



# The Economy Observer

## Combined fiscal deficit at 39.7% of BEs in 1HFY24

Government investments grew 40% YoY in 1HFY24

- Based on the provisional data of 19 major states, total receipts of all the states grew only 1.2% YoY in 2QFY24 (and 7.6% YoY in 1HFY24), led by a sharp contraction in the center's transfer to states (devolution + grants). Total spending, however, grew 14.9% YoY in 2QFY24 (and 14.3% YoY in 1HFY24). Consequently, states' aggregate fiscal deficit came in at INR3.2t/INR4t in 2QFY24/1HFY24 (4.5%/2.8% of GDP) vs. INR1.8t/INR2.5t in 2QFY23/1HFY23 (2.7%/1.9% of GDP).
- As a percentage of budget estimates (BEs), total receipts stood at 39.5% of BEs in 1HFY24 (down from 41% in 1HFY23), while the total spending was also at a 14-year high of 39.7% (38.3%). Capital outlays (excluding loans & advances, L&As) grew 55.4% YoY in 1HFY24 and stood at 33% of BEs, the highest in more than a decade. Thus, states' aggregate fiscal deficit was 40.6% of BEs in 1HFY24, compared to 28.7% of BEs in 1HFY23.
- An analysis of individual states suggests that four states (GJ, KA, MH, and OD) witnessed a fiscal surplus in 1HFY24, of which, MH and OD posted a fiscal surplus in 1HFY23 as well. In contrast, AP's and BH's 1HFY24 fiscal deficit exceeded the full-year target (almost similar to that in 1HFY23). Some other large states such as KL, PB, TS, and RJ recorded a fiscal deficit of more than 50% of the target in 1HFY24, much higher than the achievement in 1HFY23.
- Within states' total receipts, while states' own receipts (taxes and non-taxes) have increased 12.8% YoY in 1HFY24, the transfer from the center (devolution + grants) were up just 0.2% YoY. The latter was driven by a contraction of 62% YoY in 'grants from the center' in 2QFY24, marking its worst fall in more than a decade and the fourth decline in the past five quarters. The 'devolution of taxes' also shrank 6.2% YoY in 2Q, after a very strong growth of 65.7% YoY in 1QFY24.
- Within states' spending, revenue spending grew 9.7% YoY in 1HFY24 vs. 15.4% growth in 1HFY23, while capital spending (including L&As) surged 49.6% YoY in 1HFY24, following 7.1% YoY growth in 1HFY23.
- A combined analysis of the central and state governments confirms that total receipts rose 16.4% YoY in 1HFY24 (vs. 19.9% in 1HFY23) and the total spending grew 18.8% (vs. 14.3% in 1HFY23) during the first half of FY24. Combined capital outlays surged 39.5% YoY (vs. 28.7% in 1HFY23) in 1HFY24, along with 13.6% YoY growth in revenue spending (vs. 11.6% in 1HFY23).
- It means that total receipts were 46.6% of BEs in 1HFY24 (down from 47.9% in 1HFY23), while the total spending was 44.5% of BEs (vs. 43.5% in 1HFY23). Consequently, the combined fiscal deficit was 39.7% of BEs in 1HFY24, higher than 34.3% in 1HFY23, but lower than 65-70% target achieved over FY17-FY20. Assuming ~8% YoY growth in nominal GDP in 2QFY24, our calculations suggest that GG fiscal deficit stood at 7.8% of GDP in 1HFY24 vs. 6.7% of GDP in 1HFY23.

Total receipts of all the states grew by just 1.2% YoY in 2QFY24, while their total spending grew 14.9% YoY **States' fiscal deficit was 40.6% of BEs in 1HFY24:** Based on the provisional data of 19 states, total receipts of all the states grew by just 1.2% YoY in 2QFY24, following 14.5% growth in 1Q. It implies that states' total receipts grew 7.6% YoY in 1HFY24, achieving 39.5% of BEs, compared to 25.2% YoY growth and 41% of BEs in 1HFY23 (Exhibit 1).

At the same time, their total spending grew 14.9% YoY in 2QFY24, following 13.6% YoY growth in 1Q. It implies that states' total spending grew 14.3% YoY in 1HFY24, achieving 39.7% of BEs, compared to 14.4% YoY growth and 38.8% of BEs in 1HFY23 (Exhibit 2).

