

Evolution of the Foreign Exchange Market and the Foreign Exchange Balance

March 2025



BANCO CENTRAL
DE LA REPÚBLICA ARGENTINA

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Executive Summary

In terms of the [forex market performance](#) for March, institutions' clients purchased USD928 million, and institutions' purchases amounted to USD298 million. The BCRA made net sales of USD1,154 million, and net payments through the Local Currency Payment System for USD52 million.

The "Non-Financial Private Sector" was a net purchaser of foreign currency for USD584 million. Within this group, the "Oilseeds and Grains" sector was the main supplier of foreign currency, recording net inflows of USD1,605 million, mainly explained by the result in "Goods". The "Real Sector excluding Oilseeds and Grains" recorded net purchases amounting to USD1,589 million, mainly explained by the net outflows recorded in "Goods" (USD1,717 million) and "Other Services, and Primary and Secondary Inflows" (USD405 million), which were partially offset by net inflows from "Debt, FDI, Portfolio, and Other Transactions" (USD625 million). "Natural Persons" recorded net outflows of USD570 million mainly for traveling expenses and other payments on cards to non-resident suppliers. It should be noted that about 60% of these card payments are paid directly by clients with funds in foreign currency, which helps mitigate the negative impact of these expenditures on the foreign exchange market and international reserves.

In terms of the [foreign exchange balance for March](#), the foreign exchange current account experienced a deficit of USD1,674 million. This result was explained by net outflows recorded in "Services" (USD799 million), "Goods" (USD456 million) and "Primary Income" (USD425 million), which were partially offset by net inflows recorded in "Secondary Income" (USD6 million). In March, the foreign exchange financial account recorded a deficit of USD1,892 million. This result was attributed to a deficit in the "Financial Sector" (USD1,210 million), in the "National Government and the BCRA" (USD1,053 million), and in "Other Net Transfers" (USD78 million), which were partially offset by a surplus in the "Non-Financial Private Sector" (USD450 million).

During March, [BCRA's international reserves](#) fell USD3,131 million, totaling USD24,986 million by the end of the month. This result was mainly driven by the settlement of net sales made by the BCRA in the foreign exchange market (USD1,434 million), including net payments made by the BCRA through the Local Currency Payment System, the fall in institutions' holdings of foreign currency in the BCRA by USD1,009 million, and repayments of principal and interest from loans by international organizations (IMF excluded) amounting to USD689 million.

In April, the BCRA started a new phase of its economic program, modifying the existing exchange rate regime to a floating exchange rate system with adjustable bands. The "blend" dollar (a combination of two exchange rates for the settlement of export proceeds) was removed, foreign exchange restrictions applicable to natural persons were lifted, and both the distribution of profits to foreign shareholders for fiscal years starting in 2025 and the terms for the payment of foreign trade transactions were relaxed. Additionally, non-resident investors were authorized to access the Free Foreign Exchange Market (*Mercado Libre de Cambios*, MLC) for the repatriation of new investments without prior approval. These funds must remain invested for at least six months. The BCRA will issue a new series of Bonds for the Reconstruction of a Free Argentina (BOPREAL). This issuance aims to unfreeze retained stocks of dividends and debt services with related institutions, and supplements the relaxation of capital flow restrictions for accessing the MLC. This includes interest repayments on financial debts with related parties and profit distributions corresponding to fiscal years beginning on January 1, 2025.

This stage is also supported by a new Extended Fund Facility program (EFF) agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for an amount of USD20 billion. Out of this amount, approximately USD15 billion will be freely available disbursements accruing during 2025. **For more information, see the note published by the BCRA [here](#) and Communication [A 8226](#).**

I. Introduction

This report analyzes information on foreign exchange transactions made in March 2025 as gathered by the Exchange Transaction Reporting System administered by the BCRA. Additionally, it relies on information on changes in the BCRA's international reserves due to transactions carried out by the BCRA on its own account or on behalf of the National Government, and due to changes in the balance of institutions' foreign currency accounts at the BCRA.¹

Data collected from institutions include information on every transaction conducted in the forex market by natural or legal persons (including the sector to which they belong, which agrees with the main business activity reported to the ARCA), amounts traded, currency denomination, and the reason for the foreign exchange transaction (heading)—such as inflows or outflows from exports or imports of goods or services, saving, and financial liabilities, as defined in the Sixth Edition of the IMF's Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual (BPM6).

For further information on the methodological aspects of this report, please read the methodology used for compiling foreign exchange market and foreign exchange balance statistics, which is available [here on the BCRA's website](#).

Should you need detailed information about the exchange rate regulations in force and the changes that have been implemented since November 2017, please see the [Consolidated Text on Foreign Trade and Exchange Regulations](#) available on the BCRA's website.

Section II of this report analyzes the result of foreign exchange transactions; data are broken down by sector and by heading. Sectors were grouped into: "Central Bank", "Institutions", "General Government", "Oilseeds and Grains", "Real Sector excluding Oilseeds and Grains", "Natural Persons", and "Institutional Investors and Others" on the basis of the identification number entered and the main activity reported to the ARCA. For more information on the categorization used, see Section B.4. of the ["Methodology Used for Compiling Foreign Exchange Market and Foreign Exchange Balance Statistics"](#).² In addition, there is an annex of statistical series broken down by sector based on the National Classifier of Economic Activities (CLANAE) as reported by companies within the framework of the National Economic Census carried out by INDEC in 2021, supplemented, in some cases, with the Classification of Economic Activity reported to the ARCA (CLAE), since at the Letter and Group levels (3 digits) both classifiers match each other. **Foreign exchange market and foreign exchange balance statistics are available on the [BCRA's website](#).**

The following table is intended to analyze the purchases and sales carried out through institutions in the forex market, reflecting each sector's net foreign exchange result. Each heading's net result—as informed by

¹ Communication A 3840, as amended.

² For identification purposes, each sector is defined as follows: **"General Government"** stands for the so-called "Public Sector" and embraces transactions made by the National Treasury directly through its account in foreign currency held with the BCRA; **"Oilseeds and Grains"**; **"Real Sector excluding Oilseeds and Grains"** includes the following sectors: "Oil", "Food, Beverages and Tobacco", "Textile and Leather Industries", "Paper, Publishing and Printing Industry", "Chemical, Rubber and Plastic Industries", "Non-Metallic Mineral Products (Cement, Ceramics and Others)", "Common Metals and their Manufacture", "Machinery and Equipment", "Automobile Industry", "Other Manufacturing Industries", "Electricity (Generation, Transport, Distribution)", "Gas (Extraction, Transport, Distribution)", "Water", "Commerce", "Transport", "Communications", "Mining", "Agriculture and Other Primary Activities", "Construction", "Information Technology", "Gastronomy", "Entertainment" and "Tourism and Accommodation Services"; **"Financial and Foreign Exchange Institutions"** includes the sector's transactions; **"Natural Persons"** includes all natural persons within the sector "Other Non-Financial Private Sector"; and **"Institutional Investors and Others"** includes "Insurance" as well as the rest of the "Other Non-Financial Private Sector".

the institutions to the BCRA—is displayed vertically. The result of forex transactions in pesos and in foreign currency may be set apart from the result of self-to-self international transfers (see Table II.2).

Section III deals with the Foreign Exchange Balance, which comprises transactions carried out by the institutions with their clients in the foreign exchange market and those carried out by the BCRA (included in Section II)—either on its own account or on behalf of the National Government. It is worth noting that the Foreign Exchange Balance is presented in an analytical format based on the Balance of Payments broken down by component and by institutional sector. This information was published anew in 2020, allowing readers to follow up data based on the reasons for the transactions (headings), which are again taken as an affidavit. However, the evolution of the historical series shown here should be analyzed in light of the different forex regulations in force by period (see Section B.5. of the Methodology Used for Compiling Foreign Exchange Market and Foreign Exchange Balance Statistics).

Section IV deals with the stock of international reserves by the end of the period and their evolution.

Finally, Section V deals with information on the amount traded in the foreign exchange market. This amount stands for transactions made by institutions with their clients—both gross purchases and gross sales,—transactions between institutions, and those carried out among institutions and the BCRA.

II. Result by Sector in the Foreign Exchange Market

In March, institutions' clients purchased USD928 million, and institutions' purchases amounted to USD298 million. The BCRA made net purchases of USD1,154 million, and net payments through the Local Currency Payment System for USD52 million (see Table II.1).^{3 4 5}

³ Information on the Local Currency Payment System of this report has been drawn from the Exchange Transaction Reporting System and reported by transaction date. For more information, see the [Methodology Used for Compiling Foreign Exchange Market and Foreign Exchange Balance Statistics](#).

⁴ Transactions in the forex market are reported according to their transaction date, except for the purchase and sale of securities payable in foreign currency.

