

Current account deficit 30.5 b.kr. in Q2/2024 – net IIP positive by 38.9% of GDP

Iceland's current account showed a deficit of 30.5 b.kr. in Q2/2024. This represents an improvement of 3.3 b.kr. relative to the previous quarter but a deterioration of 36.6 b.kr. relative to Q2/2023. There was a deficit on goods trade in the amount of 89.5 b.kr and a 67.2 b.kr. surplus on services trade. The surplus on primary income amounted to 5.4 b.kr., whereas there was a 13.7 b.kr. deficit on secondary income (Table 1).

This is included in new information published on the Central Bank of Iceland website, showing the preliminary balance of payments in Q2/2024 and the external position of the economy at the end of the quarter.²

Table 1. Balance of payments (b.kr.)

	2023/2	2023/3	2023/4	2024/1	2024/2
Current account balance	6.1	81.8	-23.2	-33.8	-30.5
Balance on goods	-82.6	-84.4	-76.8	-55.5	-89.5
Balance on services	88.9	155.0	37.3	17.9	67.2
Balance on primary income	11.3	23.0	28.6	14.4	5.4
Secondary income, net	-11.6	-11.8	-12.3	-10.6	-13.7
Capital account	-0.9	-0.7	-1.4	-0.8	-1.4
Financial account	-30.9	48.4	68.8	11.1	-39.9
Direct investment	-3.5	-130.4	96.6	10.8	18.4
Portfolio investment	74.8	99.5	92.9	-202.3	59.1
Derivatives	-2.6	-6.9	-3.7	-0.1	1.5
Other investments	-73.1	92.5	-120.9	82.9	-97.6
International reserves	-26.4	-6.3	4.0	119.8	-21.4
Net errors and omissions	-36.1	-32.7	93.4	45.7	-8.0

¹See the <u>Statistics Iceland</u> website.

² Tables on Iceland's balance of payments and international investment position can be found on the Statistics pages of the Central Bank website: https://www.cb.is/statistics/.

The net international investment position was positive by 1,705 b.kr., or 38.9% of GDP, and deteriorated by 47 b.kr., or 1.1% of GDP, during the quarter. External assets totalled 6,173 b.kr. at the end of the quarter, and external liabilities were 4,468 b.kr. The position deteriorated by 40 b.kr. during the quarter, owing to financial account transactions, as foreign assets declined by 132 b.kr. and foreign liabilities by 92 b.kr. Price and exchange rate movements during the quarter increased asset values by 19 b.kr. and reduced the value of liabilities by 6 b.kr., thereby yielding an improvement of 24 b.kr. in the net external position. The króna appreciated by just under 0.3% in terms of the trade-weighted index. Prices in foreign securities markets rose by 2.2% between quarters, while prices in the domestic stock market fell by 3.3%.

Table 2. Quarter-on-quarter change in international investment position (b.kr.)

	Position at end- Q1/2024	Financial account	Exchange rate and price changes	Other changes	Position at end- Q2/2024
Foreign assets, total	6,199	-132	19	88	6,173
Direct investment Portfolio invest-	990	-11	-2	87	1,063
ment	3,521	-1	28	0	3,548
Derivatives*	8	2	-4	0	5
Other investments International re-	767	-100	1	1	669
serves	912	-21	-3	0	888
Foreign liabilities,					
total	4,446	-92	-6	119	4,468
Direct investment Portfolio invest-	1,541	-30	1	116	1,628
ment	1,602	-60	-5	0	1,537
Derivatives*	14	0	-1	0	13
Other investments	1,290	-3	0	3	1,290
Net international investment position					
(NIIP)	1,753	-40	24	-32	1,705
% of GDP	39.9%	-0.9%	0.6%	-0.7%	38.9%

^{*}Other changes are included under price and exchange rate changes for derivatives.