



SENATOR THE HON KATY GALLAGHER

Minister for Finance
Minister for Women
Minister for the Public Service

MEDIA RELEASE

Australian Government General Government Sector Monthly Financial Statements for December 2023

25 January 2024

KEY POINTS:

- The Monthly Financial Statements for December 2023 report the budget position against the expected monthly profile for the 2023-24 financial year through to 31 December 2023, based on the 2023-24 Budget estimate published in the 2023-24 Budget in May 2023.
- The 2023-24 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook (MYEFO) was released on 13 December 2023. Commencing with the January 2024 monthly financial statements, the budget position will be reported against the expected monthly profile based on the updated estimates in the 2023-24 MYEFO.
- The underlying cash balance for the 2023-24 financial year to 31 December 2023 was a deficit of \$11.2 billion.
- The fiscal balance for the 2023-24 financial year to 31 December 2023 was a deficit of \$3.8 billion.

AGGREGATES(a)	ACTUAL 2023-2024 December \$b	ACTUAL 2023-2024 YTD December \$b	BUDGET ESTIMATE* 2023-2024 FULL YEAR \$b	MYEFO ESTIMATE^ 2023-2024 FULL YEAR \$b
Receipts(b)	58.4	325.3	668.1	685.3
Payments(c)	61.4	336.5	682.1	686.4
Underlying cash balance	-3.0	-11.2	-13.9	-1.1
Headline cash balance	-4.4	-14.9	-19.7	-6.7
Revenue	55.5	331.2	680.4	700.6
Expenses	60.3	333.7	684.1	689.3
Net operating balance	-4.7	-2.4	-3.7	11.3
Net capital investment	0.5	1.4	10.4	8.9
Fiscal balance	-5.3	-3.8	-14.1	2.4
Total assets		810.4	804.2	822.9
Total liabilities		1,369.6	1,363.3	1,302.6
Net worth(d)		-559.2	-559.1	-479.8
Net debt(e)		530.9	574.9	491.0

*As published in the 2023-24 Budget.

^ As published in the 2023-24 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook.

(a) Discrepancies in tables between totals and sums of components are due to rounding.

(b) Cash receipts for operating activities and sales of non-financial assets.

(c) Cash payments for operating activities, purchases of non-financial assets and principal payments of lease liabilities.

(d) Net worth is calculated as total assets minus total liabilities.

(e) Net debt is the sum of interest bearing liabilities less the sum of selected financial assets (cash and deposits, advances paid, and investments, loans and placements).

Monthly results are generally volatile due to timing differences between revenue and receipts, and expenses and payments. Care needs to be taken when comparing monthly or cumulative data across years and to full-year estimates, as revenue and receipts and expenses and payments vary from month to month.

FISCAL OUTCOMES

Underlying Cash Balance

The underlying cash balance for the financial year to 31 December 2023 was a deficit of \$11.2 billion.

- **Receipts**
Total receipts were \$325.3 billion.
- **Payments**
Total payments were \$336.5 billion.

Net Operating Balance

The net operating balance for the financial year to 31 December 2023 was a deficit of \$2.4 billion.

Fiscal Balance

The fiscal balance for the financial year to 31 December 2023 was a deficit of \$3.8 billion.

Assets and Liabilities

As at 31 December 2023:

- net worth is negative \$559.2 billion;
- net debt is \$530.9 billion; and
- net financial liabilities are \$808.1 billion.

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Australian Government general government sector operating statement

