

9 January 2013

PRESS RELEASE

STATISTICS ON EURO AREA INSURANCE CORPORATIONS AND PENSION FUNDS: THIRD QUARTER 2012

In the third quarter of 2012, the total financial assets of euro area insurance corporations and pension funds increased to €7,500 billion, from €7,296 billion in the previous quarter. Over the same period, the insurance technical reserves, which are the main liabilities of insurance corporations and pension funds, increased to €6,360 billion, from €6,320 billion, mainly due to positive transactions.

Selected balance sheet items of insurance corporations and pension funds

(EUR billions; not seasonally adjusted; amounts outstanding at the end of the period; transactions during the period)

	Amounts outstanding			Amounts outstanding	Transactions ¹
	2011	2012			
	Q4	Q1	Q2	2012 Q3	
Total financial assets	6,974	7,236	7,296	7,500	n.a.
Insurance technical reserves ²	6,133	6,247	6,320	6,360	31
net equity of households in life insurance reserves	3,299	3,340	3,342	3,395	22
net equity of households in pension fund reserves	2,006	2,061	2,131	2,121	11
prepayments of insurance premiums and reserves for outstanding claims	827	846	847	844	-3

¹ Transactions are available only for euro area insurance technical reserves.

² Insurance technical reserves contain the provisions against policyholders or beneficiaries set aside by insurers and pension funds to meet future obligations. This item also includes prepayments of insurance premiums, which are related to non-life insurance and to reinsurance, and reserves for outstanding claims, which are the amounts expected to be paid out in settlement of claims, including disputed claims.

Regarding the breakdown of the assets of the aggregated balance sheet of euro area insurance corporations and pension funds, holdings of **securities other than shares**

accounted for 40% of the sector's total financial assets at end-September 2012. The second largest category of holdings were **investment fund shares**, which contributed 23% to the total financial assets. Finally, **shares and other equity** accounted for 11% of the total financial assets.

Turning to transactions in the main breakdowns of the **insurance technical reserves**, the **net equity of households in life insurance reserves** increased by €22 billion in the third quarter of 2012. The **net equity of households in pension fund reserves** increased by €11 billion in the same quarter, while **prepayments of insurance premiums and reserves for outstanding claims** decreased by €3 billion.

Regarding the contributions of the two sub-sectors, **insurance corporations' total financial assets** accounted for €5,896 billion in September 2012, representing 79% of the aggregated balance sheet of the insurance corporations and pension funds sector, while the **pension funds' total financial assets** amounted to €1,604 billion.

Notes

- *Further predefined tables, statistical data and methodological notes, as well as the advance release calendar, are available on the ECB's website at <http://www.ecb.europa.eu/stats/money/icpf/html/index.en.html>.*

European Central Bank

Directorate General Communications and Language Services

Press and Information Division

Kaiserstrasse 29, D-60311 Frankfurt am Main

Tel.: +49 69 1344 7455, Fax: + 49 69 1344 7404

Internet: <http://www.ecb.europa.eu>

Reproduction is permitted provided that the source is acknowledged.

Table 1: Assets and liabilities of euro area insurance corporations and pension funds(EUR billions; not seasonally adjusted; amounts outstanding at the end of the period ¹⁾)

	2011 Q4	2012 Q1	2012 Q2	2012 Q3
Total financial assets	6,974	7,236	7,296	7,500
Currency and deposits	781	791	780	783
<i>of which:</i> Deposits with euro area MFIs	742	749	736	736
<i>of which:</i> Deposits with non-euro area residents	37	40	42	42
Loans	471	470	469	477
To euro area residents	443	440	437	446
MFIs	7	7	8	8
General government	139	140	140	140
Other financial intermediaries	36	31	25	30
Insurance corporations and pension funds	95	94	95	94
Non-financial corporations	43	46	45	46
Households	122	123	124	127
To non-euro area residents	29	30	32	32
Securities other than shares	2,726	2,844	2,872	2,978
Issued by euro area residents	2,295	2,388	2,398	2,481
MFIs	624	650	656	686
General government	1,262	1,307	1,300	1,330
Other financial intermediaries	226	232	237	245
Insurance corporations and pension funds	16	17	17	17
Non-financial corporations	166	181	188	202
Issued by non-euro area residents	430	456	474	497
Shares and other equity	792	802	816	828
Quoted shares	317	326	313	329
<i>of which:</i> Issued by euro area MFIs	21	21	18	21
Unquoted shares	474	476	503	499
Investment fund shares/units	1,574	1,683	1,683	1,758
<i>of which:</i> Issued by euro area residents	1,463	1,569	1,568	1,642
Money market fund shares	95	98	103	109
<i>of which:</i> Issued by euro area MFIs	88	95	100	106
Prepayments of insurance premiums and reserves for outstanding claims ²⁾	265	267	270	273
<i>of which:</i> Euro area residents	229	231	232	235
Other accounts receivable/payable and financial derivatives	270	279	302	294
Non-financial assets	150	151	152	153
Total liabilities	7,036	7,195	7,273	7,350
Loans	267	275	283	294
Securities other than shares	42	44	44	45
Shares and other equity	405	438	422	455
Quoted shares	96	111	101	116
Unquoted shares	309	327	321	340
Insurance technical reserves	6,133	6,247	6,320	6,360
Net equity of households in life insurance reserves	3,299	3,340	3,342	3,395
Net equity of households in pension fund reserves	2,006	2,061	2,131	2,121
Prepayments of insurance premiums and reserves for outstanding claims ³⁾	827	846	847	844
Other accounts receivable/payable and financial derivatives	188	190	204	196
Net worth ⁴⁾	88	192	176	303

