

EUROSTAT (04.10.19)

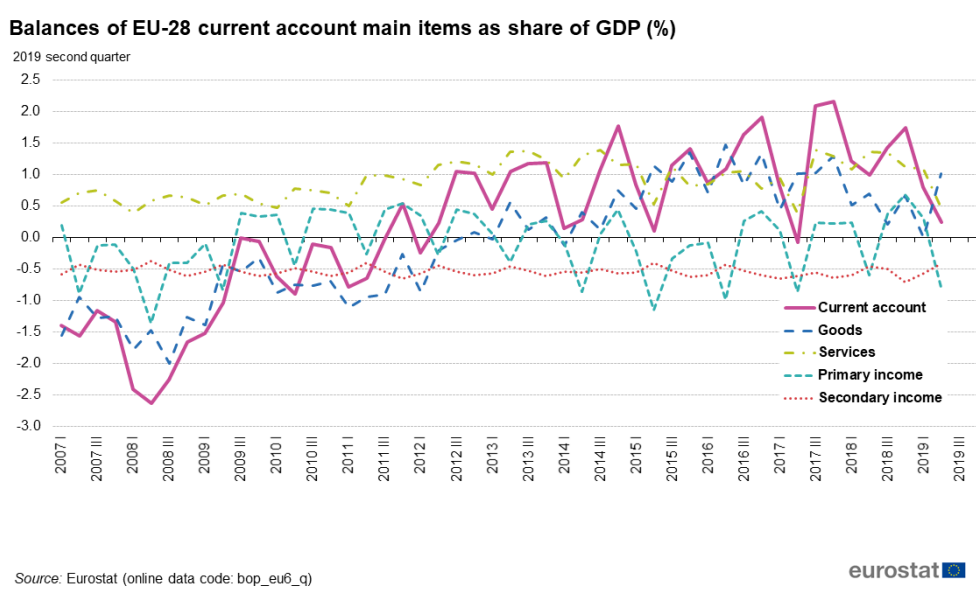
Balance of payments statistics - quarterly data

Data extracted in October 2019.
Planned article update: January 2020.

Highlights

EU current account surplus was € 10.0 billion in the second quarter of 2019.

The surplus for trade in services amounted to € 18.9 billion in the second quarter of 2019.



Balances of current account, EU-28, main items as share of GDP, 2019Q2(%)

Source: Eurostat ([bop_eu6_q](#))

This article presents quarterly statistics on [balance of payments](#) in the [EU-28](#), the [euro area](#) and the [Member States](#). [Balance of payments](#), which is a summary of the transactions of a given economy with the rest of the world, comprises the [current account](#), which covers international transactions in goods, services, primary income, and secondary income, the [financial account](#), which deals with transactions involving financial claims on, or liabilities to, the rest of the world, including international

purchases of securities, such as stocks and bonds as well as the [capital account](#), which covers international capital transfers.

Full article

Current account

Current account

The EU-28 non-seasonally adjusted external current account recorded a surplus of EUR 10.0 billion (0.2% of GDP) in the second quarter of 2019, down from a surplus of EUR 39.2 bn (1.0% of GDP) in the second quarter of 2018, according to the estimates released by [Eurostat](#).

