



# National Bank of the Republic of North Macedonia Statistics Department

Skopje, 30 June 2023

## Press Release

### Significant changes in the external debt, external claims and international investment position: first quarter of 2023

At the end of the first quarter of 2023, the **gross external debt** total Euro 11,080 million and increased on a quarterly basis by Euro 224 million. **Gross external claims** increased by Euro 344 million and amounted to Euro 6,851 million. The larger quarterly increase in claims against the liabilities resulted in decreased **net external debt** by Euro 120 million, so at the end of March 2023 it amounted to Euro 4,229 million.

### External Debt and International Investment Position of the Republic of North Macedonia

	31.12.2022		31.03.2023		Quarterly Change		
	mill. EUR	% GDP	mill. EUR	% GDP	mill. EUR	%	p.p.
<b>Gross External Debt</b>	<b>10,855.8</b>	<b>84.2</b>	<b>11,079.8</b>	<b>78.1</b>	<b>224.1</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>-6.1</b>
<i>Gross External Debt-Excluding Debt of the Central Bank from Repo Arrangements</i>	<i>10,411.0</i>	<i>80.7</i>	<i>10,847.1</i>	<i>76.5</i>	<i>436.1</i>	<i>4.2</i>	<i>-4.3</i>
Long-term debt	7,811.0	60.6	8,287.3	58.4	476.3	6.1	-2.1
Short-term debt	3,044.8	23.6	2,792.5	19.7	-252.3	-8.3	-3.9
<i>Short-term debt-excluding debt of the Central Bank from repo arrangements</i>	<i>2,600.0</i>	<i>20.2</i>	<i>2,559.8</i>	<i>18.0</i>	<i>-40.2</i>	<i>-1.5</i>	<i>-2.1</i>
Public debt	5,205.5	40.4	5,395.3	38.0	189.8	3.6	-2.3
<i>Public debt-excluding debt of the Central Bank from repo arrangements</i>	<i>4,760.8</i>	<i>36.9</i>	<i>5,162.6</i>	<i>36.4</i>	<i>401.8</i>	<i>8.4</i>	<i>-0.5</i>
Private debt	5,650.3	43.8	5,684.5	40.1	34.3	0.6	-3.7
<b>Gross External Claims</b>	<b>6,507.1</b>	<b>50.5</b>	<b>6,850.7</b>	<b>48.3</b>	<b>343.6</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>-2.2</b>
<i>Gross External Claims-Excluding Claims of the Central Bank from Reverse Repo Arrangements</i>	<i>6,362.5</i>	<i>49.3</i>	<i>6,773.9</i>	<i>47.8</i>	<i>411.4</i>	<i>6.5</i>	<i>-1.6</i>
<b>Net External Debt</b>	<b>4,348.6</b>	<b>33.7</b>	<b>4,229.1</b>	<b>29.8</b>	<b>-119.5</b>	<b>-2.7</b>	<b>-3.9</b>
<i>Net External Debt-Excluding Debt of the Central Bank from Repo Arrangements</i>	<i>4,048.6</i>	<i>31.4</i>	<i>4,073.2</i>	<i>28.7</i>	<i>24.7</i>	<i>0.6</i>	<i>-2.7</i>
<b>IIP, net</b>	<b>-8,150.8</b>	<b>-63.2</b>	<b>-8,100.9</b>	<b>-57.1</b>	<b>49.9</b>	<b>-0.6</b>	<b>6.1</b>

\*/ GDP data for 2022 is estimated (source: State Statistical Office, Press Release Gross Domestic Product, first quarter of 2023 as of 5 June 2023). The data for 2023 is a NBRNM forecast (May 2023).

Source: NBRNM, SSO.

At the end of March 2023, the negative **net international investment position**<sup>1</sup> amounted to Euro 8,101 million, or 57.1% of the GDP<sup>2</sup> forecast for 2023. Most of this amount (86%) is net liabilities on direct investments, of which 70% on equity.

