

## Box 2

**REVIEW OF STATISTICS ON PAYMENTS AND SECURITIES TRADING, CLEARING AND SETTLEMENT**

Since 16 November 2007 statistics on payments and securities trading, clearing and settlement have been available in an electronic format in the ECB's Statistical Data Warehouse (SDW), which is accessible via the ECB's website at <http://sdw.ecb.europa.eu>. The release of the statistics in this format followed a comprehensive review carried out between 2004 and 2006, in which the ECB, the national central banks of the EU and the relevant data providers established and implemented an enhanced statistical framework for payments and securities trading, clearing and settlement. These efforts have led to statistics in these fields being largely harmonised.

**Development of payment and securities statistics**

The ECB publishes annual statistics on the payment and securities systems in the EU. These statistics represent a unique source of data for a wide audience and are used for a variety of purposes ranging from the analysis of policy questions and the proper conduct of oversight by central banks to the benchmarking of banks' development and market positions and various research activities by academics and students.

The EU's national central banks originally began collecting payment and securities statistics in the late 1980s using a decentralised approach. Those statistics were based largely on data reported

on a voluntary basis and were collected in order to meet the need for some basic assessment. The scope of those data was extended in line with market developments (e.g. to take account of e-money transactions), with continued reliance on a non-binding methodological framework and simple data processing. Following increases in the number of reporting countries, the range of data and the general level of interest in the statistics in the early 2000s, the ECB and the national central banks of the EU have reviewed and improved the methodological soundness and comparability of the data through the harmonisation of methodologies and the establishment of a legal framework with common reporting requirements. Data are now stored in the SDW, which is easily accessible and offers various options as regards the viewing and downloading of data. The new procedures have also led to improved timeliness, with the statistics now available less than 11 months after the end of the year in question. A further improvement in terms of timeliness – to less than 10 months – is envisaged for 2008.

### Statistics on payments and payment systems

As regards statistics on payments and payment systems, the review focused on the harmonisation of concepts across countries. There was also a limited extension of the coverage of the statistics and some changes to breakdowns. The requirements for payment statistics are now set out in an ECB guideline<sup>1</sup>. Data are available from 2000 onwards and include statistics on cashless payments by non-MFIs and statistics on interbank funds transfer systems.

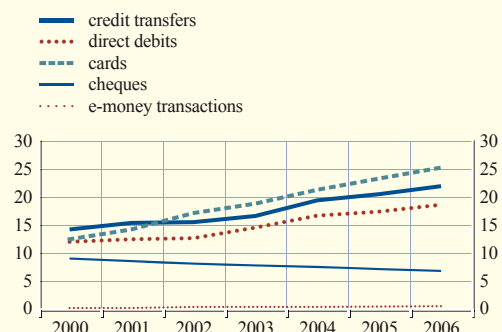
Statistics on cashless payments by non-MFIs cover all transactions, both domestic and cross-border, where the payer and/or the beneficiary is a non-MFI<sup>2</sup>. The statistics are broken down by payment instrument as illustrated in Chart A.

Cashless payments by non-MFIs are made using a variety of instruments and are cleared and settled in different ways in the various EU Member States, depending on the specific ways in which the national payment systems are set up. As a result, there are several thousand institutions reporting statistics – mostly banks or their associations, but also providers of clearing and settlement infrastructure and other institutions offering payment services as defined by the Payment Services Directive (PSD)<sup>3</sup>. This explains some of the difficulties faced in the past in applying harmonised concepts and methodologies to the collection of payment and securities data.

Statistics on interbank funds transfer systems cover not only direct and indirect participation in payment systems, but also payment transactions by credit institutions and non-MFIs according

**Chart A Use of payment instruments by non-MFIs in the EU**

(billion transactions per year)



Source: ECB.

1 Guideline of the ECB of 1 August 2007 on monetary, financial institutions and markets statistics (recast) (ECB/2007/9).  
 2 Non-MFIs comprise: non-financial corporations; households; non-profit institutions serving households; general government including central government; other financial intermediaries and financial auxiliaries; and insurance corporations and pension funds.  
 3 Directive 2007/64/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 November 2007 on payment services in the internal market.

to a harmonised list of transaction types. Data on the extent to which transactions are concentrated among the five largest senders are also included. The 58 payment systems currently reporting data represent the most significant systems in the EU. Given that the number of systems is small and the range of transactions in any given system is limited and specified by the rules of the system, data collection procedures are less complex than for the statistics on cashless payments by non-MFIs.

The statistics provide a picture of how payment systems are used in each individual country. This depends on a variety of factors, such as the banking structure, the institutional set-up of the national payment system and the legal framework for payment instruments.

### Securities trading, clearing and settlement statistics

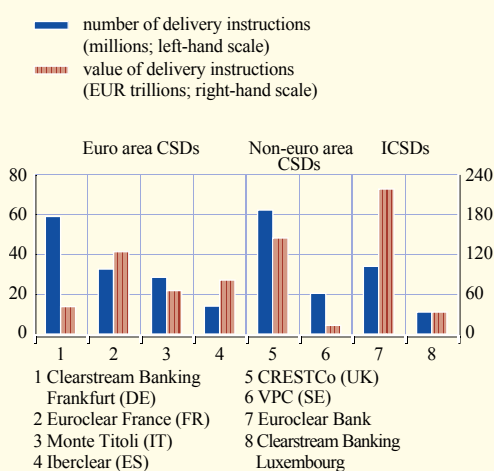
In the past, statistics on securities trading, clearing and settlement were less developed than those on payments and payment systems. The review therefore focused on drawing up detailed reporting requirements and harmonised methodologies, resulting in more comprehensive statistics. Data are now available from 2005 onwards for securities settlement and from 2006 onwards for securities trading and clearing. The statistics on securities trading, clearing and settlement have been collected on the basis of either existing national legislation or framework agreements concluded with data providers.

Statistics on securities trading are provided by stock exchanges – mostly through the Federation of European Securities Exchanges – and other systems that constitute regulated markets within the meaning of the Investment Services Directive<sup>4</sup>. These data cover the number of direct participants, the number of listed securities at the end of the year, the market capitalisation of listed companies at the end of the year and the total number and value of executed trades.

Statistics on securities clearing are supplied by central counterparties, some of which provide clearing services in several European countries. These data comprise the number of clearing members at the end of the year and the various types of transaction cleared (such as OTC and non-OTC derivatives, repos and outright transactions). The data also indicate whether contracts were cleared or transferred through a clearing link.<sup>5</sup>

Statistics on securities settlement are provided by central securities depositories (CSDs), including the international CSDs (ICSDs) located in Belgium and Luxembourg. These data cover direct participation in the CSDs, securities held on accounts at the end of the year, the number and value of delivery instructions for securities

Chart B Turnover in the main central securities depositories in the EU<sup>1)</sup> in 2006



Source: ECB.  
1) CSDs with a total value of delivery instructions of more than €10 trillion.

4 Council Directive 93/22/EEC of 10 May 1993 on investment services in the securities field, as amended.

5 A contract is cleared or transferred through a clearing link between two CCPs in cases where the buyer and the seller are clearing members of different CCPs.

moved between accounts during the year (as shown in Chart B for the main CSDs in the EU), and new issues and redemptions of securities issued through or originally held in safekeeping in the CSDs.

### **Outlook**

The new statistical framework is intended to remain stable until 2011 so that data providers, national central banks and data users can adapt to the new requirements and gain experience with the enhanced statistics. Nevertheless, the dialogue among stakeholders will continue in order to identify the possible implications of new developments such as the implementation of the SEPA and the PSD.