⁵ The result by sector excludes purchases of foreign currency to pay card bills for expenses incurred abroad for an amount of USD245 million. These payments of local debts in foreign currency do not imply a net demand in the whole system, made up by institutions and the BCRA.

Table II.1 Foreign Exchange Market

Result by Sector

Equivalent in million dollars

Result by Sector of the Foreign Exchange Market with Institutions	Mar-24	Mar-25	2024 up to Mar	2025 up to Mar
BCRA - Market	-2,882	1,154	-8,512	-2,030
BCRA - Local Currency Payment System	23	72	44	184
National Treasury	-	-	-	-
Institutions	276	-298	266	1,281
Institutions' Clients (1 + 2 + 3)	2,583	-928	8,201	566
1. Non-Financial Private Sector	2,822	-584	8,957	1,386
Oilseeds and Grains	1,492	1,605	4,473	6,021
Real Sector excluding Oilseeds and Grains	1,573	-1,589	5,125	-2,375
Natural Persons	-222	-570	-640	-2,256
Institutional Investors and Others	-21	-30	-0	-4
2. General Government (National Treasury Excluded)	-163	-169	-467	-688
3. Institutions (Own Transactions)	-76	-174	-289	-133
National Treasury Directly with the BCRA	-469	-	-1,928	-1,500

Note: (+) Net sales; (-) Net purchases

Source: BCRA

In March, the "Oilseeds and Grains" sector was the main supplier of foreign currency, with net sales of USD1,605 million in the forex market. This was mainly explained by collections on exports net of payments for imports (under "Goods"), recording a net amount of USD1,546 million (see Table II.2).

Table II.2 Foreign Exchange Market

Result of Institutions' Transactions with Clients. March 2025.

Equivalent in million dollars

Sector/Main Headings	Goods	Travel and Passenger Transport, and Other Expenses Paid with Cards	Other Services, and Primary and Secondary Inflows	Foreign Assets - Banknotes	Foreign Assets - Foreign Currency	Net Self-to-Self International Transfers	Debt, FDI, Portfolio, and Other Transactions	Total
Non-Financial Private Sector	-385	-698	-183	87	81	-379	892	-584
Oilseeds and Grains	1,546	0	-4	0	4	-16	76	1,605
Real Sector excluding Oilseeds and Grains	-1,717	-132	-405	49	29	-37	625	-1,589
Natural Persons	-24	-625	31	22	25	-59	59	-570
Institutional Investors and Others	-189	59	195	15	24	-267	133	-30
General Government (National Treasury Excluded)	-12	0	-51	50	53	-68	-141	-169
Institutions (Own Transactions)	-59	0	-45	0	0	0	-69	-174
Institutions' Result with Clients	-456	-698	-279	137	134	-447	682	-928
Result for Forex Transactions	-549	-855	-347	136	10	0	676	-928
Result for Self-to-Self International Transfers	93	157	68	0	124	-447	5	0

Note: (+) Net sales; (-) Net purchases

Source: BCRA

The "Real Sector excluding Oilseeds and Grains" recorded net purchases amounting to USD1,589 million, mainly explained by the net outflows recorded in "Goods" (USD1,717 million), and in "Other Services, and Primary and Secondary Inflows" (USD405 million). These records were partially offset by net inflows from "Debt, FDI, Portfolio, and Other Transactions" (USD625 million).

In this context, “Energy” (USD662 million) and “Food, Beverages and Tobacco” (USD441 million) were the economic sectors recording the highest surplus, while “Automobile Industry” (USD1,025 million) and “Commerce” (USD513 million) had the highest deficit (see Table II.3).

Table II.3 Foreign Exchange Market

Result of the Real Sector excluding Oilseeds and Grains disaggregated by main headings. March 2025.

Equivalent in million dollars

Sector/Main Headings	Goods	Travel and Passenger Transport, and Other Expenses Paid with Cards	Other Services, and Primary and Secondary Inflows	Foreign Assets - Banknotes	Foreign Assets - Foreign Currency	Net Self-to-Self International Transfers	Debt, FDI, Portfolio, and Other Transactions	Total
Energy*	325	0	-143	2	3	12	463	662
Food, Beverages and Tobacco	480	3	-19	0	0	-50	27	441
Mining	276	0	-16	0	6	-11	79	334
Agriculture and Other Primary Activities	214	1	-2	0	1	-33	63	244
Information Technology	-15	1	101	0	1	-16	11	84
Entertainment	-1	0	5	0	5	-2	-2	6
Gastronomy	-1	0	-1	0	0	0	1	-1
Water	-1	0	-1	0	0	0	0	-2
Non-Metallic Mineral Products (Cement, Ceramics and Others)	-16	0	-2	0	0	0	9	-9
Construction	-34	0	-1	1	1	-3	-12	-47
Paper, Publishing and Printing Industry	-71	0	0	0	0	12	-2	-62
Communications	-52	0	-47	0	0	-1	14	-85
Tourism and Accommodation Services	0	-103	0	2	1	-13	1	-112
Transport	-5	-35	-153	42	1	33	3	-114
Textile and Leather Industries	-102	0	-17	0	0	-2	4	-117
Other Manufacturing Industries	-191	0	7	0	2	-1	6	-177
Common Metals and their Manufacture	-129	0	-25	0	0	2	-54	-206
Machinery and Equipment	-402	0	-1	0	1	-3	3	-401
Chemical, Rubber and Plastic Industries	-492	0	-2	0	1	7	-1	-487
Commerce	-515	0	-9	1	4	3	3	-513
Automobile Industry	-988	0	-78	0	1	30	9	-1,025
Total	-1,717	-192	-405	49	29	-37	625	-1,589

*It includes: Electricity (Generation, Transport, Distribution), Oil, and Gas (Extraction, Transport, Distribution) Sectors

Note: (+) Net sales; (-) Net purchases

Source: BCRA

“Natural Persons” recorded net outflows of USD570 million mainly for traveling expenses and other payments on cards to non-resident suppliers. It should be noted that about 60% of these card payments (recorded as outflows under the “Travel” account) are paid directly by clients with funds in foreign currency, which helps mitigate their negative impact on the foreign exchange market (see Section III.1.2. of this report and Section C.2.2.2. of the [Methodology Used for Compiling Foreign Exchange Market and Foreign Exchange Balance Statistics](#) for more information on how these specific transactions are recorded).

“Institutional Investors and Others”—both residents and non-residents—recorded net outflows of USD30 million.

Institutions made net purchases with their own funds for USD174 million.

In turn, the “General Government” (excluding the National Treasury) made net purchases in the forex market for USD169 million.

III. Foreign Exchange Balance

III.1. Current Account

Current account transactions recorded in the foreign exchange balance showed a deficit of USD1,674 million in March. This result was mainly explained by the net outflows of “Services” (USD799 million), “Goods” (USD456 million), and “Primary Income” (USD425 million), which was partially offset by the net inflows recorded in “Secondary Income” (USD6 million) (see Table III.1.1).⁶

Table III.1.1. Foreign Exchange Balance
Foreign Exchange Current Account
 Equivalent in million dollars

Date	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25
Foreign Exchange Current Account	1,804	2,277	1,161	-223	-1,668	-1,269	-700	-1,581	-911	-1,114	-1,292	-1,231	-1,674
Goods	2,424	2,737	2,708	795	551	576	528	744	714	-39	425	869	-456
Services	-158	-183	-388	-368	-566	-614	-650	-744	-530	-526	-1,187	-1,038	-799
Primary Income	-462	-290	-1,180	-533	-1,670	-1,243	-588	-1,599	-1,116	-523	-547	-1,047	-425
Secondary Income	0	12	21	-117	17	13	10	18	21	-26	17	-15	6

Source: BCRA

It is worth noting that Executive Order [28/2023](#) (dated December 13, 2023) set forth a new edition of the Export Increase Program. This program is intended for the entire exporting sector, both goods and services, and allows exporters to settle up to 20% of the foreign currency received from the collection of exports through the stock market, having to settle the rest through the forex market.

Under these regulations, foreign currency inflows from exports of goods and services settled through the stock market are not recorded as collections of exports of goods and services in the foreign exchange market and the foreign exchange balance statistics; except for those proceeds that were kept in local foreign currency accounts (that result in self-to-self international transfers).