<sup>1</sup> The international investment position (IIP) is a statistical report which presents the balances of the external financial assets and financial liabilities of the Republic of North Macedonia on a specific date, i.e. claims from and liabilities to nonresidents based on financial instruments. In addition, negative net international investment position means that the financial liabilities exceed the financial claims on non-residents.

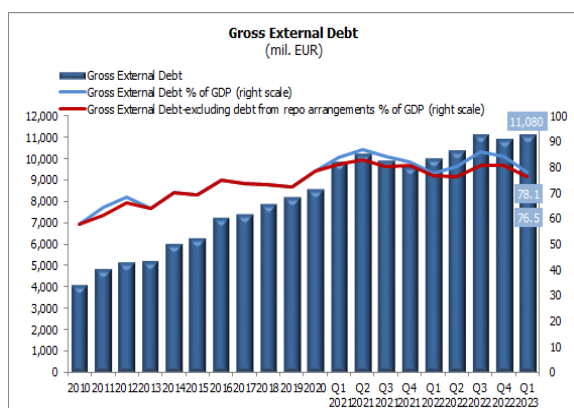
<sup>2</sup> The GDP data for 2023 is a NBRNM forecast (May 2023).



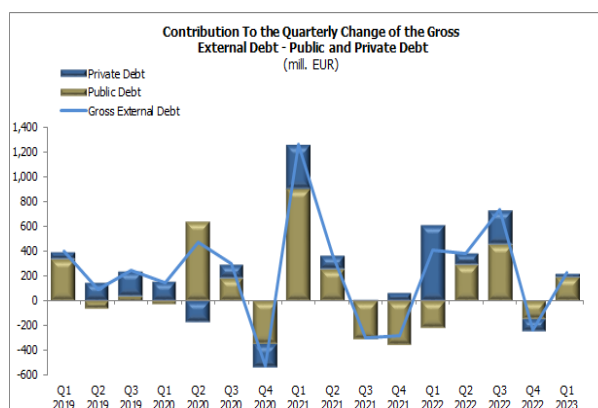
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### Gross external debt

At the end of March 2023, the gross external debt totaled Euro 11,080 million (or 78.1% of the forecasted GDP) and registered quarterly increase of Euro 224 million (or by 2.1%). Corrected for the effect of the specific foreign reserves management activities of the central bank<sup>3</sup> from the debt, gross debt registers quarterly increase of Euro 436 million. This quarterly growth is a result of the increased public debt (by Euro 402 million) and private debt (by Euro 34 million). The quarterly increase in the public external debt is a result of the increased debt of the government sector by Euro 449 million, due to the issuance of a new Eurobond<sup>4</sup>, while the liabilities of public enterprises and public banks decreased by Euro 46 million. The growth of the private debt is due to the increased debt of intercompany lending (by Euro 160 million) amid reduced debt of private banks (by Euro 108 million) and non-banking private sector (by Euro 18 million).



Source: NBRNM, SSO.



### Gross external claims

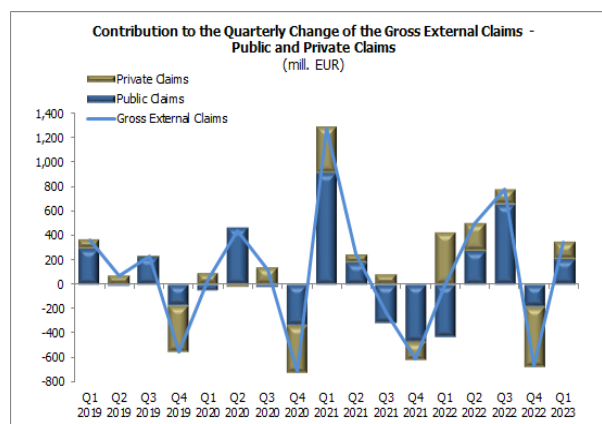
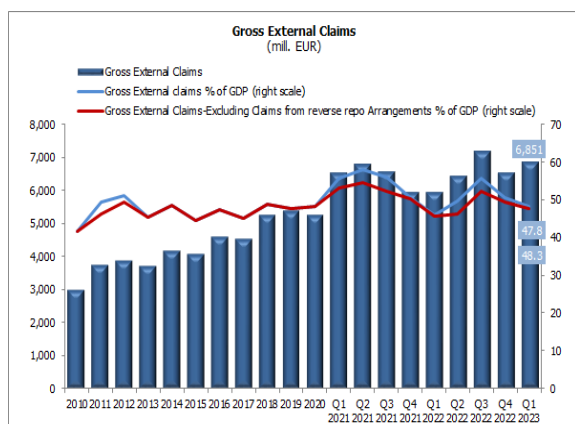
At the end of the first quarter of 2023, the gross external claims amounted to Euro 6,851 million (or 48.3% of the GDP forecast) and registered a quarterly increase of Euro 344 million (or 5.3%). If we exclude the effect of the central bank specific activities related to foreign reserves management, the gross external claims are higher by Euro 411 million and amount to Euro 6,774 million. This quarterly growth is a result of the higher public and private claims (by Euro 270 million and Euro 141 million, respectively). The quarterly growth of the external claims of the private sector is a result of the increased claims of intercompany lending (by Euro 197 million) and non-banking private sector (by Euro 59 million), amid reduced claims of private banks (by Euro 115 million).

