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PRESS RELEASE

STATISTICS ON EURO AREA INSURANCE CORPORATIONS AND PENSION FUNDS: THIRD QUARTER 2014

In the third quarter of 2014, the total financial assets of euro area insurance corporations and pension funds increased to €8,613 billion, from €8,500 billion in the previous quarter. Over the same period, the amount outstanding of insurance technical reserves, which are the main liabilities of insurance corporations and pension funds, increased to €7,082 billion, from €6,988 billion. This increase was partly due to an increase of €50 billion in 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
	2013	2014			
	Q4	Q1	Q2	2014 Q3	
Total financial assets	7,925	8,175	8,500	8,613	n.a.
Insurance technical reserves ²	6,671	6,809	6,988	7,082	50
net equity of households in life insurance reserves	3,536	3,604	3,690	3,725	29
net equity of households in pension fund reserves	2,294	2,335	2,410	2,482	22
prepayments of insurance premiums and reserves for outstanding claims	842	870	888	876	-1

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 2014. The second largest category of holdings were **investment fund shares**, which contributed 27% 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 €29 billion in the third quarter of 2014. The **net equity of households in pension fund reserves** increased by €22 billion in the same quarter, while transactions in **prepayments of insurance premiums and reserves for outstanding claims** decreased by €1 billion.

Regarding the contributions of the two sub-sectors, **insurance corporations' total financial assets** accounted for €6,586 billion at end-September 2014, representing 76% of the aggregated balance sheet of the insurance corporations and pension funds sector, while the **pension funds' total financial assets** amounted to €2,027 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⁾)

	2013 Q4	2014 Q1	2014 Q2	2014 Q3
Total financial assets	7,925	8,175	8,500	8,613
Currency and deposits	755	767	764	758
<i>of which:</i> Deposits with euro area MFIs	708	717	714	709
<i>of which:</i> Deposits with non-euro area residents	46	48	48	46
Loans	480	493	495	492
To euro area residents	447	458	462	458
MFIs	11	12	11	10
General government	142	149	146	145
Other financial intermediaries	24	25	27	24
Insurance corporations and pension funds	82	81	82	83
Non-financial corporations	50	52	55	56
Households	138	138	140	140
To non-euro area residents	33	35	33	34
Securities other than shares	3,190	3,275	3,384	3,471
Issued by euro area residents	2,660	2,733	2,818	2,881
MFIs	677	675	689	694
General government	1,479	1,548	1,605	1,649
Other financial intermediaries	267	267	282	285
Insurance corporations and pension funds	16	16	13	14
Non-financial corporations	222	227	228	238
Issued by non-euro area residents	530	543	566	589
Shares and other equity	862	877	929	919
Quoted shares	364	369	387	386
<i>of which:</i> Issued by euro area MFIs	21	21	21	20
Unquoted shares	498	508	542	533
Investment fund shares/units	2,036	2,123	2,228	2,296
<i>of which:</i> Issued by euro area residents	1,927	2,014	2,112	2,175
Money market fund shares	83	87	89	92
<i>of which:</i> Issued by euro area MFIs	81	86	88	91
Prepayments of insurance premiums and reserves for outstanding claims ²⁾	282	287	328	293
<i>of which:</i> Euro area residents	251	254	295	259
Other accounts receivable/payable and financial derivatives	237	265	283	293
Non-financial assets	157	158	160	160
Total liabilities	7,739	7,909	8,095	8,223
Loans	265	278	278	292
Securities other than shares	47	48	53	56
Shares and other equity	537	535	530	537
Quoted shares	159	158	149	151
Unquoted shares	378	378	381	386
Insurance technical reserves	6,671	6,809	6,988	7,082
Net equity of households in life insurance reserves	3,536	3,604	3,690	3,725
Net equity of households in pension fund reserves	2,294	2,335	2,410	2,482
Prepayments of insurance premiums and reserves for outstanding claims ³⁾	842	870	888	876
Other accounts receivable/payable and financial derivatives	218	238	246	255
Net worth ⁴⁾	343	424	565	550

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	
	2014 Q2	2014 Q3	2014 Q2	2014 Q3
Total financial assets	6,539	6,586	1,960	2,027
Currency and deposits	565	561	200	197
Loans	432	432	62	60
Securities other than shares	2,907	2,974	477	497
Shares and other equity	705	690	223	228
Investment fund shares/units	1,361	1,309	867	905
Money market fund shares	80	78	9	9
Prepayments of insurance premiums and reserves for outstanding claims	302	321	26	26
Other accounts receivable/payable and financial derivatives	187	189	96	104
Non-financial assets	121	121	39	39
Total liabilities	6,253	6,272	1,842	1,921
Loans	256	264	22	28
Securities other than shares	53	56	0	0
Shares and other equity	522	528	8	9
Net equity of households in life insurance reserves	3,690	3,550	0	0
Net equity of households in pension fund reserves	660	670	1,750	1,813
Prepayments of insurance premiums and reserves for outstanding claims	884	871	4	5
Other accounts receivable/payable and financial derivatives	189	188	58	68
Net worth	407	436	157	144

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 2013)

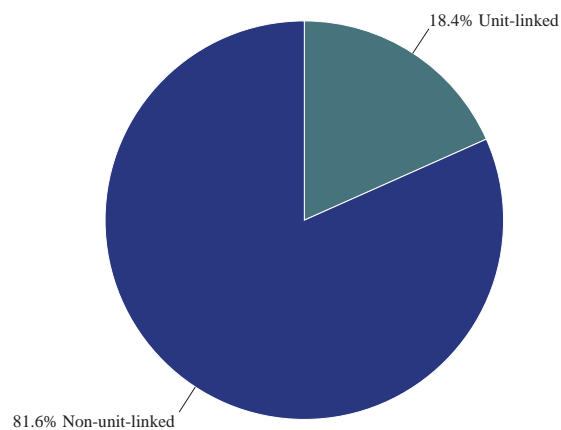
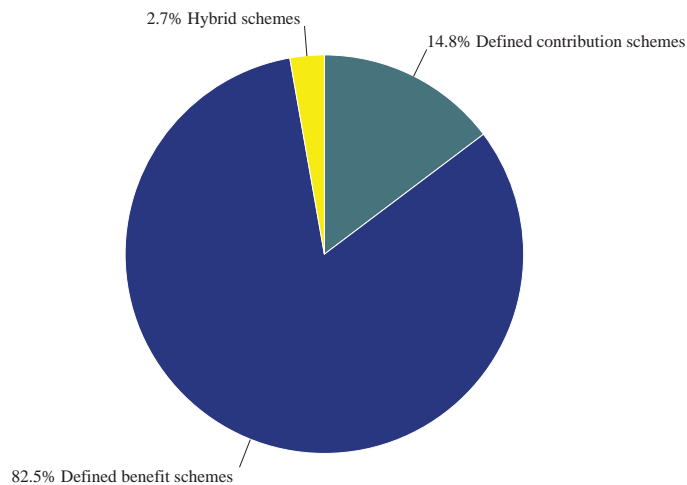


Chart 2: Net equity of households in pension fund reserves: breakdown by type of plan

(percentage of total; end-December 2013)



Source: ECB.