Data for all states is based on 19 major states, for which monthly data up to Sep'23 is available. These states account for 90-91% of all states' Budget. The states/UT covered in this report are Andhra Pradesh (AP), Bihar (BH), Chhattisgarh (CT), Gujarat (GJ), Haryana (HR), Himachal Pradesh (HP), Jharkhand (JH), Karnataka (KA), Kerala (KL), Madhya Pradesh (MP), Maharashtra (MH), Odisha (OD), Punjab (PB), Rajasthan (RJ), Tamil Nadu (TN), Telangana (TS), Uttarakhand (UK), Uttar Pradesh (UP) and West Bengal (WB).

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As a result, states' aggregate fiscal deficit increased to INR3.2t in 2QFY24, the highest ever in absolute terms. As a percentage of GDP, it increased to 4.5%, the highest in 10 quarters (*Exhibit 3*). In other words, their aggregate fiscal deficit was INR4t (or 2.8% of GDP) in 1HFY24, compared to INR2.5t (or 1.9% of GDP) in 1HFY23. States have achieved 40.6% of their full-year target in 1HFY24, much higher than 28.7% of BEs in 1HFY23 (*Exhibit 4*).

Exhibit 1: Total receipts stood at 39.5% of BEs in 1HFY24...

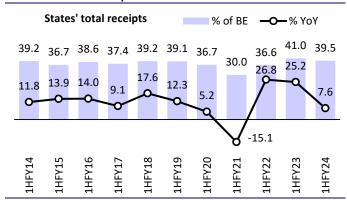


Exhibit 2: ...and total spending was 39.7% of BEs

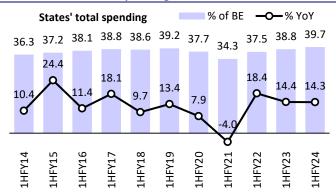


Exhibit 3: States' aggregate fiscal deficit was 4.5% of GDP in 2QFY24...

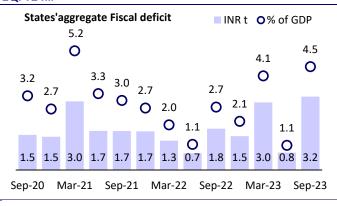
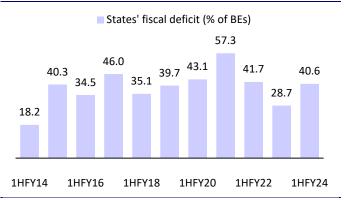


Exhibit 4: ...and it stood at 40.6% of BEs in 1HFY24, much higher than 28.7% of BEs in 1HFY23

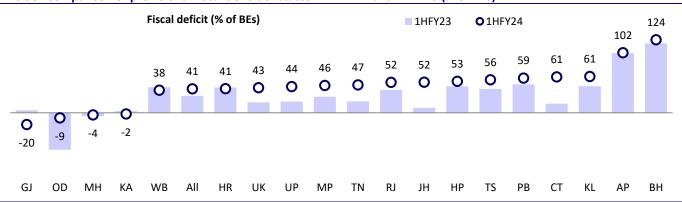


\* Assuming nominal GDP growth at 8% YoY in 1HFY24 Source: Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), CEIC, MOFSL

Four states posted a fiscal surplus in 1HFY24, compared to just two in 1HFY23: An analysis of individual states suggests that four states – GJ, KA, MH, and OD – posted a fiscal surplus in 1HFY24 (Exhibit 5). Only two of these states (MH and OD) posted a surplus in 1HFY23.

Four states – GJ, KA, MH, and OD – posted a fiscal surplus in 1HFY24, while the fiscal deficit of two states – AP and BH – exceeded the full-year target In contrast, AP's and BH's 1HFY24 fiscal deficit exceeded the full-year target. AP's fiscal deficit in 1HFY24 was 102% of full-year BEs (very similar to 101% of BEs in 1HFY23), while it was as high as 124% of BEs for BH in 1H (vs. 118% in 1HFY23). Besides these two states, seven other states (RJ, JH, HP, TS, PB, CT, and KL) witnessed a fiscal deficit of more than 50% of BEs in 1HFY24. Overall, based on these 19 states, the aggregate fiscal deficit of all states was just 40.6% of BEs in 1HFY24, higher than 28.7% of BEs achieved in 1HFY23.

