

Précisions méthodologiques relatives aux comptes non financiers trimestriels des administrations publiques

1. Introduction

En juillet 1999, l'Institut des comptes nationaux (ICN) a publié pour la première fois les comptes annuels non financiers des administrations publiques établis selon la méthodologie du Système européen des comptes nationaux et régionaux (SEC 1995). Depuis lors, l'ICN a déjà enrichi à deux reprises les données sur les finances publiques qu'il diffuse. En octobre 2000, les premiers tableaux sur la répartition fonctionnelle des dépenses des administrations publiques selon la nomenclature COFOG ont été présentés. Depuis mars 2001, une première estimation des recettes, dépenses et solde de financement est diffusée trois mois après la fin de l'année tandis que les comptes non financiers détaillés des administrations publiques sont normalement rendus publics à la fin du mois de septembre. Aujourd'hui, l'ICN publie pour la première fois des comptes non financiers trimestriels des administrations publiques, et cela pour la période allant du premier trimestre de 1991 au quatrième trimestre de 2006.

Grâce aux données de base infra-annuelles récoltées depuis plusieurs années auprès de différentes administrations, l'ICN a pu réaliser des comptes non financiers trimestriels simplifiés pour l'ensemble des administrations publiques. L'ICN respecte ainsi pleinement le Règlement de la Commission (CE) n° 264/2000 du 3 février 2000 et le Règlement n° 1221/2002 du Parlement et du Conseil du 10 juin 2002 qui rendent obligatoire la transmission de statistiques trimestrielles à Eurostat dans les trois mois qui suivent le fin du trimestre. Pendant les cinq ans de la période de développement, les données ont été transmises à Eurostat, avec lequel les Etats membres ont conclu un accord stipulant que les données ne seraient pas diffusées avant d'avoir fait l'objet d'une étude de qualité. Ainsi, les données ont été longuement examinées et, au mois de juin 2006, Eurostat a finalisé un rapport d'où il ressort que les données transmises par les Etats membres sont de bonne qualité. En outre, après un avis favorable du Comité scientifique sur les comptes nationaux, le Conseil de l'ICN a approuvé la méthodologie utilisée telle qu'elle est décrite ci-après. Dès lors, l'ICN a décidé de rendre les données belges disponibles à tout utilisateur.

Au niveau européen la confection des comptes non financiers trimestriels des administrations publiques poursuit deux objectifs: d'une part, le calcul du solde de financement des administrations publiques de la zone euro, offrant ainsi un indicateur supplémentaire à la BCE pour ses décisions de politique monétaire et, d'autre part, la fourniture du solde de financement de chacun des Etats de l'Union européenne, permettant à la Commission de disposer d'indicateurs rapides dans le cadre de sa politique de surveillance des finances publiques nationales.

2. Concepts méthodologiques

2.1 Principes de base

Ce chapitre présente un aperçu de la méthodologie actuelle¹ des comptes non financiers trimestriels des administrations publiques, tels qu'ils sont élaborés en 2006. Il devrait permettre aux utilisateurs de mieux comprendre la construction des comptes publics trimestriels, leurs points forts et leurs points faibles.

Toutes les séries trimestrielles suivent les règles du système européen des comptes (SEC 1995). Cela veut dire qu'elles doivent être conformes tant du point de vue du contenu que du moment d'enregistrement aux prescrits du système SEC 1995 (ex.: les corrections apportées aux impôts pour obtenir les impôts sur base de la «caisse transactionnalisée» sont appliquées dans les comptes trimestriels de manière identique aux comptes annuels). Toutes les séries trimestrielles sont cohérentes avec les séries annuelles: la somme des données trimestrielles d'une année est toujours égale à la donnée annuelle correspondante (une différence peut exister en raison des arrondis).

Lors de l'établissement des comptes du quatrième trimestre, l'information annuelle disponible, même provisoire, est intégrée dans les calculs. Cette manière de procéder permet de réduire au minimum la différence entre les premières estimations et les chiffres plus définitifs.

L'élaboration des comptes non financiers trimestriels des administrations publiques se limite au tableau synoptique des recettes, dépenses et solde de financement de l'ensemble des administrations publiques diffusé habituellement, pour ce qui concerne les données annuelles, au début du mois d'avril et à la fin du mois de septembre. Le tableau synoptique trimestriel concerne des données trimestrielles brutes.

La méthode utilisée est une méthode indirecte. Cette méthode est privilégiée, dans la mesure où les principales sources de données annuelles ne sont pas disponibles sur base trimestrielle, pour permettre une transposition de la méthodologie annuelle au niveau trimestriel. L'application de cette méthode se déroule en deux temps. Comme elle implique l'utilisation soit d'un indicateur direct, soit d'une estimation de la valeur annuelle et d'un profil trimestriel, de la variable dont les valeurs trimestrielles sont calculées, ces données doivent d'abord être recherchées. Une fois ces données disponibles, elles sont injectées dans une méthode d'interpolation qui donnera comme résultats les valeurs trimestrielles recherchées.

2.2 Utilisation d'indicateurs directs

La plupart des séries des comptes non financiers trimestriels des administrations publiques sont établies à partir de données de base mensuelles et/ou trimestrielles, appelées indicateurs, disponibles à intervalles réguliers. Ces indicateurs proviennent de multiples sources (recettes mensuelles du SPF Finances, ordonnancements mensuels et/ou trimestriels des administrations fédérales, communautaires et régionales du budget, dépenses trimestrielles des parastataux de sécurité sociale,...).

En ce qui concerne, les recettes fiscales et parafiscales (impôts directs, impôts indirects, cotisations sociales effectives et impôts en capital) et les dépenses de prestations sociales en espèces, le règlement (CE) n°264/2000 de la Commission du 3 février 2000 stipule que les indicateurs utilisés doivent représenter, pour chaque catégorie, au moins 90 % de la catégorie. Seules deux séries, les impôts en capital (jusqu'en 2002) et les prestations sociales en espèces, ne respectent pas scrupuleusement ce critère mais affichent néanmoins des taux de couverture proches du standard².

