



BALANCE OF PAYMENTS (BoP) DEVELOPMENTS¹:

Preliminary estimates for 3rd Quarter 2016 (2016Q3)

Preliminary data on Mauritius' balance of payments for 2016Q3 indicate that the current account deficit increased to Rs6.9 billion (equivalent to USD196 million and representing about 6.5 per cent of GDP), from Rs6.3 billion in 2015Q3 (equivalent to USD178 million and representing about 6.2 per cent of GDP).

The deficit on the goods account widened from Rs15.8 billion (equivalent to USD448 million) in 2015Q3 to Rs18.9 billion (equivalent to USD534 million) in 2016Q3 as a result of a decline in the exports of goods coupled with a marginal increase in the imports of goods, in nominal terms. As a percentage of GDP, the deficit on the goods account is projected to increase from 15.5 per cent in 2015Q3 to 17.6 per cent in 2016Q3. Year-on-year, exports of goods declined by 12.6 per cent while imports (f.o.b.) rose marginally by 0.1 per cent. Exclusive of 'Ship's stores and bunkers', exports of goods declined by 12.9 per cent on account of drops of 20.9 per cent in 'Re-exports' and of 9.3 per cent in 'Domestic exports'.

The surplus on the services account is estimated at Rs4.1 billion (equivalent to USD115 million) or representing about 3.8 per cent of GDP, higher than the 3.3 per cent of GDP recorded in 2015Q3. Tourism earnings, a major component of the services account, increased from Rs10.9 billion in 2015Q3 to Rs12.0 billion in 2016Q3. The surplus on the income account, which includes GBC1s' transactions, is estimated at Rs10.0 billion for 2016Q3. The current transfers account is estimated to record a net shortfall of Rs2.2 billion in 2016Q3.

The capital and financial account, inclusive of reserve assets, is projected to have recorded net inflows of Rs8.8 billion (equivalent to USD248 million) in 2016Q3. Direct investment in Mauritius is estimated to record net inflows of Rs222.5 billion (equivalent to USD6,294 million) in 2016Q3, while direct investment abroad is estimated to have registered net outflows of Rs125.6 billion (equivalent to USD3,553 million). Exclusive of GBC transactions, direct investment flows in Mauritius net of repatriation are estimated at Rs2.4 billion. The portfolio investment and the 'Other investment' accounts are projected to post net outflows of Rs48.8 billion and Rs36.0 billion in 2016Q3, respectively.

The country recorded a balance of payments surplus of Rs3.4 billion (equivalent to USD95 million) in 2016Q3 compared to Rs5.9 billion (equivalent to USD167 million) in 2015Q3.

Table 1 and Table 2 provide details on the balance of payments in Rs million and USD million.

Research & Economic Analysis Department

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¹ Including estimates for cross-border transactions of GBC1s.