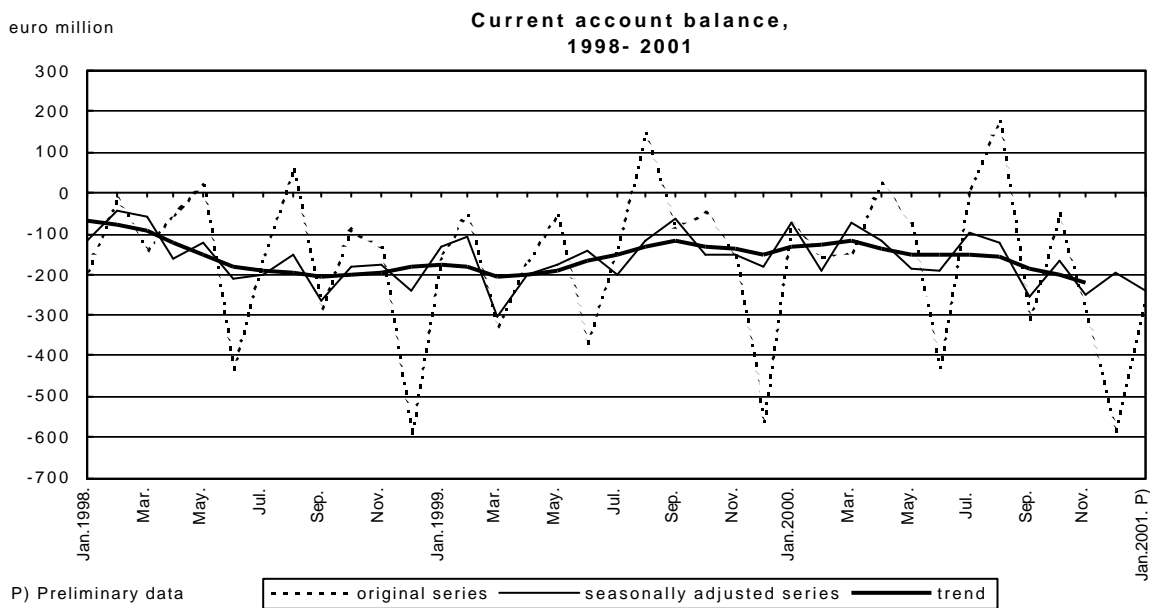


PRESS RELEASE

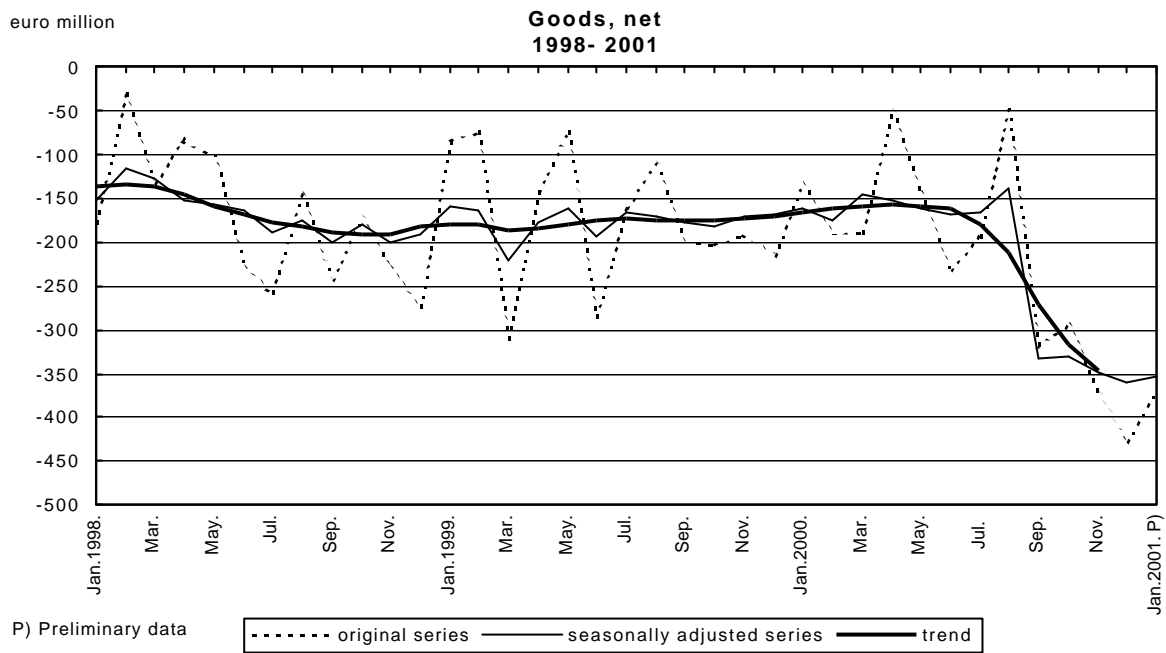
**Hungary's preliminary balance of payments
January 2001**

Provisional data may change when finalised.