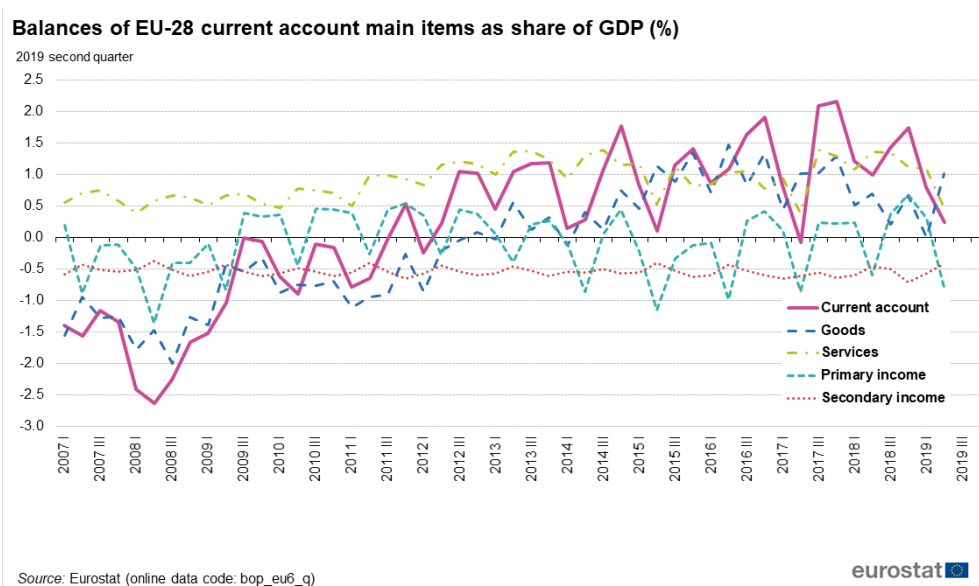


Figure 1: Balances of current account, EU-28, main items as share of GDP, 2019Q2(%)

Source: Eurostat ([bop_eu6_q](#))

In the second quarter of 2019 compared with the second quarter of 2018, based on non-seasonally adjusted data, the surplus of the goods account increased (EUR +40.9 bn compared with EUR +27.4 bn), while the surplus of the services account decreased (EUR +18.9 bn compared with EUR +53.8 bn). The deficit of the primary income account increased (EUR -32.5 bn compared with EUR -23.7 bn), while the deficit of the secondary income account slightly decreased (EUR -17.3 bn compared with EUR -18.3 bn). In the capital account, EU-28 recorded a deficit of EUR -19.6 bn, up from a deficit of EUR -4.9 bn in the second quarter of 2018. In the second quarter of 2019 compared with the second quarter of the previous year, there were increases in the values of both credit and debit

transactions for all four components of the current account: goods, services, primary income and secondary income.

Main items of the current and capital account, EU-28 (2018Q2 - 2019Q2)
(EUR 1 000 million)

	2018Q2	2018Q3	2018Q4	2019Q1	2019Q2
Balance					
Current account	39.2	55.8	71.7	31.7	10.0
Goods	27.4	8.1	27.2	-0.2	40.9
Services	53.8	53.0	46.2	42.5	18.9
Primary income	-23.7	14.5	27.8	12.0	-32.5
Secondary income	-18.3	-19.8	-29.4	-22.7	-17.3
Capital account	-4.9	-2.0	-56.5	-8.8	-19.6
Credit					
Current account	954.6	941.2	997.4	920.6	996.6
Goods	493.7	493.6	529.9	496.7	519.5
Services	230.9	241.1	247.7	221.5	242.8
Primary income	205.2	185.4	197.0	179.9	207.9
Secondary income	24.7	21.2	22.8	22.4	26.4
Capital account	2.3	2.5	3.6	2.7	2.5
Debit					
Current account	915.4	885.4	925.7	888.9	986.6
Goods	466.3	485.4	502.7	496.9	478.6
Services	177.1	188.0	201.5	179.1	224.0
Primary income	229.0	171.0	169.3	167.9	240.4
Secondary income	43.0	41.0	52.2	45.0	43.7
Capital account	7.2	4.6	60.0	11.5	22.1

Source: Eurostat (online data code: bop_eu6_q)

eurostat 



Table 1: Main items of the current and capital account, EU-28, 2019Q2 (EUR 1 000 million)

Source: Eurostat ([bop_eu6_q](#))

Trade in services with the rest of the world, EU-28 (2018Q2 - 2019Q2)
(EUR 1 000 million)