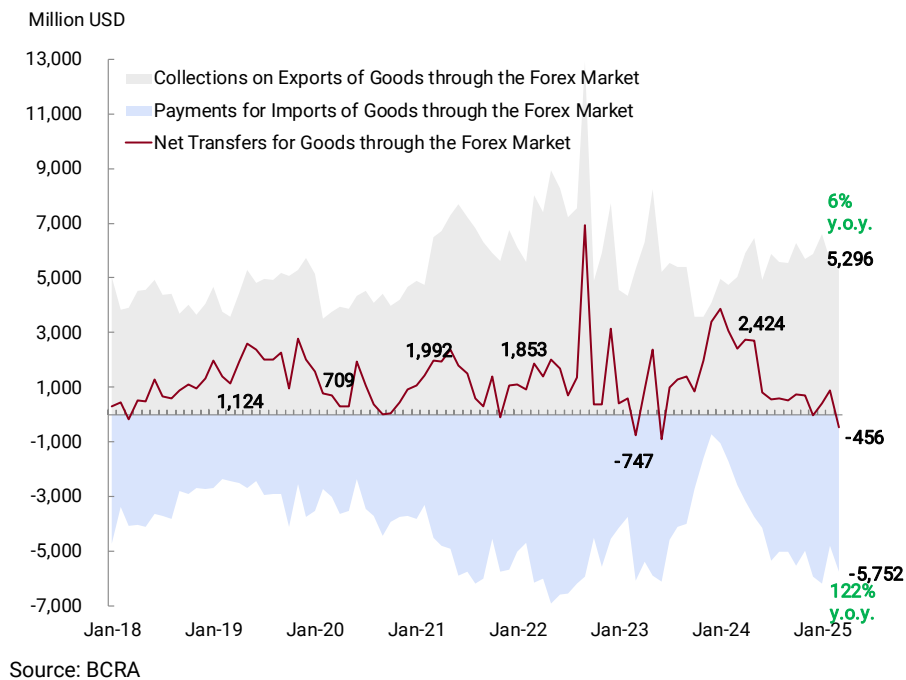
It is worth noting that the above mentioned program was repealed after Executive Order [269/2025](#) was published on April 14.

⁶ The current account of the foreign exchange balance differs from that reported in the balance of payments prepared by INDEC. To understand the definitions and the differences between the current account of the foreign exchange balance and that of the balance of payments, refer to the [Methodology Used for Compiling Foreign Exchange Market and Foreign Exchange Balance Statistics](#). Specifically, sections C.1, C.1.1, C.1.2 and C.1.3.

III.1.1. Goods

In March, transfers for “Goods” on the foreign exchange balance exhibited net outflows for USD456 million. This result was explained by payments of imports for USD5,752 million, which were partially offset by collections on exports for USD5,296 million (see Chart III.1.1.1).

**Chart III.1.1.1 Foreign Exchange Balance
Transfers for Goods**

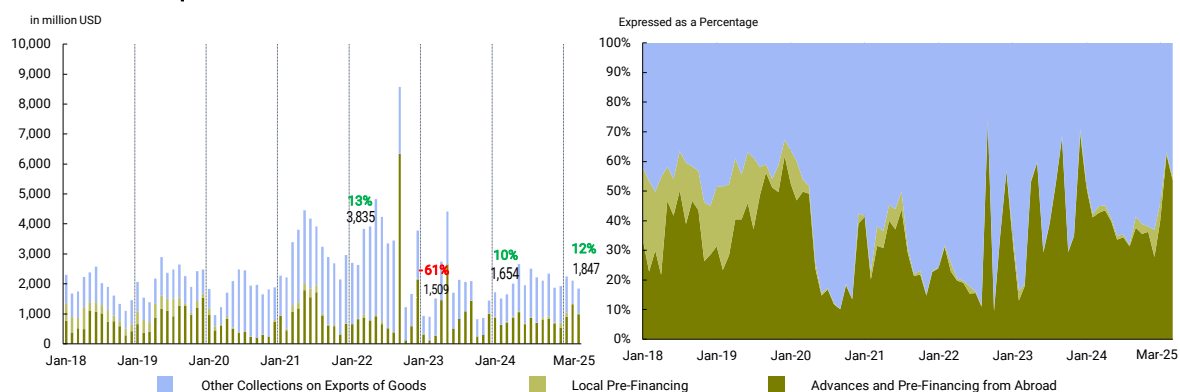


As already mentioned, the Export Increase Program covers inflows from the collection of exports through the stock market, which are not included in the foreign exchange market and the foreign exchange balance statistics, because they are not recorded in the Exchange Transaction Reporting System, with the exception of those proceeds that are transferred to and deposited in local accounts in foreign currency for subsequent settlement in the stock market and are recorded as self-to-self international transfers, having no net effect on the forex market. **It is worth noting that the above mentioned program was repealed** after Executive Order [269/2025](#) was published on April 14.

In March, the “Oilseeds and Grains” sector recorded foreign currency sales for collections on exports of goods through the forex market for USD1,847 million, representing a 12% y.o.y. increase. The sector’s FOB exports totaled USD2,430 million in March. Companies’ estimated inflows channeled through the stock markets show a decrease in the sector’s stock of commercial debt resulting from advances and the pre-financing of exports.

Fifty-five percent of the sector’s inflows were collected ahead of time either through advances or pre-financing of exports (local and foreign). This figure surpasses the average share observed from 2016 to date, which stands at 45% (see Chart III.1.1.2).

**Chart III.1.1.2 Foreign Exchange Balance
Collection on Exports of Goods from the “Oilseeds and Grains” Sector**



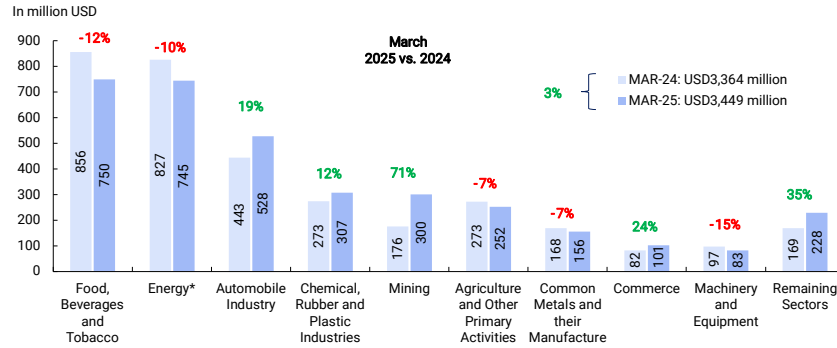
Source: BCRA

[Executive Order 38/2025](#) of January 27, established a temporary reduction (until June 30) of export duties on the main goods exported by the agricultural sector (soybean and its by-products, wheat, and corn, among others), as well as the elimination of such duties on exports of goods from regional economies.

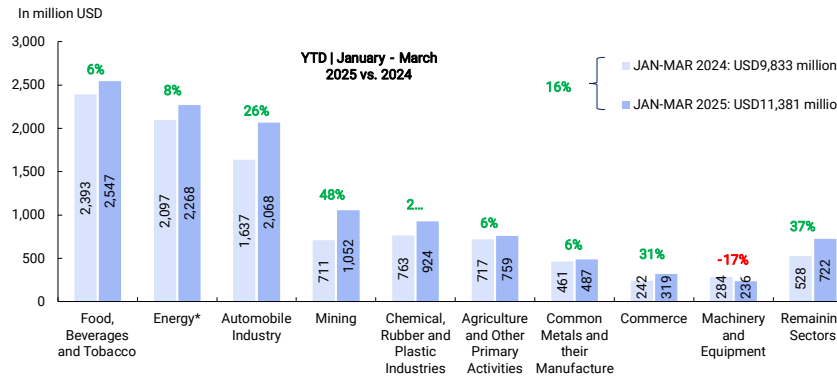
Inflows from the collections on exports of goods from the remaining sectors through the forex market totaled USD3,449 million in March, while FOB exports totaled USD3,898 million during the month. Considering also companies’ estimated inflows channeled through the stock markets, these sectors’ stock of commercial debt has increased during the month.

In March, year-on-year increases in collections on exports in the “Mining” (71%), “Commerce” (24%), and “Automobile Industry” (19%) sectors stood out, whereas year-on-year decreases were recorded in the “Machinery and Equipment” (15%), “Food, Beverages and Tobacco” (12%), and “Energy” (10%) sectors (see Chart III.1.1.4).

