CENTRAL BANK OF ESWATINI
UMNTSHOLI WEMASWATI

Recent Economic Developments

October/November 2025

Bek'e-Langa
Re-imagining Central Bank for a sustainable future

HIGHLIGHTS ON SELECTED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS	INDICATOR	CHANGE
The country's annual consumer price inflation remained contained but edged up slightly to 2.9 per cent in October 2025 from 2.8 per cent the previous month.	Inflation Rate (% y/y)	2.9 (Oct) ▲
GDP rebounded strongly in the second quarter of 2025, posting a year-on-year growth of 3.4 per cent, seasonally adjusted, from a revised contraction of 1.0 per cent recorded in the first quarter.	GDP growth rate (% y/y)	3.4 (Q2, 2025) ▲
The discount and prime lending rates were maintained at 6.75 and 10.25 per cent, respectively, in November 2025.	Discount rate (%)	6.75 —
	Prime lending rate (%)	10.75 —
During the month of November 2025, the Lilangeni/Rand generally strengthened against the major trading currencies.	Exchange rate (US$)	17.23 (Nov) ▼
Credit extended to the private sector increased marginally by 0.04 per cent month-on-month and moderately by 8.2 per cent year-on-year, reaching E21.7 billion at the end of October 2025.	Private Sector Credit (% m/m)	0.04 (Oct) ▲
Broad money supply (M2) amounted to E28.8 billion in October 2025, depicting growth of 10.7 per cent month-on-month and 13.9 per cent year-on-year.	Broad Money (M2) (% m/m)	10.7 (Oct) ▲
Gross official reserves increased by 6.8 per cent month-on-month and 21.8 per cent year-on-year, reaching E15.4 billion in November 2025.	Reserves (months of import cover)	3.6 (Nov) ▲
At the end of November 2025, preliminary figures show that total public debt stood at E39.7 billion, equivalent to 41.3 per cent of GDP.	Total Public Debt (% of GDP)	41.3 (Nov) ▲
In November 2025, Eswatini recorded a narrower trade surplus of E352.0 million, compared to a surplus of E1.1 billion in October 2025.	Trade Balance (% of GDP)	0.4 (Oct) ▼

NB: The table shows the most recent available data.

1 INFLATION DEVELOPMENTS

The country's annual consumer price inflation remained contained but edged up slightly to 2.9 per cent in October 2025 from 2.8 per cent the previous month. The observed increase was mainly driven by an acceleration in the growth rate of the 'alcoholic beverages & tobacco' index, which rose from 10.2 per cent in September 2025 to 13.8 per cent in October 2025. This follows the implementation of new levies on alcohol and tobacco products, effective September 1, 2025, which was announced by the Minister for Finance, consequently pushed up the domestic annual prices for 'spirits', 'beer', and 'tobacco'. These changes are part of the Alcohol and Tobacco Levy Amendment Act 2025, which aims to boost government revenue, and address the public health costs associated with alcohol consumption. Notably, the act increased the levy on imported alcoholic drinks from 7 per cent to 10 per cent, while maintaining the levy on locally produced alcohol at 2 per cent in an effort to support the domestic industry.

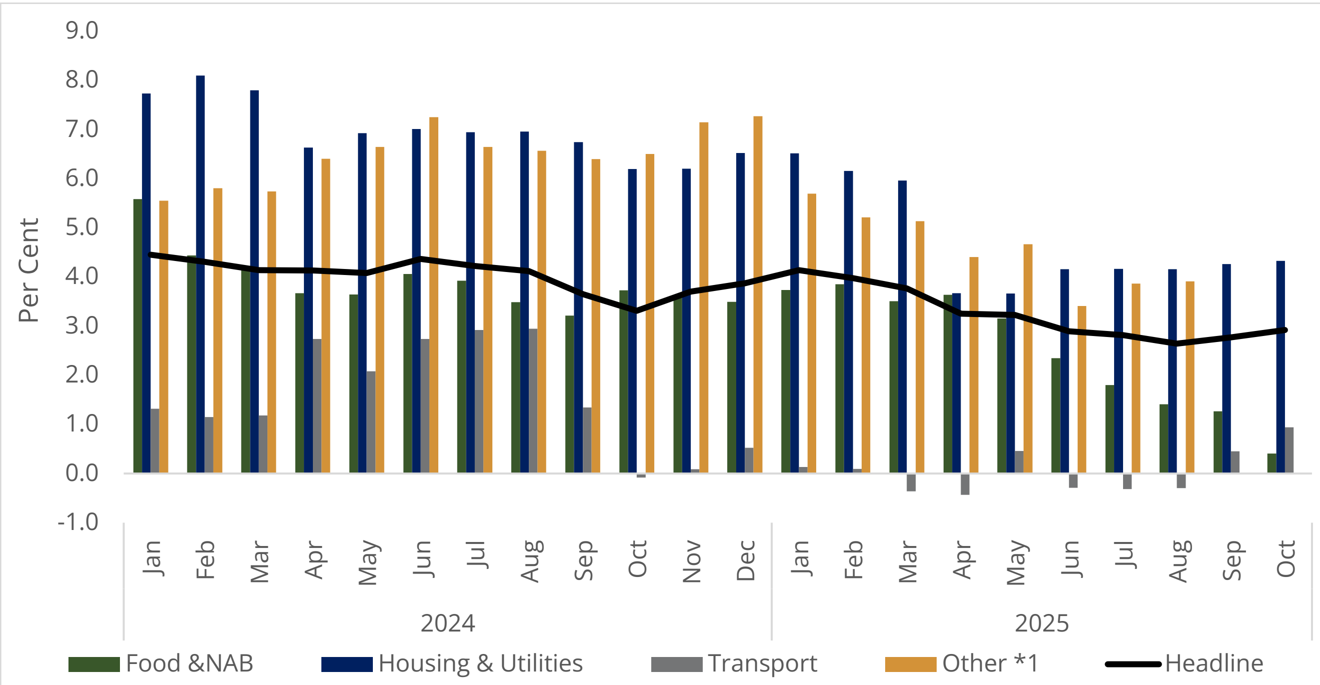
Although transport inflation remained relatively subdued since November 2024, it increased by 0.4 of a percentage point to 0.9 per cent in October 2025, supported by higher prices for 'fuels & lubricants for personal transport equipment', largely reflecting base effects. In addition, the index for 'clothing & footwear' grew to 5.7 per cent in October 2025, from 4.6 per cent in the previous month, driven by higher prices for 'garments' and 'shoes & other footwear'. Additional upward pressure emanated from the price indices for 'recreation & culture' and 'household furniture & maintenance', which rose by 0.7 and 0.4 percentage points, respectively.

