

**QUALITY REPORT FOR STATISTICAL SURVEY**

**Excessive General Government Deficit and Debt Procedure Report,  
Republic of Croatia, April 2025**

Organisational unit: Croatian Bureau of Statistics / Macroeconomic Statistics Directorate

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## 0. Basic information

- Purpose and subject of the survey

The purpose of the survey of public debt and deficit statistics is to allow for a detailed insight into the fiscal stability of the country by monitoring and analysing the changes in public debt and deficit. These data enable political decision-making based on reliable information, management of public finances and fiscal sustainability. They also enable comparisons between countries and the assessment of economic stability and competitiveness at an international level. The goal is to analyse the dynamic of public debt and deficit as well as their impact on the economy, and to develop precise, comparable and consistent statistical indicators that will help understand fiscal policy and its sustainability. The goal of the survey is to ensure the transparency of fiscal data, improve the methodology for data collection and processing and enable an excessive deficit and debt risk analysis. The subject of the survey includes a quantitative public debt and deficit analysis, including the sources, structure and dynamic of these indicators.

- Reference period

Multiple calendar years

- Legal acts and other agreements

Accounting Act (NN, Nos 78/15, 120/16, 116/18, 42/20, 47/20, 144/22 and 82/23), Decision on the National Classification of Activities 2025 – NKD 2025 (NN, No. 47/24), Classification of Products by Activities of the Republic of Croatia – KPD 2015 (NN, No. 157/14), Ordinance on the Manner of Keeping the Register of Annual Financial Statements and the Manner of Receiving and the Procedure for Checking the Completeness and Accuracy of Annual Financial Statements and Annual Report (NN, Nos 1/16, 93/17, 42/20 and 50/20), Ordinance on the Structure and Content of Annual Financial Reports (NN, Nos 95/16 and 144/20), Ordinance on the Form and Content of Additional Data for Statistical and Other Purposes (NN, Nos 2/17 and 158/23), Regulation (EU) No 549/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 May 2013 on the European system of national and regional accounts in the European Union (OJ L 174, 26.6.2013), Council Regulation (EC) No 2223/96 of 25 June 1996 on the European system of national and regional accounts in the Community (OJ L 310, 30.11.1996), Commission Regulation (EC) No 264/2000 of 3 February 2000 on the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 2223/96 with respect to short-term public finance statistics (OJ L 29, 4.2.2000), Regulation (EC) No 2516/2000 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 November 2000 modifying the common principles of the European system of national and regional accounts in the Community (ESA 95) as concerns taxes and social contributions and amending Council Regulation (EC) No 2223/96 (OJ L 290, 17.11.2000), Commission Regulation (EC) No 995/2001 of 22 May 2001 implementing Regulation (EC) No 2516/2000 of the European Parliament and of the Council modifying the common principles of the European system of national and regional accounts in the Community (ESA 95) as concerns taxes and social contributions (OJ L 139, 23.5.2001), Regulation (EC) No 2558/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3 December 2001 amending Council Regulation (EC) No 2223/96 as regards the reclassification of settlements under swaps arrangements and under forward rate agreements (OJ L 344, 28.12.2001), Commission Regulation (EC) No 113/2002 of 23 January 2002 amending Council Regulation (EC) No 2223/96 with regard to revised classifications of expenditure according to purpose (OJ L 21, 24.1.2002), Commission Regulation (EC) No 1889/2002 of 23 October 2002 on the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 448/98 completing and amending Regulation (EC) No 2223/96 with respect to the allocation of financial intermediation services indirectly measured (FISIM) within the European system of national and regional accounts (ESA) (OJ L 286, 24.10.2002), Regulation (EC) No 1392/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 November 2007 amending Council Regulation (EC) No 2223/96 with respect to the transmission of national accounts data (OJ L 324, 10.12.2007), Regulation (EC) No 400/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009 amending Council Regulation (EC) No 2223/96 on the European system of national and regional accounts in the Community as regards the

