits. Such deficits may also result from the operations of other financial intermediaries, such as public development finance institutions. Also missing from the data are governments' contingent liabilities for unfunded pension and insurance plans.

Data on government revenues and expenditures are collected by the IMF through questionnaires distributed to member governments and by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Despite the IMF's efforts to systematize and standardize the collection of public finance data, statistics on public finance are often incomplete, untimely, and noncomparable.

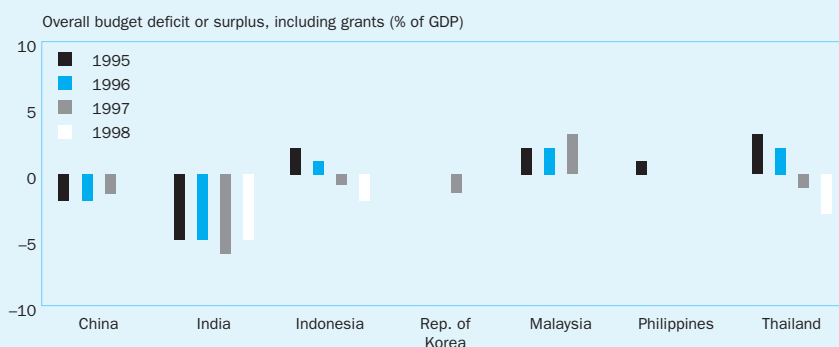
Government finance statistics are reported in local currency. The indicators here are shown as percentages of GDP. Many countries report government finance data according to fiscal years; see *Primary data documentation* for the timing of these years. For further discussion of government finance statistics see *About the data* for tables 4.14 and 4.15.

## Definitions

- **Current revenue** includes all revenue from taxes and current nontax revenues (other than grants) such as fines, fees, recoveries, and income from property or sales.
- **Total expenditure** includes nonrepayable current and capital expenditure. It does not include government lending or repayments to the government or government acquisition of equity for public policy purposes.
- **Overall budget deficit** is current and capital revenue and official grants received, less total expenditure and lending minus repayments.
- **Financing from abroad** (obtained from nonresidents) and **domestic financing** (obtained from residents) refer to the means by which a government provides financial resources to cover a budget deficit or allocates financial resources arising from a budget surplus. It includes all government liabilities—other than those for currency issues or demand, time, or savings deposits with government—or claims on others held by government and changes in government holdings of cash and deposits. Government guarantees of the debt of others are excluded.
- **Debt** is the entire stock of direct, government, fixed term contractual obligations to others outstanding on a particular date. It includes domestic debt (such as debt held by monetary authorities, deposit money banks, nonfinancial public enterprises, and households) and foreign debt (such as debt to international development institutions and foreign governments). It is the gross amount of government liabilities not reduced by the amount of government claims against others. Because debt is a stock rather than a flow, it is measured as of a given date, usually the last day of the fiscal year.
- **Interest** includes interest payments on government debt—including long-term bonds, long-term loans, and other debt instruments—to both domestic and foreign residents.

Figure 4.13

## Worsening fiscal balances in Asia



Source: International Monetary Fund, Government Finance Statistics data files.

Many of the East Asian countries hit by the financial crisis in 1997 and 1998 showed declining fiscal surpluses or emerging deficits in 1995–98. By contrast, India and China reduced their deficits slightly and Malaysia ran a surplus.

## Data sources

The data on central government finances are from the IMF's *Government Finance Statistics Yearbook, 1999* and IMF data files. Each country's accounts are reported using the system of common definitions and classifications in the IMF's *Manual on Government Finance Statistics* (1986). See these sources for complete and authoritative explanations of concepts, definitions, and data sources.