The above increases were partially counteracted by continued moderation in food prices. Food inflation reached a historical low of 0.4 per cent in October 2025, down from 1.3 per cent in the previous month. Year-on-year decreases were registered in the prices of 'rice', 'other cereals, flour & other products', 'meat' and 'vegetables'. Further disinflationary effects came from the price index for 'communications', which fell by 0.3 of a percentage point, coupled with a sharp 6.8 percentage points decline in the growth rate of the price index for 'restaurants & hotels'. The latter reflected a significant decrease in the price for 'accommodation services', which recorded a 5.8 per cent deflation during review month.

On a month-on-month basis, consumer inflation grew by 0.4 per cent in October 2025, after recording zero growth in the previous month. Contributing to this growth were the indices for 'alcoholic beverages & tobacco', 'housing & utilities' and 'food & non-alcoholic beverages', which collectively rose by 3.8 percentage point between the two months. These increases were partly offset by slower growth in the price indices for 'transport', 'restaurants & hotels' and 'household furniture & maintenance'.

Core inflation (which is CPI excluding volatile items such as food, auto-fuel, and energy) increased by 0.2 of a percentage point to 3.5 per cent in October 2025 and rose from 0.1 per cent to 0.5 per cent month-on-month. Supply-side pressures remain elevated as the CPI for goods increased from 2.9 per cent to 3.3 per cent, between the two months under review, while demand-side pressures were muted, as CPI for services slowed by 0.2 of a percentage point.

Figure 1: Inflation Trends and components Jan 2024 to October 2025



Source: Central Statistical Office.

2 QUARTERLY GDP DEVELOPMENTS

Aggregate economic activity, as measured by real Gross Domestic Product (GDP), rebounded strongly in the second quarter of 2025, posting a year-on-year growth of 3.4 per cent (seasonally adjusted), compared to a revised contraction of 1.0 per cent in the first quarter. The recovery was broadly supported by a strong rebound in the secondary sector. The tertiary sector maintained positive growth, though slower than the previous quarter, while the primary sector remained on a contraction territory, on a year-on-year comparison in the period under review.

On a quarter-on-quarter basis, real GDP grew by 1.9 per cent (seasonally adjusted), marking a notable improvement from the 0.3 per cent contraction recorded in the previous quarter.

Figure 2: Eswatini Quarterly GDP Trends; 2022Q1 to 2025Q2

Source: Central Statistical Office.

The secondary sector grew robustly by 6.7 per cent year-on-year in the second quarter of 2025, rebounding from a 10.9 per cent contraction in the previous quarter. Growth was broad-based across all four subsectors — manufacturing, construction', 'electricity supply' and 'water & sewerage'.

The manufacturing sector grew by 6.1 per cent in the second quarter of 2025, depicting a strong recovery from the 12.6 per cent contraction recorded in the previous quarter. All major non-food export-oriented commodities recovered during the review period, reflecting a pick-up in external demand following the uncertainty caused by global trade tariff changes in early 2025. Among the subsectors showing notable improvement were ‘manufacturing of chemicals & chemical products’, up 4.6 per cent from a 17.3 per cent contraction in the previous quarter, ‘manufacturing of textiles’, which grew by 11.5 per cent relative to a marginal 0.2 per cent growth previously, as well as ‘manufacturing of wood & wood products’, which surged by 150.3 per cent, rebounding from a 6.2 per cent contraction in the first quarter. Together these three sub-sectors accounted for 1.7 percentage points to overall GDP growth in the second quarter of 2025.

In contrast, food manufacturing declined by 1.4 per cent in the quarter ending June 2025, compared to 5.5 per cent growth in the previous quarter. The decrease was driven by lower sugar production volumes, on a year-on-year basis and a substantial 29.3 per cent decrease in the manufacturing of bakery products. Nonetheless, output improved in the manufacture of ‘grain mill products & animal feed’ and ‘cocoa, chocolate, & sugar confectionery products’, helping to partially offset the overall contraction in the food manufacturing subsector.

The ‘utilities’ subsectors also rebounded in the second quarter of 2025. The ‘electricity supply’ subsector grew by 6.6 per cent, recovering from a 5.7 per cent contraction in the previous quarter, supported by increased local electricity generation. Similarly, the ‘water supply’ subsector expanded by 4.1 per cent, reversing the 7.8 per cent decline recorded in the first quarter, partly due to growth in the number of customers receiving treated water. The construction sector posted strong growth of 12.0 per cent, up from 5.0 per cent in the preceding quarter, reflecting continued implementation of key public and private sector infrastructure projects.

The services sector’ maintained positive momentum, recording 3.7 per cent year-on-year, albeit moderating from 6.0 per cent recorded in the first quarter. Growth was supported by continued resilience in key service industries, including ‘information & communication’, ‘transport & storage’ and 'professional, scientific & technical services'. Subsectors such as ‘wholesale & retail’, ‘financial & insurance activities’ and ‘public administration’ also grew, albeit at slower rates than in the previous quarter.

The ‘information & communication’ subsector recorded strong growth of 17.5 per cent in the second quarter of 2025, accelerating from 3.6 per cent in the previous quarter, driven by the ongoing continued roll-out of innovative digital products and services nationwide. The 'wholesale & retail' subsector grew by 2.0 per cent, moderating from 12.1 per cent, while 'financial & insurance' activities grew by 4.1 per cent, down from 9.1 per cent, supported by performance in 'insurance and pension funding'. Tourism related activities maintained double-digit growth, expanding by 10.9 per cent, although slowing from 18.7 per cent in the first quarter. Strong growth came from conferencing and tour operators' activities, while accommodation and 'arts and culture' recorded declines during the review period. Notably, international arrivals rose by 11.2 per cent, yet bed-nights sold decreased by 18.3 per cent.

Subsectors that performed poorly in the quarter under review included 'human health services' and 'education services', which contracted by 4.5 per cent and 3.4 per cent. Together, these subsectors subtracted 0.3 percentage points from the overall GDP growth.

The primary sector remained subdued, contracting by 6.1 per cent year-on-year in the second quarter of 2025, following a 9.0 per cent decline in the previous quarter. The downturn was largely attributed to a sharp decline in the 'mining and quarry' subsector, whose output fell by 22.7 per cent, after a 28.6 per cent fall in the first quarter. The continued weakness in mining activity was primarily linked to the shutdown of steel industries in South Africa, which adversely affected local coal mining operations, resulting in reduced production and subsequent retrenchments.

The 'agriculture and forestry' subsector also declined marginally by 0.6 per cent, compared to a 0.3 per cent decline in the first quarter of 2025. Within the subsector, the 'growing of crops' grew by 1.8 per cent (up from 1.4 per cent), and 'animal production' (grew by 1.7 per cent (from 0.5 per cent). In contrast, the 'forestry' subsector remained depressed, contracting by 9.4 per cent, nearly unchanged from the 9.0 per cent decline recorded in the previous quarter, reflecting subdued demand for forestry products.