		ACTUAL 2023-2024 December \$m	ACTUAL 2023-2024 YTD December \$m	Budget Profile 2023-2024 YTD December \$m	BUDGET ESTIMATE* 2023-2024 FULL YEAR \$m
Note					
Revenue					
	1,2	52,514	306,347	292,000	629,729
		705	10,212	10,185	20,811
		782	4,496	3,214	9,426
		496	2,682	3,257	6,913
		1,040	7,511	6,552	13,494
		55,538	331,247	315,209	680,372
Expenses					
Gross operating expenses					
		2,049	12,832	13,238	26,260
		770	4,548	3,810	7,608
		1,038	6,188	6,179	12,570
		16,414	93,817	93,689	188,790
		723	4,707	4,551	9,346
		20,994	122,092	121,468	244,575
		1,114	6,687	6,816	13,631
		2,638	13,516	12,996	27,762
Current transfers					
		18,971	99,369	102,014	203,464
		1,524	9,034	8,479	16,964
		13,621	78,137	77,700	154,254
		34,116	186,541	188,193	374,682
Capital transfers					
		261	1,282	1,374	3,012
		1,162	3,532	6,210	20,423
		1,423	4,814	7,584	23,435
		60,285	333,650	337,056	684,085
	3	-4,747	-2,403	-21,848	-3,713
Other economic flows					
- included in operating result					
		-974	-5,234	-3,024	-6,871
		56	157	100	232
		-2	-11	9	19
		-100	-156	0	-62
		-28	-589	-10	-16
		-21,853	-15,578	-4,461	-8,847
		3,674	4,224	4,563	7,485
		-19,228	-17,185	-2,824	-8,060
		-23,975	-19,588	-24,672	-11,773
Non-owner movements in equity					
		0	0	0	-307
		0	0	0	-227
		78	-1,081	-300	75
		78	-1,080	-300	-458
Comprehensive result					
		-23,897	-20,669	-24,972	-12,231
		-4,747	-2,403	-21,848	-3,713
Net acquisition of non-financial assets					
		1,635	8,426	10,048	22,251
		5	748	36	53
		1,038	6,188	6,179	12,570
		-64	-85	203	803
		0	10	0	0
		529	1,415	4,036	10,431
		-5,276	-3,818	-25,884	-14,144

*As published in the 2023-24 Budget.

(a) Consistent with the Australian Bureau of Statistics' (ABS) Government Finance Statistics (GFS) classification, other employee related expenses are classified separately from wages and salaries under other operating expenses. Total employee expenses equal wages and salaries plus other operating expenses.

(b) Operating result under Australian Accounting Standards.

(c) The term fiscal balance is not used by the ABS.

Australian Government general government sector balance sheet

	ACTUAL as at 31 December 2023 \$m	BUDGET ESTIMATE* as at 30 June 2024 \$m
Assets		
Financial assets		
Cash and deposits	83,400	60,841
Advances paid	74,468	76,032
Investments, loans and placements	227,173	241,748
Other receivables	89,178	79,944
Equity investments		
Investments in other public sector entities	43,982	47,347
Equity accounted investments	5,833	4,575
Investments - shares	81,363	80,167
<i>Total financial assets</i>	605,397	590,654
Non-financial assets		
Land	13,570	13,168
Buildings	48,624	50,944
Plant, equipment and infrastructure	106,373	111,491
Inventories	12,784	12,010
Intangibles	10,668	12,791
Investment properties	236	205
Biological assets	4	16
Heritage and cultural assets	12,607	12,712
Assets held for sale	87	177
Other non-financial assets	25	16
<i>Total non-financial assets</i>	204,978	213,530
Total assets	810,374	804,184
Liabilities		
Interest bearing liabilities		
Deposits held	329	406
Government securities	865,054	902,988
Loans	31,426	31,007
Lease liabilities	19,174	19,073
<i>Total interest bearing liabilities</i>	915,983	953,474
Provisions and payables		
Superannuation liability(a)	316,761	282,487
Other employee liabilities	44,046	36,326
Suppliers payables	7,967	12,487
Personal benefits payables	4,051	4,008
Subsidies payables	957	901
Grants payables	2,092	2,658
Other payables	11,169	5,777
Provisions	66,527	65,151
<i>Total provisions and payables</i>	453,570	409,795
Total liabilities	1,369,552	1,363,269
Net worth(b)	-559,178	-559,085
<i>Net financial worth(c)</i>	<i>-764,156</i>	<i>-772,615</i>
<i>Net financial liabilities(d)</i>	<i>808,137</i>	<i>819,962</i>
<i>Net debt(e)</i>	<i>530,941</i>	<i>574,852</i>

*As published in the 2023-24 Budget.

(a) For budget reporting purposes, a discount rate of 5.0 per cent determined by actuaries is used to value the superannuation liability. This reflects the average annual rate estimated to apply over the term of the liability and it reduces the volatility in reported liabilities that would occur from year to year if the spot rates on long-term government bonds were used. Consistent with Australian Accounting Standards, the superannuation liability for the 2023-24 Monthly Financial Statements was calculated using the spot rates on long-term government bonds as at 30 June 2023 that best matched each individual scheme's liability duration. These rates were between 4.0 and 4.4 per cent per annum.