<sup>3</sup> The specific foreign reserves management activities of the central bank include repo agreements and other foreign reserves management operations. Repo transactions create liabilities (classified under the loan category) that increase gross debt. Claims arising from reverse repo agreements, however, tend to increase gross claims. In general, if concluded simultaneously and with the same amount, these transactions have a neutral net effect. When the concluded transactions are not with the same amount in both directions, they have an effect on the gross and the net external debt and on gross claims.

<sup>4</sup> Ninth issue of Eurobonds in the nominal amount of Euro 500 million.

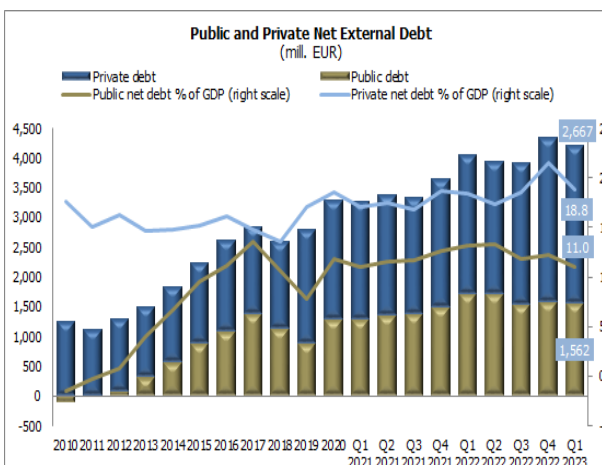
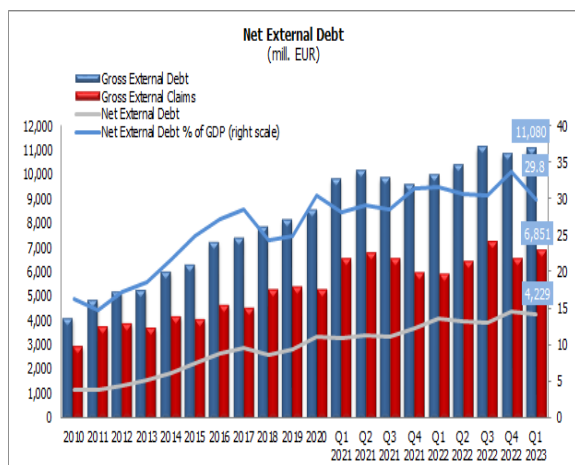


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### Net external debt

As of 31.3.2023, the net external debt equaled Euro 4,229 million (or 29.8% of the GDP forecast). In the first quarter of 2023, the net external debt of the country decreased by Euro 120 million, or by 2.7%. Observing structure, the private net debt still has greater share in the total net debt with 63%.



Source: NBRNM, SSO.

### International Investment Position, net

During the first quarter of 2023, the negative net international investment position (IIP) decreased by Euro 50 million to Euro 8,101 million, which is 57.1% of GDP forecasted for 2023.