	2018Q2			2018Q3			2018Q4			2019Q1			2019Q2		
	Credit	Debit	Balance	Credit	Debit	Balance	Credit	Debit	Balance	Credit	Debit	Balance	Credit	Debit	Balance
Total services	230.9	177.1	53.8	241.1	188.0	53.0	247.7	201.5	46.2	221.5	179.1	42.5	242.8	224.0	18.9
Manufacturing services on physical inputs owned by others	5.3	2.9	2.4	5.0	3.3	1.7	5.8	4.1	1.7	4.9	3.4	1.5	5.1	3.3	1.7
Maintenance and repair services	3.9	3.1	0.8	3.9	3.3	0.6	4.6	3.5	1.1	3.9	3.4	0.6	4.6	3.3	1.3
Transport	41.0	33.3	7.7	43.7	34.9	8.8	41.8	35.0	6.8	39.1	33.5	5.6	42.5	34.5	8.0
Travel	38.7	26.9	11.8	47.2	35.5	11.7	31.1	28.8	2.3	26.6	25.4	1.4	38.5	28.2	10.4
Construction	2.5	1.2	1.3	2.4	1.1	1.3	2.8	1.2	1.7	3.9	1.0	2.9	2.7	1.1	1.6
Insurance and pension services	7.2	3.2	4.1	6.6	3.2	3.4	6.7	3.2	3.4	6.0	3.9	2.1	7.1	3.2	3.9
Financial services	21.7	12.4	9.3	20.6	12.4	8.2	21.4	13.5	7.8	21.4	12.6	8.8	21.1	12.6	8.5
Charges for the use of intellectual property	17.3	27.3	-10.0	17.6	27.0	-9.4	19.7	28.1	-8.3	17.9	26.1	-8.2	17.5	28.8	-11.3
Telecommunications, computer and information services	31.6	12.9	18.9	31.7	13.1	18.6	38.4	14.8	23.5	33.7	13.4	20.3	37.2	13.3	23.9
Other business services	56.6	49.6	7.0	56.8	49.7	7.1	69.7	64.6	5.1	58.9	51.9	7.0	61.0	91.8	-30.8
Personal, cultural and recreational services	3.1	2.7	0.4	3.3	2.9	0.3	3.1	2.7	0.3	3.0	2.8	0.3	3.5	3.2	0.3
Government goods and services	1.9	1.5	0.4	2.1	1.5	0.6	2.2	1.6	0.4	1.8	1.5	0.3	1.9	1.2	0.6
Services not allocated	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	-0.5	0.6

Source: Eurostat (online data code: bop_eu6_q)

eurostat 



Table 2: Trade in services with the rest of the world, EU-28, 2019Q2 (EUR 1 000 million)

Source: Eurostat ([bop_eu6_q](#))

The surplus recorded in the services account (EUR +18.9 bn euro) was mainly the result of surpluses in telecommunications, computer & information services (EUR +23.9 bn), travel (EUR +10.4 bn), financial services (EUR +8.5 bn), transport (EUR +8.0 bn), insurance services (EUR +3.9 bn), manufacturing services on physical inputs owned by others (EUR +1.7 bn), construction services (EUR +1.6 bn) and maintenance and repair services (EUR +1.3 bn), partly offset by a deficit in other business services, which includes research and development, professional, management consulting, technical, trade-

related and other business services (EUR -30.8 bn) and in charges for the use of intellectual property (EUR -11.3 bn). The United Kingdom (mainly with financial services and other business services), France (mainly with travel, other business services and financial services), Luxembourg (mainly with financial services) and Poland (mainly with transport and other business services) contributed in the biggest part to the surplus. Out of 25 Member States for which data are available, 23 recorded surpluses in trade in services with extra-EU economic counterparts, while only 2 (the Netherlands and Ireland, due to charges for the use of intellectual property and other business services) had deficits. The primary income deficit (EUR -32.5 bn) was the result of deficits in portfolio investment income (EUR -74.7 bn) and other investment income (EUR -1.2 bn), partially offset by surpluses in direct investment income (EUR +37.4 bn) as well as in compensation of employees (EUR +3.3 bn).

