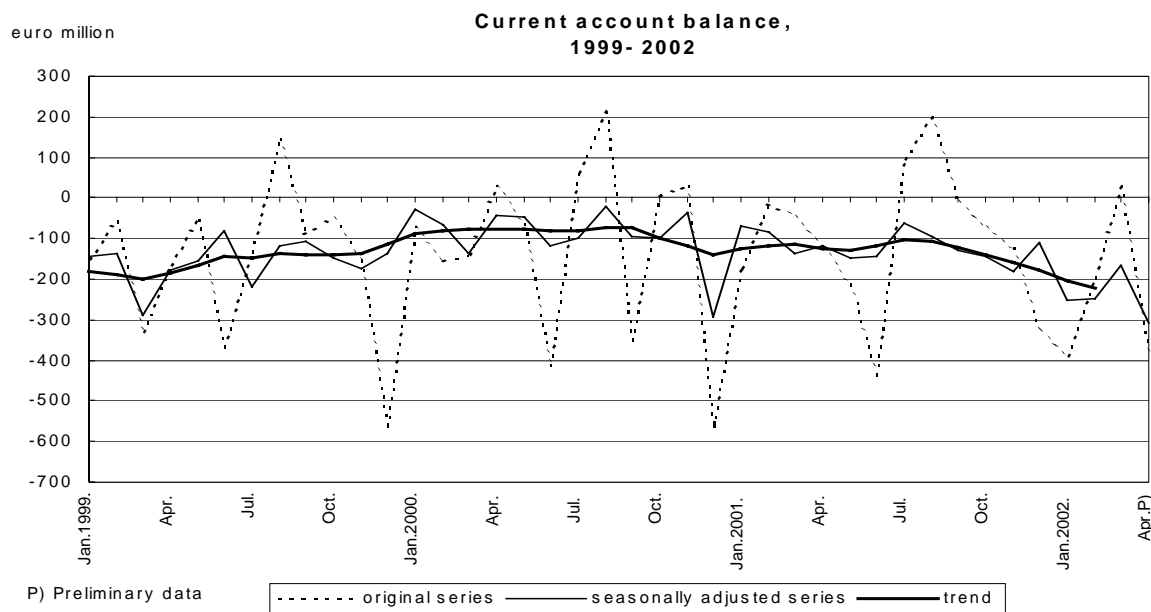


PRESS RELEASE

Hungary's preliminary balance of payments April 2002

The preliminary data may change when finalised.

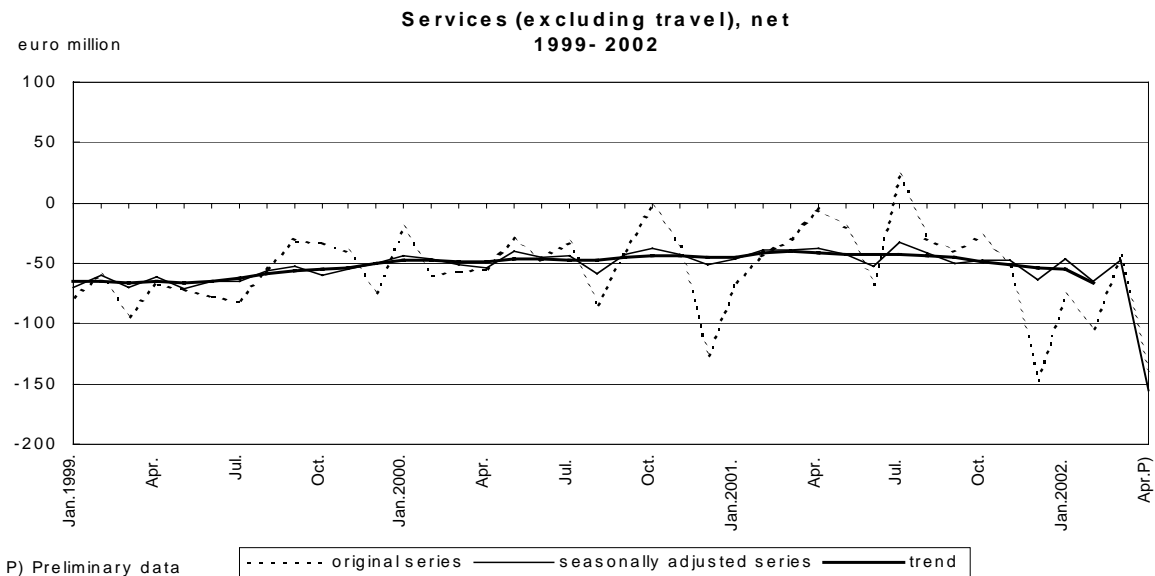
According to the preliminary data, Hungary's current account registered a EUR 387 million deficit in April 2002. This compared with a EUR 121 million deficit a year earlier. Higher net expenditures for trade in goods and services were dominant in the year-on-year change. After eliminating the seasonal effects, the current account was in a EUR 308 million deficit. Net non-debt inflow amounted to EUR 147 million in the month under review.