Bien que l'utilisation d'indicateurs directs soit systématiquement privilégiée, il existe des séries pour lesquelles l'utilisation de cette méthode n'est actuellement pas possible. Pour certaines séries, les indicateurs mensuels et/ou trimestriels actuellement disponibles sont de qualité insuffisantes et ne peuvent être utilisés (ex.: pour les

1. Si la description méthodologique aborde peu les améliorations possibles, il ne faut pas penser pour autant que les méthodes sont définitivement figées: ainsi des changements d'indicateurs peuvent intervenir pour de multiples raisons et le groupe de travail sur les statistiques infra-annuelles de finances publiques d'Eurostat a aussi pour but de réfléchir aux différentes méthodologies, et de les homogénéiser autant que possible entre les pays.

2. Pour les impôts en capital, l'inclusion, à partir de l'année 2002, des droits de donations dans l'indicateur a permis de porter le taux de couverture à plus de 90%. Quant au taux de couverture pour les prestations sociales en espèces, il est actuellement de 89%.

rémunérations, les montants ordonnancés sont normalement enregistrés aux moments de paiement et les rémunérations du mois de décembre sont donc généralement incorporées aux rémunérations du mois de janvier). Pour les opérations du sous-secteur des administrations locales, les seuls indicateurs disponibles concernent les impôts locaux perçus par le Pouvoir fédéral et la Communauté flamande, aucun indicateur n'est actuellement disponible pour les postes de dépenses (c'est notamment le cas pour les investissements des administrations locales, bien que ce sous-secteur soit le plus gros investisseur au sein des administrations publiques). Pour ces séries, les montants annuels sont répartis sur les quatre trimestres de l'année au moyen d'un trend linéaire ou d'un profil trimestriel donné.

Pour l'établissement des données trimestrielles, la plupart des rubriques du tableau sont décomposées en plusieurs sous-rubriques pour lesquelles il est normalement possible de construire un indicateur direct.

Exemple: Les recettes d'impôts directs sont ventilées en trois principales sous-rubriques qui sont les impôts directs des ménages, les impôts directs des sociétés et les autres impôts courants et pour lesquelles la composition des indicateurs directs est la suivante:

- *Impôts directs des ménages*: Précompte mobilier (PP), Précompte professionnel (PP), Versements anticipés (PP), Rôles (PP), Additionnels aux rôles (PP), Cotisation spéciale de sécurité sociale;
- *Impôts directs des sociétés*: Précompte mobilier (Soc), Versements anticipés (Soc), Impôts des non-résidents (Soc), Rôles (Soc)¹;
- *Autres impôts courants*: Taxes sur les ASBL, Taxe sur les titres cotés en bourse, Taxe sur les organismes de placement collectif, Transfert au Fonds des accidents de travail, Taxe de circulation payée par les ménages, Taxe assimilée au droit d'accises payées par les ménages.

2.3 Réconciliation avec les données annuelles

Les résultats trimestriels sont obtenus en interpolant les données annuelles sur la base d'indicateurs trimestriels. La méthode d'interpolation utilisée est basée sur le modèle économétrique de Chow et Lin², qui assure par construction une cohérence parfaite avec les séries annuelles et fournit pour l'année en cours des extrapolations optimales en fonction des relations observées dans le passé.

La méthode indirecte de base se compose de deux étapes. Dans un premier temps, on ajuste l'évolution d'un indicateur infra-annuel sur la série annuelle à l'aide des moindres carrés ordinaires (étalonnage). On répartit ensuite de façon mécanique les écarts qui subsistent entre l'indicateur étalonné et la série annuelle (calage).

La fusion de ces deux étapes, toujours selon la méthode proposée par Chow et Lin, permet d'améliorer cette procédure en réduisant la variance de l'erreur d'estimation. Cette méthode, basée sur les moindres carrés généralisés, se justifie par le fait que les résidus présentent une autocorrélation non négligeable.

1. PP= Personnes physiques; Soc= Sociétés.

2. Chow G. et Lin A.L., Best linear unbiased interpolation, distribution and extrapolation of time series by related series, Review of Economics and Statistics, vol. 43, n°4, novembre 1971, p. 372-375. Pour une description technique détaillée, on peut se référer à l'article de Bournay et Laroque, Réflexions sur la méthode d'élaboration des comptes trimestriels, Annales de l'INSEE, n°36, 1979, p. 3-29.

TABLEAU 1 SYNTHÈSE DE LA MÉTHODE ADOPTÉE POUR OBTENIR LES ESTIMATIONS TRIMESTRIELLES DES DIFFÉRENTES RUBRIQUES

Rubriques	Indicateurs trimestriels pour application de la méthode de Chow et Lin
Recettes	
Impôts directs	indicateur direct
Impôts indirects	indicateur direct + trend linéaire pour le précompte immobilier et les additionnels au précompte immobilier
Cotisations sociales effectives	indicateur direct
Impôts en capital	indicateur direct
Cotisations sociales imputées	trend linéaire
Intérêts reçus	trend linéaire + indicateur direct
Autres revenus de la propriété	indicateur direct pour les dividendes + trend linéaire pour les loyers
Transferts courants en provenance des autres secteurs	trend linéaire + indicateur direct pour certains transferts en provenance du reste du monde
Ventes courantes de biens et services produits	trend linéaire
Transferts en capital en provenance des autres secteurs	indicateur direct pour opérations non récurrentes importantes
Dépenses	
Rémunérations	trend trimestriel donné
Consommation intermédiaire et impôts payés	indicateur direct
Subventions aux entreprises	trend linéaire
Prestations sociales	indicateur direct
Transferts courants aux ménages et aux ISBLSM	trend linéaire + indicateur direct
Transferts courants aux entreprises	trend linéaire
Transferts courants au reste du monde	indicateur direct
Charges d'intérêts	indicateur direct
Formation brute de capital fixe	indicateur direct + trend linéaire pour les investissements des administrations locales
Autres acquisitions nettes d'actifs non financiers	indicateur direct pour les opérations non récurrentes importantes
Transferts en capital aux autres secteurs	indicateur direct

Source: ICN

Pour une description plus détaillée, le lecteur consultera la contribution belge au «Manual on quarterly non-financial accounts for general government» (uniquement disponible en anglais) d'Eurostat dont le texte légèrement amendé est repris en annexe.

3. Mise en garde lors de l'interprétation des données trimestrielles

Les comptes non financiers trimestriels simplifiés de l'ensemble des administrations publiques sont obtenus selon les mêmes concepts que les comptes annuels détaillés des administrations publiques. Malgré cette approche il existe quand même des différences au niveau de l'interprétation des chiffres.

