

METHODOLOGICAL SUMMARY

1 Introduction

The *Financial Accounts of the Spanish Economy* (FASE) form part of the Spanish System of National Accounts¹ and comprise the statistical basis for the financial analysis of the economy, including that normally included in the Banco de España's *Annual Report* and its quarterly reports on the Spanish economy.

The main reference framework for the FASE is Regulation (EU) 549/2013 on the European system of national and regional accounts, known as the ESA 2010, which in turn is based on the System of National Accounts 2008 (2008 SNA). This framework is a system of standardised, comprehensive, consistent, integrated and internationally comparable accounts which permits financial balance sheets and financial transactions and other flows (revaluations and other changes in volume) accounts to be prepared, by type of financial instrument, consistently for all sectors and sub-sectors of the Spanish economy. The preparation of the FASE also satisfies the reporting requirements of the European Central Bank (ECB), established in Guideline ECB/2013/24. On 15 October 2014 the new ESA 2010 FASE series were published for the first time on the Banco de España's website, replacing the FASE series prepared using the ESA 95 methodology that had previously been in force. Since then, the series have been updated regularly within around 102 calendar days of the reference quarter. In addition, on 15 October 2019 a benchmark revision of macroeconomic statistics, coordinated at European and national level, was conducted by the institutions responsible for compiling the non-financial national accounts, the financial accounts and the balance of payments and international investment position. In Spain, these institutions are the Banco de España and the National Statistics Institute (INE, by its Spanish abbreviation) and, insofar as the general government accounts are concerned, the National Audit Office (IGAE, by its Spanish abbreviation). The new requirements that have since entered into force regarding the details to be reported to the ECB, as established in Guideline ECB/2021/20 amending Guideline ECB/2013/24, have been complied with in the compilation of the FASE.

On the Banco de España's website, the National Accounts (ESA 2010) sub-section in the "General Economic Statistics" section provides a summary of the Spanish National Accounts, i.e. the non-financial accounts of the economy, compiled by the INE, relating to the macroeconomic setting and to the accounts of the different sectors and sub-sectors, providing a means whereby the operations to be financed (or that generate net lending) can be related to their financial counterparts, which are covered in the "Financial Accounts" section of the Banco de España's website, in the Financial Accounts of the Spanish Economy sub-section.

¹ The National Statistics Plan currently in force relates to the period 2021-2024 (RDL 1110/2020). As has previously been the case, this plan includes the Financial Accounts of the Spanish Economy (statistical operation 37040), which the Banco de España is responsible for compiling.

Further, within this sub-section, an integrated summary table of the economic accounts (financial and non-financial) by institutional sector is available, under Other supplementary information. The basic source for the data included in the non-financial accounts of the economy are the INE publications: *Contabilidad Nacional Anual de España (Referencia 2015. Revisión 2019)* and *Cuentas Trimestrales no Financieras de los Sectores Institucionales (Referencia 2015.Revisión 2019)*.

Following this introduction, the second section of this Methodological Summary sets out the main features of the financial accounts; the third section outlines their key methodological aspects; the fourth section briefly explains the compilation procedure, and the fifth section describes recent and future developments. Finally, the sixth section provides information on financial accounts data availability in international databases, according to the requirements established by different organisations for this statistic.

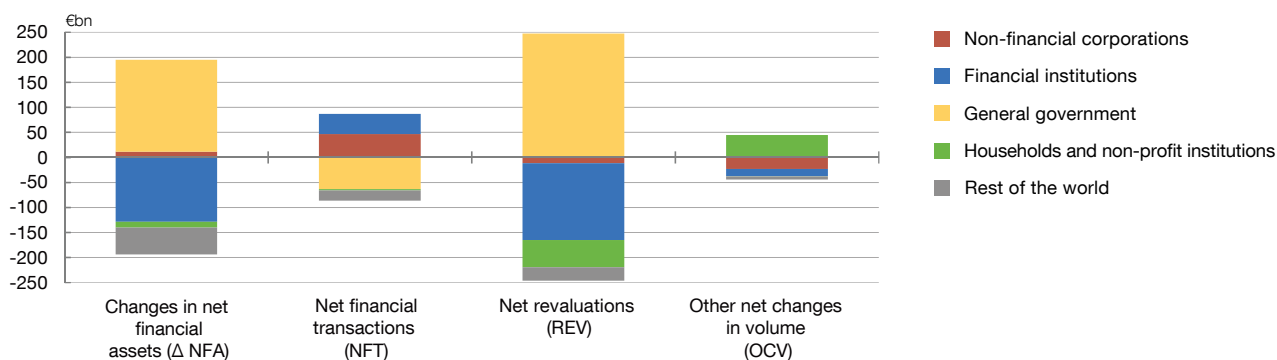
2 Main features of the Financial Accounts

The *methodology* used in compiling these accounts is that established by ESA 2010, contained in Regulation (EU) No 549/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 May 2013, which is also applicable to the non-financial accounts compiled by the INE. One of the key features of this system is that, since it was enacted through a Regulation, it is binding, in its entirety, upon all European Union (EU) Member States, thereby ensuring that the methodology used and the deadlines for data availability are the same in all countries. Furthermore, the ESA 2010 accounting system is also harmonised with the SNA 2008, drawn up under the aegis of the Statistical Office of the United Nations, the World Bank, the OECD, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the European Commission (Eurostat), and with the sixth edition of the IMF's Balance of Payments Manual (BPM6). A particularly relevant aspect of the European manual is that the system includes a specific sub-sector within the sector Financial corporations, namely the sub-sector Monetary financial institutions (MFIs), which is the grouping the European System of Central Banks (ESCB) defines as the money-creating sector, reinforcing the link between monetary and national accounts statistics.

