

**Surplus** means in general that the sum or balance of positive and negative amounts is positive, or that the total of positives is larger than the total of negatives.

Surplus can be used in different statistical areas:

- in **balance of payments** statistics, it refers to the balance of credit (positive) and debit (negative) transactions of a given economy with the rest of the world, organized in two different accounts: the **current account** ; and the capital and **financial account** ;
- in external trade statistics, it refers to the **trade balance** of **imports** (negative, as they have to be paid for) and **exports** (positive, because they yield revenue), which may result in a **trade surplus** ;
- in **government** finance statistics, it refers to the **public balance** between **government revenue and expenditure** , a **budget deficit** when negative. The surplus or deficit is defined on the basis of the national accounts balancing item **net lending (+)/ net borrowing (-)** .

## Related concepts

- [Deficit](#)

## Statistical data

- [Balance of payment statistics](#)
- [Government finance statistics](#)