Primary income with the rest of the world, EU-28 (2018Q2 - 2019Q2)
(EUR 1 000 million)

	2018Q2			2018Q3			2018Q4			2019Q1			2019Q2		
	Credit	Debit	Balance	Credit	Debit	Balance	Credit	Debit	Balance	Credit	Debit	Balance	Credit	Debit	Balance
Primary income	205.2	229.0	-23.7	185.4	171.0	14.5	197.0	169.3	27.8	179.9	167.9	12.0	207.9	246.4	-32.5
Compensation of employees	8.1	4.5	3.6	8.2	4.7	3.5	8.5	4.8	3.8	8.1	4.3	3.8	9.2	4.9	3.3
Direct investment income	115.4	77.2	38.2	101.8	74.6	27.2	113.5	75.5	38.0	94.4	68.4	25.9	109.3	71.9	37.4
Equity	101.8	64.4	37.4	88.6	58.4	30.3	99.2	61.3	37.9	81.3	54.2	27.1	95.1	58.5	36.6
Debt instruments	13.6	12.8	0.8	13.2	16.3	-3.1	14.3	14.2	0.1	13.0	14.3	-1.2	14.2	13.3	0.9
Portfolio investment income	57.6	126.0	-68.4	52.8	71.6	-18.8	51.0	68.8	-17.8	50.8	69.7	-18.9	63.4	138.0	-74.7
Equity and investment fund shares	30.1	92.3	-62.3	25.3	41.0	-15.7	22.2	35.9	-13.8	22.6	42.3	-19.7	34.1	103.4	-69.3
Debt securities	27.5	33.7	-6.1	27.6	30.6	-3.0	28.8	32.9	-4.0	28.1	27.3	0.8	29.3	34.7	-5.4
Other investment income	22.3	21.2	1.1	20.6	20.0	0.6	21.8	20.2	1.6	24.6	25.5	-0.9	24.4	25.6	-1.2
Reserve assets income	1.8	-	-	2.0	-	-	2.1	-	-	2.1	-	-	2.4	-	-
Other primary income	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.2

(-) not available
Source: Eurostat (online data code: bop_eu6_q)

eurostat



Table 3: Primary income with the rest of the world, EU-28, 2019Q2 (EUR 1 000 million)

Source: Eurostat ([bop_eu6_q](#))

Geographical breakdown of current account transactions

In the second quarter of 2019, the EU-28 external current account recorded a surplus with the United States (EUR +40.5 bn), Switzerland (EUR +21.5 bn), Canada and Hong Kong (both EUR +8.3 bn), Brazil (EUR +8.1 bn) and India (EUR +0.2 bn). Deficits were registered with offshore financial centres (EUR -33.0 bn), China (EUR -20.1 bn), Russia (EUR -5.8 bn) and Japan (EUR -2.4 bn).

The EU-28 recorded highest surpluses in goods account with the United States (EUR +52.2 bn), offshore financial centres (EUR +12.4 bn), Switzerland (EUR +6.4 bn), Canada (EUR +5.3 bn) and Hong Kong (EUR +4.3 bn), while significant deficits were registered with China (EUR -27.7 bn) and Russia (EUR -14.7 bn). In services account the biggest surpluses took place with Switzerland (EUR +14.4 bn), the United States (EUR +5.9 bn) and China (EUR +4.6 bn) and the biggest deficit with

offshore financial centres (EUR -46.8 bn). Highest surpluses in primary income account occurred with Russia (EUR +5.4 bn), Brazil (EUR +4.8 bn), Hong Kong (EUR +3.9 bn) and China (EUR +3.7 bn), while substantial deficits were recorded with the United States (EUR -17.9 bn) and Japan (EUR -5.7 bn). In secondary income account deficits were recorded with all above analysed counterparts, except for the United States, Hong Kong and Japan.