Chart III.1.1.4 Foreign Exchange Balance
Collection on Exports of Goods ("Oilseeds and Grains" Sector Excluded)



*Note: It includes Oil, Electricity and Gas Sectors

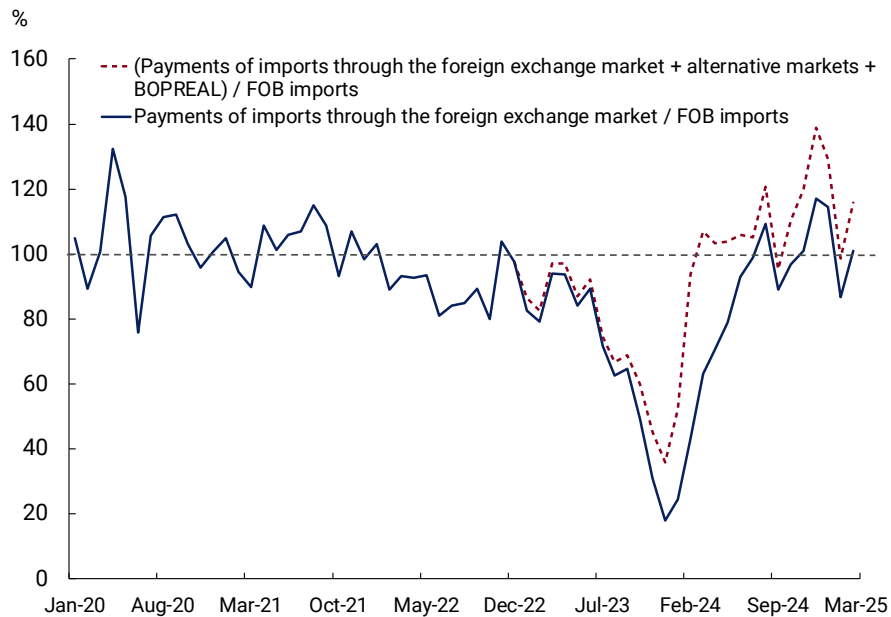


Source: BCRA

In March, payments of imports of goods through the forex market reached USD5,752 million, up 122% y.o.y., and up 20% compared to February.⁷ This figure was above March's FOB imports, which amounted to USD5,691 million. It should be noted that importers can settle their imports and commercial debts in alternative markets (under certain conditions), and also with BOPREAL bonds. Therefore, all these payment mechanisms should be considered to better estimate the changes in commercial debt. These mechanisms were used by importers to settle an additional amount of about USD840 to pay obligations related to imports (see Chart III.1.1.5).

⁷ To understand the year-on-year changes in import payments in this report, it is necessary to take into account the regulations introduced in December 2023. For further information, see the [Report on the Evolution of the Foreign Exchange Market and the Foreign Exchange Balance](#), December 2023.

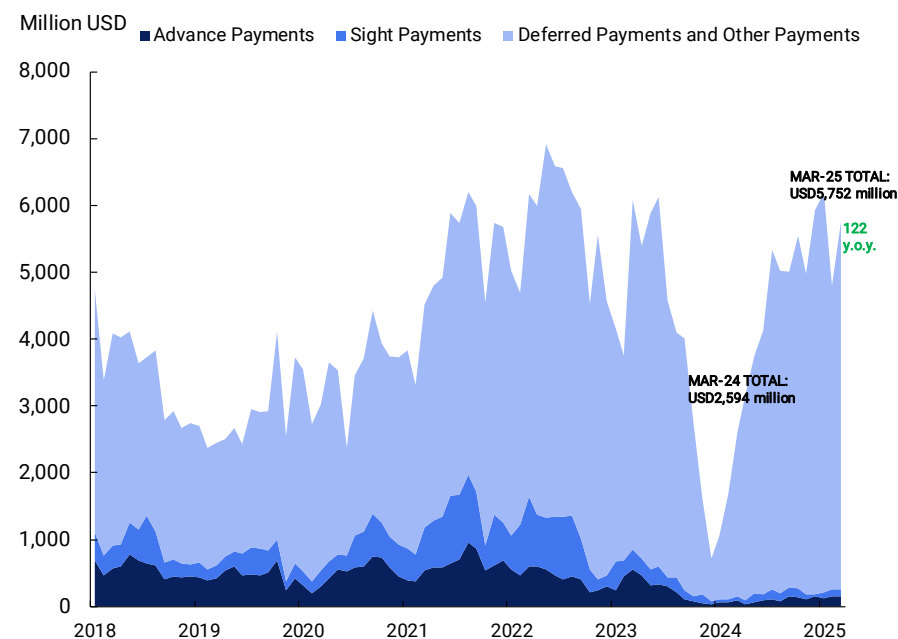
Chart III.1.1.5 Foreign Exchange Balance
Ratio of Payments of Imports of Goods to FOB Imports



Source: BCRA, INDEC and CNV

As regards total payments for imports of goods in the forex market for March, 95% were deferred payments, 3% were advance payments, and the other 2% were sight payments (see Chart III.1.1.6).

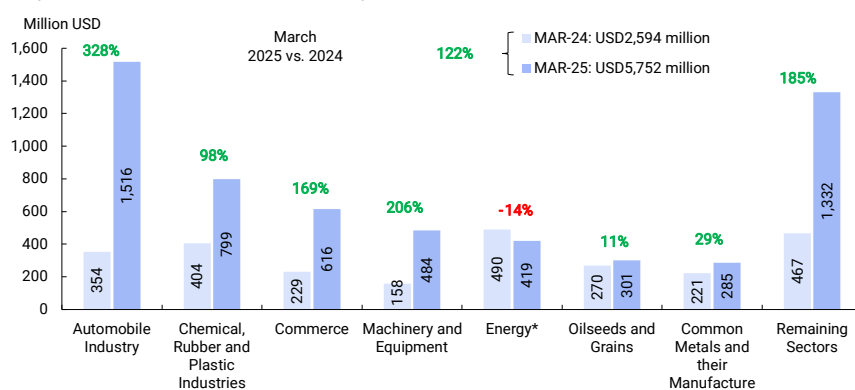
Chart III.1.1.6 Foreign Exchange Balance
Evolution of Payments for Imports of Goods by Type of Payment



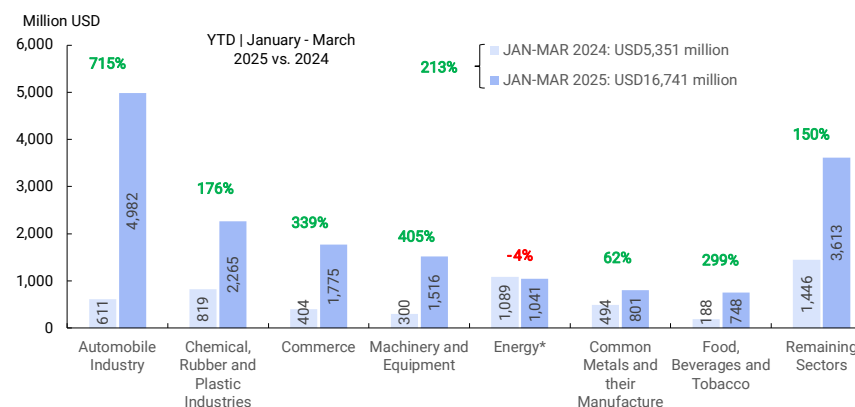
Source: BCRA

In March, import payments increased in all sectors on a year-on-year basis, except for “Energy”. To understand the year-on-year changes in import payments in this report, it is necessary to take into account the regulations introduced in December 2023. For further information, see the [Report on the Evolution of the Foreign Exchange Market and the Foreign Exchange Balance](#), December 2023 (see Chart III.1.1.7).

**Chart III.1.1.7 Foreign Exchange Balance
Payments for Imports of Goods by Sector**



*Note: It includes Oil, Electricity and Gas Sectors



Source: BCRA

III.1.2. Services, Primary and Secondary Income

The “Services” account experienced a deficit of USD799 million in March, which is higher by USD111 million compared to March 2024.⁸ This deficit was explained by net outflows of “Travel and Passenger Transport, and Other Expenses Paid with Cards”⁹ (USD698 million), “Other Services” (USD181 million) and “Freight and

⁸ To understand the year-on-year changes in the “Services” account in this report, it is necessary to take into account the regulations introduced in December 2023. For further information, see the [Report on the Evolution of the Foreign Exchange Market and the Foreign Exchange Balance](#), December 2023.

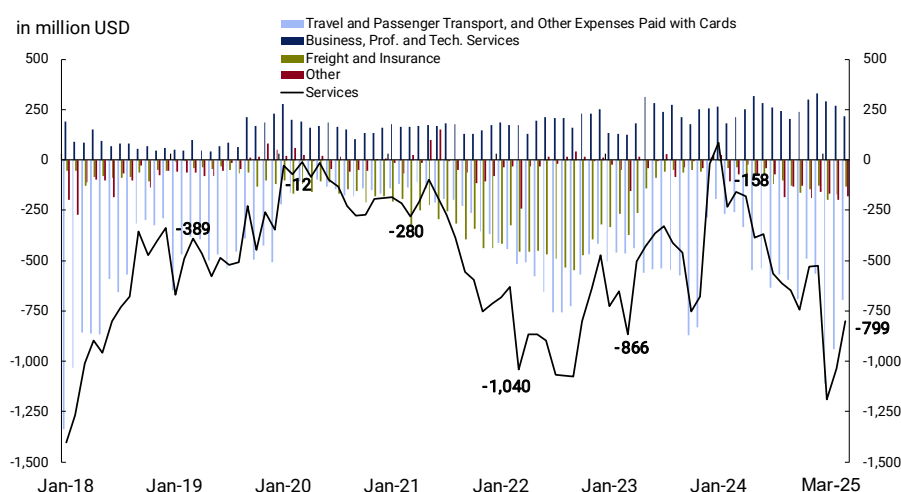
⁹ In terms of the “Travel and Passenger Transport, and Other Expenses Paid with Cards” account, it is worth pointing out that the transfers made to international credit card issuers involve both purchases made during travels abroad and those made to foreign suppliers on a

Insurance” (USD134 million), which were partially offset by net inflows from “Business, Professional and Technical Services” (USD214 million) (see Chart III.1.2.1).