Prudence requise lors de l'interprétation des données trimestrielles

Beaucoup plus que dans les comptes annuels, la prudence s'impose lors de l'interprétation des résultats. Ainsi, il peut être dangereux de se baser sur les chiffres du dernier trimestre disponible pour tirer des conclusions au sujet d'une tendance fondamentale. Pour cela, il existe plusieurs raisons.

Par rapport aux données annuelles, il faut premièrement souligner le caractère généralement partiel et parfois provisoire des données de base disponibles.

En ce qui concerne les données trimestrielles, un degré non négligeable d'incertitude existe donc. Il va sans dire que l'information plus complète disponible lors de l'élaboration des comptes d'un trimestre ultérieur est dès lors susceptible d'entraîner des révisions des estimations des trimestres antérieurs (voir plus loin la partie consacrée à la politique de révision).

De plus, les données des comptes trimestriels des administrations publiques font toujours l'objet d'une révision ex post pour les caler sur la dernière version des comptes annuels des administrations publiques. Une certaine prudence s'impose donc lorsque l'on cherche à dériver des tendances annuelles à partir des comptes trimestriels.

Les recettes, dépenses et solde de financement trimestriels subissent l'influence d'effets saisonniers résultant de l'activité économique et/ou de procédures administratives. Ces profils saisonniers sont relativement stables dans le temps mais ne coïncident pas pour les dépenses et recettes. Les données trimestrielles peuvent être perturbées certains trimestres par des effets temporaires résultant d'opérations ponctuelles exceptionnelles.

La plupart des années, les deuxième et quatrième trimestres affichent les meilleurs soldes. Ceci résulte principalement de l'évolution trimestrielle des recettes. Ainsi, les impôts directs et les cotisations sociales effectives ont un profil saisonnier influencé par des dispositions administratives spécifiques. Les fluctuations trimestrielles des impôts directs s'expliquent par les évolutions du précompte professionnel (les pécules de vacances, resp. les primes de fin d'années, sont payés et imposés durant le deuxième trimestre, resp. le quatrième trimestre) et des versements anticipés (les versements d'avril, d'octobre et de décembre captent la plus grande partie des recettes qui sont donc enregistrées dans les deuxième et quatrième trimestres). Le profil saisonnier des cotisations sociales effectives est semblable à celui des impôts directs pour les mêmes raisons que le précompte professionnel. Le profil saisonnier des impôts indirects révèle un pic marqué au quatrième trimestre, en raison sans doute de la hausse des dépenses des ménages à l'approche des fêtes de fin d'année. Les recettes non fiscales des administrations publiques ne présentent pas de profil saisonnier particulier, à l'exception des autres revenus de la propriété qui affichent un pic au deuxième trimestre en raison de la comptabilisation de la plus grande partie des recettes de dividendes.

D'une manière générale, la plupart des postes de dépenses sont marqués par une faible volatilité saisonnière au regard des postes de recettes. La rémunération des salariés présente normalement des hausses aux deuxième et quatrième trimestres, reflète des pécules de vacances et des allocations de fin d'année payées habituellement au personnel des administrations publiques. Les prestations sociales en espèces présentent un pic au deuxième trimestre en raison du paiement des pécules de vacances aux pensionnés. Les prestations sociales en nature montrent généralement un plancher au troisième trimestre, c'est à dire durant les mois d'été. Les autres rubriques des dépenses primaires ne révèlent pas de profil saisonnier particulier. Quant aux charges d'intérêts, mesurées

conformément au principe des droits constatés c'est à dire au moment où les intérêts sont courus et non lorsqu'ils sont échus, sont quasiment équilibrées sur les quatre trimestres.

Les recettes et les dépenses en capital comprennent les rubriques qui présentent les plus grandes fluctuations trimestrielles dues à des opérations non récurrentes (recettes de la déclaration libératoire unique, ventes de terrains et de bâtiments, cessions de licences UMTS, transferts en capital exceptionnels tant en recettes qu'en dépenses).

Les données trimestrielles présentent donc une certaine volatilité, mais les effets saisonniers sont relativement stables. On peut donc dégager des tendances en glissement annuel. C'est pourquoi, les pourcentages de variation par rapport à la période correspondante de l'année précédente et les données cumulées des rubriques les plus importantes sont présentés dans deux tableaux annexes.

En ce qui concerne la politique de révision des données trimestrielles des comptes non financiers des administrations publiques, la règle déjà en vigueur pour les agrégats macro-économiques trimestriels a été adoptée. Cette règle est rappelée ci-après:

- les trimestres qui n'appartiennent pas à une année pour laquelle une estimation annuelle a déjà été publiée, peuvent être révisés lors de chaque publication trimestrielle, afin que les utilisateurs disposent d'une information conjoncturelle aussi complète et précise que possible;
- les trimestres appartenant à une année pour laquelle une estimation annuelle a déjà été publiée ne peuvent être révisés qu'une fois par an, après la publication des comptes annuels détaillés des administrations publiques. Etant donné la méthode économétrique utilisée dans les comptes trimestriels, basée sur le lien statistique entre les valeurs annuelles des indicateurs trimestriels et les comptes annuels, la modification d'une seule année a un impact sur l'ensemble de la série trimestrielle (les coefficients d'ajustement étant revus). Cette révision fréquente de l'ensemble des données historiques pouvant être gênante pour les utilisateurs, il a été décidé de limiter la révision des comptes trimestriels aux années pour lesquelles les comptes annuels eux-mêmes ont été modifiés.

4. Tableaux

Même si les concepts des comptes annuels et trimestriels sont les mêmes, il existe néanmoins une différence avec la structure du tableau annuel. Une nouvelle série est mentionnée pour mémoire, il s'agit des impôts indirects, y compris les impôts cédés aux institutions de l'UE. Dans la série impôts indirects des recettes, les impôts communautaires (droits de douanes, prélèvements relatifs à la politique agricole commune et TVA cédée) ne sont pas inclus, conformément à la méthodologie du SEC 1995. Comme la partie des recettes de TVA transférée aux institutions de l'Union européenne n'est pas stable mais est affectée par des pratiques administratives et des dispositions légales, il s'ensuit que l'évolution des impôts indirects peut être biaisée et être déconnectée de l'activité économique. La série impôts indirects, y compris les impôts cédés aux institutions de l'UE, n'est pas affectée par cet effet.