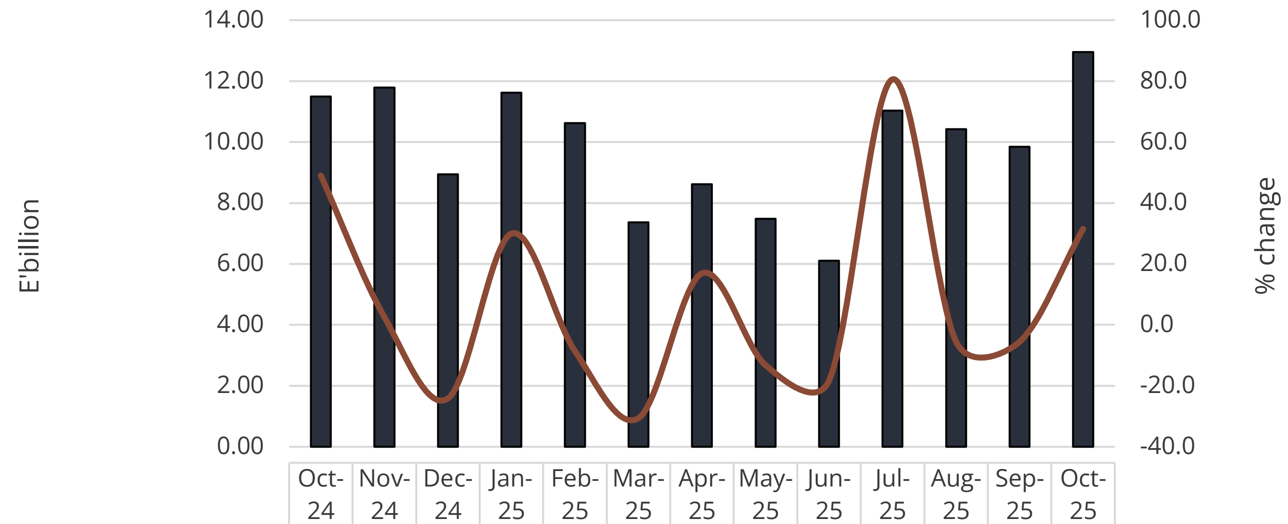
3 MONEY SUPPLY AND BANKING DEVELOPMENTS

Net foreign assets (NFAs) amounted to E13.0 billion at the end of October 2025, marking a significant increase of 31.5 per cent month-on-month and 12.7 per cent year-on-year. The month-on-month growth was driven by an expansion in the NFAs of the official sector, while the NFAs of the banking sector recorded a decline.

The official sector's NFAs accelerated significantly, increasing by 47.9 per cent month-on-month and 17.8 per cent over the year to E11.4 billion. This growth was boosted by the quarterly inflow of Southern African Customs Union (SACU) receipts and net foreign exchange inflows from trades with the banking sector. In contrast, banking sector NFAs declined by 26.6 per cent month-on-month and 14.0 per cent year-on-year to E1.6 billion, mainly due to banks' disinvestments abroad and within the Common Monetary Area.

In special drawing rights (SDR), Eswatini's NFAs stood at SDR549.1 million, reflecting strong growth of 32.1 per cent month-on-month and 12.4 per cent year-on-year.

Figure 3: Net Foreign Assets Monthly Changes; October 2024 to October 2025



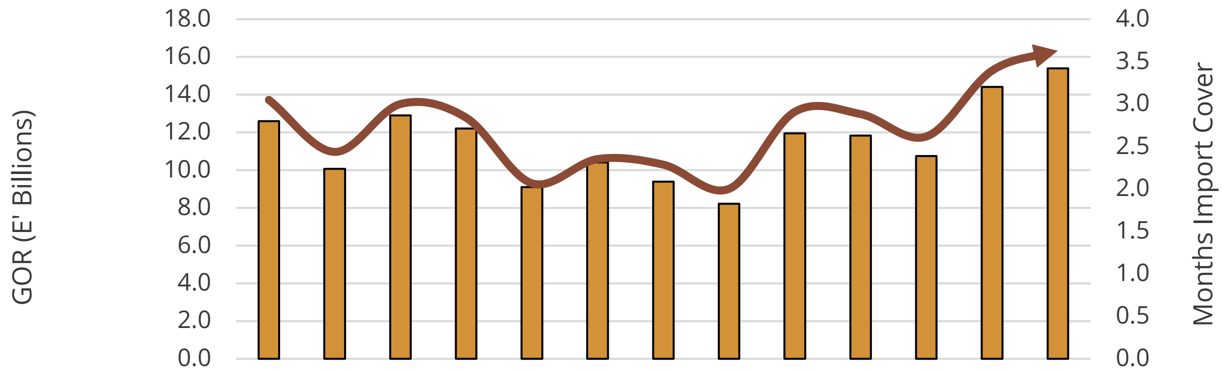
	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25
NFA (E'billion))	11.49	11.79	8.94	11.62	10.62	7.37	8.62	7.48	6.11	11.03	10.43	9.85	12.95
NFA (% change)	49.0	2.5	-24.2	30.0	-8.6	-30.6	16.9	-13.2	-18.3	80.6	-5.5	-5.5	31.5

Source: Central Bank of Eswatini & Other Depository Corporations

Gross official reserves increased by 6.8 per cent month-month and 21.8 per cent year-on-year, reaching E15.4 billion in November 2025. The significant month-on-month growth was driven by a net inflow of Rands from trades with local banks. At this level, the reserves were estimated to cover 3.6 months of imports of goods and services, up from the 3.4 months recorded in the previous month.

In special drawing rights (SDR), gross official reserves stood at SDR660.5 million in November 2025, reflecting an increase of 8.1 per cent month-on-month and 25.0 per cent year-on-year.

Figure 4: Gross Official Reserves and Import Cover; November 2024 to November 2025



	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25
GOR	12.6	10.1	12.9	12.2	9.1	10.4	9.4	8.2	11.9	11.8	10.8	14.4	15.4
Import Cover	3.1	2.4	3.0	2.8	2.1	2.4	2.3	2.0	2.9	2.9	2.6	3.4	3.6

Source: Central Bank of Eswatini

Credit extended to the private sector increased marginally by 0.04 per cent month-on-month and moderately by 8.2 per cent year-on-year, reaching E21.7 billion at the end of October 2025. The expansion was supported by higher lending to households & NPISH, as well as to other sectors of the domestic economy, while credit to businesses declined.