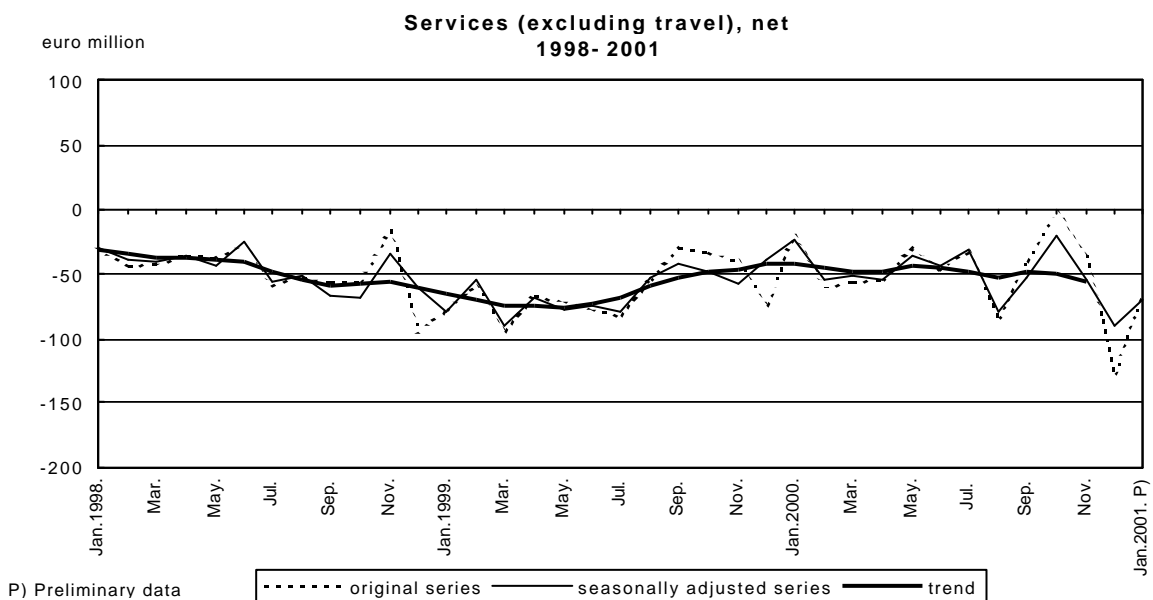
According to the preliminary numbers, Hungary's current account was EUR 266 million in deficit in January 2001. The year-on-year increase of EUR 189 million in the deficit was largely attributable to the increase in merchandise trade deficit. Net non-debt outflow amounted to EUR 167 million in the month, explained by a EUR 313 million direct investment abroad.



In January, the EUR 372 million merchandise trade deficit was the balance of EUR 2,460 million exports and EUR 2,832 million imports. The values of exports and imports of goods were around the average of the fourth quarter of 2000. Exports rose by EUR 444 million and imports by EUR 682 million relative a year ago.



The tourism surplus amounted to EUR 134 million in January, reflecting EUR 245 million revenue and EUR 111 million expenditure. Service transactions excluding tourism were EUR 66 million in deficit. That was EUR 45 million higher than the deficit recorded in January 2000.



Negative net investment income totalled EUR 49 million in the month. Under this heading, the net outflow of investment income on equity was equal to that recorded a year earlier. The balance of investment income on debt showed a EUR 28 million higher net outflow relative to January 2000.

Up EUR 41 million on the outcome recorded a year earlier, the surplus on current transfers amounted to EUR 87 million in January 2001.

The balance of non-debt financing transactions showed an outward flow of EUR 167 million in January. The net outflow via the domestic banking sector of direct investments in equity capital amounted to EUR 206 million, reflecting direct investments by non-residents in Hungary in the amount of EUR 106 million and investments by residents abroad to the tune of EUR 313 million. Portfolio investment transactions in equity securities resulted in a net inflow of EUR 39 million.

At the end of January central bank foreign exchange reserves stood at EUR 11.6 billion.

Balance of payments, Hungary

euro million

	2000	2001
	Jan.	Jan. ^{P)}
1. Goods, net	-133	-372
1.1. Exports	2016	2460
1.2. Imports	2150	2832
2. Services and income, net	10	19
2.1. Services*, net	84	67
2.1.1. Exports	418	571
2.1.2. Imports	334	503
2.2. Income, net	-74	-49
2.2.1. Income on debt, net	-72	-44
2.2.2. Income on equity, net	-4	-4
2.2.3. Compensation of employees, net	1	-1
3. Current transfers	46	87
4. Current account balance	-77	-266
5. Non debt creating financing, net	130	-167
5.1. Direct investment, equity capital, net	66	-206
5.1.1. Abroad, net	22	-313
5.1.2. In Hungary, net	44	106
5.2. Portfolio investment, equity securities, net	65	39
*- o/w: Travel, net	105	134
credit	185	245
debit	80	111

P) Preliminary data

Balance of payments, Hungary
(averages)

euro million

	2000			
	Q. 1.	Q.2.	Q.3.	Q.4.
1. Goods, net	-170	-142	-188	-365
1.1. Exports	2016	2264	2319	2588
1.2. Imports	2186	2407	2506	2953
2. Services and income, net	6	-65	110	27
2.1. Services, net	85	174	250	138
2.1.1. Exports	426	539	666	641
2.1.2. Imports	341	364	416	504
2.2. Income, net	-79	-240	-139	-111
2.2.1. Income on debt, net	-66	-81	-57	-71
2.2.2. Income on equity, net	-13	-158	-83	-40
2.2.3. Compensation of employees, net	1	0	0	0
3. Current transfers	38	45	35	29
4. Current account balance	-126	-162	-42	-309
5. Non debt creating financing, net	94	73	32	-41
5.1. Direct investment, equity capital, net	78	159	108	35
5.1.1. Abroad, net	3	-13	-66	-131
5.1.2. In Hungary, net	74	172	175	166
5.2. Portfolio investment, equity securities, net	16	-86	-76	-75
*- o/w: Travel, net	130	218	302	193
credit	211	318	407	305
debit	81	99	105	112

* * * * *

Average exchange rates of the Hungarian forint in January 2001 were 265.1 per euro and 282.24 per US dollar.