implementing powers conferred on the Commission (OJ L 126, 21.5.2009), Council Regulation (EC) No 479/2009 of 25 May 2009 on the application of the Protocol on the excessive deficit procedure annexed to the Treaty establishing the European Community (Codified version) (OJ L 145, 10.6.2009), Council Regulation (EU) No 679/2010 of 26 July 2010 amending Regulation (EC) No 479/2009 as regards the quality of statistical data in the context of the excessive deficit procedure (OJ L 198, 30.7.2010), Manual on Government Deficit and Debt – Implementation of ESA 2010, 2022 Edition, Manual on Sources and Methods for the Compilation of COFOG Statistics – Classification of the Functions of Government (COFOG), 2019 Edition, Manual on Quarterly Non-Financial Accounts for General Government, 2013 Edition, Decision of Eurostat on Government Deficit and Debt: The Statistical Recording of an Unbalanced Transfer of Pension Obligations to Government under ESA 2010, Eurostat Guidance Note: Treatment of Claw-Back Clauses in the Sales of Assets by Government in National Accounts (ESA 2010), Eurostat Guidance Note: Sector Classification of Central Stockholding Entities in National Accounts in ESA 2010

- **Classification system**

The classification system in public debt and deficit statistics is based on international standards that enable comparability and consistency of data across countries. The most commonly used classification system in Europe is based on the methodology of the European System of National and Regional Accounts (ESA 2010) that provides a framework for data collection, analysis and reporting on public debt and deficit. As for regular classifications, the Sectoral Classification of Institutional Units is used when compiling public debt and deficit statistics.

- **Statistical concepts and definitions**

The Macroeconomics Statistics Directorate follows ESA 2010 methodological guidelines as well as working papers and manuals published by Eurostat and other statistical organisations. The basic methodological manuals for producing public debt and deficit statistics are the European System of National Accounts (ESA 2010) and the Manual on Government Deficit and Debt (MGDD 2022). For the purpose of consistent application of methodologies, the Croatian Bureau of Statistics conducts data revisions.

- **Statistical unit**

Statistical data on public debt and deficit are compiled for all institutional units that, in accordance with the statistical sectoral classification of institutional units, belong to the general government sector, divided into subsectors of general government. An institutional unit is an economic entity characterised by decision-making autonomy in the exercise of its principal function. A resident unit is regarded as constituting an institutional unit on the economic territory where it has its centre of predominant economic interest if it has decision-making autonomy and either keeps a complete set of accounts or is able to compile a complete set of accounts.

The sectoral classification of institutional units is available on the website of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics.

- **Statistical population**

The coverage of national accounts for the general government sector in the country and the calculation of public debt and deficit comprises all resident statistical units (institutional units) that, according to the sectoral classification of units, belong to the general government sector in line with the ESA 2010 methodology and the Manual on Government Deficit and Debt. A unit is a resident unit of a country where it has a centre of predominant economic interest on the economic territory of that country, that is, when it engages for an extended period (one year or longer) in economic activities on this territory. National accounts are exhaustive, which means that all resident statistical units are covered.

## **1. Relevance**

### **1.1. Data users**

Primary users of national accounts data and public debt and deficit data in Croatia are the Ministry of Finance, the Croatian National Bank, scientific and academic institutions which conduct macroeconomic research as primary activity, and newspapers specialised in the field of macroeconomics. International organisation such as the IMF and the OECD, as well as scientific and academic institutions that conduct macroeconomic research also use the data of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics. Internal users from the Croatian Bureau of Statistics are other national accounts departments.

#### **1.1.1. User needs**

National accounts data and the public debt and deficit data provide key information for economic policy monitoring and decision-making, forecasting, administrative purposes, informing the general public about economic developments (directly or indirectly via news agencies), and as input for economic research.

#### **1.1.2. User satisfaction**

Views and opinions of users on national accounts statistics as well as those on public deficit and debt can be collected and analysed as one of the tools for evaluating the relevance of national accounts data. Users can ask questions and provide suggestions via e-mail addresses [stat.info@dzs.hr](mailto:stat.info@dzs.hr) (for information and user requests) and [press@dzs.hr](mailto:press@dzs.hr) (for journalist requests).

The first user satisfaction survey of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics was conducted in 2013, the second one in 2015, and the last one at the end of 2022. The survey results can be checked on the website of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics <https://dzs.gov.hr/highlighted-themes/quality/user-satisfactionsurveys/686>.

### **1.2. Completeness**

All relevant data pertaining to public debt and deficit statistics are entirely available and published in the format of a complete reporting table.