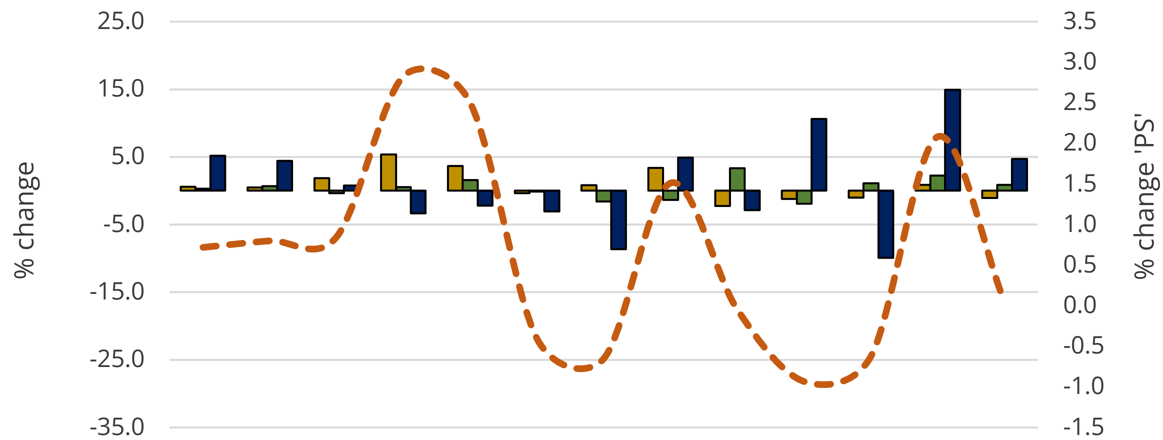
Credit extended to households & NPISH grew by 0.9 per cent month-on-month and 5.1 per cent year-on-year to E9.1 billion in October 2025. Growth was broad-based across all loan categories, led by other personal (unsecured) loans, which rose by 1.7 per cent to E3.5 billion. Housing loans increased by 0.4 per cent to E4.2 billion, while motor vehicle loans grew by 0.3 per cent to E1.3 billion.

Credit extended to the business sector declined by 1.1 per cent month-on-month but increased by 10.8 per cent year-on-year, closing at E11.4 billion at the end of October 2025. The month-on-month contraction was driven by lower credit to manufacturing (-11.2 per cent), agriculture & forestry (-9.2 per cent), transport & communications (-2.0 per cent), construction (-1.7 per cent), real estate (-0.9 per cent) and community, social & personal services (-0.04 per cent). In contrast, credit to the distribution & tourism and mining & quarrying subsectors grew by 9.2 per cent and 8.4 per cent, respectively.

An analysis of business credit by size highlighted diverging trends. Credit to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) contracted by 4.5 per cent to E3.7 billion, reducing their share of total business credit to 32.4 per cent. Meanwhile, credit to large enterprises increased modestly by 0.7 per cent to E7.7 billion, accounting for 67.6 per cent of total business credit.

Credit extended to other sectors of the domestic economy stood at E1.2 billion at the end of October 2025, reflecting an increase of 4.7 per cent month-on-month and 7.6 per cent year-on-year. This expansion was driven by credit to parastatals which rose by 12.6 per cent to E452.9 million, and credit to local government which increased by 2.2 per cent to E92.1 million. Credit to other financial corporations also edged up slightly by 0.1 per cent to E645.4 million.

Figure 5: Private Sector Credit Monthly Changes; October 2024 to October 2025



	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25
BCr	0.6	0.5	1.9	5.4	3.7	-0.4	0.8	3.4	-2.2	-1.2	-1.0	0.9	-1.1
HH	0.3	0.7	-0.3	0.5	1.6	-0.1	-1.6	-1.4	3.3	-1.9	1.1	2.2	0.9
Other	5.2	4.4	0.8	-3.4	-2.2	-3.1	-8.6	4.9	-2.9	10.6	-9.9	14.9	4.7
Total PS	0.7	0.8	0.8	2.8	2.5	-0.4	-0.7	1.5	0.0	-0.9	-0.6	2.1	0.0

(BCr: Business Credit; HH: Household Credit; PS: Private Sector Credit)

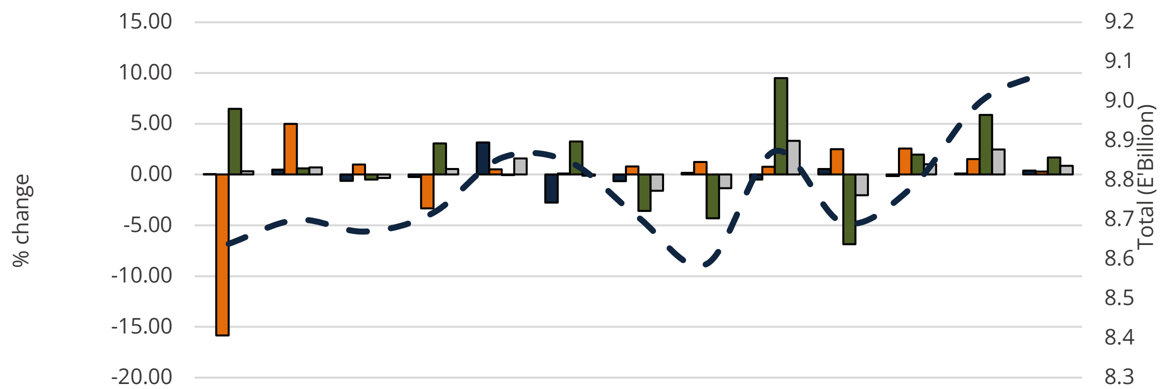
Source: Central Bank of Eswatini & Other Depository Corporations

When analysed by business size, the month-on-month growth in business credit was attributed to small & medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), while credit to large enterprises contracted. Credit to SMEs expanded by 9.5 per cent month-on-month to E3.9 billion in September 2025, accounting for 33.6 per cent of total business credit. In contrast, credit to large enterprises declined by 3.0 per cent month-on-month to E7.7 billion, representing 66.4 per cent of total credit to businesses.

Credit extended to other sectors of the domestic economy amounted to E1.1 billion at the end of September 2025, reflecting an increase of 14.9 per cent month-on-month and 8.1 per cent year-on-year. The month-on-month growth increase was broad-based, as credit to other financial corporations grew by 28.9 per cent to E644.4 million, credit to local government rose by 1.5 per cent to E90.1 million, and credit to parastatals increased by 0.5 per cent to E402.2 million.

Credit extended to households & non-profit institutions serving households (NPISH) expanded by 2.2 per cent month-on-month and 4.5 per cent year-on-year, reaching E9.0 billion in September 2025. The month-on-month rise was driven by other personal (unsecured) loans and motor vehicle loans, while housing loans recorded a marginal decline. Other personal (unsecured) loans rose by 5.8 per cent to E3.4 billion, and motor vehicle loans expanded marginally by 0.8 per cent to E1.3 billion. In contrast, housing loans were broadly unchanged, edging down by 0.1 per cent to E4.2 billion.

