Budgetary traffic light
Monitoring of the 2026 general government budget
(April 2026)

The estimated deficit for 2026 remains unchanged, the budget target may be exceeded by 0.2 % of GDP (EUR 312 million)

	Gov. targets	CBR forecast	Deviation	Budget risk
General government balance	**-4.1 % GDP**	**-4.3 % GDP**	**-0.2 % GDP**	
Net expenditure growth	**11.2 %**	**6.2 %**	**-5.0 p.p.**	
Public expenditure ceilings	**EUR 61.8 bn.**	**EUR 61.1 bn.**	**EUR -0.7 bn.**	

Council for Budget Responsibility (CBR) estimates the 2026 general government (GG) deficit at 4.3 % of GDP

- CBR estimates the level of the GG deficit for 2026 to remain nearly unchanged. Compared with the March forecast, the expected deficit has changed only marginally, increasing by EUR 3 million.
- **According to the CBR, the 2026 deficit can reach the level of 4.3 % of GDP (EUR 6.2 bn.),** under the assumption that the government does not take additional measures. **Negative deviation from the approved budget amounts to 0.2 % of GDP (EUR 312 million)**, which means the medium-level risk of the public deficit level exceeding the government objective.
- **The most significant negative deviation in the CBR forecast compared to the budget is the shortfall in taxes and social and healthcare contributions amounting to 0.6 % of GDP (EUR 833 million),** mainly due to lower-than-expected VAT and labor taxes. The shortfall compared to the budget is mainly caused by less favorable economic development than was originally assumed in the budget. Slower growth in household consumption will reduce VAT revenues and lower nominal wages are pushing down social contributions and labor taxes.
- On the other hand, the most significant positive impact on the GG balance compared to the budget comes from the better financial performance of other GG entities, mainly public transport companies and public universities.

Underlying data are published [in a data file available on the CBR website](#).
Contact: rozpocet@rrz.sk