The quarterly decrease in the negative net IIP results from the more intensive increase in assets (by Euro 423 million) relative to the increased liabilities (by Euro 373 million). Observed by instrument, the net liabilities based on debt instruments decreased by Euro 120 million, while net liabilities based on equity instruments increased by Euro 70 million.



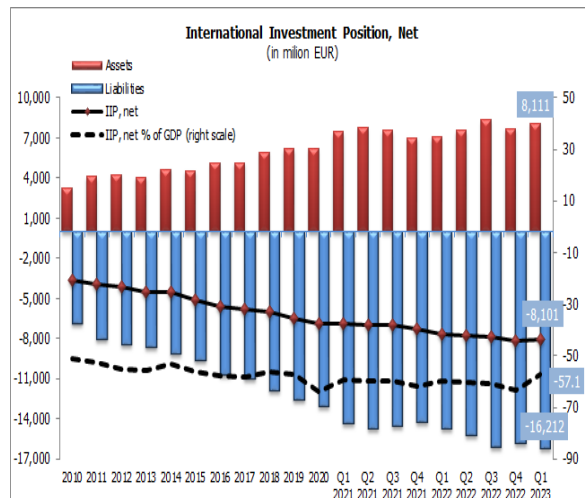
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## International Investment Position of the Republic of North Macedonia

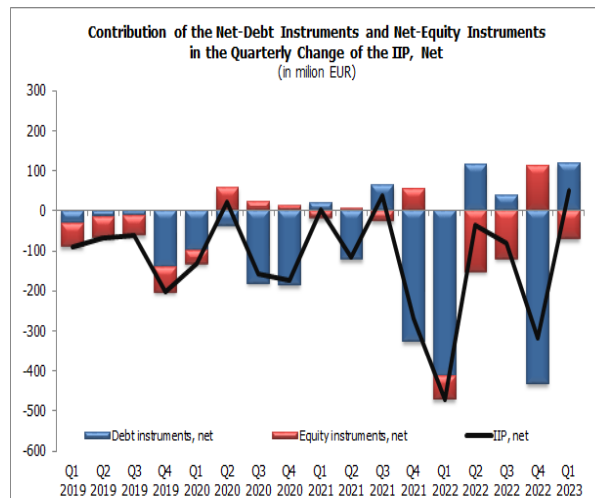
(in millions of euros)

