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This Supplement has been revised. The focus of the analysis has shifted from the state sector to general government: the breakdown of both borrowing requirement and debt statistics has been enhanced and refers exclusively to general government (as a memorandum item, the state sector borrowing requirement net of settlements of past debt and privatisation receipts is also provided). Debt statistics have been revised from 1995 onwards. The revision concerns two issues: 1) debt represented by bank loans refers to the entire population of banks and no longer to a sample of banks; 2) before the revision bank loans to institutions belonging to a particular sector (central government, local authorities, social security institutions) were attributed to that sector, even though the institution that was formally committed to repay the principal and interest belonged to a different sector; now such loans are added to the liabilities of the repayer's sector.

The new Italian version of the Supplement is available on the Bank of Italy's website. The English version is being prepared and will be posted as soon as it is available.