4.1 Tableau synoptique (données brutes en millions d'euros)

C'est l'équivalent trimestriel du tableau annuel diffusé lors de la publication des premières estimations des recettes, dépenses et solde de financement et la publication des comptes détaillés à la fin mars et à la fin septembre.

4.2 Tableaux annexes

Les rubriques les plus importantes sont présentées dans deux tableaux qui donnent les pourcentages de variation par rapport à la période correspondante de l'année précédente et les données cumulées.

5. Graphiques

Les rubriques les plus importantes sont présentées dans trois graphiques qui montrent les recettes et dépenses en pourcentage de variation par rapport à la période correspondante de l'année précédente et les contributions à la variation annuelle en points de pourcentage.

Annex : Technical description of Belgian practice, Year 2002

1. Compliance with Commission Regulation 264/2000 (Articles 3 and 4) and European Parliament and Council Regulation 1221/2002 (articles 4 and 5)

1.1 Use of direct information

The 90% criterion set out in Article 3 of Commission Regulation (EC) 264/2000 is fully met for Tax data (D2, D5) and for Actual Social Contributions (D611). Two exceptions are Capital taxes (D91) and Social Benefits (D62) for which the criterion is not met every year, but is close to the minimum standard.

For the time being, there are no basic quarterly indicators available with a sufficient quality for a limited set of ESA 95 transactions falling under European Parliament and Council Regulation (EC) 1221/2002. As a consequence, for these transactions the annual ESA 95 figures are smoothed out over the four quarters of the year, by applying a linear trend¹.

For the current year for which the annual accounts don't exist, annual forecasts are established and updated on a regular basis by the Research Department of the National Bank of Belgium (NBB) in collaboration with the National Accounts Division of the NBB's General Statistics Department, which is, on behalf of the National Accounts Institute (NAI), in charge of the compilation of the quarterly and annual general government accounts in co-operation with the Federal Planning Bureau.

For some of the transactions concerned, the choice of a smooth distribution is not only justified by the unavailability of adequate basic quarterly indicators but also by the fact that these transactions are very stable from one quarter to the next, and/or that the principles of the ESA 95 system imply a recording on an accrual basis rather than at the time the payment is made.

Examples:

– the Market output + Output for own final use + Payments for the other non-market output

Some of the receipts included in these items are paid once a year or according to a fixed schedule during the year, but the services are supplied throughout the year (the garbage disposal fees, the rentals for the real estate services of non-residential buildings, the payment for the collection of taxes on behalf of the European Union institutions, the course and examination fees in high schools and universities,...).

1. The annual amounts are not divided by 4 in order to avoid an artificial break between the fourth quarter and the first quarter of the subsequent year.

- the subsidies, payable

The calendar of payment orders is not significant from an economic point of view (some payments can be related to several months of activity).

- the imputed social contribution

The tax basis for this contribution is the normal wage of civil servants and armed forces. The lump sum payments (holiday bonuses, New Year bonuses and special allowances) must be excluded from the calculation of the imputed social contribution, but the basic quarterly indicator for wages and salaries contains these elements and it is not possible to exclude them.

1.2 Compliance with ESA 95 rules

Basic data are transformed in order to comply fully with ESA 95 concepts.

1.3 Consistency between annual and quarterly data

Basic quarterly data and basic annual data are independently compiled (but in some cases, the link between both is obvious: $\sum(Q_i) = Y$). The basic data represent all direct information received from the Federal Public Service Finance and other administrative bodies.

In the national accounts, both quarterly data and annual data are integrated in order to obtain coherent data. For the years for which the annual national accounts exist, the quarterly data are reconciled with the annual data by using the Chow and Lin method (see infra) applied to the relevant basic quarterly data, called «indicator». For the recent year for which the annual national accounts have not yet been published, the quarterly accounts are calculated by means of the same method, i.e. using the indicators.

When data are to be established for the fourth quarter of a year for which no annual data are available, the basic annual information, likewise provisional, is integrated in the calculation. This working method allows to obtain a result, which is close to the result that will be obtained when drawing up annual accounts at the end of June.

1.4 Revision policy

Revision policy depends on whether the annual national accounts exist or not: in the first case, the quarterly data are revised only when a new version of the annual data has been calculated, while in the second case, the revisions of quarterly data are introduced at the moment a new quarter is estimated.

2. Sources and Methods by category

2.1 General remarks

Generally, quarterly results for the items of the expenditure/revenue side are obtained by interpolating annual data on the basis of the quarterly indicators. The interpolation method is based on the Chow and Lin model which is constructed so that the quarterly series are bound to be perfectly consistent with the annual series, providing optimal extrapolations for the current year based on related series observed in the past.

In order to obtain quarterly estimates of the year $t+1$ for a particular category, assuming that an annual measure is available for year t , we have to:

- calculate the quarterly value from the annual value in line with ESA 95 using the quarterly indicator for the period from 1980 up to t using the Chow and Lin method, which adjusts quarterly amounts to the annual amount;
- supply the indicator for the quarters of year $t+1$;

- apply the Chow and Lin method in order to estimate the quarters after year t taking into account differences observed in the past between the annual value of the quarterly indicator and the final value calculated in the ESA 95 annual national accounts.

The use of this method implies that, when quarterly data are calculated in line with ESA 95, implicit estimates are included for the part of transactions which is not covered by basic quarterly indicators.

2.2 Expenditure

For the time being, infra-annual data are collected for the expenditure recorded both in the budgets of the Belgian State (S.1311) and in the budgets of all Communities and regions of the sub-sector state government (S.1312). For the expenditure of autonomous units of these two sub-sectors as well as for the expenditure of local government (S.1313), no quarterly indicators are available. For the expenditure of social security funds (S.1314), only quarterly indicators for the social benefits exist.

For the year 2002, the relative weight of each sub-sector of general government for the various expenditure categories is presented in the following table.

