

Economic Intelligence Cell
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Macro Insights

1st January 2024

Fiscal deficit at 50.70% of BE by November 2023.

The government's fiscal deficit for the eight months ending November 2023 was at Rs. 9.07 trillion- amounting to 50.70% of the Budget Estimates. This was significantly lower than last year's achievement by this time.

Highlights:

- © Capex rose to Rs. 5.86 trillion during April-November FY 2023-24-achieving 58.50% of the budgeted target- almost at par with the achievement during the same period last year.
- The government's outlay on account of major subsidies is also under control as compared to last fiscal. The outgo on food and urea subsidy was respectively 58% and 63% of the budget estimates this fiscal vis-à-vis 71% and 154%, respectively in the last fiscal.
- Nutrient based fertilizer subsidy, however, reached 100% of the budget estimates by the end of November 2023.

Government of India Accounts (April-November 2023)

| | Budget Estimates 2023-2024 (Rs. Crore) | Actuals April-November 2023 (Rs. Crore) | % of Actuals to Budget Estimates | |
|------------------------|---|--|----------------------------------|--|
| | | | Current | Corresponding Period Previous Year |
| Revenue Receipts | 2632281 | 1720120 | 65.30% | 64.60% |
| Net Tax Revenue | 2330631 | 1435755 | 61.60% | 63.30% |
| Non-Tax Revenue | 301650 | 284365 | 94.30% | 73.50% |
| Total Receipts | 2716281 | 1745583 | 64.30% | 64.10% |
| Revenue Expenditure | 3502724 | 2066522 | 59.00% | 62.50% |
| Capital Expenditure | 1000373 | 585645 | 58.50% | 59.60% |
| Total Expenditure | 4503097 | 2652167 | 58.90% | 61.90% |
| Fiscal Deficit | 1786816 | 906584 | 50.70% | 58.90% |
| Revenue Deficit | 870443 | 346402 | 39.80% | 57.80% |
| Primary Deficit | 706845 | 298621 | 42.20% | 60.10% |

Source: CGA



Views and Outlook:

- Fiscal deficit up to November 2023 was arrested as tax revenue grew in double digits while the outlay on subsidies and other expenditure was in line with estimates.
- With this the fiscal deficit (that is met through borrowing) for the full fiscal year 2023-24 is expected to remain in line with the Rs.17.9 lakh crore of the budget estimates for 2023-24.
 The government targets to bring down the fiscal deficit to 5.9% of GDP in FY2024, from 6.4% in FY23.
- The primary deficit, which indicates the borrowing requirement of the government excluding
 the interest payments is also significantly reduced at approximately 42% of this year's budget
 estimates compared to almost 60% in the last fiscal- indicating progress towards fiscal health.

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