



BALANCE OF PAYMENTS: FIRST QUARTER 2008

The overall balance of payments for the first of quarter of 2008, excluding valuation changes, registered a surplus of Rs5,841 million.

Current Account

Provisional estimates for the first quarter of 2008 indicate that the current account of the balance of payments recorded a deficit of Rs4,492 million as against a surplus of Rs890 million in the first quarter of 2007, mostly on account of worsening merchandise account deficit.

The deficit on the merchandise account of the balance of payments deteriorated significantly from Rs7,542 million in first quarter of 2007 nearly doubling to Rs14,613 million in first quarter of 2008, mostly as a result of rising nominal imports as against a decline in exports. On a balance of payments basis, total imports (fob), increased by 25.7 per cent from Rs23,002 million in first quarter of 2007 to Rs28,924 million in the first quarter of 2008. Total exports (fob) decreased by 7.4 per cent, from Rs15,460 million in the first quarter of 2007 to Rs14,311 million in the first quarter of 2008.

However, higher surpluses on the services account (Rs7,101 million), mostly attributable to the increase in gross tourism receipts coupled with surpluses on the current transfers and income accounts, have, partly, offset the growing merchandise account deficit.

Capital and Financial Account

The capital and financial account of the balance of payments, inclusive of reserve assets, recorded a net outflow of Rs11 million during the first quarter of 2008 compared to net outflows of Rs4,657 million in the first three months of 2007.

Direct investment in the first quarter of 2008 recorded slightly lower net inflows of Rs1,134 million compared to net inflows of Rs1,399 million registered in the first quarter of 2007.

Portfolio investment recorded net outflows of Rs1,266 million in the first quarter of 2008 against net inflows of Rs856 million in the first quarter of 2007.

Other investment recorded inflows of Rs5,990 million in the first quarter of 2008 as against outflows of Rs1,481 million in the first quarter of 2007. It may be noted that first quarter 2008 data on certain components of 'Other Investment' (namely, banks' assets, banks' liabilities and other short term liabilities) in the Capital and Financial Account are not strictly comparable to the previous quarters because they have been derived using data culled from the Depository Corporations Survey (DCS). Preceding quarters' revised data will be published at a later stage.

**Statistics Division
Bank of Mauritius
17 June 2008**

(Rs million)

		2007	2007				2008
			1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	1st Quarter
I.	CURRENT ACCOUNT	-12,497	890	-4,627	-4,947	-3,813	-4,492
A.	Goods and Services	-23,681	-2,390	-6,269	-8,458	-6,564	-7,512
	Goods	-44,182	-7,542	-10,290	-12,048	-14,302	-14,613
	Exports	69,482	15,460	16,547	17,410	20,065	14,311
	Imports	-113,664	-23,002	-26,837	-29,458	-34,367	-28,924
	General Merchandise	-46,743	-8,079	-10,878	-12,748	-15,038	-15,151
	Credit	64,042	14,224	15,342	15,991	18,485	12,924
	Debit	-110,785	-22,303	-26,220	-28,739	-33,523	-28,075
	Goods procured in Ports by Carriers	2,561	537	588	700	736	538
	Credit	5,440	1,236	1,205	1,419	1,580	1,387
	Debit	-2,879	-699	-617	-719	-844	-849
	Non-monetary Gold	-505	-127	-164	-105	-109	-79
	Services	20,501	5,152	4,021	3,590	7,738	7,101
	Credit	68,754	17,162	15,264	15,542	20,786	18,939
	Transportation	13,459	3,698	2,736	3,202	3,823	3,634
	Passenger	11,220	3,109	2,219	2,694	3,198	3,106
	Freight	747	84	181	208	274	193
	Other	1,492	505	336	300	351	335
	Travel	40,687	10,791	8,962	8,653	12,281	11,951
	Business	14,088	4,078	3,318	2,636	4,056	4,235
	Personal	26,599	6,713	5,644	6,017	8,225	7,716
	Other Services	14,608	2,673	3,566	3,687	4,682	3,354
	Private	14,250	2,566	3,429	3,609	4,646	3,293
	Government	358	107	137	78	36	61
	Debit	-48,253	-12,010	-11,243	-11,952	-13,048	-11,838
	Transportation	-18,053	-5,140	-4,195	-4,421	-4,297	-3,890
	Passenger	-849	-157	-219	-230	-243	-181
	Freight	-8,067	-1,775	-2,108	-2,311	-1,873	-1,575
	Other	-9,137	-3,208	-1,868	-1,880	-2,181	-2,134
	Travel	-11,259	-2,724	-2,522	-2,775	-3,238	-3,090
	Business	-751	-72	-137	-187	-355	-251
	Personal	-10,508	-2,652	-2,385	-2,588	-2,883	-2,839
	Other Services	-18,941	-4,146	-4,526	-4,756	-5,513	-4,858
	Private	-18,716	-4,116	-4,456	-4,712	-5,432	-4,794
	Government	-225	-30	-70	-44	-81	-64
B.	Income	7,491	2,586	652	2,412	1,841	2,390
	Credit	25,460	5,712	6,195	6,718	6,835	6,401
	Compensation of Employees	22	6	5	5	6	4
	Direct Investment Income	127	13	43	41	30	48
	Portfolio Investment Income	309	37	88	128	56	19
	Other Investment Income	25,002	5,656	6,059	6,544	6,743	6,330
	Monetary Authorities	2,657	529	521	828	779	752
	General Government	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Other	22,345	5,127	5,538	5,716	5,964	5,578