Balances with major economic partners, EU-28 (2018Q2 - 2019Q2)
(EUR 1 000 million)

	United States	Switzerland	Japan	Canada	China	Russia	Brazil	India	Hong Kong	Offshore financial centres
2018Q2										
CURRENT ACCOUNT	33.2	14.6	-1.7	6.0	-17.9	-9.8	6.5	0.6	7.6	14.2
Goods	44.0	6.6	-1.3	4.8	-26.6	-18.1	0.8	-0.1	4.5	-14.7
Services	6.9	14.2	3.7	1.9	5.2	3.3	1.9	-0.4	0.2	-10.8
Primary income	-17.6	-6.0	-4.4	-0.2	4.3	5.0	4.0	-1.9	3.0	10.8
Secondary income	-0.1	-0.1	0.4	-0.5	-0.8	-0.1	-0.2	-0.7	-0.1	-0.5
2018Q3										
CURRENT ACCOUNT	59.3	21.8	0.0	9.1	-29.1	-11.8	6.2	0.0	6.9	0.6
Goods	46.1	4.5	0.3	4.5	-39.1	-19.7	1.4	-0.3	4.9	16.8
Services	6.6	15.4	3.7	2.5	5.9	4.7	1.7	-0.6	0.0	-12.8
Primary income	6.9	2.1	-4.1	2.7	4.6	3.2	3.3	1.6	2.1	-3.1
Secondary income	-0.3	-0.3	0.1	-0.6	-0.5	-0.1	-0.3	-0.7	-0.1	-0.3
2018Q4										
CURRENT ACCOUNT	62.8	25.2	0.2	9.7	-28.1	-10.9	6.0	2.0	5.6	6.2
Goods	50.2	4.7	0.9	4.9	-36.1	-17.8	0.3	2.4	4.0	20.0
Services	6.2	15.0	4.4	1.4	5.1	4.0	2.2	-0.9	0.1	-15.5
Primary income	9.0	6.1	-5.2	3.8	3.6	3.0	3.8	1.4	1.8	2.5
Secondary income	-2.6	-0.6	0.1	-0.5	-0.7	-0.1	-0.3	-0.8	-0.3	-0.8
2019Q1										
CURRENT ACCOUNT	55.1	15.8	4.2	6.6	-28.4	-13.2	4.0	-1.9	5.3	0.0
Goods	46.6	5.1	-0.3	2.6	-37.4	-18.4	0.6	-1.1	4.6	13.1
Services	1.8	13.7	3.5	2.0	5.8	3.7	1.8	-1.6	-0.1	-10.9
Primary income	6.9	-2.6	0.8	2.3	3.6	1.5	1.8	1.4	1.1	-1.3
Secondary income	-0.2	-0.4	0.1	-0.3	-0.4	-0.1	-0.2	-0.7	-0.3	-0.9
2019Q2										
CURRENT ACCOUNT	40.5	21.5	-2.4	8.3	-20.1	-5.8	8.1	0.2	8.3	-33.0
Goods	52.2	6.4	-0.2	5.3	-27.7	-14.7	1.2	-0.2	4.3	12.4
Services	5.9	14.4	3.5	2.8	4.6	3.6	2.3	-0.6	0.2	-46.8
Primary income	-17.9	0.9	-5.7	0.6	3.7	5.4	4.8	1.6	3.9	1.8
Secondary income	0.4	-0.2	0.0	-0.4	-0.6	-0.1	-0.2	-0.7	0.0	-0.4

Source: Eurostat (online data code: bop_eu6_q)

eurostat 



Table 4: Balances with major economic partners, EU-28, 2019Q2 (EUR 1 000 million)

Source: Eurostat ([bop_eu6_q](#))

Financial account

In the second quarter of 2019 there was a net increase of financial assets by the EU-28 residents of EUR 255.6 bn and a net increase of liabilities by EUR 243.2 bn. The EU-28 was the net recipient of direct investment from rest of the world with net inflows of EUR 169.9 bn. Direct investment assets held abroad by the EU-28 investors fell by EUR 56.7 bn, while direct investment liabilities of the EU-28 to the rest of the world grew by EUR 113.2 bn.