About 60% of the outflows of “Travel and Passenger Transport, and other Expenses Paid with Cards” are paid directly by clients with funds in foreign currency, which helps mitigate the negative impact of these expenditures on the foreign exchange market and international reserves (see Section C.2.2.2. of the [Methodology Used for Compiling Foreign Exchange Market and Foreign Exchange Balance Statistics](#) for more information on how these specific transactions are recorded).

Up to 20% of collections on exports of services, like exports of goods, can be settled in the stock market under the Export Increase Program. These inflows are not included in the foreign exchange market and the foreign exchange balance statistics. This is so because they are not recorded in the Exchange Transaction Reporting System, with the exception of those proceeds that are transferred to and deposited in local accounts in foreign currency to be subsequently settled in the stock market, which are recorded as self-to-self international transfers, having no net effect on the forex market.¹⁰ It is worth noting that the above mentioned program was repealed after Executive Order [269/2025](#) was published on April 14.

**Chart III.1.2.1 Foreign Exchange Balance
Net Inflows from Services**



Source: BCRA

The following table displays the yearly accumulated gross inflows and outflows for services by heading and their comparison on a year-on-year basis.¹¹ It shows that a drop in the accumulated balance of the Services

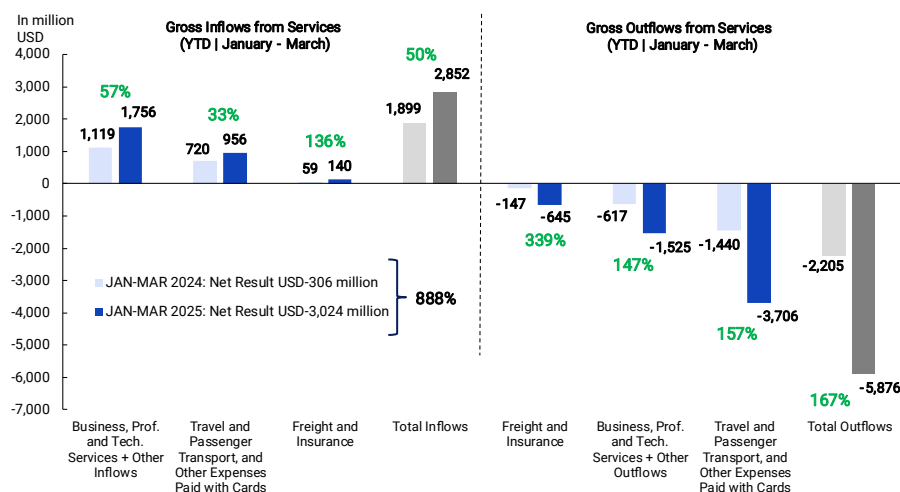
remote basis. In turn, inflows also include non-resident remote purchases made with cards to Argentine suppliers. For more information on the changes implemented to the regulations that have an impact on the comparison of the flows reported in the headings included under “Services”, among others, see Section B.5. Important Regulatory Provisions that Have an Impact on Foreign Exchange Statistics of the Methodology Used for Compiling Foreign Exchange Market and Foreign Exchange Balance Statistics available on the BCRA’s website.

¹⁰ These inflows were observed after the implementation of [Communication A 7630](#), dated November 3, 2022, which set forth that any inflows arising from non-resident cards on account of charges for tourist services and passenger transport services are exempted from the requirement to settle currency in the forex market. This measure seeks to boost foreign currency inflows from inbound tourism. In addition, a higher exchange rate may be charged on card payments made by non-resident visitors in Argentina. These self-to-self international transfers have no net effect on the forex market, since inflows are not settled in the forex market but deposited in local accounts in foreign currency.

¹¹ For more information on the private sector’s external debt, [click here](#) to see the quarterly publication of the BCRA.

account was mainly driven by an increase in gross inflows from Travel and Passenger Transport, and Other Expenses Paid with Cards. The year-on-year changes in Freight and Insurance payments should be analyzed in light of the regulations introduced in December 2023. For further information, see the [Report on the Evolution of the Foreign Exchange Market and the Foreign Exchange Balance](#), December 2023.

Chart III.1.2.2 Foreign Exchange Balance Services



Source: BCRA

Primary income transactions resulted in net outflows amounting to USD425 million in March, which involve net payments of interest for USD411 million as well as net outflows of profits, dividends, and other income transferred abroad amounting to USD14 million.

The “General Government and the BCRA” made gross payments of interest for USD286 million. This amount consisted of USD247 million reimbursed to international organizations (IMF excluded), and gross payments on sovereign bonds and others (USD40 million). In turn, gross payments of interest from the private sector amounted to USD156 million.

Finally, secondary income transactions recorded net inflows for USD6 million.

III.2. Capital Account

In March, the capital account of the foreign exchange balance recorded a deficit of USD1 million.

III.3. Foreign Exchange Financial Account

In March, the foreign exchange financial account recorded a deficit of USD1,892 million. This result was attributed to a deficit in the “Financial Sector” (USD1,210 million), in the “National Government and the BCRA” (USD1,053 million), and in “Other Net Transfers” (USD78 million), which were partially offset by a surplus in the “Non-Financial Private Sector” (USD450 million) (see Table III.3.1).

Table III.3.1. Foreign Exchange Balance**Foreign Exchange Financial Account**

Equivalent in million dollars

Date	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25
Foreign Exchange Financial Account	-1,565	-2,012	-155	684	-1,045	1,051	661	3,128	2,973	777	-539	974	-1,892
Non-Financial Private Sector	384	418	59	-172	-440	281	67	637	597	1,338	1,240	1,180	450
Financial Sector	297	192	-275	-302	237	-134	-10,700	-537	3,930	1,270	2,132	2,190	-1,210
General Government and the BCRA	-1,543	-2,403	29	522	-2,070	349	-882	-474	527	999	-3,405	-810	-1,053
Other Net Transfers	-703	-218	32	586	1,229	555	12,176	3,501	-2,081	-2,829	-506	-1,587	-78

Source: BCRA

III.3.1. Foreign Exchange Financial Account of the Non-Financial Private Sector

The financial account of the “Non-Financial Private Sector” recorded a surplus of USD450 million in March. This was the result of net inflows (USD1,079 million) minus net outflows (USD628 million). The former were made up of financial debt held abroad and debt securities (USD430 million), net settlement of local financial loans (USD345 million), net inflows from foreign assets (USD168 million), net inflows of foreign direct investments (USD97 million), net inflows of loans from international organizations (USD23 million) and the sale of securities in foreign currency (USD16 million). On the other side, net outflows were made up of net self-to-self international transfers for USD379 million,¹² payments of balances in foreign currency to local institutions from purchases made on cards to non-resident suppliers for USD242 million (which do not involve a net demand of foreign currency in the financial account), and net outflows from non-residents’ portfolio investments for USD7 million (see Table III.3.1.1).

Table III.3.1.1. Foreign Exchange Balance**Foreign Exchange Financial Account of the Non-Financial Private Sector**

Equivalent in million dollars

Date	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25
Foreign Exchange Financial Account	384	418	59	-172	-440	281	67	637	597	1,338	1,240	1,180	450
Non-Residents’ Direct Investments	60	56	152	71	49	90	69	89	45	-440	-178	-1,050	97
Non-Residents’ Portfolio Investments	2	8	3	-3	-3	-22	-14	-13	-28	-12	-13	-3	-7
Financial Loans and Credit Lines	664	730	321	-67	-45	471	477	767	899	1,899	1,467	2,263	533
Local Financial Loans	794	542	406	46	129	553	266	481	614	1,243	967	1,211	345
Other Foreign Loans and Debt Securities	-5	307	42	5	-28	89	361	432	447	810	673	1,297	430
Payment of Card Balance	-125	-118	-127	-118	-146	-172	-150	-146	-163	-154	-174	-245	-242
Loans from Other International Organizations and Other	54	7	-34	82	12	-141	-191	105	-24	-62	29	26	23
Buildup of Foreign Assets by the Non-Financial Private Sector	139	133	94	146	166	456	584	224	115	229	137	239	168
Self-to-Self International Transfers	-538	-534	-503	-406	-644	-575	-869	-539	-414	-291	-294	-310	-379
Purchase and Sale of Securities	4	16	26	5	24	2	10	4	6	15	93	15	16

Source: BCRA

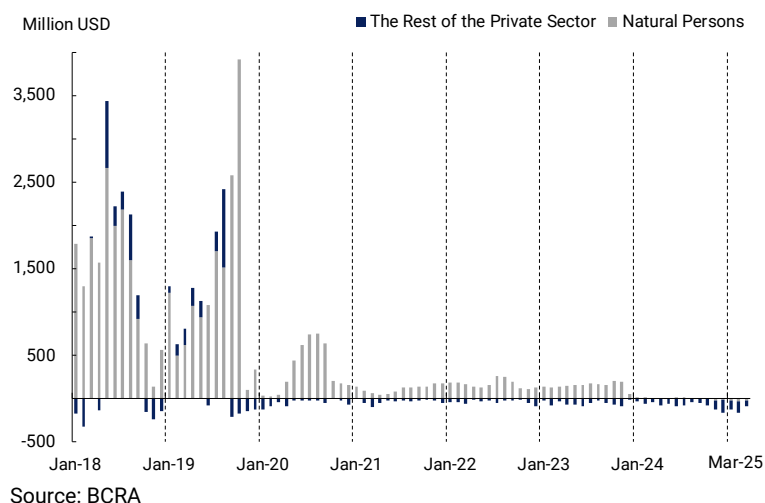
Non-financial private sector residents’ foreign assets recorded a surplus of USD168 million—made up of net sales of banknotes (USD87 million), and net inflows of foreign currency (USD81 million) (mainly inflows from funds held abroad in foreign currency, “self-to-self international transfers”).