Figure 6: Household Credit Monthly Changes; October 2024 to October 2025



	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25
Housing	0.05	0.5	-0.6	-0.2	3.2	-2.7	-0.6	0.2	-0.5	0.5	-0.2	0.1	0.4
Motor Vehicles	-15.8	5.0	1.0	-3.3	0.5	0.1	0.8	1.3	0.8	2.5	2.6	1.5	0.3
Other (Unsecured)	6.5	0.6	-0.5	3.1	0.0	3.3	-3.6	-4.3	9.5	-6.9	2.0	5.9	1.7
Total	0.3	0.7	-0.3	0.5	1.6	-0.1	-1.6	-1.4	3.3	-2.0	1.0	2.5	0.9
Total (E'Billion)	8.6	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.9	8.8	8.7	8.6	8.9	8.7	8.8	9.0	9.1

Source: Central Bank of Eswatini & Other Depository Institutions

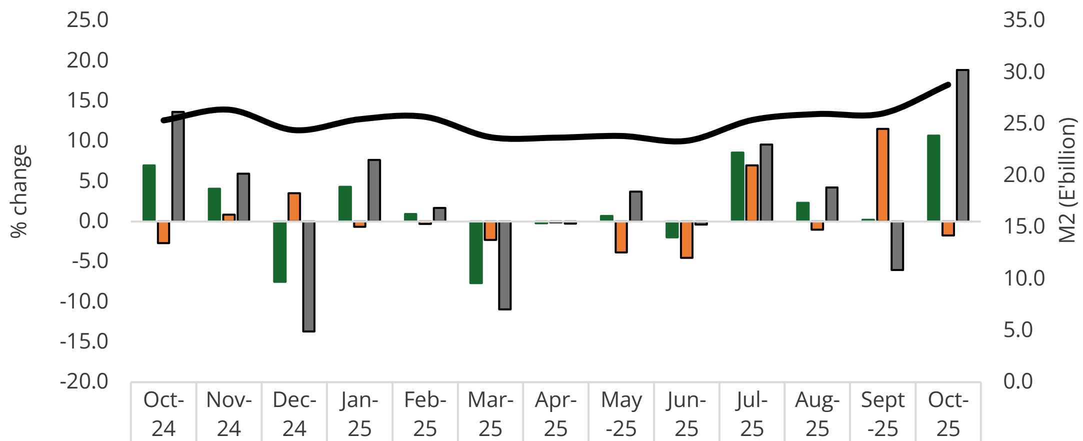
Government's financial position with the banking sector improved notably in October 2025, strengthening by 17.2 per cent month-on-month to E1.3 billion. This improvement was mainly driven by the repayment of the Central Bank advance using SACU receipts. Consequently, claims on Government dropped by 8.4 per cent to E7.5 billion, while Government deposits declined by 6.3 per cent to E6.2 billion, reflecting fiscal outflows during the month under review.

Nonperforming loans of the banking sector increased by 2.0 per cent month-on-month and by 11.1 per cent year-on-year, reaching E1.3 billion at the end of October 2025. Consequently, the NPL ratio rose slightly by 0.13 of a percentage points month-on-month and 0.08 percentage points year-on-year to 7.2 per cent.

Broad money supply (M2) amounted to E28.8 billion in October 2025, depicting growth of 10.7 per cent month-on-month and 13.9 per cent year-on-year. The improvement was attributed to an expansion in quasi money supply, while narrow money supply (M1) registered a decline.

Quasi-money grew significantly in October 2025, expanding by 18.9 per cent month-on-month and 17.2 per cent year-on-year to E18.7 billion. The increase was underpinned by a surge in time deposits, which accelerated by 21.2 per cent to E16.5 billion, as well as savings deposits which grew by 3.7 per cent to E2.2 billion.

Figure 7: Money Supply Monthly Changes; October 2024 to October 2025



	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sept-25	Oct-25
M2	7.0	4.1	-7.5	4.3	0.9	-7.7	-0.2	0.7	-2.0	8.6	2.3	0.2	10.7
M1	-2.7	0.9	3.5	-0.7	-0.3	-2.3	-0.1	-3.9	-4.5	7.0	-1.0	11.5	-1.7
Quasi	13.7	6.0	-13.7	7.7	1.7	-11.0	-0.3	3.7	-0.4	9.6	4.3	-6.1	18.9
M2 (E'billion)	25.4	26.4	24.4	25.5	25.7	23.7	23.7	23.8	23.4	25.4	26.0	26.0	28.8

Source: Central Bank of Eswatini & Other Depository Institutions

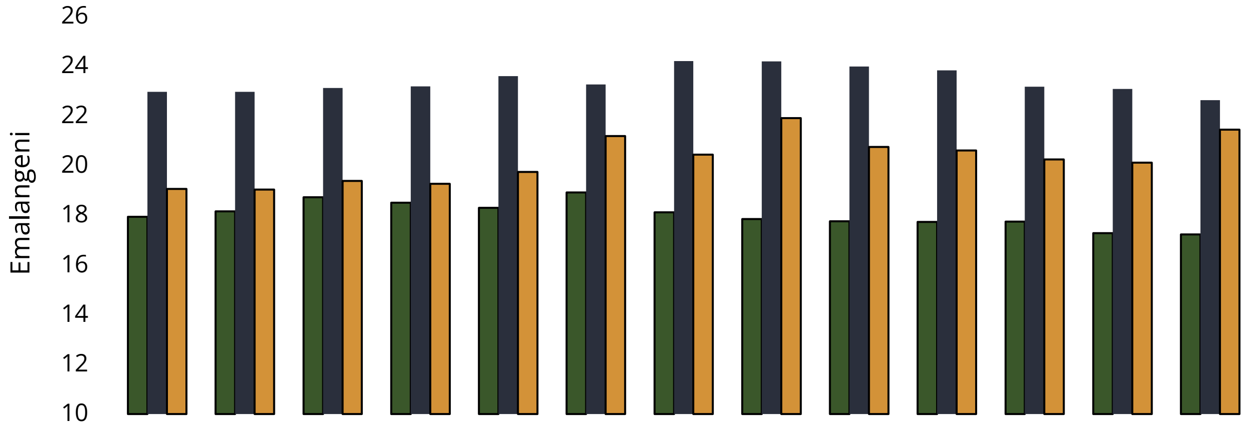
M1 declined by 1.7 per cent month-on-month but increased by 8.4 per cent year-on-year to E10.1 billion in October 2025. The month-on-month contraction was driven by a 2.9 per cent decrease in transferable (demand) deposits to E9.1 billion, partially offset by a 10.4 per cent rise in Emalangeni outside the banking sector to E988.6 million.

In contrast, quasi-money contracted by 6.1 per cent month-on-month to E15.7 billion in September 2025, driven by a decline in both its components: time deposits fell by 6.7 per cent to E13.6 billion, while savings deposits decreased by 1.6 per cent to E2.1 billion.