(b) Net worth equals total assets minus total liabilities.

(c) Net financial worth equals total financial assets minus total liabilities.

(d) Net financial liabilities equals total liabilities less financial assets other than investments in other public sector entities.

(e) Net debt is the sum of interest bearing liabilities less the sum of selected financial assets (cash and deposits, advances paid, and investments, loans and placements).

Australian Government general government sector cash flow statement^(a)

	ACTUAL 2023-2024 December \$m	ACTUAL 2023-2024 YTD December \$m	Budget Profile 2023-2024 YTD December \$m	BUDGET ESTIMATE* 2023-2024 FULL YEAR \$m
Cash receipts from operating activities				
Taxes received	53,514	298,316	286,213	616,275
Receipts from sales of goods and services	2,242	11,484	10,241	20,792
Interest receipts	710	5,300	3,941	7,654
Dividends, distributions and income tax equivalents	568	2,935	3,249	6,889
Other receipts	1,389	7,062	6,768	14,255
Total operating receipts	58,424	325,098	310,412	665,865
Cash payments for operating activities				
Payments for employees(b)	-3,169	-21,079	-20,906	-41,669
Payments for goods and services	-17,816	-97,879	-94,678	-188,258
Grants and subsidies paid	-21,743	-113,861	-118,812	-246,189
Interest paid	-1,634	-9,956	-9,568	-21,052
Personal benefit payments	-13,903	-78,620	-78,139	-153,940
Other payments(b)	-908	-5,082	-4,168	-8,541
Total operating payments	-59,173	-326,476	-326,272	-659,649
Net cash flows from operating activities	-749	-1,378	-15,860	6,216
Cash flows from investments in non-financial assets				
Sales of non-financial assets	8	188	166	2,277
Purchases of non-financial assets	-2,014	-8,686	-8,407	-19,861
Net cash flows from investments in non-financial assets	-2,006	-8,498	-8,240	-17,584
Net cash flows from investments in financial assets for policy purposes	-1,422	-3,708	-584	-5,795
Net cash flows from investments in financial assets for liquidity purposes	-272	-12,512	-3,321	-17,073
Cash flows from financing activities				
Borrowing (net)	1,920	23,479	35,659	35,363
Other financing (net)	-369	-3,696	-2,974	-4,651
Net cash flows from financing activities	1,552	19,783	32,685	30,712
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held	-2,898	-6,313	4,679	-3,523
GFS cash surplus(+)/deficit(-)(c)	-2,755	-9,876	-24,100	-11,368
<i>plus</i> Principal payments of lease liabilities(d)	-238	-1,321	-1,258	-2,550
Equals underlying cash balance(e)	-2,993	-11,197	-25,358	-13,918
<i>plus</i> Net cash flows from investments in financial assets for policy purposes	-1,422	-3,708	-584	-5,795
Equals headline cash balance	-4,415	-14,905	-25,942	-19,713

*As published in the 2023-24 Budget.

(a) A positive number denotes a cash inflow; a negative number denotes a cash outflow.

(b) Consistent with the ABS GFS classification, other employee related payments are classified separately from wages and salaries under other payments.

(c) GFS cash surplus/deficit equals net cash flows from operating activities and investments in non-financial assets.

(d) 'Net cash flows from financing activities for leases' has been renamed to 'principal payments of lease liabilities'. Principal payments of lease liabilities, which are financing cash payments, are deducted in the calculation of the underlying cash balance to maintain consistency of measure following the implementation of AASB 16.

(e) The term underlying cash balance is not used by the ABS.

Note 1: Income Tax

	ACTUAL 2023-2024 December \$m	ACTUAL 2023-2024 YTD December \$m	Budget Profile 2023-2024 YTD December \$m	BUDGET ESTIMATE* 2023-2024 FULL YEAR \$m
Individuals and other withholding taxes				
Gross income tax withholding	24,139	147,189	141,483	289,300
Gross other individuals	3,296	33,858	29,026	73,600
Less Refunds	1,371	27,826	27,792	37,000
Total individuals and other withholding taxation	26,064	153,222	142,718	325,900
Fringe benefits tax	27	2,161	1,638	3,500
Company tax	15,540	69,428	63,560	131,100
Superannuation fund taxes	1,470	7,611	8,484	16,620
Petroleum resource rent tax	-5	563	1,414	2,770
Total income taxation revenue	43,097	232,985	217,814	479,890

*As published in the 2023-24 Budget.