The result in foreign currency was explained by net inflows from the “Real Sector” (USD28 million), “Natural Persons” (USD25 million), “Institutional Investors and Others” (USD24 million), and “Oilseeds and Grains” (USD4 million).

¹² These transfers were mainly explained as the counterpart of the real sector’s collections on exports from goods and services that had not been settled in the foreign exchange market, but were deposited in local accounts, inflows from purchases made by non-resident tourists with cards, and inflows of freely available foreign assets from abroad deposited in local accounts.

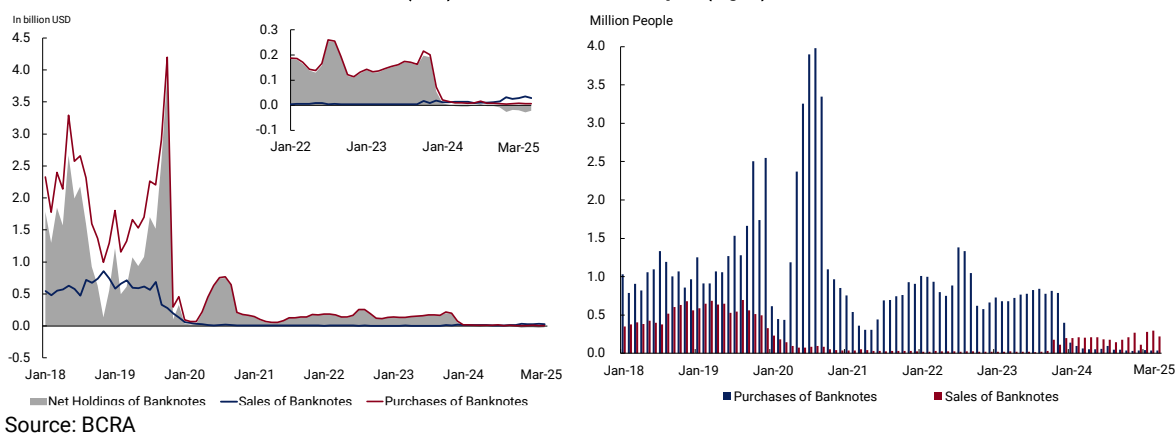
This outcome comprises net sales for USD64 million made by legal persons and USD22 million made by natural persons (see Chart III.3.1.1).

**Chart III.3.1.1 Foreign Exchange Balance
Net Purchases of Banknotes by Sector**



In March, "Natural Persons" sold banknotes for USD28 million and purchased USD6 million. In terms of traders, in March, 219,000 individuals sold banknotes, while buyers amounted to about 34,000 (see Chart III.3.1.2).¹³

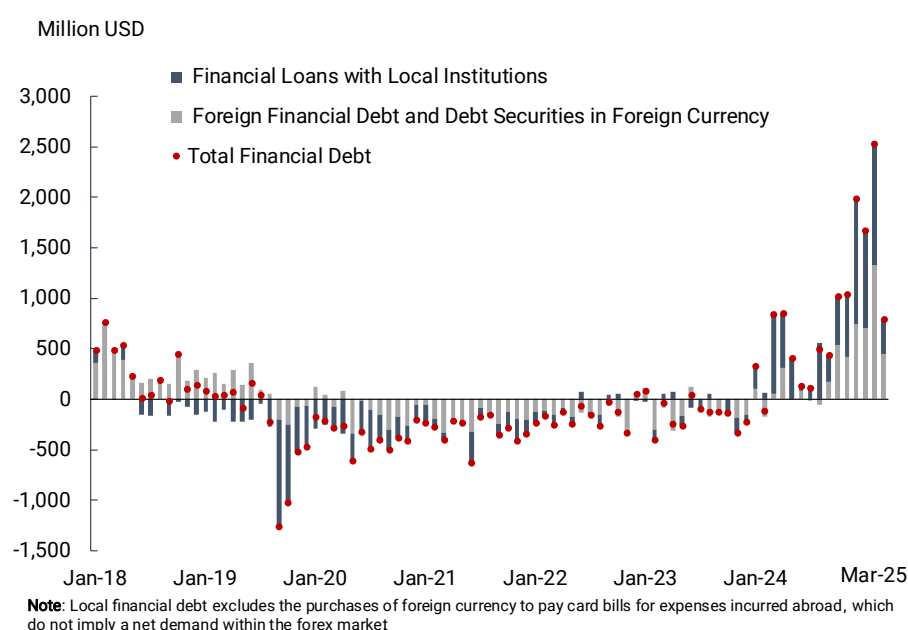
**Chart III.3.1.2 Foreign Exchange Balance
Natural Persons. Banknotes. Amount (left) and Number of People (right)**



¹³ARCA's General Resolution [5617/2024](#), effective from December 19, 2024, extended the 30% income tax or personal property tax, as appropriate, to travel and passenger transport expenses and purchases of banknotes and foreign currency for general saving purposes.

Net inflows from the non-financial private sector's financial debt, including loans from international organizations and local financial loans, reached USD798 million in March—net inflows from “Energy” standing out (USD429 million). This amount involves net inflows on account of financial debt held abroad, securities in foreign currency, and loans owed to international organizations (USD453 million), as well as local loans (USD345 million). The total amount excludes purchases of foreign currency to pay card bills for expenses incurred abroad (USD242 million), which do not imply a net demand within the whole system, i.e., the ensemble of institutions and the BCRA. Instead, they were calculated under the heading “Travel, and Other Expenses Paid with Cards” at the time of the transfer abroad (see Chart III.3.1.3).

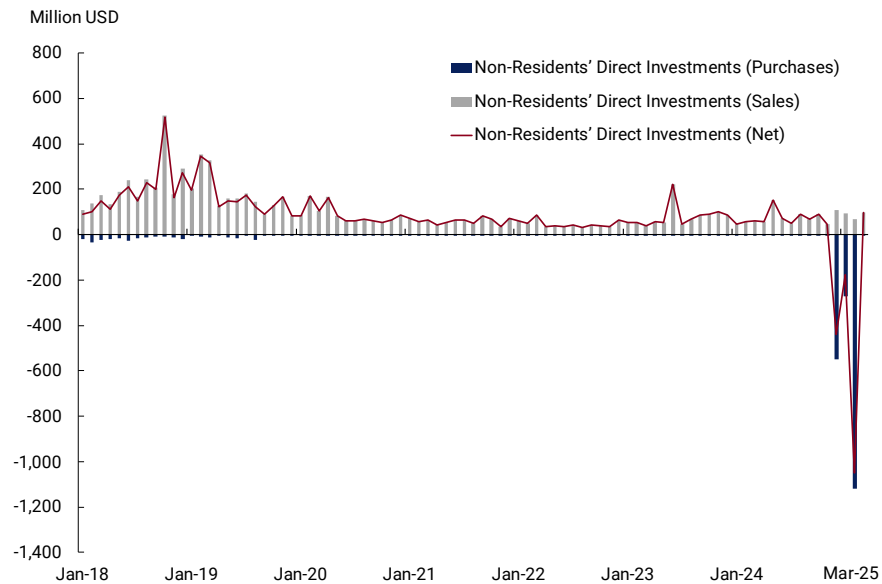
**Chart III.3.1.3 Foreign Exchange Balance
Non-Financial Private Sector. Financial Debt**



Source: BCRA

Direct investments made by non-residents in the non-financial private sector through the forex market reached USD97 million (net inflows) in March (see Chart III.3.1.4).