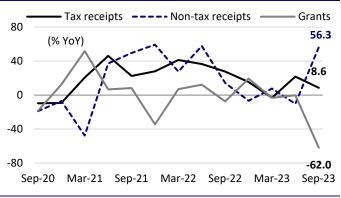
Exhibit 5: Comparison of provisional fiscal deficit of states in 1HFY24 and 1HFY23 (% of BEs)



Source: CEIC, CAG, CEIC, MOFSL

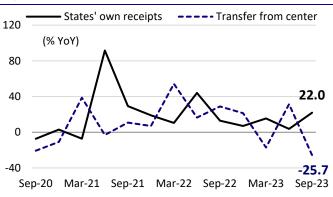
States' total receipts grew 7.6% YoY in 1HFY24, almost entirely driven by their own receipts, as the center's transfer to states were largely flat Tax receipts remained strong, non-tax receipts contracted: Total tax receipts of all states grew 8.6% YoY in 2QFY24, implying a growth of 14.6 % YoY in 1HFY24 vs. a growth of 27.7%/21.7% in 2QFY23/1QFY24 and 31.6% in 1HFY23. On the other hand, state's non-tax receipts increased strongly by 56.3% in 2QFY24 vs. a growth of 14.3% in 2QFY23 and a fall of 10.2% YoY in 1QFY24. Grants-in-aid contracted 62% YoY, marking its third successive fall and the fourth in the past five quarters (Exhibit 6). A re-classification of these sources confirms that the Center's transfer to states declined 25.7% YoY in 2QFY24 vs. a growth of 29%/31.4% in 2QFY23/1QFY24. States' own receipts, on the other hand, grew 22% YoY in 2QFY24 vs. 13%/3.8% YoY in 2QFY23/1QFY24 (Exhibit 7). Thus, states' total receipts grew 7.6% YoY in 1HFY24, almost entirely driven by their own receipts (up 12.8% YoY), as the center's transfer to states were largely flat (up just 0.2% YoY).

Exhibit 6: While tax and non-tax receipts grew, grants-in-aid contracted sharply in 2QFY24



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Exhibit 7: Center's transfer to states shrank by 25.7% YoY in 2QFY24



Estimates for all states are based on data of 19 states

Source: CEIC, CAG, MOFSL

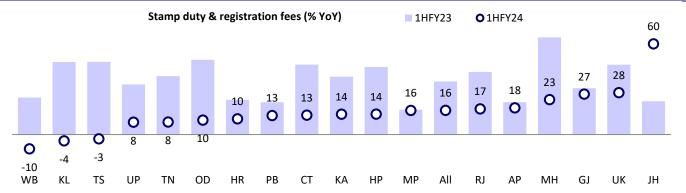
Stamp duty and registration charges grew in double digits in 1QFY24: One of the major components of states' receipts is stamp duties and registration fees collected by states. An analysis of monthly data available for 19 states suggests that together, these charges grew 18% YoY in 2QFY24 vs. 9.1%/14.2% YoY growth in 2QFY23/1QFY24 (Exhibit 8). In 1HFY24, states' stamp duty & registration fees were up 16% YoY, following 35% growth in 1HFY23.



Stamp duty & registration fees of 19 states grew 18% YoY in 2QFY24 and 16% in 1HFY24.

Of the 19 states, three states – KL, TS, and WB – witnessed a contraction in 1HFY24, and there were only two states – JH and BH – that posted higher growth in 1HFY24 vs. 1HFY23 (BH is not shown in *Exhibit 8* because it grew 454% YoY in 1HFY24, following a fall of 73% YoY in 1HFY23).

Exhibit 8: Stamp duty and registration charges grew 16% YoY in 1HFY24

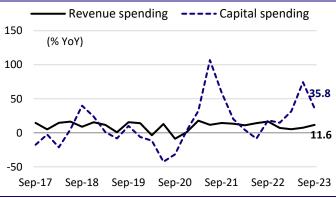


BH (not shown) witnessed 454% growth in 1HFY24, following 73% fall in 1HFY23

Source: CEIC, CAG, CEIC, MOFSL

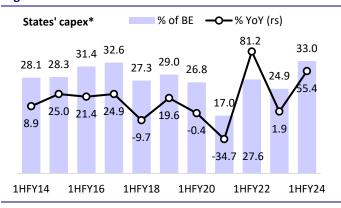
States' capex was up 55.4% YoY in 1HFY24, following 1.9% growth in 1HFY23 and stood at 33% of BEs, the highest achievement in 1H in at least the past decade Capital spending grew sharply in 1QFY24: Within states' spending, the growth in capital spending outpaced revenue spending for the fifth consecutive quarter in 2QFY24. Revenue spending grew 11.6% YoY in 2QFY24 vs. 16.5% growth in the same quarter last year, while capital spending (including L&As) jumped 35.8% YoY, following 18.3% growth in 2QFY23 (Exhibit 9). Excluding L&As, capital outlays (or capex) of all states grew 44.4% YoY in 2QFY24, compared to a growth of 9.3%/75.2% YoY in 2QFY23/1QFY24. Overall, states' capex was up 55.4% YoY in 1HFY24, following 1.9% growth in 1HFY23 and stood at 33% of BEs, the highest achievement in 1H in at least the past decade (Exhibit 10).