TABEL 1 EXPENDITURE - BELGIUM 2002

	Central Government (S1311)	State Government (S1312)	Local Government (S1313)	Social security funds (S1314)	General Government (S13)
Intermediate consumption (P2)	25.7%	40.9%	25.0%	8.3%	100%
Gross capital formation + acquisitions less disposals of non-financial produced assets (P5 + K2)	8.2%	47.0%	42.2%	2.6%	100%
of which: Gross fixed capital formation (P51)	11.5%	44.8%	41.2%	2.5%	100%
Compensation of employees (D1)	22.4%	44.7%	29.5%	3.4%	100%
Other taxes on production (D29)	-	-	-	-	-
Subsidies, payable (D3)	33.0%	41.0%	9.9%	16.1%	100%
Property income (D4) *	90.7%	4.6%	4.6%	0.1%	100%
of which: Interest (D41) *	90.7%	4.6%	4.6%	0.1%	100%
Current taxes on income, wealth etc (D5)	60.1%	20.6%	19.3%	0.0%	100%
Social benefits other than social transfers in kind (D62)	12.0%	7.6%	4.0%	76.4%	100% (86.9%)**
Social transfers in kind related to expenditure on products supplied to households via market producers (D633 + D63121 + D63131)	6.5%	8.8%	2.2%	82.5%	100%
Other current transfers (D7) *	56.5%	30.0%	9.9%	3.6%	100%
Adjustment for the change in net equity of households in pension funds reserves (D8)	-	-	-	-	-
Capital taxes + investments grants + other capital transfers, payable (D91 + D92 + D99) *	34.0%	61.1%	4.2%	0.7%	100%

* Transactions TRD41, TRD7, TRD92 and TRD99 are consolidated. The other transactions are not consolidated.

** Coverage for Social benefits other than social transfers in kind (D62).

Source: NAI

2.2.1 Intermediate consumption (P2)

Sources

Central Government and State Government

In general, the information used in order to establish quarterly patterns (e.g. to develop indicators) is available six weeks after the end of the quarter. Data are available on a payment order basis.

Local Government and Social security funds

No direct information is available on a quarterly basis.

Methods

General Government

Chow and Lin method: see general remarks.

2.2.2 Gross capital formation + Acquisitions less disposals of non-financial non-produced assets (P5+K2)

2.2.2.1 GROSS FIXED CAPITAL FORMATION (P51)

Sources

Central Government and State Government

In general, the information used in order to establish quarterly patterns (e.g. to develop indicators) is available six weeks after the end of the quarter. Data are available on a payment order basis. The significant sales of non-residential buildings that have occurred since 2001, are registered on an individual basis.

Local Government and Social security funds

No direct information is available on a quarterly basis. This is a problem because the local government is one of the two sub-sectors realising the bulk of the gross fixed capital formation made by general government.

Methods

General Government

Chow and Lin method: see general remarks.

2.2.2.2 CHANGES IN INVENTORIES, ACQUISITIONS LESS DISPOSALS OF VALUABLES AND ACQUISITIONS LESS DISPOSALS OF NON-FINANCIAL NON-PRODUCED ASSETS (P52+P53+K2)

There are no basic quarterly indicators for the changes in inventories (P.52). Therefore the same indicator is used as for gross fixed capital formation. The acquisitions less disposals of valuables (P.53) are included in gross fixed capital formation (P.51). The present description concerns only the acquisitions less disposals of non-financial non-produced assets (K.2).

Sources

Central Government and State Government

In general, the information used in order to establish quarterly patterns (e.g. to develop indicators) is available six weeks after the end of the quarter. Data are available on a payment order basis. The significant sale of land occurred since 2002 and the sales of mobile phone licenses that have occurred since 1995, are registered on an individual basis.

Local Government and Social security funds

No direct information is available on a quarterly basis.

Methods

General Government

Chow and Lin method: see general remarks.

2.2.3 Compensation of employees (D1)

Two sub-series are discerned within the compensation of employees: the compensation of employees except imputed social contributions (D.1-D.122) and the imputed social contributions (D.122 or D.612).

The description concerns only the compensation of employees except imputed social contributions (D.1-D.122). For the imputed social contributions, see *infra*.

Sources

Central Government and State Government

In general, the information used in order to establish quarterly patterns (e.g. to develop indicators) is available six weeks after the end of the quarter. Data are available on a payment order basis.

Local Government and Social security funds

No direct information is available on a quarterly basis.

Methods

General Government

The indicator of the first quarter contains a large part of the amount related to the month of December¹ and is difficult to correct. In practice, for «D.1-D.122» a distribution of the yearly estimate of «D.1-D.122» over the 4 quarters is used (yearly estimate distributed over the 4 quarters with due account for the fact that the holiday bonuses are paid in May and that the New Year bonuses are normally paid in December or exceptionally in January).

In recent years, some governments (State Government, Walloon Region and French Community) have sometimes decided to change the payment date of the New Year bonuses (NYB): either in December or in January. The following table summarises the particular situations.

TABEL 2 **PARTICULAR SITUATION**

	State Government	Wallonia and French Community
1995	one NYB in December	one NYB in January
1996	no NYB (paid on 2/1/1997)	no NYB (paid on 2/1/1997)
1997	one NYB in January	one NYB in January
1998	one NYB in January	one NYB in January
1999	two NYB (in January and in December)	one NYB in January
2000	one NYB in January	two NYB (in January and in December)
2001	one NYB in January	one NYB in January

Source: NAI

1. Royal Decree No 279 of 30 March 1984 on the due payment date of salaries and pensions of certain public sector agents stipulates that the payment of the salary for the month of December must take place on the first working day of the following January. It should be borne in mind, however, that the annual impact of a one-month delay in the payment of remunerations has always been quite small, except when it was first applied in 1984. While this hypothesis is tenable in the annual accounts, it's not the case in the quarterly accounts.

Taking into account these decisions and the fact that the payment for the holiday bonuses takes place in May, the distribution of the compensation of employees except imputed social contributions (D.1-D.122) over the quarters is established on the basis of the declarations by employers of the sector general government to the social security funds.

This method has two advantages: first, the problem of the month of January which contains two months of wages is solved, and secondly the exceptional payments are recorded when they are due to be paid. In doing so, the coherence with the rule of ESA95 (§4.12) and with the recordings of the advance payments of tax on wages (D.51) and actual social contributions (D.611) in the quarterly accounts is preserved. This last point is very important for the internal consistency of the quarterly accounts.