During the month of November 2025, the Lilangeni/Rand generally strengthened against the major trading currencies. The Rand, along with the Lilangeni, broke through the E18-mark against the US Dollar and consistently held this level, supported largely by the favourably perceived Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement (MTBPS). Compared to October 2025, the Lilangeni appreciated by 0.3 percent, closing the month under review at an average of E17.23 to the US Dollar.

Central to this appreciation was the lowering of South Africa's risk premium, driven by the announcement to reduce the SARB's inflation target to 3 percent, a signal of policy certainty, particularly given SA Treasury's earlier reluctance to make a pronouncement on the matter. Investor sentiment also improved following South Africa's removal from the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) grey list, which further benefited the Rand. In addition, the domestic unit appreciated on evidence of steadier public finances, demonstrating government's continued commitment to fiscal consolidation through the presentation of a realistic and slightly improved fiscal outlook for the next three years. The Lilangeni also appreciated by 1.9 percent and 1.0 percent against the Pound Sterling and the Euro to close the month at averages of E22.63 and E19.92, respectively. At the end of November 2025, the domestic unit was trading at E17.16 to the US Dollar, E22.71 to the Pound Sterling and E19.89 to the Euro.

Figure 8: Average Exchange Rates; November 2024 to November 2025



	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25
USD	17.94	18.16	18.73	18.50	18.29	18.91	18.11	17.84	17.75	17.73	17.74	17.28	17.23
GBP	22.96	22.97	23.12	23.18	23.60	23.25	24.20	24.18	23.99	23.83	23.17	23.08	22.63
Euro	19.06	19.03	19.38	19.26	19.75	21.18	20.44	21.91	20.75	20.61	20.24	20.12	21.44

Source: Central Bank of Eswatini

4 TOTAL PUBLIC DEBT

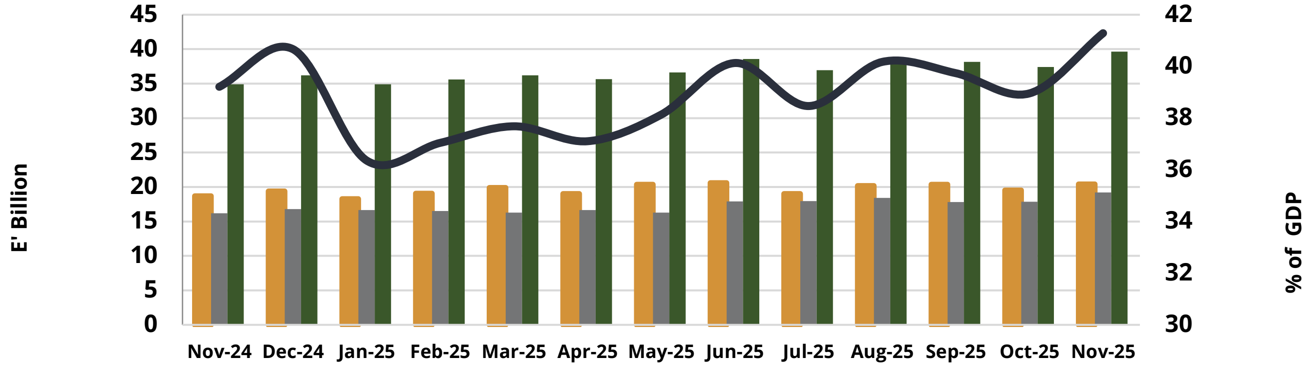
Total Public Debt

At the end of November 2025, preliminary figures show that total public debt stood at E39.7 billion, equivalent to 41.3 per cent of GDP. This reflects an increase of 6.0 per cent relative to the E37.4 billion recorded in October 2025. The rise in public debt was driven by developments in both domestic and external debt during the month under review.

Public External Debt

At the end of November 2025, public external debt stood at E19.2 billion, approximately 20.0 per cent of GDP, reflecting a 7.6 percent increase from the previous month. The rise was driven by disbursements on ongoing project loans during the period. On the contrary, the Lilangeni maintained its mild strengthening against major currencies, and debt service payments were made during the month, partially offsetting the increase in external debt.

Figure 9: Total Public Debt; November 2024 to November 2025



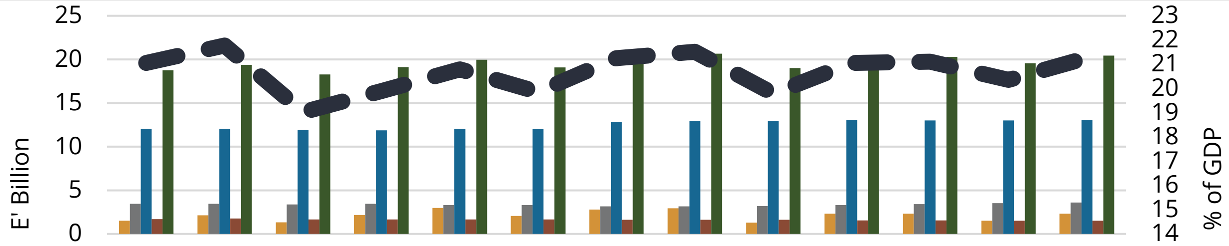
	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25
Domestic	18.7	19.4	18.3	19.1	19.9	19.0	20.4	20.6	19.0	20.2	20.4	19.6	20.4
External	16.2	16.8	16.7	16.5	16.3	16.6	16.3	17.9	17.9	18.4	17.8	17.9	19.2
Total Stock	34.9	36.2	34.9	35.6	36.2	35.6	36.6	38.6	37.0	38.6	38.2	37.4	39.7
% of GDP (RHS)	39.2	40.7	36.4	37.0	37.7	37.1	38.1	40.1	38.5	40.2	39.7	39.0	41.3

Source: Central Bank of Eswatini & Ministry of Finance

Domestic Debt

Domestic debt grew by 4.5 per cent to settle at E20.4 billion, equivalent to 21.3 per cent of GDP at the end of November 2025. The increase was attributable to an additional advance amounting to E800 million accessed by the government. Although bonds were issued during the month, an equivalent amount also matured, resulting in a neutral net effect from bond transactions.