Source: ECB.

1) Figures may not add up due to rounding.

2) Includes reinsurance.

3) Prepayments of insurance premiums are related to non-life insurance and to reinsurance. Reserves for outstanding claims are the amounts expected to be paid out in settlement of claims, including disputed claims.

4) The net worth is calculated as the difference between total assets (financial and non-financial) and liabilities, and may also reflect statistical discrepancies.

Table 2: Assets and liabilities of euro area insurance corporations and euro area pension funds

(EUR billions; not seasonally adjusted; amounts outstanding at the end of the period ¹⁾)

	Insurance corporations		Pension funds	
	2012 Q2	2012 Q3	2012 Q2	2012 Q3
Total financial assets	5,739	5,896	1,557	1,604
Currency and deposits	580	583	200	200
Loans	411	416	58	61
Securities other than shares	2,513	2,605	359	373
Shares and other equity	674	679	142	148
Investment fund shares/units	1,029	1,075	654	683
Money market fund shares	97	102	6	7
Prepayments of insurance premiums and reserves for outstanding claims	237	241	33	33
Other accounts receivable/payable and financial derivatives	197	195	105	99
Non-financial assets	117	118	35	35
Total liabilities	5,650	5,745	1,623	1,605
Loans	246	253	37	41
Securities other than shares	44	45	0	0
Shares and other equity	416	449	5	6
Net equity of households in life insurance reserves	3,342	3,395	0	0
Net equity of households in pension fund reserves	606	611	1,525	1,510
Prepayments of insurance premiums and reserves for outstanding claims	845	843	2	2
Other accounts receivable/payable and financial derivatives	150	149	54	46
Net worth	206	269	-30	34

1) For footnotes, see Table 1.

Chart 1: Net equity of households in life insurance reserves: breakdown by type of policy

(percentage of total; end-December 2011)

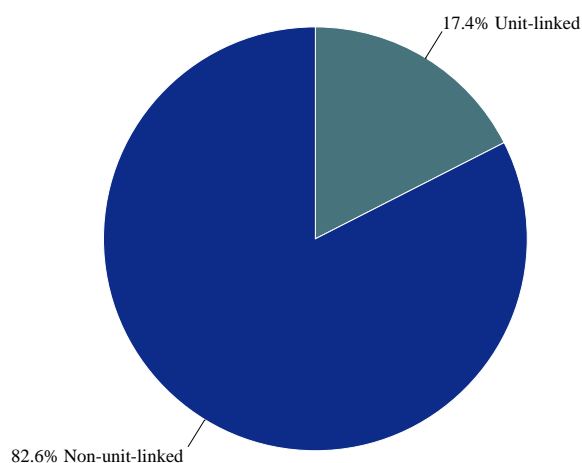
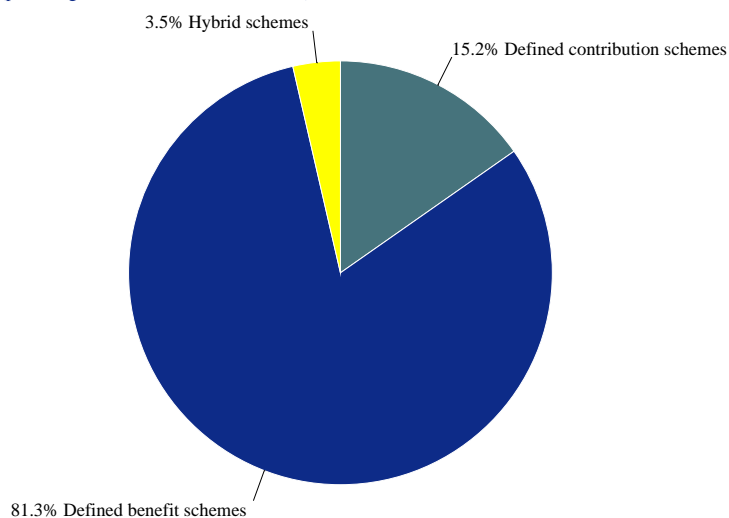


Chart 2: Net equity of households in pension fund reserves: breakdown by type of plan

(percentage of total; end-December 2011)



Source: ECB.