Chart III.3.1.4 Foreign Exchange Balance
Non-Residents' Direct Investments. Non-Financial Private Sector



Source: BCRA

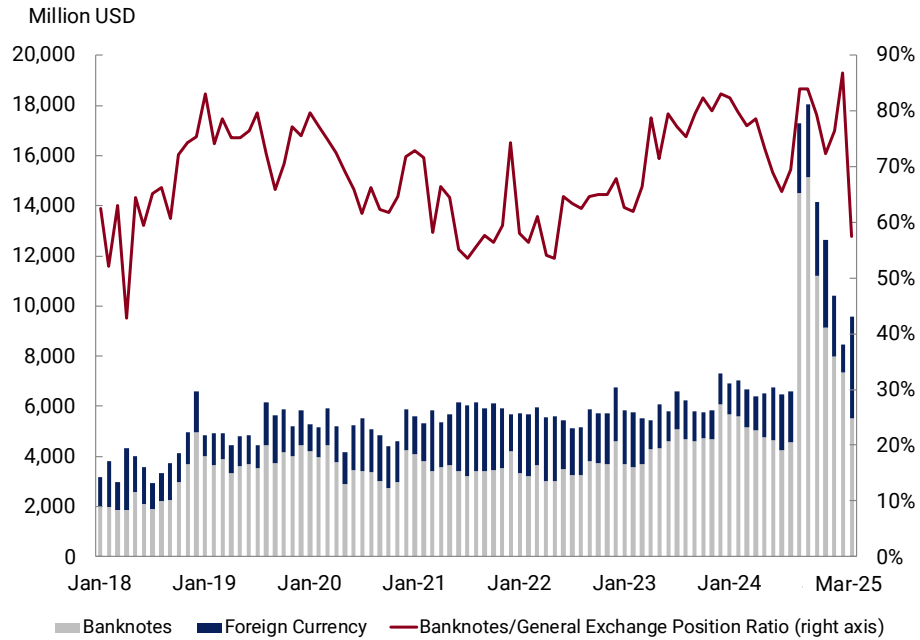
III.3.2. Foreign Exchange Financial Account of the Financial Sector

In March, the foreign exchange financial account of the “Financial Sector” recorded a deficit of USD1,210 million. This result was mainly explained by an increase of USD1,133 million in the holdings of foreign currency assets of institutions’ General Exchange Position. In turn, institutions recorded net outflows from financial loans, credit lines and others for USD51 million, and the net subscription of securities in foreign currency for USD26 million.¹⁴

Institutions’ General Exchange Position amounted to USD9,590 million at the end of March, up 13% against the end of February. This result was explained by an increase in holdings of foreign currency (USD2,965 million), which was partially offset by a drop in the holdings of banknotes (USD1,832 million). Holdings of foreign currency banknotes totaled USD5,511 million by the end of the month. This stock accounted for 57% of the total General Exchange Position, and it is allocated by institutions to cover local foreign currency deposit transactions and foreign exchange market needs (see Chart III.3.2.1).

¹⁴ The General Exchange Position is defined in Section C.4.7. of the [Methodology Used for Compiling Foreign Exchange Market and Foreign Exchange Balance Statistics](#).

**Chart III.3.2.1 Foreign Exchange Balance
Institutions' General Exchange Position**

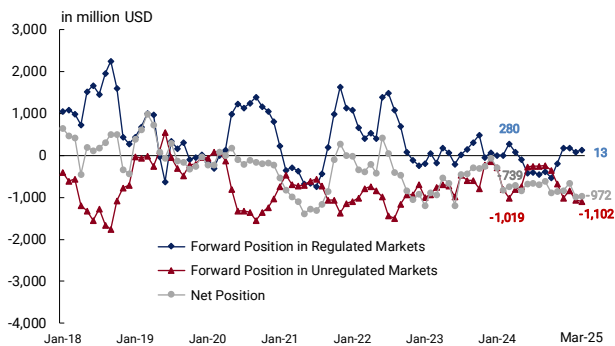


Source: BCRA

On another note, the ensemble of institutions ended March with a forward short position in foreign currency of USD972 million, recording a drop of about USD17 million in their short position compared to the end of February. They purchased USD52 million in regulated markets and sold USD35 million to their clients directly (Forwards) over the month (see Chart III.3.2.2).

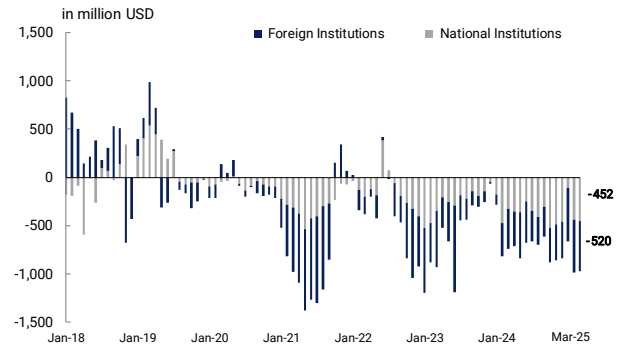
Foreign capital institutions decreased their short position by USD32 million compared to February, whereas national capital institutions increased their net short position by USD15 million. Thus, they ended March with net short positions of USD520 million and USD452 million, respectively (see Chart III.3.2.3).

**Chart III.3.2.2 Forward Market
EOM Institutions' Forward Position**



Source: BCRA

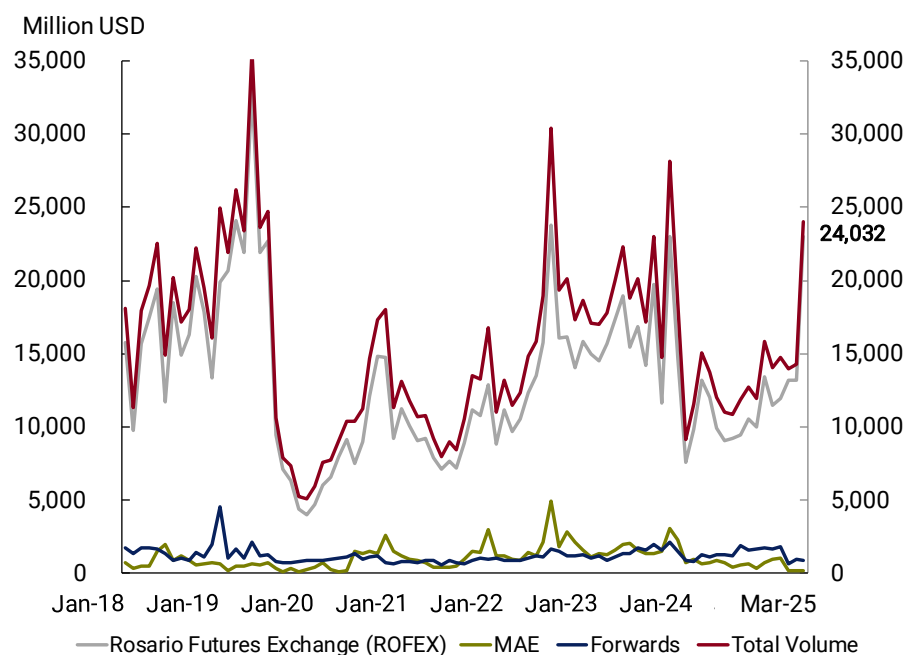
**Chart III.3.2.3 Forward Market
EOM Institutions' Forward Position**



The volume traded in forward markets totaled USD24,032 million in March, averaging USD1,335 million daily. Transactions carried out in the Rosario Futures Exchange (ROFEX) continued to stand out, with a 96% share in the total volume traded in the forward market (see Chart III.3.2.4).¹⁵

Chart III.3.2.4 Forward Market

Total Volume Traded in the Forward Market



Source: BCRA

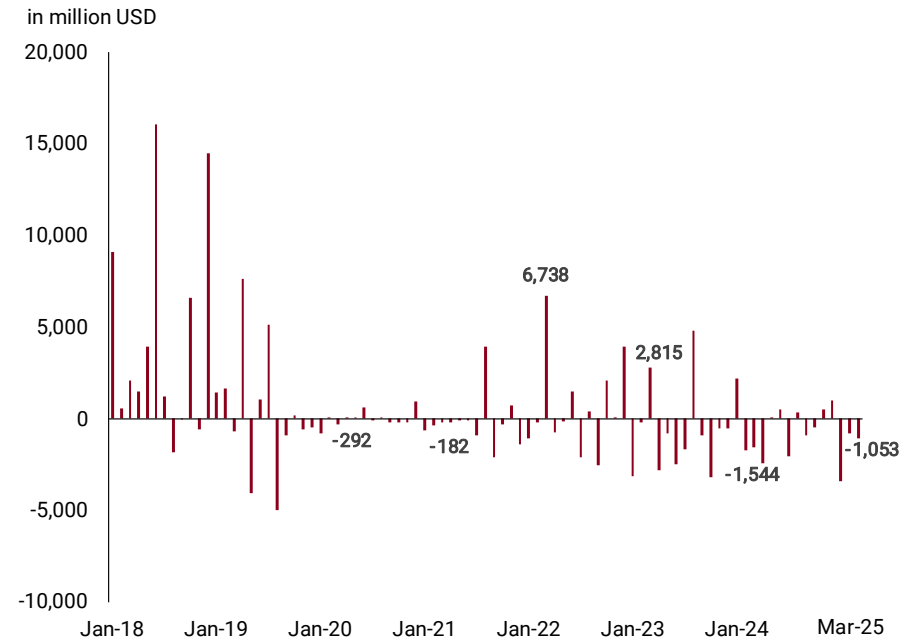
III.3.3. Foreign Exchange Financial Account of the General Government and the BCRA

In March, the foreign exchange financial account of the General Government and the BCRA recorded a deficit of USD1,053 million (see Chart III.3.3.1). This result was mainly explained by outflows of loans from international organization other than the IMF (USD540 million), payments of principal of sovereign bonds (USD369 million), and other financial loans and credit lines (USD130 million).