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(Rs million)

	2007 ¹	2007				2008 ¹
		1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	1st Quarter
Debit	-17,969	-3,126	-5,543	-4,306	-4,994	-4,011
Compensation to employees	-310	-76	-81	-77	-76	-83
Direct Investment Income	-2,348	-52	-1,660	-61	-575	-466
Portfolio Investment Income	-2,012	-153	-580	-592	-687	-359
Other Investment Income	-13,299	-2,845	-3,222	-3,576	-3,656	-3,103
Monetary Authorities	-11	-4	-3	-2	-2	-1
General Government	-310	-27	-104	-71	-108	-74
Other	-12,978	-2,814	-3,115	-3,503	-3,546	-3,028
C. Current Transfers	3,693	694	990	1,099	910	630
Credit	7,915	1,765	1,968	2,032	2,150	1,867
Private	7,206	1,760	1,672	1,644	2,130	1,864
Government	709	5	296	388	20	3
Debit	-4,222	-1,071	-978	-933	-1,240	-1,237
Private	-4,057	-1,049	-922	-885	-1,201	-1,217
Government	-165	-22	-56	-48	-39	-20
II. CAPITAL AND FINANCIAL ACCOUNT	2,132	-4,657	-164	5,427	1,525	-11
D. Capital Account	-51	-15	-16	-5	-15	-28
Migrants' Transfers	-51	-15	-16	-5	-15	-28
E. Financial Account	2,183	-4,642	-148	5,432	1,540	17
Direct Investment	8,800	1,399	3,795	2,085	1,521	1,134
Abroad	-1,817	-111	-236	-597	-873	-518
In Mauritius	10,617	1,510	4,031	2,682	2,394	1,652
Portfolio Investment	647	856	1,695	142	-2,047	-1,266
Assets	-4,277	-537	-765	-1,650	-1,325	-862
Equity Securities	-4,277	-537	-765	-1,650	-1,325	-862
Debt Securities	0	0	0	0	0	0
Liabilities	4,924	1,393	2,460	1,792	-722	-404
Equity Securities	1,530	217	380	224	709	780
Debt Securities	3,394	1,176	2,080	1,568	-1,431	-1,184
Other Investment	6,616	-1,481	-45	4,310	3,832	5,990
Assets	-20,992	-7,134	-2,094	-5,041	-6,723	-14,135
General Government	0	0	0	0	0	0
Banks	-14,442	-5,887	-1,177	-2,783	-4,595	-10,406
Other Sectors: Long-term	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Sectors: Short-term	-6,550	-1,247	-917	-2,258	-2,128	-3,729
Liabilities	27,608	5,653	2,049	9,351	10,555	20,125
General Government	1,518	932	783	141	-338	-98
Banks	718	944	529	803	-1,558	19,113
Other Sectors: Long-term	924	-189	-848	-389	2,350	-979
Other Sectors: Short-term	24,448	3,966	1,585	8,796	10,101	2,089
Reserve Assets	-13,880	-5,416	-5,593	-1,105	-1,766	-5,841
Monetary Gold	0	0	0	0	0	0
Special Drawing Rights	-11	-4	-3	-2	-2	-9
Reserve Position in the Fund	171	78	93	0	0	40
Foreign Exchange	-14,040	-5,490	-5,683	-1,103	-1,764	-5,872
Other Claims	0	0	0	0	0	0
III. NET ERRORS AND OMISSIONS	10,365	3,767	4,791	-480	2,288	4,503

Note: This table has been recast with a view to providing a more detailed classification of the Balance of Payments.

In line with the methodology laid down in the Fifth Edition of the IMF's Balance of Payments Manual, valuation changes are excluded from reserve assets transactions.

As from Quarter 3, 2005, 'Other Income' includes interest income of banks.

As from Quarter 3, 2006, valuation changes are excluded from foreign assets and liabilities transactions of banks.

¹ Provisional Estimates.

Source: Statistics Division.