2.2.4 Other taxes on production (D29)

This item is not registered separately in the annual accounts. It has a limited importance, and the relevant amounts are compiled under the item intermediate consumption (P2).

2.2.5 Subsidies (D3)

Sources

Central Government and State Government

In general, the information used in order to establish quarterly patterns (e.g. to develop indicators) is available six weeks after the end of the quarter. Data are available on a payment order basis.

Local Government and Social security funds

No direct information is available on a quarterly basis.

Methods

General Government

This item is defined by the following equation: $D3 = D3$ (total paid by General Government and EU institutions) - $D3$ (subsidies granted by EU institutions).

For the time being, the annual amount is smoothed for distribution over the four quarters of the relevant year.

For this transaction, the choice of this method is not only justifiable by the unavailability of adequate basic quarterly indicators but also by the fact that the transactions are very stable from one quarter to the next and/or that the principles of the ESA95 system imply a recording on an accrual basis rather than when the payment is made.

The calendar of payment orders is not significant from an economic point of view (some payments can be related to several months of activity).

2.2.6 Property income (D4)

This item concerns only the interest charge because the other components are either nil (distributed income of corporations, reinvested earnings on direct foreign investment) or not collected separately in the annual accounts (rents) and compiled under the item intermediate consumption (P2).

Sources

Central Government

At the NBB's Research Department, a situation of the public debt on a loan-by-loan basis is available for the major part of the federal debt. On this basis, a calculation of the interest charge on an accrual basis is calculated for each quarter. The result is used as a basic quarterly indicator.

State Government, Local Government and Social security funds

No direct information is available on a quarterly basis.

Methods

General Government

Chow and Lin method: see general remarks.

2.2.7 Current taxes on income, wealth etc. (D5)

The relevant amounts are not very important and are temporarily allocated, by convention, to the fourth quarter of the year.

2.2.8 Social benefits other than social transfers in kind (D62)

Sources

Central Government

Quarterly data following payment orders is available with a time lag of 3 months.

State Government and Local Government

Information on a quarterly basis is only available for the retirement pensions paid directly to their former employees: in practice, these pensions are financed by the central government. Quarterly data following payment orders are available with a time lag of 3 months.

Social security funds

Quarterly data, on an accruals basis, are available with a time lag of 3 months. Several agencies of the social security system transmit the information covering the following social benefits: cash benefits to persons unable to work due to sickness or injury, retirement and survivors' pensions, unemployment benefits and family allowances.

Methods

General Government

Chow and Lin method: see general remarks.

2.2.9 Social transfers in kind related to expenditure on products supplied to households via market producers (D633+D63121+D63131)

Sources

Central Government, State Government and Local Government

No direct information is available on a quarterly basis.

Social security funds

In practice, the information comes from the Institut National d'assurance maladie-invalidité (INAMI), the agency of the social security system in charge of social benefits in kind relating to sickness. The information used in order to establish quarterly patterns (e.g. to develop indicators) is available three months after the end of the month. When the first estimation of the figure for a given quarter is calculated, only data for the first two months of the quarter are available and it is necessary to make a forecast for the third month of the quarter. In the bookkeeping of the INAMI, the social transfers in kind are recorded when the accounting department controls and accepts the expenses. The data on a true accrual basis recording are only available six months after the end of the quarter. When this information becomes available, it is included in the accounts.

Methods

General Government

Chow and Lin method: see general remarks.

2.2.10 Other current transfers (D7)

Sources

Central Government and State Government

In general, the information used in order to establish quarterly patterns (e.g. to develop indicators) is available six weeks after the end of the quarter. Data are available on a payment order basis. Special attention is paid to the «GNP» based fourth own resource which is an out-of-budget transaction. The figures are transmitted by the Ministry of Finance and recorded on a cash basis.

Local Government and Social security funds

No direct information is available on a quarterly basis.

Methods

General Government

Chow and Lin method: see general remarks.

2.2.11 Adjustment for the change in net equity of households in pension funds reserves (D8)

Actually¹, no funded social insurance schemes are included in the general government sector.

2.2.12 Capital taxes + Investment grants + Other capital transfers (D91+D92+D99)

Sources

Central Government and State Government

In general, the information used in order to establish quarterly patterns (e.g. to develop indicators) is available six weeks after the end of the quarter. Data are available on a payment order basis. The special cases of court decisions with retroactive effect are registered on an individual basis.

Local Government and Social security funds

No direct information is available on a quarterly basis.

Methods

General Government

Chow and Lin method: see general remarks.

2.3 Revenue

For taxes collected by central government (S.1311) and actual social contributions received by social security funds (S.1314), quarterly basic data are available.

For the other items of the revenue side, only infra-annual data for the revenue recorded in the revenue budget of the Belgian State (S.1311) are collected.

1. Refer to 2002. Following the adhoc revision 2005, two social insurances schemes have been included in the general government sector.

For the year 2002, the relative weight of each sub-sector of general government for the various expenditure categories is presented in the following table.

TABEL 3 REVENUE - BELGIUM 2002

	Central government (S1311)	State government (S1312)	Local government (S1313)	Social security funds (S1314)	General government (S13)
Market output + output for own final use + payments for the other non-market output (P11 + P12 + P13)	21.2%	40.0%	36.6%	2.3%	100%
Taxes on production and imports (D2) **	76.1%	10.2%	10.8%	2.9%	100% (92.8%)
of which: VAT (D211) **	100%	0%	0%	0%	100% (99.9%)
Other subsidies on production, receivable (D39)	-	-	-	-	-
Property income (D4) *	48.5%	7.3%	39.7%	4.5%	100%
Taxes on income and wealth (D5) **	91.4%	1.8%	4.9%	1.9%	100% (99.1%)
Actual social contributions (D611) **	3.6%	0%	0%	96.4%	100% (96.2%)
Imputed social contributions (D612)	34.4%	48.5%	16.8%	0.3%	100%
Other current transfers (D7) *	56.9%	29.0%	13.9%	0.1%	100%
Capital taxes (D91) **	6.6%	93.4%	0%	0%	100% (88.3%)
Investments grants + other capital transfers, receivable (D92 + D99) *	49.5%	17.7%	32.8%	0%	100%

* Transactions TRD41, TRD7, TRD92 and TRD99 are consolidated. The other transactions are not consolidated.

