

**AUTUMN 2010 ECONOMIC OUTLOOK FOR MALTA: ANSWERS FROM MFOI**
**MAIN FORECAST**

<b>Annual % change</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>
Real GDP growth	3.5	2.8
Consumer price inflation	1.2	1.8
Unemployment rate	7.0	6.8
Employment growth	1.1	0.8
government net lending (% of GDP)	3.9	3.4
gross public debt (% of GDP)	70.7	70.3
current account balance (% of GDP)	3.8	2.2

**Components of aggregate demand - in real terms**

<i>Annual % change</i>		
Private consumption	1.0	1.5
Public consumption	0.5	0.5
Investment (Gross Fixed Capital Formation)	3.0	1.5
Private non-residential investment	n.a.	n.a.
Exports	25.0	4.0
Imports	20.0	6.0

**ECONOMIC SENTIMENT**

	<b>Positive</b>	<b>Negative</b>	<b>Unchanged</b>			
<b>Trend in business climate over the next 6 months</b>	Services		Industry			
	<b>Positive</b>	<b>Negative</b>	<b>Unchanged</b>			
<b>Trend in profitability over the next 6 months</b>			Industry			
			Services			
	<b>Increase (faster pace)</b>	<b>Increase (slower pace)</b>	<b>Unchanged</b>	<b>Decrease (slower pace)</b>	<b>Decrease (faster pace)</b>	
<b>Investment intentions over the next 6 months</b>			Industry			
			Services			
	<b>Global demand</b>	<b>Domestic demand</b>	<b>Cost of finance</b>	<b>Availability of finance</b>	<b>Company Profitability</b>	<b>Capacity Utilisation</b>
<b>Influence on companies' investment decisions</b>	neutral	negative	neutral	positive	negative	neutral
	<b>Replacement</b>	<b>Extension</b>	<b>Rationalisation</b>	<b>Innovation</b>		
<b>Driving force behind investment decisions in the next 6 months</b>	neutral	negative	positive	positive		
	<b>Industry: past 6 months</b>	<b>Industry: next 6 months</b>	<b>Services: past 6 months</b>	<b>Services: next 6 months</b>		
<b>Overall trend in employment</b>	Same	Same	Up	Up		

## ACCESS TO FINANCE AND IMPACT OF THE CRISIS ON POTENTIAL GROWTH

<b>Compared to 6 months ago, cost/access to finance has been...</b>	<b>sharply up / restrained</b>	<b>up / more difficult</b>	<b>same</b>	<b>down / easier</b>
<i>for SMEs</i>			Cost Access	
<i>for larger companies (&gt;250 employees)</i>			Cost Access	
<b>Over the next 6 months, cost /access to finance will be...</b>	<b>sharply up / restrained</b>	<b>up / more difficult</b>	<b>same</b>	<b>down / easier</b>
<i>for SMEs</i>			Cost Access	
<i>for larger companies (&gt;250 employees)</i>			Cost Access	
<b>Measures to alleviate current financial difficulties for SMEs</b>	Very limited effect	<b>Facilitating access to capital markets (corporate bonds and stock markets)</b> Moderate effect	<b>Improving conditions for equity financing</b> Very limited effect	

**POLICY MIX**

	<i>Tight, appropriate for the euro area</i>	<i>Tight</i>	<i>Appropriate yes</i>	<i>Loose</i>	<i>Loose, appropriate for the euro area</i>
<i>Monetary policy is...</i>					
<i>Consistency between fiscal and monetary policies</i>	<i>adequate</i> yes	<i>inadequate</i>			
<i>Regarding the sustainability of public finances, government shows ...</i>	<i>excellent commitment</i>	<i>satisfactory commitment</i>	<i>neither satisfactory nor unsatisfactory commitment</i> yes	<i>unsatisfactory commitment</i>	<i>no clear commitment creating an extremely worrying situation</i>
<i>Exit Strategies</i>	<i>excessive focus</i>	<i>sufficient focus</i>	<i>neither satisfactory nor unsufficient focus</i>	<i>unsufficient focus</i>	<i>so far ignored</i>
<i>Tight fiscal rules and more effective institutions</i>			yes		
<i>Greater efficiency of public administrations</i>				yes	
<i>Credible cost-cutting measures</i>				yes	
<i>Increased scope of public-private partnerships</i>				yes	
<i>Reform of pension systems</i>			yes		
<i>Improved efficiency of healthcare sector</i>					yes
<i>Entry Strategies</i>	<i>excessive focus</i>	<i>sufficient focus</i>	<i>neither satisfactory nor unsufficient focus</i>	<i>unsufficient focus</i>	<i>so far ignored</i>
<i>More and better-targeted education and training</i>		yes			
<i>More and better targeted R&amp;D and innovation efforts</i>				yes	
<i>Prioritisation of infrastructure investments</i>				yes	
<i>Growth enhancing tax reforms</i>					yes
<i>In 2015, the government deficit will...</i>	<i>respect the 3% limit</i> yes	<i>be in balance</i> no			