(USD million)

	2007 ¹	2007 ¹				2008 ¹
		1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	1st Quarter
I. CURRENT ACCOUNT	-408	27	-147	-160	-128	-162
A. Goods and Services	-765	-72	-199	-274	-221	-271
Goods	-1,425	-228	-326	-390	-481	-528
Exports	2,229	467	524	564	675	517
Imports	-3,654	-695	-850	-954	-1,156	-1,045
General Merchandise	-1,507	-244	-344	-413	-506	-547
Credit	2,055	429	486	518	622	467
Debit	-3,562	-673	-830	-931	-1,128	-1,014
Goods procured in Ports by Carriers	82	16	19	23	25	19
Credit	175	37	38	46	53	50
Debit	-92	-21	-20	-23	-28	-31
Non-monetary Gold	-505	-127	-164	-105	-109	-79
Services	659	156	127	116	260	256
Credit	2,204	518	483	503	699	684
Transportation	431	112	87	104	129	131
Passenger	359	94	70	87	108	112
Freight	24	3	6	7	9	7
Other	47	15	11	10	12	12
Travel	1,303	326	284	280	413	432
Business	450	123	105	85	136	153
Personal	853	203	179	195	277	279
Other Services	471	81	113	119	157	121
Private	459	77	109	117	156	119
Government	11	3	4	3	1	2
Debit	-1,545	-363	-356	-387	-439	-428
Transportation	-576	-155	-133	-143	-145	-141
Passenger	-27	-5	-7	-7	-8	-7
Freight	-258	-54	-67	-75	-63	-57
Other	-290	-97	-59	-61	-73	-77
Travel	-361	-82	-80	-90	-109	-112
Business	-25	-2	-4	-6	-12	-9
Personal	-336	-80	-76	-84	-97	-103
Other Services	-608	-125	-143	-154	-185	-175
Private	-601	-124	-141	-153	-183	-173
Government	-225	-30	-70	-44	-81	-64
B. Income	239	78	21	78	62	86
Credit	816	172	196	218	230	231
Compensation of Employees	1	0	0	0	0	0
Direct Investment Income	4	0	1	1	1	2
Portfolio Investment Income	10	1	3	4	2	1
Other Investment Income	801	171	192	212	227	229
Monetary Authorities	85	16	16	27	26	27
General Government	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	716	155	175	185	201	201

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(USD million)

	2007 ¹	2007 ¹				2008 ¹
		1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	1st Quarter
Debit	-577	-94	-176	-139	-168	-145
Compensation to employees	-10	-2	-3	-2	-3	-3
Direct Investment Income	-75	-2	-53	-2	-19	-17
Portfolio Investment Income	-65	-5	-18	-19	-23	-13
Other Investment Income	-427	-86	-102	-116	-123	-112
Monetary Authorities	0	0	0	0	0	0
General Government	-10	-1	-3	-2	-4	-3
Other	-416	-85	-99	-113	-119	-109
C. Current Transfers	119	21	31	36	31	23
Credit	254	53	62	66	72	67
Private	231	53	53	53	72	67
Government	23	0	9	13	1	0
Debit	-135	-32	-31	-30	-42	-45
Private	-130	-32	-29	-29	-40	-44
Government	-5	-1	-2	-2	-1	-1
II. CAPITAL AND FINANCIAL ACCOUNT	81	-141	-5	176	51	0
D. Capital Account	-2	0	-1	0	-1	-1
Migrants' Transfers	-2	0	-1	0	-1	-1
E. Financial Account	83	-140	-5	176	52	1
Direct Investment	281	42	120	68	51	41
Abroad	-60	-3	-7	-19	-29	-19
In Mauritius	341	46	128	87	81	60
Portfolio Investment	15	26	54	5	-69	-46
Assets	-138	-16	-24	-53	-45	-31
Equity Securities	-138	-16	-24	-53	-45	-31
Debt Securities	0	0	0	0	0	0
Liabilities	154	42	78	58	-24	-15
Equity Securities	50	7	12	7	24	28
Debt Securities	104	36	66	51	-48	-43
Other Investment	222	-45	-1	140	129	216
Assets	-671	-215	-66	-163	-226	-511
General Government	0	0	0	0	0	0
Banks	-460	-178	-37	-90	-155	-376
Other Sectors: Long-term	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Sectors: Short-term	-211	-38	-29	-73	-72	-135
Liabilities	893	171	65	303	355	727
General Government	46	28	25	5	-11	-4
Banks	19	29	17	26	-52	690
Other Sectors: Long-term	34	-6	-27	-13	79	-35
Other Sectors: Short-term	795	120	50	285	340	75
Reserve Assets	-436	-164	-177	-36	-59	-211
Monetary Gold	0	0	0	0	0	0
Special Drawing Rights	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reserve Position in the Fund	5	2	3	0	0	1
Foreign Exchange	-441	-166	-180	-36	-59	-212
Other Claims	0	0	0	0	0	0
III. NET ERRORS AND OMISSIONS	327	114	152	-16	77	163

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