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PRESS RELEASE

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

In the fourth quarter of 2012, the total financial assets of euro area insurance corporations and pension funds increased to €7,623 billion, from €7,523 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 €6,461 billion, from €6,388 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
	2012				
	Q1	Q2	Q3		
Total financial assets	7,250	7,311	7,523	7,623	n.a.
Insurance technical reserves ²	6,279	6,346	6,388	6,461	52
net equity of households in life insurance reserves	3,340	3,345	3,394	3,431	16
net equity of households in pension fund reserves	2,104	2,165	2,155	2,188	31
prepayments of insurance premiums and reserves for outstanding claims	835	836	839	843	6

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-December 2012. The second largest category of holdings were **investment fund shares**, which contributed 24% 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 €16 billion in the fourth quarter of 2012. The **net equity of households in pension fund reserves** increased by €31 billion in the same quarter, while **prepayments of insurance premiums and reserves for outstanding claims** increased by €6 billion.

Regarding the contributions of the two sub-sectors, **insurance corporations' total financial assets** accounted for €5,928 billion in December 2012, representing 78% of the aggregated balance sheet of the insurance corporations and pension funds sector, while the **pension funds' total financial assets** amounted to €1,695 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>.*

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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⁾)

	2012 Q1	2012 Q2	2012 Q3	2012 Q4
Total financial assets	7,250	7,311	7,523	7,623
Currency and deposits	793	783	783	786
<i>of which:</i> Deposits with euro area MFIs	751	739	738	741
<i>of which:</i> Deposits with non-euro area residents	40	42	43	42
Loans	467	467	476	481
To euro area residents	438	436	444	448
MFIs	7	8	8	8
General government	140	140	140	140
Other financial intermediaries	31	26	30	34
Insurance corporations and pension funds	91	93	93	91
Non-financial corporations	45	45	46	47
Households	124	124	127	128
To non-euro area residents	29	31	31	33
Securities other than shares	2,846	2,873	2,981	3,040
Issued by euro area residents	2,389	2,398	2,482	2,529
MFIs	653	658	686	684
General government	1,308	1,301	1,333	1,366
Other financial intermediaries	230	234	243	246
Insurance corporations and pension funds	17	17	18	18
Non-financial corporations	181	188	202	214
Issued by non-euro area residents	457	475	499	511
Shares and other equity	807	823	842	834
Quoted shares	327	314	333	349
<i>of which:</i> Issued by euro area MFIs	21	18	21	23
Unquoted shares	480	509	509	485
Investment fund shares/units	1,703	1,702	1,778	1,818
<i>of which:</i> Issued by euro area residents	1,589	1,587	1,663	1,706
Money market fund shares	98	103	107	108
<i>of which:</i> Issued by euro area MFIs	95	100	104	105
Prepayments of insurance premiums and reserves for outstanding claims ²⁾	255	258	260	259
<i>of which:</i> Euro area residents	221	223	224	223
Other accounts receivable/payable and financial derivatives	281	302	297	298
Non-financial assets	151	153	153	155
Total liabilities	7,223	7,295	7,368	7,477
Loans	272	279	291	268
Securities other than shares	44	44	45	48
Shares and other equity	439	422	451	481
Quoted shares	111	101	116	130
Unquoted shares	327	321	335	351
Insurance technical reserves	6,279	6,346	6,388	6,461
Net equity of households in life insurance reserves	3,340	3,345	3,394	3,431
Net equity of households in pension fund reserves	2,104	2,165	2,155	2,188
Prepayments of insurance premiums and reserves for outstanding claims ³⁾	835	836	839	843
Other accounts receivable/payable and financial derivatives	190	204	194	219
Net worth ⁴⁾	179	169	309	301

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 Q3	2012 Q4	2012 Q3	2012 Q4
Total financial assets	5,852	5,928	1,671	1,695
Currency and deposits	588	588	194	199
Loans	416	416	60	65
Securities other than shares	2,583	2,632	398	407
Shares and other equity	665	663	177	171
Investment fund shares/units	1,076	1,106	703	711
Money market fund shares	100	99	7	9
Prepayments of insurance premiums and reserves for outstanding claims	230	229	29	30
Other accounts receivable/payable and financial derivatives	195	195	102	103
Non-financial assets	116	118	37	37
Total liabilities	5,699	5,779	1,669	1,699
Loans	251	246	40	22
Securities other than shares	45	48	0	0
Shares and other equity	445	474	6	7
Net equity of households in life insurance reserves	3,394	3,431	0	0
Net equity of households in pension fund reserves	576	581	1,579	1,607
Prepayments of insurance premiums and reserves for outstanding claims	837	841	2	2
Other accounts receivable/payable and financial derivatives	151	157	43	61
Net worth	270	267	39	33

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 2012)

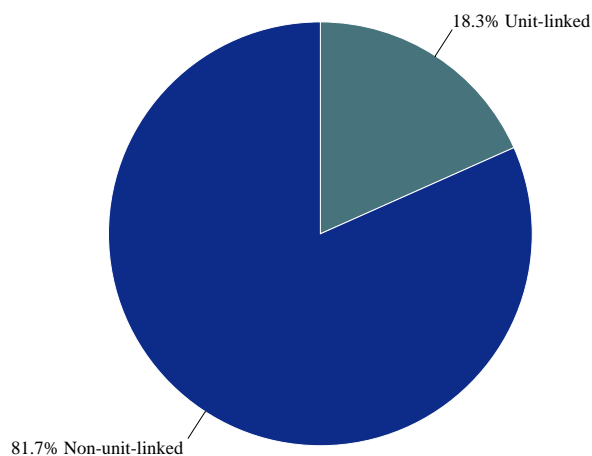
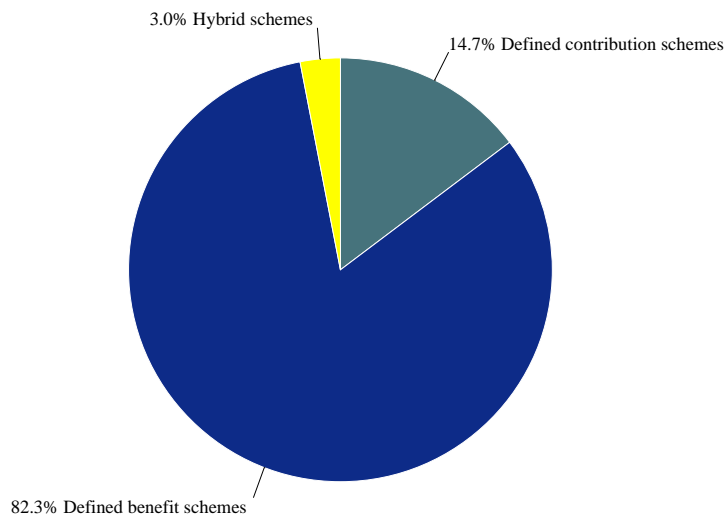


Chart 2: Net equity of households in pension fund reserves: breakdown by type of plan

(percentage of total; end-December 2012)



Source: ECB.