In April 2002, net expenditures for trade in goods were the balance of EUR 2,880 million exports and EUR 3,072 million imports. Exports and imports rose by EUR 244 million and EUR 328 million respectively relative to a year earlier. The seasonally adjusted goods deficit was EUR 6 million lower than in April 2001.



The EUR 259 million tourism revenue was EUR 64 million lower in April 2002 than a year previously, in contrast with the EUR 112 million expenditure, which was EUR 11 million higher. Net expenditures for service transactions excluding tourism amounted to EUR 140 million, rising by EUR 134 million relative to April 2001. According to the time series calculated after eliminating the seasonal effects, the trend of monthly balance outcomes for service transactions excluding tourism shows continuously rising deficits since the summer of 2001.



Within the EUR 222 million net outflow of investment income, the negative balance for investment income on equity fell by EUR 38 million and that for investment income on debt rose by EUR 2 million relative to April 2001.

The EUR 20 million surplus on current transfers in April was EUR 8 million lower than a year previously.

The balance of non-debt capital transactions showed a total inward flow of EUR 147 million in the month under review. Net inflows of direct investments in equity capital were the balance of direct investment transactions by non-residents in Hungary, at EUR 157 million, and those by Hungarian residents abroad, at EUR 27 million. Portfolio investment transactions in equity securities showed net inflows of EUR 17 million in the month under review.

Central bank foreign exchange reserves amounted to EUR 11.2 billion at the end of April 2002.

Balance of payments, Hungary

euro million

	2001				2002			
	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	Jan.-Apr.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr. ^{P)}	Jan.-Apr. ^{P)}
1. Goods, net	-75	-106	-108	-527	-209	-38	-192	-829
1.1. Exports	2321	2592	2636	10143	2453	2732	2880	10603
1.2. Imports	2396	2697	2744	10670	2662	2769	3072	11432
2. Services and income, net	54	48	-42	78	4	25	-215	-247
2.1. Services*, net	87	164	216	533	28	96	7	111
2.1.1. Exports	525	613	648	2359	626	623	625	2456
2.1.2. Imports	439	449	432	1827	598	527	618	2345
2.2. Income, net	-32	-116	-258	-455	-23	-71	-222	-358
2.2.1. Income on debt, net	-27	-65	-132	-267	-11	-38	-134	-209
2.2.2. Income on equity, net	-5	-51	-127	-187	-9	-33	-89	-146
2.2.3. Compensation of employees, net	0	-1	1	-1	-4	0	0	-3
3. Current transfers	7	10	28	91	7	41	20	130
4. Current account balance	-14	-48	-121	-358	-198	28	-387	-947
5. Non debt creating financing, net	266	186	66	356	33	58	147	461
5.1. Direct investment, equity capital, net	267	157	52	268	25	51	130	341
5.1.1. Abroad, net	-3	10	-15	-321	-16	-5	-27	-61
5.1.2. In Hungary, net	270	147	67	590	40	56	157	402
5.2. Portfolio investment, equity securities, net	-1	29	14	87	8	7	17	120
*- o/w: Travel, net	131	194	222	678	132	140	147	476
credit	223	301	323	1090	246	263	259	957
debit	92	107	101	412	113	123	112	481