Figure 10: Outstanding Domestic Debt; November 2024 to November 2025



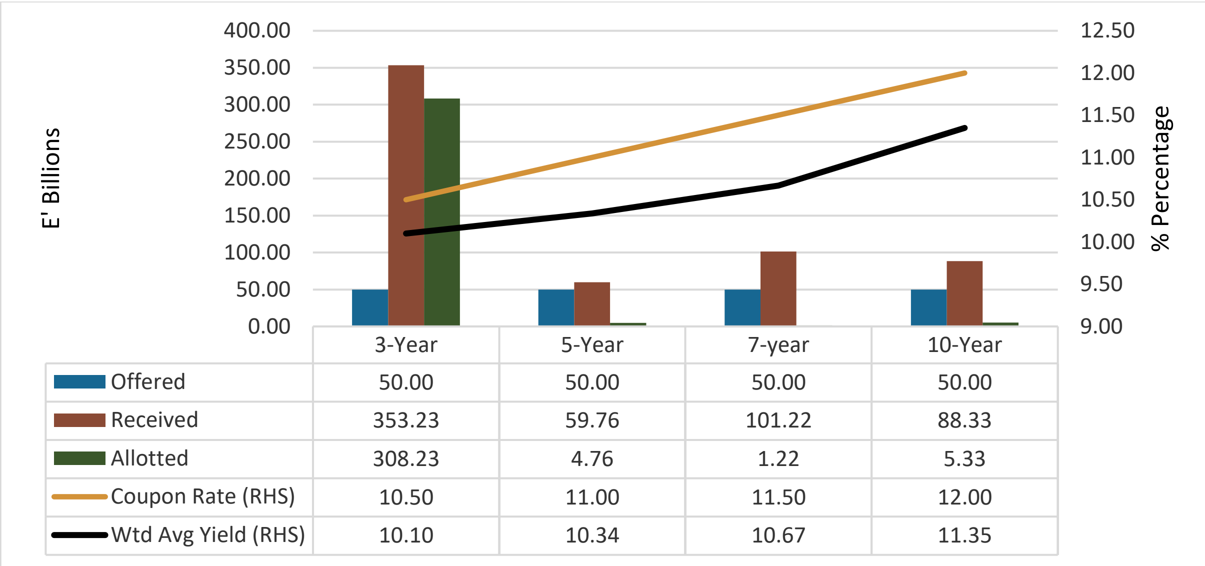
	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25
CBE Advance	1.5	2.1	1.3	2.2	3.0	2.1	2.8	2.9	1.3	2.3	2.3	1.5	2.3
T-Bills	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.6
Bonds	12.1	12.0	11.9	11.9	12.1	12.0	12.8	13.0	12.9	13.1	13.0	13.0	13.0
Loans	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
Total	18.7	19.4	18.3	19.1	20.0	19.1	20.4	20.7	19.0	20.2	20.3	19.6	20.4
% of GDP (rhs)	21.1	21.8	19.0	19.9	20.8	19.9	21.3	21.5	19.8	21.1	21.1	20.4	21.3

Source: Central Bank of Eswatini

Bond Auction Summary

During November 2025, the Central Bank, on behalf of government, issued a total of E200 million through a re-opening of Plain Vanilla bonds across four different tenures. Total bids amounted to E602.5 million of whichE319.5 million was allotted, indicating strong demand. This translated into a subscription ratio of 301.3 per cent and an allotment ratio of 159.8 per cent. The auction results are summarized in the table below:

Figure 11: Plain Vanilla Bonds Auction Summary



	3-Year	5-Year	7-year	10-Year
Offered	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00
Received	353.23	59.76	101.22	88.33
Allotted	308.23	4.76	1.22	5.33
Coupon Rate (RHS)	10.50	11.00	11.50	12.00
Wtd Avg Yield (RHS)	10.10	10.34	10.67	11.35

Table 1: Domestic Debt Instruments Outstanding by Holder on 31 October 2025

Holder	Treasury Bills	Government Bonds	CBE Advance	Total	Share of Holdings (%)
CBE	7.68	598.67	2,323.38	2,929.72	15.5
Commercial banks	1,735.52	3,261.24		4,996.76	26.4
NBFIs	1,501.68	7,118.36		8,620.04	45.5
Foreign Institutions	-	192.60		192.60	1.0
Other	334.36	1,855.98		2,190.34	11.6
TOTALS	**3,579.24**	**13,026.84**	**2,323.38**	18,929.46	**100**

Source: Central Bank of Eswatini

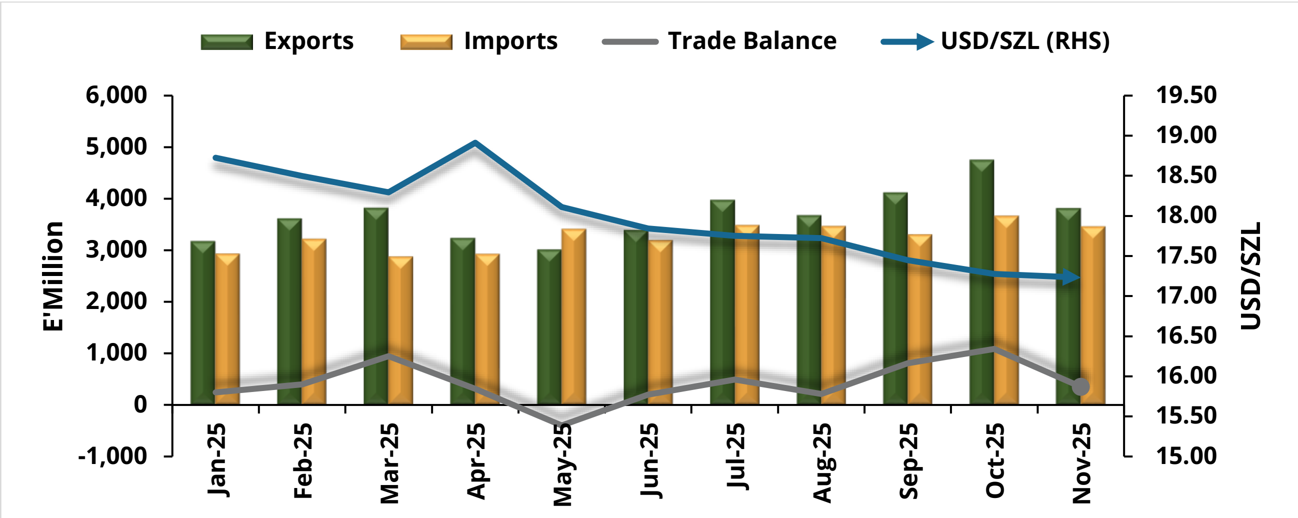
Non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs) continued to hold a significant share long-term government securities. Conversely, commercial banks maintained their dominance in short-term instruments, reflecting the differing investment preferences across institutional portfolios.

5 THE EXTERNAL SECTOR

In November 2025, Eswatini recorded a narrower trade surplus of E352.0 million, compared to a surplus of E1.1 billion in October 2025. Exports for November fell by 19.7 percent month-on-month to total E3.8 billion, largely due to lower exports of sugar. On an annual comparison, exports declined by 8.5 percent. **Imports** in the month were valued at E3.5 billion, reflecting a milder 5.5 percent month-on-month drop and a 2.2 percent year-on-year decrease. Seasonally adjusted data shows exports for November 2025 at E3.5 billion and imports at E3.3 billion, resulting in a seasonally adjusted trade surplus of E240.0 million for the month.