Financial account transactions with the rest of the world, EU-28 (2018Q2 - 2019Q2)

(EUR 1 000 million)

	2018Q2	2018Q3	2018Q4	2019Q1	2019Q2
Financial account					
Net	-65.2	89.9	-6.8	-7.3	12.4
Assets	48.7	-60.6	-218.0	217.3	255.6
Liabilities	113.8	-150.5	-211.2	224.6	243.2
Direct investment					
Net	5.6	42.4	-44.1	87.4	-169.9
Assets	64.2	-55.3	-206.2	91.0	-56.7
Liabilities	58.6	-97.7	-162.1	3.6	113.2
Equity and investment fund shares					
Assets	83.5	-94.9	-254.6	18.6	-56.4
Liabilities	33.1	-146.8	-133.7	19.0	77.0
Reinvestment of earnings					
Assets	21.8	40.2	6.2	37.0	23.4
Liabilities	18.9	27.5	15.9	31.4	28.6
Debt instruments					
Assets	-41.1	-0.6	42.2	35.4	-19.0
Liabilities	6.6	21.6	-44.3	-46.8	16.0
Portfolio investment					
Net	-85.1	-3.7	56.1	12.2	-20.6
Assets	-41.2	16.3	-12.8	81.4	83.1
Liabilities	43.8	20.0	-68.9	69.2	103.6
Equity and investment fund shares					
Assets	-27.1	-11.0	-43.2	3.9	6.8
Liabilities	79.9	-23.0	44.1	7.5	52.3
Debt securities					
Assets	-14.2	27.4	30.3	77.5	73.0
Liabilities	-36.1	43.0	-113.0	61.7	48.0
Other investment					
Net	1.0	28.3	-33.5	-108.5	190.2
Assets	12.4	-44.6	-13.7	43.3	216.6
Liabilities	11.4	-72.8	19.8	151.9	26.3
Financial derivatives and employee stock options					
Net	7.8	14.8	-3.5	-0.7	6.5
Reserve assets					
Assets	5.5	8.0	18.2	2.3	6.2

Source: Eurostat (online data code: bop_eu6_q)

eurostat 



Table 5: Financial account transactions with the rest of the world, EU-28, 2019Q2 (EUR 1 000 million)

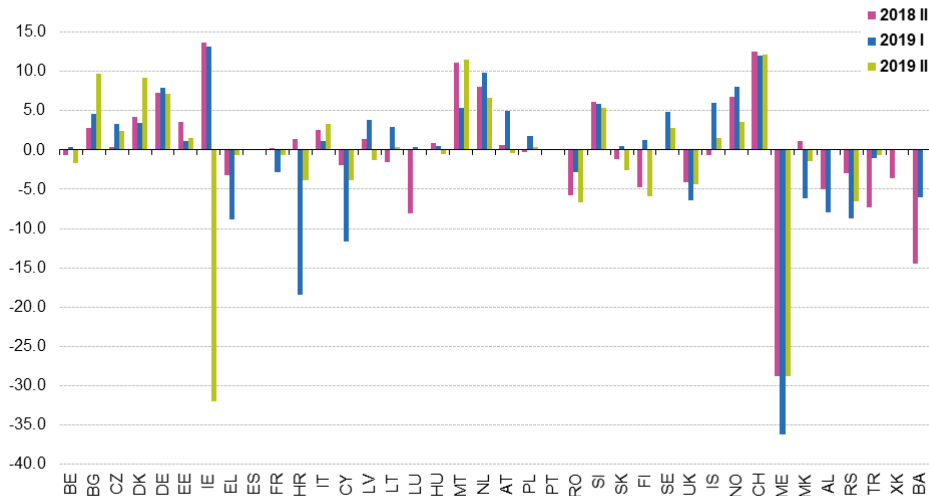
Source: Eurostat ([bop_eu6_q](#))

Portfolio investment recorded a net inflow of EUR 20.6 bn. Portfolio investment assets abroad increased by EUR 83.1 bn, as did portfolio investment liabilities of the EU-28 to the rest of the world by EUR 103.6 bn. Other investment recorded a net outflow of EUR 190.2 bn. EU-28 investors increased their other investment assets held abroad by EUR 216.6 bn, while other investment liabilities of the EU-28 to the rest of the world increased by EUR 26.3 bn.