#### **1.2.1. Data completeness rate**

The indicator is not applicable.

## **2. Accuracy and reliability**

### **2.1. Sampling error**

Not applicable.

#### **2.1.1. Sampling error indicators**

The indicator is not applicable.

### **2.2. Non-sampling error**

Not applicable.

#### **2.2.1. Coverage error**

In case of submission of non-adjusted data with incomplete coverage, the data are revised upon submission of a complete database, in subsequent compilation cycles, in accordance with the revision policy.

#### 2.2.2. Over-coverage rate

The indicator is not applicable.

#### 2.2.3. Measurement errors

Given that the main source of data is the financial report of relevant units, all possible errors in financial reporting, upon correction or obtaining information from the data source holders, are revised in the subsequent compilation cycles, in accordance with the revision policy.

#### 2.2.4. Non-response errors

In case of non-response or delay in the response of the reporting unit, the data are revised upon receiving a response or the completion of data by the institutions responsible for data sources in subsequent compilation cycles, in accordance with the revision policy.

#### 2.2.5. Unit non-response rate

The indicator is not applicable.

#### 2.2.6. Item non-response rate

The indicator is not applicable.

#### 2.2.7. Processing errors

In case of any form or modality of error and omission in the processing procedure, which is subsequently detected, the data are revised in subsequent compilation cycles, in accordance with the revision policy.

#### 2.2.8. Imputation rate

The indicator is not applicable.

#### 2.2.9. Model assumption error

Not applicable.

### 2.3. Data revision

#### 2.3.1. Data revision – policy

The users of statistical data are informed about revisions on the website of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics on the link [General Revision Policy of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics](#).

All quarterly and annual series within the national accounts and government finance statistics / excessive deficit procedure statistics are covered by the Croatian NA and GFS/EDP Revision Policy.

#### 2.3.2. Data revision – practice

According to the Harmonized European Revision Policy (HERP) that covers domains with annual and quarterly frequencies, the alignment between all domains in both frequencies should occur at least once a year at the European level and between the national accounts and balance of payments domains. This usually happens in the third quarter of the year. At the national level, alignment should be achieved in September. The Croatian Bureau of Statistics compiles and transmits quarterly and annual data to Eurostat according to the ESA 2010 transmission programme. Quarterly data are short-term indicators by their nature and are often based on estimated values. Annual data are compiled based on reported figures and present benchmark totals. In the period during the year when annual data are produced, the Croatian Bureau of Statistics must revise quarterly data and align them with the annual data. Those adjustments are data-driven and are therefore part of routine revisions. Besides once-a-year routine revision in September, the Croatian Bureau of Statistics does not revise quarterly main GDP aggregates during the year. Once a year in September the Croatian Bureau of Statistics assures the consistency of all national accounts tables. As regards the balance of payments statistics, which are compiled by the

Croatian National Bank (CNB), the same approach to revision is applied, i.e. the consistency is achieved in September. The Croatian Bureau of Statistics has a significant number of GNI reservations and action points, and these issues are normally solved during the routine revision in September. In case that the GFS/EDP data incorporate significant changes during the April notification, the Croatian Bureau of Statistics will ensure consistency in the GDP tables and publish revised data for the EDP notification period in April. As concerns the annual GDP calculation, in September the data for t-2 are final, while data for t-1 are preliminary.

The main aggregates of the general government (annual data) are produced twice a year while quarterly data are produced each quarter. The main aggregates of the general government are directly connected with the production of the EDP data. At the level of the EU, the EDP is recognized as a strong mechanism for improving national accounts data. The continuity of time series has priority in national accounts and, therefore, the GFS. As a result of this policy, the GFS data are consistent over time and all changes are incorporated in the scheduled publication of national accounts data, regularly in September/October every year. For the non-financial government accounts, consistent series of the GFS annual and quarterly data for the general government exist from 1999 onwards. All quarterly revisions are done with the same frequency as the revisions of annual data. The revision of the general government data is performed twice a year, in March/April and in September/October. The revision in April is performed for the EDP notification period (t-4, t-3, t-2 and t-1). Quarterly government accounts (ESA T25) are revised for all 16 quarters (EDP notification years) accordingly. The final sectoral classification of reporting units that affect the April notification is determined by February of year t for the year t-1. Usually, no revision of historical data is performed in March/April.