¹⁵ The chart includes the total volume traded in ROFEX, the transactions arranged by institutions in the electronic open market (*Mercado Abierto Electrónico*, MAE), and with Forwards. This information comes from the Forward Transactions Reporting Scheme (Communication A 4196, as amended) and postings on the websites of MAE and ROFEX.

Chart III.3.3.1 Foreign Exchange Balance

Foreign Exchange Financial Account of the General Government and the BCRA

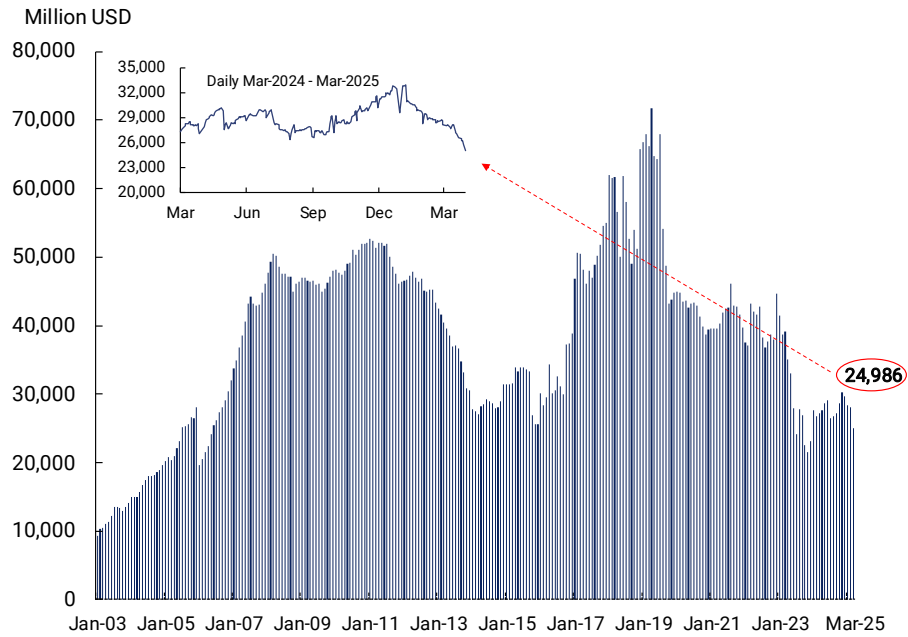


Source: BCRA

IV. BCRA's International Reserves

During March, BCRA's international reserves fell USD3,131 million, totaling USD24,986 million by the end of the month. This result was mainly driven by the settlement of net sales made by the BCRA in the foreign exchange market (USD1,434 million), including net payments made by the BCRA through the Local Currency Payment System, the fall in institutions' holdings of foreign currency in the BCRA by USD1,009 million, and repayments of principal and interest from loans by international organizations (IMF excluded) amounting to USD689 million (see Chart IV.1).

Chart IV.1 BCRA's International Reserves



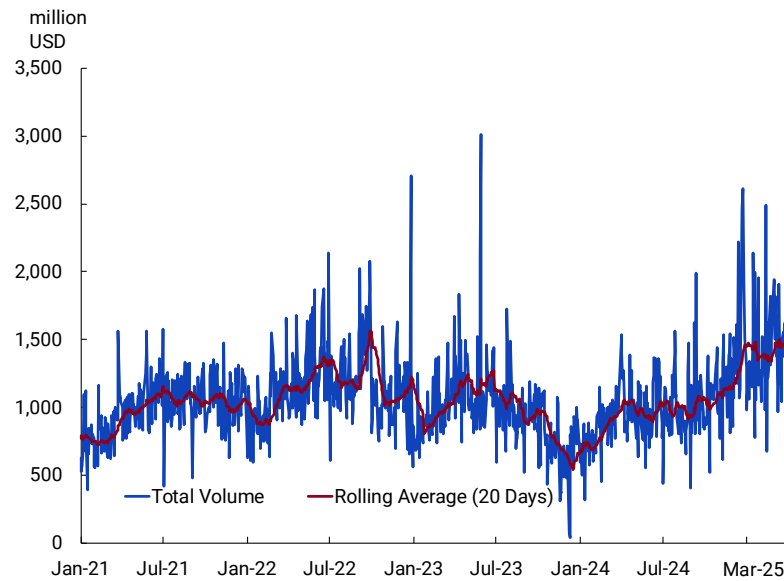
Source: BCRA

V. Volumes Traded in the Foreign Exchange Market

In March, the volume traded in the forex market totaled USD26,107 million, up 44% against March 2024 (see Chart V.1). The average daily volume traded was USD1,450 million. The increased volume in year-on-year terms was explained by a 57% rise in transactions between institutions and their clients (up USD6,245 million), and a 47% hike in transactions between institutions¹⁶ (up USD1,974 million), partially offset by a 6% reduction in transactions between institutions and the BCRA (down USD181 million).

¹⁶ On the BCRA's website there is a quarterly ranking of volumes traded with clients in the forex market broken down by institution (to access the ranking, [click here](#)).

**Chart V.1 Foreign Exchange Market
Volume Traded Daily Evolution**



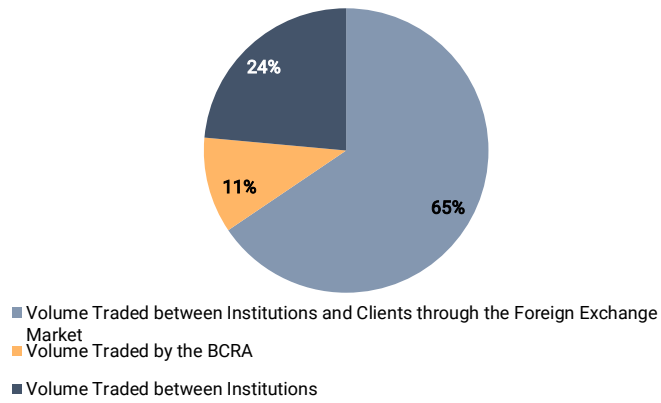
Source: BCRA

Foreign exchange transactions between institutions and their clients accounted for 66% of the total volume traded; transactions between institutions, and transactions between institutions and the BCRA—through the Electronic Trading System (SIOPEL)—represented 24% and 11%, respectively (see Chart V.2).¹⁷

In March, 118 institutions traded in the market involving 41 foreign currencies. Most of the volume traded between licensed institutions and their clients was highly concentrated both at institution level (the first ten accounted for 87% of such volume) and in terms of the currency used—USD-denominated transactions having a 96% share in the total traded with clients; followed by euros, which accounted for just over 3% of the total; with the yuan and the remaining currencies accounting for the rest of the total volume traded (see Chart V.3).

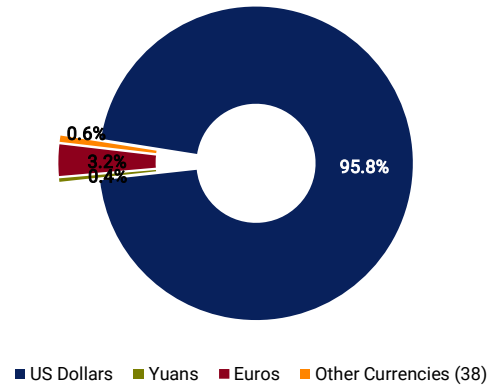
¹⁷ The volume traded between licensed institutions and their clients excludes the following items: self-to-self international transfers (around USD2,440 million), the deposits in foreign currency allocated for the payment of financial debt service for about USD27 million, and purchases of foreign currency to pay card bills (around USD245 million for the month under study).

**Chart V.2 Foreign Exchange Market
Total Volume and Share - March 2025**



Source: BCRA

**Chart V.3 Foreign Exchange Market
Volume with Clients by Currency - March 2025**



Finally, 92% of foreign exchange transactions between financial and foreign exchange institutions and their clients were channeled through private financial institutions, and the remaining 8% through public banks.