** For taxes (D2, D211, D5 and D91) and actual social contributions (D611), the percentage of the coverage is given within brackets.

Source: NAI

2.3.1 Market output + Output for own final use + Payments for the other non-market output (P11+P12+P131)

For the time being, no direct information is collected and the annual amount is distributed, in a smoothed way, over the four quarters of the year concerned.

For this transaction, the choice of this method is not only justified by the unavailability of adequate basic quarterly indicators, but also by the fact that the transactions are very stable from one quarter to the next, and that the principles of the ESA95 system imply a recording on an accrual basis rather than when the payment is made.

Some of the receipts included in these items are only paid once or several times a year, although the services are supplied throughout the year (the garbage disposal fees, the rentals for the real estate services of non-residential buildings, the payment for the collection of taxes on behalf of the European Union institutions, the course and examination fees in high schools and universities,...).

The item market output (P11) has been affected by some discontinuities which have been taken into account in the calculation:

- from 1 January 2001, the reimbursement of collection costs for agricultural levies and customs duties has risen from 10% to 25%;
- from 1 January 2002, the television and radio licences are no longer regarded as sales of non-financial corporations, but rather as other current taxes paid to the State Government. Therefore, the public units which work in broadcasting are reclassified from non-financial corporations into the State Government and their turnovers are included in the market output of General Government.

2.3.2 Taxes on production and imports (D2)

2.3.2.1 NON-VAT TYPE TAXES

Sources

Central Government, State Government and Local Government

In general, sufficient information in order to establish quarterly patterns (e.g. to develop basic indicators) is available 3 months after the end of the quarter. Data are available on a cash basis.

For taxes received by the sub-sectors State Government and Local Government, quarterly basic indicators exist only for taxes collected by the central Government and automatically transferred to the final recipient. For taxes paid directly to these two sub-sectors by the taxpayers, there are no quarterly basic indicators.

The taxes collected by the Central Government on behalf of the State Government include some registration duties (D21), betting and gaming tax (D21), tax on automatic amusement machines (D29), tax on the opening of establishments for the sale of fermented beverages (D29) and advance payment of tax on income from real property (D29) and succession duty (D91). For the Local Government, only tax on income from real property (D29) and income tax by assessment (D51) are concerned.

Since 2002, additional taxes are legally allocated to the State Government and at present collected by the Central Government on behalf of the State Government. These taxes are: some other registration duties (D21), taxes related to motor vehicles (D29), taxes on registration of vehicles (D21) and the Euro-toll disc (D29).

Social security funds

No direct information is available on a quarterly basis.

Methods

General Government

This item is defined as: D2 (Non-VAT type taxes) = D2 (total paid to the tax authorities) - D2 (Non-VAT type taxes paid to the EU institutions¹) - VAT type taxes.

The table below shows the compliance timetable for establishing the time-adjusted cash registration.

Taxes	Time-lag between the activity date (or the determination date for the amount of the tax) and the due date	Sub-sectors
Excise duty on manufactured tobacco (D212)	3 months (until 31 December 1996), 2 months (since 1 January 1997)	S.1311
Advance payment of tax on income from real property (D29)	2 months	S.1312 and S.1313
Vehicle duty paid by self-employed and corporations (D29)	1 month	S.1311 (since 2002, S.1312)
Taxes on stock exchange business (D21)	1 month (since 1 April 2002)	S.1311

Source: NAI

1. European Coal and Steel Community levy on mining and iron and steel producing enterprises, taxes from the common agricultural policy and customs duties.

These adjustments are made systematically on annual data and on quarterly data with an exception for the taxes on the ownership or use of land, buildings or other structures used by enterprises in production (in practice the advanced payment of tax on income from real property which applies mainly to buildings) for which the adjustment is only applied to annual data. The annual amount (known or estimated) obtained that way is distributed, in a smoothed way, over the four quarters of the year concerned by applying a linear trend¹.

For other taxes on production and imports, there is no adjustment on the data on a cash basis: either the time lag is very short (15 days for the excise duty on mineral oils) or the economic operation is only known when the payment is made.

2.3.2.2 VAT TYPE TAXES

Sources

Central Government

Quarterly cash data are available with a delay of 3 months.

Methods

Central Government

Taxes are recorded on a cash basis in the budgets and the data have to be re-treated in order to become consistent with ESA 95 rules. VAT taxes are based on self-assessment, which means that the taxpayer sends to the government a return showing the amount of tax to be paid and then pays that sum in due course. For VAT, a correction is made for the time difference between the payment date and the period to which it refers. For any given quarter, revenues related to economic transactions which took place during the previous quarter have to be deducted from the cash-based VAT amount, and similarly revenues in respect of economic transactions taking place during the relevant quarter but collected during the following quarter have to be added. This operation gives the amount of VAT on the basis of «time-adjusted cash registration», and is the chosen method. Corrections for later payments are made only if those payments are substantial with amounts known.

The following table shows the compliance timetable typically applied in Belgium for establishing the time-adjusted cash registration.

TABEL 5 COMPLIANCE TIMETABLE		
Taxes	Time-lag between the activity date (or the determination date for the amount of the tax) and the due date	Sub-sectors
VAT (D211)	1 month	S.1311

Source: NAI

The VAT thus calculated is the total of the VAT paid to the tax authorities. In order to obtain the VAT recorded as receipts by the general government, the VAT paid to the EU Institutions is then deducted on a cash basis.

2.3.3 Other subsidies on production (D39)

Actually, this transaction is nil in Belgium.

1. The annual amounts are not divided by 4 in order to avoid the artificial break between the fourth quarter and the first quarter of the subsequent year.

2.3.4 Property income (D4)

Three sub-series are discerned within the property income: the dividends received by the sub-sector Local government, the dividends received by the other sub-sectors and the property income other than dividends.

2.3.4.1 THE DIVIDENDS RECEIVED BY THE SUB-SECTOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

The dividends received by the sub-sector Local government mainly include dividends paid by utility works in electricity, gas and water supply as well as in cable television. The total amount is recorded in the second quarter of the year because most of the enterprises hold their annual meeting of shareholders during that period.

When the figure for the second quarter of the year t is calculated, a sample of the annual accounts of the enterprises involved for the year t-1 is available through the Central Balance Sheet Office¹.