Major revisions with an impact on B.9 and B.9f are regularly performed in September/October, because some data sources are available only for the second EDP notification. September/October revisions include possible methodological changes, improvements in data sources, reclassification of units and correction of errors. The final sectoral classification of reporting units for the October EDP notification is determined by July, including revisions based on the market/non-market test and other sectorisation criteria. The revision of data for the October notification is performed for all EDP notification periods as well as for all applicable historical years. Quarterly government accounts are revised in October for all applicable quarters (EDP notification period and historical years).

The government accounts data are consistent in the EDP and GFS ESA 2010 tables and are regularly transmitted to Eurostat and mainly published nationally. In the EDP Report for April 2025, data for three notification years (2021 – 2023) have been revised in accordance with the revision policy.

#### 2.3.3. Data revision – average size

The indicator is not applicable.

### 2.4. Seasonal adjustment

Not applicable.

## 3. Timeliness and punctuality

### 3.1. Timeliness

The national accounts data and the public debt and deficit data should become available to users as timely as possible, taking into account the frequency of the data (annual, semi-annual or quarterly), the character of the data and an adequate balance between accuracy and timeliness. The ESA 2010 Transmission Programme defines the required timeliness for all national accounts tables.

Data on public debt and deficit are published semi-annually (in April and October), that is, every six months in accordance with the deadlines for transmission and publishing of Eurostat data.

#### 3.1.1. Timeliness – first results

Timeliness of first results is T + 112.

### 3.1.2. Timeliness – final results

The indicator is not applicable.

## 3.2. Punctuality

Not applicable.

### 3.2.1. Punctuality – delivery and publication

The indicator is not applicable.

## 4. Accessibility and clarity

Data are published nationally, on the website of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics and the Eurostat website and are available to users in the scope and formats adjusted to user needs. Users can submit a request for additional explanations of data.

### 4.1. News releases

Data are published twice a year, in April and October in regular First Releases of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics. In 2025 these are First Releases NR-2025-4-1-1 and NR-2025-4-1-2.

### 4.2. Online database

Data on public deficit and debt are adjusted for publication in Eurostat's online databases and are nationally available on the website of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics, with access to data provided via several links.

### 4.3. Microdata access

Conditions under which certain users can have access to microdata are regulated by [the Ordinance on Conditions and Terms of Access and Use of Confidential Statistical Data of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics for Scientific Purposes](#) (NN, No. 5/23).

### 4.4. Documentation on methodology

The Croatian Bureau of Statistics publishes the general government deficit and debt data based on the figures reported in the Excessive Deficit Procedure Report (the April and October Notification) according to the European System of National and Regional Accounts (ESA 2010) methodology and the Manual on Government Deficit and Debt.

Additional notes on methodology are a part of every published First Release, and so is the relevant methodology applied in preparing the Report.

## 5. Coherence and comparability

### 5.1. Asymmetry for mirror flow statistics

Mirror statistics between countries is the subject of Eurostat examinations. Over time, this issue has become increasingly important.

## **5.2. Comparability over time**

Comparability of public debt and deficit statistics over time refers to the consistency of data in different periods, which allows for an analysis of trends and long-term fiscal developments. This comparability is ensured by the use of harmonised methodological frameworks, that is, the ESA 2010 methodology and the Manual on Government Deficit and Debt as well as the methodological changes that arise due to the revision of accounting rules or special economic circumstances.

### **5.2.1. Length of comparable time series**

The indicator is not applicable.

### **5.2.2. Reasons for break in time series**

Times series of public deficit and debt are generally consistent and comparable over time due to stable methodological frameworks and standardised accounting rules. However, in certain situations breaks in time series can occur, for example, due to unavailability of data in certain years. Breaks of this kind are usually rare and clearly documented in order to achieve accuracy of analysis and its continuity.

## **5.3. Coherence – short-term and structural data**

The indicator is not applicable.

## **5.4. Coherence – national accounts**

The indicator is not applicable.

## **5.5. Coherence – administrative sources**

The indicator is not applicable.

## **6. Cost and burden**

### **6.1. Cost**

Not applicable.

### **6.2. Burden**

Not applicable.