

16. Public finance

This chapter provides a general outline of the trends regarding the principal data in the final balance of the Regione Siciliana (Sicilian Region), analyzing the phases of accrual (accounts receivable and payable) and cash flow (amounts received and amounts paid). Consolidated cash flow data for the Sicilian Provincial and Municipal administrations, from 2008 to 2011, is also shown, and data from the “Territorial Public Accounts” project, which is being run by the Ministry for Economic Development, helps provide a Regionalised overview of the whole extent of public administration spending.

The liquidated revenue for the Sicilian Region in 2012 amounted to 15,380 million Euros and represented a fall of -7% when compared to financial year 2011. This trend was principally due to the gradual fall of tax revenue (-7.3%) and the raising of loans (-955 millions).

With regard to expenditure in 2012, overall spending commitments fell by -5.2% when compared to 2011, (amounting to 18,536 million Euros). The same trend saw current expenditure decreasing by -0.9% as well as capital account spending, which fell by -23.9%. Spending resulting from reimbursement of capital borrowed by the Region amounted to 211 million Euros (1.1% of overall spending).

As a result of the varying nature of the flows examined, analysis of cash-flow data entered in the Final Statement for 2011 showed results that did not coincide precisely with the accrual data. In fact, revenue rose slightly by +0.7%, whereas expenditure fell by -10.4%.

Scrutiny of spending commitments (analyzed by intervention sector) shows that 53.8% of Regional spending (9,964 million Euros) goes on the Health sector. The sum of 464 million Euros (2.5% of the total) allotted to Agriculture, stands out among the productive sectors, as does the sum of 342 million Euros allocated to Transport. Spending allocated to General Services represented 21.3% of Regional expenditure.

Tables 16.6 – 16.7 show the trend of consolidated cash accounts in the public sector in Sicily from 2008 to 2011. The term “consolidated” is here understood as Public Administration accounts calculated through the elision of transfers carried out in the Extended public sector, i.e. the sum total comprising central administration, local administration, municipalized and Regionalised companies, social security companies, public bodies and foundations. Through a homogeneous process of data-collection and processing it is thus possible to obtain information regarding the flow of public finance in the individual Regions. Analysis of revenue shows that in 2011 there was an overall +1.3% increase, due mainly to an increase in current revenue (+3.1%). Total expenditure in the public sector in 2011 amounted to 72,082 million Euros (an

increase of +3.3%). This trend concerned both current expenditure, which rose by +1.1% and capital account expenditure, which rose by 24%. The difference between overall outlay and revenue amounted to 12,468 million Euros, and gives an idea of the importance that additional public resources have in the Sicilian economy.

Glossary

Accounts payable (A/P): a sum of money that has been committed but not yet paid; it amounts to a debt on the part of the public body.

Accounts receivable (A/R): revenue that has been registered but not collected. It constitutes credit for the public body.

Accruals: revenue that an enterprise is legally owed and expenditure committed during a financial year, regardless of whether these sums will be collected or paid.

Balance-sheet items: totality of revenue and spending operations. Revenue is divided into five items: tax revenue; contributions and current transfers; extra tax revenue, transfer and amortization of assets and collection of debts; registering of new borrowing. Spending is divided into three items: current, capital and loan repayment.

Capital expenditure: spending directly or indirectly affecting creation of capital

Capital revenue: revenue directly or indirectly affecting creation of capital

Cash flow: amount of money moving in and out during a financial year, regardless of whether or not it may have been registered or committed in other financial years.

Cash inventory: juridical/accountancy operation with which the Administration “verifies” the reasons for granting credit; this is the first phase in the procedure of receiving revenue.

Consolidated account: Public administration account aggregated through the elision of transfers carried out in the Extended Public Sector.

Current expenditure: expenditure to be allocated to production and redistribution of income for purposes that are not directly productive.

Current revenue: revenue to be channeled into the financing of production and re-distribution of income for purposes that are not directly productive.

Expenditure commitment: sum owed by the enterprise as a result of juridically contracted financial obligations.

Extended public sector: a loose group made up of central administration, local administration, municipalized and Regionalized companies, social security companies, public bodies.

Financial year: totality of operations regarding management of the balance-sheet (i.e. forecasting of actual revenue and spending) carried out during the financial year.

Loan repayment: totality of operations regarding repayment of medium and long-term debts, the amounts being net of interest.

Payment: final phase in the procedure of expenditure; it consists in operations through which the order to pay is issued.

Raising of loans: total amount of medium and long-term borrowing transactions or real estate transactions, excluding those lasting less than one year.

Revenue: sums effectively collected.

Transfers: unilateral transactions through which a subject devolves a sum of money or a series of goods and services without receiving anything in exchange.

Further reading

Publications

Sicilian Region General Report– Regional department for the balance and finance.

Local finance: revenue and expenditure of final balances (2005) ISTAT
AA.VV. – Italy by Regional Public Accounts (Conti Pubblici Territoriali –

CPT) - Monetary flow in the Regione Sicilia (Regione Sicilia e Ministero dello Sviluppo Economico – 2009)

AA.VV. – Devolution of Regional functions: Integrated Water Services and Management of Urban Waste in the Regione Sicilia - (Regione Sicilia and Ministero dello Sviluppo Economico – 2011)

Internet

<http://www.istat.it/it/pubblica-amministrazione>

Local finance: revenue and expenditure of final balances (Municipalities, Provinces and Regions) - 2009

<http://www.dps.mef.gov.it/cpt/cpt.asp>

Territorial public accounts project

<http://www.finanzalocale.interno.it/>

Home Ministry – Department for Home and local affairs – Central management of local finances

http://pti.regione.sicilia.it/portal/page/portal/PIR_PORTALE/PIR_LaStrutturaRegionale/PIR_AssessoratoEconomia/PIR_DipBilancioTesoro

Regional Balance Sheet

Budget – financial years 2007-2012

General report – financial years 1994-2011

Document for economic/financial planning (2002-2004; 2003-2006; 2004-2006; 2005-2007; 2006-2008; 2007-2011, 2008-2011, 2009-2013; 2010-2013;