P) Preliminary data

Balance of payments, Hungary (seasonally adjusted data) ^{a)}

euro million

	2002			
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr. ^{P)}
1. Goods, net	-246	-216	-190	-188
1.1. Exports	2558	2683	2736	2793
1.2. Imports	2911	2941	2923	3033
2. Services and income, net				
2.1. Services				
2.1.1. Travel, net	159	196	175	168
credit	311	342	311	298
debit	139	142	134	115
2.1.2. Other services, net	-46	-65	-48	-155
credit	379	388	388	382
debit	448	477	463	505
2.2. Income, net				
2.2.1. Income on debt, net	-55	-58	-54	-64
2.2.2. Income on equity, net	-60	-60	-59	-69
2.2.3. Compensation of employees, net	1	-4	0	0
3. Current transfers	29	28	33	29
4. Current account balance	-251	-250	-165	-308

P) Preliminary data

Balance of payments, Hungary (seasonally adjusted data) ^{a)}

euro million

	2001											
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1. Goods, net	-184	-154	-164	-194	-209	-215	-202	-200	-180	-214	-220	-219
1.1. Exports	2592	2533	2541	2612	2568	2727	2722	2600	2595	2591	2684	2605
1.2. Imports	2808	2664	2774	2770	2799	2852	2866	2778	2765	2849	2929	2874
2. Services and income, net												
2.1. Services												
2.1.1. Travel, net	229	202	229	238	238	246	264	248	260	249	265	260
credit	385	324	354	365	372	374	375	367	369	361	369	356
debit	117	116	117	104	128	119	120	145	120	135	127	113
2.1.2. Other services, net	-46	-39	-39	-38	-42	-52	-33	-42	-50	-48	-47	-63
credit	311	313	330	353	351	355	382	372	364	361	374	374
debit	366	354	370	363	378	400	407	399	408	422	436	454
2.2. Income, net												
2.2.1. Income on debt, net	-60	-71	-66	-76	-77	-74	-65	-57	-55	-69	-68	-48
2.2.2. Income on equity, net	-50	-53	-62	58	-51	-45	-56	-51	-54	-56	-55	-49
2.2.3. Compensation of employees, net	-1	0	-1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	2
3. Current transfers	23	22	17	26	20	22	25	24	29	25	25	28
4. Current account balance	-69	-83	-138	-116	-146	-142	-62	-95	-128	-143	-182	-111

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Average exchange rates of the Hungarian forint in April 2002 were 242.41 per euro and 273.67 per US dollar.

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^{a)} Methodological notes to seasonal adjustment:

The method used to seasonally adjust the sub-components of the current account in 2002 is as follows:

- 1 The components of the current account are seasonally adjusted using the SEATS TRAMO software, within the Demetra interface, in line with the recommendations of Eurostat.
- 2 The effects of *holidays* are eliminated using a built-in variable designed for holidays in Hungary; the *working-day effect* is eliminated using two regression variables.

- 3 *Outliers* are identified according to the basic setting, allowing the identification of all three types of outlier.
- 4 In order for the seasonally adjusted time series to be stable and *minimise revisions*, the available times series have been adjusted starting from 1994, and the same model setting is being used for one year. The Bank's publications include a five-month moving average of the seasonally smoothed data, with diminishing weights proceeding symmetrically on both sides of the centre ($y_t = 1/9x_{t-2}+2/9x_{t-1}+3/9x_t+2/9x_{t+1}+1/9x_{t+2}$), instead of the trend calculated by the programme.
- 5 The sub-balance outcomes are directly seasonally adjusted. This means that the sub-accounts, derived from the not adjusted data, are directly seasonally adjusted. Consequently, the seasonally adjusted current account balance outcome cannot be reproduced from the seasonally adjusted data of the sub-accounts.
- 6 Compensation for employees does not reflect seasonal effects, therefore, the Table includes the not seasonally adjusted data.

Notes to the press release and the tables:

The codes attached to the names of the sectors and sub-sectors (e.g. S.121) refer to the corresponding groups of the classification generally used in international practice. The definitions of the individual sectors can be found on the Bank's web site at Financial Data...Statistical Releases, 'Sector classification in the NBH's statistical press releases from June 2001'.