Exhibit 9: Revenue spending of all states grew 11.6% YoY in 2QFY24, while capital spending was up 36%



Estimates for all states are based on data of 19 states

Exhibit 10: States' capex\* was 33% of BEs in 1HFY24, the highest in at least a decade



\* Excluding loans & advances

Source: CEIC, CAG, MOFSL

Total receipts rose 22.8% YoY (vs. 9.5% in 1QFY24) and total spending grew 24% in 2QFY24 (vs. 13.3%) Combined capital spending continued to grow strongly in 2QFY24: A combined analysis of the central and state governments confirms that total receipts rose 22.8% YoY (vs. 9.5% in 1QFY24) and total spending grew 24% in 2QFY24 (vs. 13.3%). In 1HFY24, total receipts, thus, grew 16.4%, while the total spending growth was 18.8%. As % of BEs, total receipts were 46.6% in 1HFY24, lower than 47.9% in 1HFY23, but the total spending was 44.5% of BEs in 1HFY24, higher than 43.5% in 1HFY23.

13 November 2023



Exhibit 11: Total receipts and spending grew 23-24% YoY each in 2QFY24

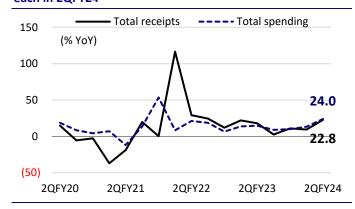
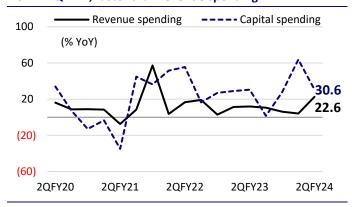


Exhibit 12: Within spending, capital spending grew 30.6% YoY in 2QFY24, faster than revenue spending



Source: CEIC, CAG, Controller General of Accounts (CGA), MOFSL

The combined capex (excluding L&As) grew 39.5% YoY and was 41.1% of BEs in 1HFY24, compared to 37.1% of BEs in 1HFY23.

Further, revenue spending grew at a 10-quarter high of 22.6% YoY in 2QFY24, while the combined capital spending surged 30.6% YoY (Exhibit 12). This was the 11<sup>th</sup> double-digit growth in capital spending in the past 12 quarters. Capital spending, thus, was 41.1% of BEs in 1HFY24, much higher than the corresponding period in the previous years. The combined capex (excluding L&As) grew 39.5% YoY in 1HFY24 (following 28.7% YoY in 1HFY23) and was 41.1% of BEs in 1HFY24, compared to 37.1% of BEs in 1HFY23.

Our calculations suggest that the GG fiscal deficit stood at 8% of GDP in 2QFY24 vs. 6.8%/7.5% in 2QFY23/1QFY24 Combined fiscal deficit was 7.8% of GDP and 39.7% of BEs in 1HFY24: Assuming 8% YoY nominal GDP growth in 2QFY24, our calculations suggest that the GG fiscal deficit was at 8% of GDP in 2QFY24 vs. 6.8%/7.5% in 2QFY23/1QFY24 (Exhibit 13). While the states' aggregate fiscal deficit in 2QFY24 stood at 4.5% of GDP (vs. 2.7%/1.1% of GDP in 2QFY23/1QFY24), the Center's stood at 3.5% of GDP (vs. 4.1%/6.4% of GDP in 2QFY23/1QFY24).

As a % of BEs, states' aggregate fiscal deficit was just 40.6% in 1HFY24, while it was 39.3% for the Center, implying the combined fiscal deficit of 39.7% of BEs in 1HFY24, higher than that in the past two years, but much lower than 65-70% achieved during the pre-Covid period (*Exhibit 14*).

Exhibit 13: Combined fiscal deficit was 8% of GDP in 2QFY24, primarily led by the Center

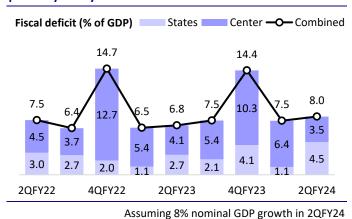
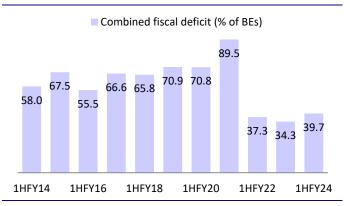


Exhibit 14: Combined FD of the government stood at 39.7% of BEs in 1HFY24



Source: CEIC, CAG, CGA, MOSPI, MOFSL

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13 November 2023 8