2.3.4.2 THE DIVIDENDS RECEIVED FROM THE CENTRAL BANK (NBB)

The State share in the central bank earnings represents mainly the dividends received from the central bank. It is important not to confuse this State share, recorded as an expense in the profit and loss account of the NBB, with the part of the State in the distribution of the dividends, as a shareholder of the NBB. However, they both form dividends paid in the sense of ESA 95.

In accordance with the recommendations of the «ESA 95 Manual on government and debt» on gold and foreign exchange in the central bank, the foreign exchange differential results are excluded from the dividends.

As the State share is paid to the State on an irregular basis, this amount is recorded in the annual account of the Central government according to the accounts of the NBB, that is to say on an accrual basis rather than when the payments to the State are actually made.

In the quarterly accounts, the annual amounts of the State share are distributed, in a smoothed way, over the four quarters of the year concerned.

2.3.4.3 OTHERS DIVIDENDS

They are recorded mainly in the second quarter for the same reason as for the dividends received by the sub-sector local government.

2.3.4.4 THE PROPERTY INCOME OTHER THAN DIVIDENDS

For the time being, no direct information is collected and the annual amount is distributed, in a smoothed way, over the four quarters of the year concerned.

2.3.5 Taxes on income and wealth (D5)

Sources

Central Government, State Government and Local Government:

In general, sufficient information in order to establish quarterly patterns (e.g. to develop indicators) is available 3 months after the end of the quarter. Data are available on a cash basis.

Social security funds:

No direct information is available on a quarterly basis.

1. The role of the Central Balance Sheet Office mainly consists in gathering the annual accounts of almost all companies which are established in Belgium and putting them at the disposal of any interested person.

Methods

General Government

For taxes on income and wealth, the government issues assessments for the payment. The date on which the assessment was issued, is chosen as the time of recording, rather than the year during which the revenue was generated. There is a problem regarding the amount to be recorded, since as a rule the assessments are issued for amounts higher than those actually collected. In this case, it was decided to record only adjusted cash receipts relating to the period between the assessment issue date and the due date or final date for payment without penalty.

For advance payment of taxes paid by self-employed persons and corporations, the indicator is on a pure cash basis.

The table below shows the compliance timetable for establishing the time-adjusted cash registration.

TABEL 6 **COMPLIANCE TIMETABLE**

Taxes	Time-lag between the activity date (or the determination date for the amount of the tax) and the due date	Sub-sectors
Advance payment of tax on income from capital (D51)	1 month	S.1311
Advance payment of tax on earnings (D51)	1 month	S.1311
Income tax by assessment (D51)	2 months	S.1311 and S.1313
Vehicle duty paid by households (D59)	1 month	S.1311 (since 2002, S.1312)

Source: NAI

For the description of the statistical method, see the paragraph related to D2 Taxes on production and imports.

Remarks on the quarterly pattern of the direct taxes

There are four main categories within direct taxes: the advance payment of tax on income from capital, the advance payment of tax on earnings (essentially the tax on wages and salaries retained at source by employers), the pre-payments from self-employed and corporations and the final balance (assessments). In the national accounts, these taxes are recorded following the cash receipt data with time-adjustment (time-lag of one or two months depending on the category), except for the pre-payments which are recorded on a pure cash basis.

Because of the calculation method used for the advance payment of tax on earnings and the pre-payments, the full accrual principle is applied for 90 p.c. of taxes on income. By adding the advance payment of tax on income from capital and the assessments for which we work with the assessment dates, 98 p.c. of direct taxes on income are recorded on an accrual basis.

From a quarterly point of view, the implementation of the full accrual basis is more difficult to achieve because the pre-payments on a cash basis are not linked directly with the business cycle developments: 70 p.c. of the pre-payments of self-employed are paid in April, while the corporations pay 40 p.c. of their pre-payments in December.

2.3.6 Actual social contributions (D611)

Sources

Central Government

Quarterly data is available with a time-lag of 3 months and are cash based data.

State Government and Local Government

No direct information is available on a quarterly basis

Social security funds

Quarterly data are available with a time-lag of t+3 months. These are accrual data, or if not available, cash-adjusted data obtained from cash data by the National Bank of Belgium's Research Department.

Methods

General Government

Chow and Lin method: see general remarks.

2.3.7 Imputed social contributions (D612)

For the time being, no valid direct information on a quarterly basis is available and the annual amount is distributed, in a smoothed way, over the four quarters of the year concerned.

For this transaction, the choice of this method is not only justified by the unavailability of adequate basic quarterly indicators, but also by the fact that the transactions are very stable from one quarter to the next.

The tax basis for this contribution is the normal wage of civil servants and armed forces. The lump sum payments (holiday bonuses, New Year bonuses and special allowances) must be excluded from the calculation of the imputed social contributions, but the basic quarterly indicator for wages and salaries contains these elements and it is not possible to exclude them.

2.3.8 Other current transfers (D7)

Sources

Central Government

In general, the information used in order to establish quarterly patterns (e.g. to develop indicators) is available four weeks after the end of the quarter. Data are available on a cash basis. The part of the excise duties received from Luxembourg under the treaty of the Belgian-Luxembourg Economic Union, is recorded under this item.

State Government, Local Government and Social security funds

No direct information is available on a quarterly basis.

Methods

General Government

Chow and Lin method: see general remarks.

2.3.9 Capital taxes (D91)

Sources

Central Government and State Government

Quarterly cash data are available. The time-lag is 3 months.

Local Government and Social security funds

No capital taxes are collected by these two sub-sectors.

Methods

General Government

The following table shows the compliance timetable for establishing the time-adjusted cash registration.

TABEL 7 COMPLIANCE TIMETABLE

Taxes	Time-lag between the activity date (or the determination date for the amount of the tax) and the due date	Sub-sectors
Succession duty (D91)	2 months	S.1312

Source: NAI

For the description of the statistical method, see the paragraph related to D2 Taxes on production and imports.

2.3.10 Investment grants + Other capital transfers (D92+D99)

Sources

Central Government

In general, the information used in order to establish quarterly patterns (e.g. to develop indicators) is available four weeks after the end of the quarter.

Data are available on a cash basis.

State Government, Local Government and Social security funds

No direct information is available on a quarterly basis.

Methods

General Government

Chow and Lin method: see general remarks.