IIP, by instruments	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q3 2022	Q4 2022	Q1 2023
<b>Net International Investment Position</b>	<b>-5,082.7</b>	<b>-5,576.0</b>	<b>-5,822.5</b>	<b>-6,039.5</b>	<b>-6,458.4</b>	<b>-6,900.6</b>	<b>-7,244.9</b>	<b>-7,716.3</b>	<b>-7,751.4</b>	<b>-7,833.2</b>	<b>-8,150.8</b>	<b>-8,100.9</b>
<b>Assets</b>	<b>4,571.9</b>	<b>5,171.3</b>	<b>5,157.3</b>	<b>5,913.6</b>	<b>6,163.8</b>	<b>6,172.5</b>	<b>7,041.4</b>	<b>7,066.8</b>	<b>7,542.1</b>	<b>8,323.7</b>	<b>7,687.9</b>	<b>8,111.1</b>
Direct investment	655.0	811.9	967.6	896.2	936.8	784.3	915.5	1,304.1	1,311.4	1,470.9	1,020.3	1,222.4
Portfolio investment	212.6	255.2	300.2	321.2	406.1	470.9	650.0	626.7	611.4	617.4	695.3	726.4
Financial derivatives (other than reserves) and employee stock options	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other equity	1.0	1.2	2.8	2.9	4.4	4.5	6.0	6.0	2.7	3.1	3.1	2.7
Currency and deposits	615.4	627.3	635.5	694.0	580.0	562.9	657.6	648.3	684.5	670.3	653.5	561.9
Loans	67.1	52.1	56.1	74.5	79.1	87.3	125.9	95.9	520.4	522.2	224.4	157.2
Insurance, pension, and standardized guarantee schemes	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Trade credit and advances	757.4	809.6	858.8	1,057.2	894.4	902.3	1,042.3	1,112.8	1,295.0	1,285.5	1,228.2	1,281.0
Other accounts receivable/payable	1.7	0.5	0.1	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.9	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.2
Reserve assets	2,261.8	2,613.4	2,336.3	2,867.1	3,262.6	3,359.9	3,643.3	3,272.5	3,116.1	3,753.8	3,862.9	4,159.2
<b>Liabilities</b>	<b>9,654.6</b>	<b>10,747.3</b>	<b>10,979.8</b>	<b>11,953.0</b>	<b>12,622.2</b>	<b>13,073.1</b>	<b>14,286.3</b>	<b>14,783.1</b>	<b>15,293.5</b>	<b>16,156.9</b>	<b>15,838.7</b>	<b>16,212.0</b>
Direct investment	4,951.3	5,392.2	5,598.1	6,141.3	6,580.0	6,537.1	7,089.2	7,582.0	7,723.4	8,076.2	7,864.9	8,173.6
Portfolio investment	848.8	1,362.2	1,476.3	1,813.2	1,730.7	2,103.8	2,159.2	2,014.5	1,820.3	2,037.9	2,110.2	2,567.8
Financial derivatives (other than reserves) and employee stock options	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other equity	4.3	6.0	2.3	4.2	4.0	5.0	2.7	3.0	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.4
Currency and deposits	148.5	174.2	195.2	206.2	254.2	253.3	297.3	442.8	484.9	467.6	471.0	363.4
Loans	2,961.7	3,014.7	2,872.0	2,883.4	3,100.9	3,267.2	3,580.3	3,502.8	3,988.3	4,223.4	4,058.4	3,809.5
Insurance, pension, and standardized guarantee schemes	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Trade credit and advances	656.7	714.6	757.7	824.8	871.1	827.8	910.3	989.3	1,020.4	1,084.0	1,080.7	1,045.9
Other accounts receivable/payable	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Special drawing rights (Net incurrence of liabilities)	83.2	83.2	78.2	79.8	81.3	77.4	247.3	248.6	252.8	264.5	250.1	248.4

Source: NBRNM.



Source: NBRNM, SSO.



## Supporting information

Time series data - annual and quarterly data on gross external debt and gross external claims:  
[https://www.nbrm.mk/nadvoresen\\_dolg-en.nspj](https://www.nbrm.mk/nadvoresen_dolg-en.nspj)

Time series data - annual and quarterly data on international investment position:  
[https://www.nbrm.mk/megunarodna\\_investiciska\\_pozicija-en.nspj](https://www.nbrm.mk/megunarodna_investiciska_pozicija-en.nspj)



## **National Bank of the Republic of North Macedonia Statistics Department**

Methodological explanations on gross external debt and claims:

[https://www.nbrm.mk/content/statistika/ND/metodologija/Methodological\\_Notes\\_debt\\_5\\_2\\_2018.pdf](https://www.nbrm.mk/content/statistika/ND/metodologija/Methodological_Notes_debt_5_2_2018.pdf)

Methodological explanations on international investment position:

[https://www.nbrm.mk/content/statistika/mip/metodologija/Methodology\\_IIP\\_BPM6\\_9\\_10\\_2018.pdf](https://www.nbrm.mk/content/statistika/mip/metodologija/Methodology_IIP_BPM6_9_10_2018.pdf)

Next publications: Advance Release Calendar:

[https://www.nbrm.mk/content/statistika/kalendar/Advance\\_Release\\_Calendar.pdf](https://www.nbrm.mk/content/statistika/kalendar/Advance_Release_Calendar.pdf)

Quarterly gross external debt, gross external claims and international investment position: 29 September 2023 (reference period as of June 2023).

We kindly ask journalists to contact the Governor's Office for any queries.

For more details about the disseminated statistical data, please contact us at: [contact.statistika@nbrm.mk](mailto:contact.statistika@nbrm.mk) or phone: 02 3215 181 extension 103 (or 110/108).