January to November 2025 cumulative trade surplus was E4.66 billion, down by a marginal 1.1 percent from E4.7 billion recorded in the same period of 2024. Year-to-date exports amounted to E40.6 billion, 2.3 percent higher than last year, while imports totalled E35.9 billion, marking a 2.8 percent annual increase.

Figure 12: Merchandise Trade; January 2025 – November 2025



Trade direction analysis shows that South Africa remained as Eswatini's dominant trading partner in November, accounting for 71.2 percent of exports and 75.5 percent of imports. Exports to Kenya, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, and Tanzania collectively represented 16.5 percent of total exports. Meanwhile, imports from China, India, Oman, Germany, and Thailand contributed 13.5 percent of total imports during the month.

Export commodity performance

Leading export commodities in November 2025 performed as follows; **soft drink concentrates** amounted to E1.6 billion, representing a 26.6 percent decline month-on-month and 1.7 percent fall year-on-year. **Sugar and sugar products** exports recorded E773.4 million, falling sharply by 33.9 percent compared to October 2025 and 43.0 percent year-on-year due to reduced consignments to the U.S. and U.K. in the month. **Textiles and textile apparel** exports amounted to E397.1 million, down 6.0 percent month-on-month and 4.6 percent year-on-year, driven by lower exports of clothing and man-made filaments. Exports of **wood and wood articles** totalled E274.2 million, decreasing by 4.9 percent month-on-month but increasing by 7.5 percent compared to the same period last year.

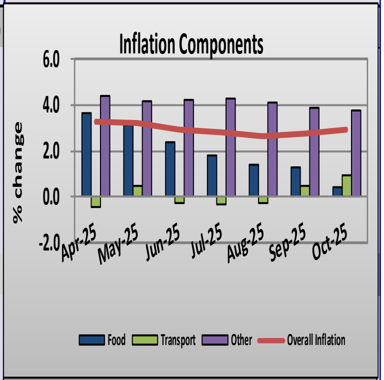
Import commodity performance

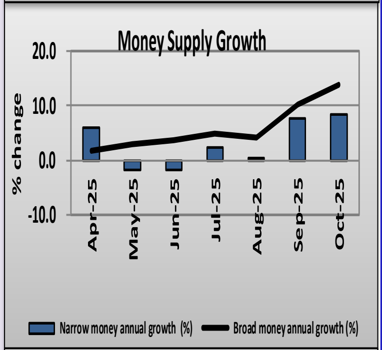
On the import side, **energy products** were valued at E588.6 million, declining by 8.3 percent month-on-month but expanding by 5.8 percent year-on-year. **Machinery and electrical equipment** imports amounted to E370.6 million, increasing by 3.8 percent month-on-month and 5.5 percent year-on-year. Imports of **animal and vegetable products** fell by 1.6 percent month-on-month and 9.5 percent year-on-year to total E341.9 million, mainly due to reduced purchases of live animals and edible vegetables. **Textile and apparel** imports amounted to E213.7 million, down 13.1 percent month-on-month and a marginal 0.5 percent year-on-year. **Vehicle** imports were E204.8 million in November 2025, rising by 7.4 percent month-on-month but falling by 16.3 percent compared to November 2024.

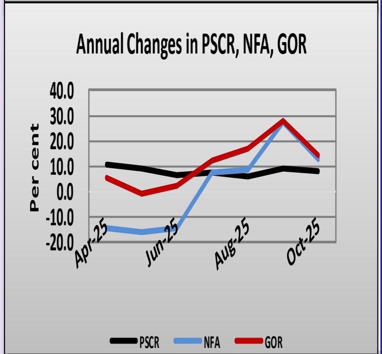
Economic Policy, Research and Statistics Department

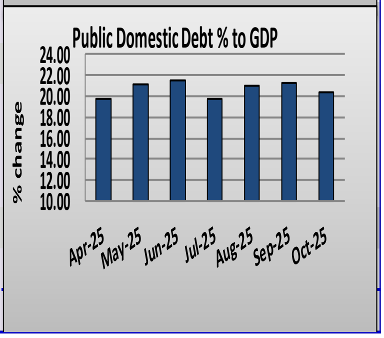
Kingdom of Eswatini Economic Indicators at a glance

Sectors	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25
Overall Inflation	3.3	3.2	2.9	2.8	2.6	2.8	2.9
Food	3.6	3.2	2.3	1.8	1.4	1.3	0.4
Transport	-0.4	0.5	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3	0.5	0.9
Other	4.4	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.1	3.9	3.8
Money and banking							
Narrow money annual growth (%)	6.0	-1.8	-1.7	2.4	0.3	7.7	8.4
Broad money annual growth (%)	1.8	3.0	3.6	4.9	4.0	10.3	13.9
Domestic credit (net) - E' Million	22,408.3	23,814.2	23,929.9	21,265.4	22,179.2	23,290.6	23,024.9
Government	1,134.7	2,219.0	2,345.1	-117.8	929.1	1,597.8	1,322.7
Private sector	21,273.6	21,595.3	21,584.8	21,383.2	21,250.2	21,692.8	21,702.2
Private sector credit annual growth (%)	10.4	9.2	6.5	7.7	5.9	8.9	8.2
Interest rates (% p.a)							
Prime lending	10.50	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25
Discount rate	7.00	6.75	6.75	6.75	6.75	6.75	6.75
Deposit rate - 31 days	2.53	2.46	2.31	2.31	2.31	2.31	2.31
- 12 months	5.12	5.12	5.03	5.03	5.03	5.03	5.03
- T. bill rate	9.17	9.19	9.21	9.19	9.06	8.64	8.23
Ratios							
Liquidity ratio (required = 20 %)	33.3	30.9	30.9	33.5	35.9	34.3	42.3
Loans/deposits ratio	85.5	86.0	86.6	78.2	76.7	77.2	70.9
Net foreign assets (E'million)	8,615.0	7,477.8	6,110.4	11,034.6	10,426.0	9,847.6	12,950.2
Annual % change in NFA	-14.7	-15.9	-14.5	7.6	8.7	27.6	12.7
Gross official foreign reserves E'Millions	10,443.4	9,390.5	8,221.6	11,949.0	11,836.5	10.7	14.4
Annual % change in GOR	5.5	-1.1	2.4	12.2	16.7	27.9	14.2
In months of import cover	2.5	2.3	2.0	2.8	2.8	2.5	3.4
Exchange Rates							
US$	18.29	18.91	18.11	17.84	17.75	17.73	17.45
EURO	19.75	21.18	20.44	21.91	20.75	20.61	20.47
GBP	23.60	23.25	24.20	24.18	23.99	23.83	23.57
Public Finance							
Total public domestic debt [E' million]	19,009.40	20,367.37	20,625.66	19,008.00	20,168.5	20,382.4	19,554.5
As a % of GDP	19.79	21.20	21.47	19.79	20.99	21.22	20.35









NB: For consistency, the table shows data up to the end of October 2025.