

Revisions to Malta's Balance of Payments statistics by the National Statistics Office which affect the Central Bank of Malta's compilation of the Gross/Net External Debt and Financial Accounts statistics

On 1 October 2024, the National Statistics Office published revised balance of payments (BOP) and international investment position (IIP) statistics for Malta. This follows an earlier revision which was published on the 28th June 2023. The latest update covers the period from 2017 onwards, and according to the NSO, mainly reflects new data sources and improved methodology.

These methodological enhancements include:

1. External statistics are now making use of administrative sources, especially in the compilation of statistics relating to *Captive Financial Institutions and Money Lenders* and Non-Financial Corporations. This complements the use of survey data used in the compilation.
2. New data sources used include statistics on deposits and loans held abroad by the household sector published by the Bank of International Settlements and data on the gaming sector sourced directly from the respective firms' audited financial statements and submitted returns.

These revisions in Malta's BOP and IIP statistics impacted the following datasets compiled by the Central Bank of Malta:

1. External Debt statistics: This dataset was impacted as its compilation relies primarily on the International Investment Position (IIP) statistics. Under the conceptual framework defined in the United Nations' System of National Accounts 2008, external debt includes all liability instruments but excludes equity liabilities, investment fund shares, financial derivatives and employee stock options that are owed to non-residents. The total amount of such liabilities in the IIP is presented as the gross external debt position for Malta.
2. In Financial Account statistics the BOP/IIP revisions effected the following sectors: Households, Captive Financial Institutions and Money Lenders, Non-Financial Corporations, and the Rest of the World.

Further information on these revisions can be accessed through the following link to the NSO website:

<https://nso.gov.mt/events/balance-of-payments-and-international-investment-position/>

[https://nso.gov.mt/international-economic-and-financial-transactions-q2-2023/National-Accounts - Benchmark Revision 2024 Document \(gov.mt\)](https://nso.gov.mt/international-economic-and-financial-transactions-q2-2023/National-Accounts-Benchmark-Revision-2024-Document.gov.mt)