Note 2: Indirect Tax

	ACTUAL 2023-2024 December \$m	ACTUAL 2023-2024 YTD December \$m	Budget Profile 2023-2024 YTD December \$m	BUDGET ESTIMATE* 2023-2024 FULL YEAR \$m
Goods and services tax	4,655	43,647	44,233	89,080
Wine equalisation tax	99	559	567	1,160
Luxury car tax	100	677	408	860
Excise duty	2,574	15,276	15,136	30,090
Customs duty	885	7,223	8,475	17,270
Other indirect tax	1,104	5,979	5,367	11,379
Total indirect taxation revenue	9,418	73,362	74,185	149,839

*As published in the 2023-24 Budget.

Note 3: Total expenses by function

	ACTUAL 2023-2024 December \$m	ACTUAL 2023-2024 YTD December \$m	BUDGET ESTIMATE* 2023-2024 FULL YEAR \$m
Expenses by function			
General public services	2,313	14,063	29,126
Defence	3,314	20,500	42,850
Public order and safety	612	4,025	7,434
Education	2,696	23,221	48,258
Health	8,185	51,891	106,538
Social security and welfare	23,061	128,930	250,280
Housing and community amenities	707	2,628	7,940
Recreation and culture	381	2,288	4,776
Fuel and energy	1,470	5,771	13,006
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	253	1,444	5,156
Mining, manufacturing and construction	333	1,938	5,022
Transport and communication	884	3,702	17,508
Other economic affairs	1,023	6,525	12,447
Other purposes			
Public debt interest	1,921	11,327	22,611
Nominal superannuation interest	1,114	6,687	13,631
General purpose inter-government transactions	11,870	48,466	95,947
Natural disaster relief	147	245	1,610
Contingency reserve	0	0	-56
Total expenses	60,285	333,650	684,085

*As published in the 2023-24 Budget.

NOTES:

AASB 1049 *Whole of Government and General Government Sector Financial Reporting (AASB 1049)*

The Australian Government monthly financial statements have been prepared on a basis consistent with the Budget as required under section 47 of the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013. The statements are prepared in accordance with AASB 1049, which require treatment based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics' (ABS) Government Finance Statistics (GFS) except where Australian Accounting Standards (AAS) provide a better conceptual treatment for specific items. Departures are limited to complying with either ABS GFS or AAS.

Taxation revenue

While total tax collections are known with certainty at the end of each month, the distribution across the relevant heads of revenue cannot be finalised until all business activity statements are received and processed. The outcomes for some revenue items provided in this statement are therefore estimates, in accordance with the best judgement of the Commissioner of Taxation, and subject to revision. The taxation revenue items not affected are: petroleum resource rent tax, excise duty, customs duty, other taxes and individuals refunds.

Style conventions

Figures in tables and generally in the text have been rounded. Discrepancies in tables between totals and sums of components are due to rounding.

International Monetary Fund Special Data Dissemination Standards

The Government is committed to releasing the monthly financial statements in a timely fashion and will endeavour to do so in accordance with International Monetary Fund (IMF) Special Data Dissemination Standards (SDDS). Under these standards the timeframe for releasing the monthly financial statements is by the end of the following month. Australia applies a special flexibility option which allows it to publish late the last and first month of a financial year.

In accordance with the IMF SDDS, the approximate date of release of the data on debt guaranteed by the Australian Government (central government), is given on the IMF's Data Dissemination Advance Release Calendar <http://dsbb.imf.org>. Monthly and quarterly data on debt guaranteed by the Australian Government (central government) that meet the coverage and timeliness requirements of the SDDS are published on the Australian Office of Financial Management website at <https://www.aofm.gov.au/data-hub>.

Electronic access to monthly financial statements

The Australian Government general government sector monthly financial statements and the historical series are available in electronic format at:

<http://data.gov.au/dataset/australian-government-general-government-sector-monthly-financial-statements-tables-and-data>