National current account balances as share of GDP (%)

2019 second quarter

20.0



Source: Eurostat (online data code: bop_c6_q)

eurostat 



Figure 2: Current account as share of GDP, 2019Q2 (%)

Source: Eurostat ([bop_c6_q](#)) - See [country codes](#)

Current account of Member States (including intra-EU flows)

As concerns the total (intra-EU plus extra-EU) current account balances of the EU-28 Member States, based on non-seasonally adjusted available data, 12 recorded surpluses, 13 deficits and 1 balance in the second quarter of 2019. The highest surpluses were observed in Germany (EUR +59.9 bn), Italy (EUR +14.9 bn), the Netherlands (EUR +13.6 bn) and Denmark (EUR +7.2 bn) and the largest deficits in the United Kingdom (EUR -27.0 bn), Ireland (EUR -26.5 bn), France (EUR -3.9 bn), Finland (EUR -3.6 bn) and Romania (EUR -3.4 bn). In relation to GDP (size of the economy), the highest surpluses could be observed for Malta (11.5%), Bulgaria (9.7%), Denmark (9.2%) and Germany (7.1%), and the biggest deficits for Ireland (-32.0%), Romania (-6.7%), Finland (-5.9%) and the United Kingdom (-4.4%).

Trade in goods was the main account behind surpluses of Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden and Czechia as well as behind deficits of the United Kingdom, France, Romania, Croatia, Greece and Cyprus. Services account decided about the surpluses of Luxembourg, Poland, Malta and Lithuania but the absolute highest surplus in services was recorded by the United Kingdom. For Sweden the surplus was distributed between goods and primary income. Primary income significantly contributed for surpluses of Germany and Denmark. In secondary income account Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece and Romania recorded highest surpluses, while France, the United Kingdom and Germany had the highest deficits.

International investment position of Member States

In the second quarter of 2019, for the data available, external liabilities - representing the negative net international investment position - were higher than assets, in 18 EU Member States while external assets exceeded liabilities in 9 Member States (Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Sweden and Finland). Germany recorded the highest value of net IIP of EUR 2 244.2 bn, due to direct, portfolio and other investment positions, being followed by the Netherlands (EUR 618.3 bn), Denmark (EUR 216.5 bn) and Belgium (EUR 208.8 bn), mainly due to direct investment. Ireland, Greece, Cyprus and Portugal recorded high indebtedness levels, which were above 100% of GDP, mainly due to other investment or, in case of Ireland, portfolio investment.

The detailed tables  are available [here](#).

Data sources

The methodological framework followed in the compilation of the Balance of Payments and International Investment Position is that defined in the sixth edition of the [International Monetary Fund Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual \(BPM6\)](#), published in 2009.

In the compilation of BOP, responsibility is shared between Eurostat and the ECB. Eurostat is responsible for monthly BOP and quarterly and annual BOP, IIP, ITSS and FDI aggregates of the EU, as well as on detailed ITSS data also for the euro area, whereas the European Central Bank (ECB) is in charge of compiling and disseminating the euro area monthly and quarterly balance of payments, as well as quarterly international investment position statistics.

Monthly BoP data are available starting from January 1999. Quarterly BoP items are available from first quarter 1982, while quarterly IIP from fourth quarter 1993. Data are available for European Union, EU Member States, euro area, EFTA and candidate countries. Data are compiled and disseminated for transactions and positions of total economy vis-a-vis rest of the world and major economic counterparts (Switzerland, Russia, the USA, Canada, Brazil, China, Hong Kong, India, Japan and Offshore financial centres¹). Additionally, for financial account transactions and positions, as well as related income, data are available with sector breakdown.

Context

In line with the agreed allocation of responsibility, the [European Central Bank \(ECB\)](#) is in charge of compiling and disseminating monthly and quarterly balance of payments statistics for the euro area, whereas the European Commission (Eurostat) focuses on quarterly and annual aggregates of the EU. The aggregates for the euro area and the EU are compiled consistently on the basis of Member States' transactions with residents of countries outside the euro area and the European Union respectively.

Notes

1. [Jump up](#)[↑] See footnote 1.