The ESA 2010 includes a *comprehensive system of accounts* comprising financial balance sheets and flow accounts, which explain the changes between the opening and closing balance sheets of each period. The flow accounts cover: a) financial transactions; b) revaluation accounts, which reflect changes in the value of assets and liabilities as a result of changes in the prices thereof or in the exchange rate of the currency in which they are denominated; and c) accounts of changes in volume, which reflect changes in the amount of financial assets and liabilities for other reasons (such as in the case of loan write-downs/write-offs and sector changes). Thus, the ESA 2010 constitutes an integrated system of accounts in which, for each sector and sub-sector, the difference between financial stocks or balance sheets at any two moments in time is explained by the three accounts mentioned: financial transactions, revaluation and other changes in volume. This link between the financial balance sheet at the beginning and the end of period is shown in Chart 1, for 2022.

Chart 1

Link between the financial balance sheet at the beginning and the end of the period. Net financial assets (2022)



SOURCE: Banco de España, CFEE 2022.

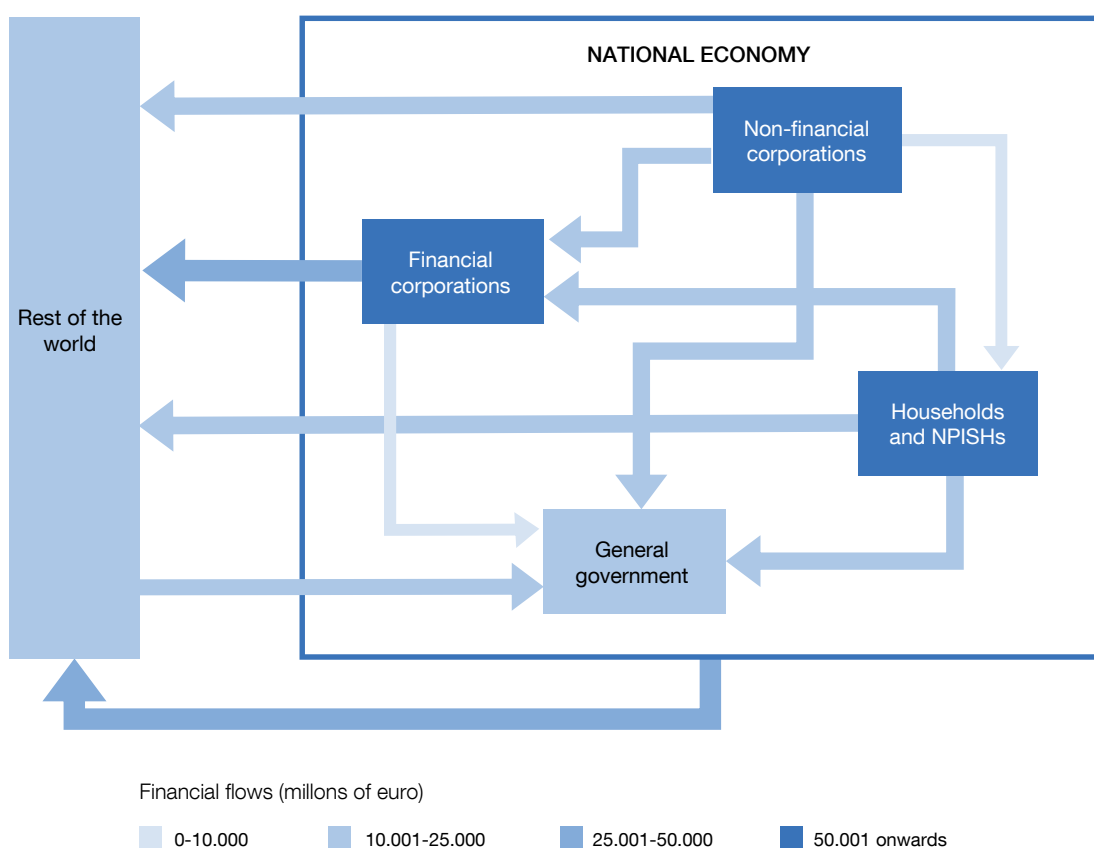
NOTE: Δ AFN = OFN + REV + OVV

The *Financial Accounts of the Spanish Economy*, in relation to the various sectoral groupings, are presented in the Statistics section of the Banco de España’s website (www.bde.es) under *Financial Accounts*. Non-consolidated information is provided in the tables of the sections: “Breakdown by instrument of unconsolidated accounts”, “Summary tables of instruments by sector”, “Summary by instrument and counterpart sector of unconsolidated accounts” and “Link between the financial balance sheet at the beginning and at the end of the period”. Drawing on the details of the counterpart sectors, by elimination of the asset and liability positions within the sector itself, the consolidated accounts of each sector can be compiled. Obviously, the consolidated account of the Spanish economy is equivalent to the Rest of the world account from the standpoint of the resident sectors. This Rest of the world account is consistent with the balance of payments and international investment position (BoP/IIP) which include the flows and positions vis-à-vis the rest of the world, again under the National Accounts methodological framework. The two methodologies were fully aligned by the ESA 2010 and BPM6, and the most significant differences between the statistical practices have since been eliminated in the case of Spain. Thus, the financial account of the BoP and the IIP and the financial accounts offer details that can be used in a complementary manner for analysis.

In the case of the financial balance sheets, the details of the counterpart sectors also allow for the identification of the debtor/credit positions of a sector vis-à-vis the other sectors of the economy at the end of the reference period, while in the case of the financial transactions account, the details of the counterpart sectors identify the net investment/financing flows between the various sectors in the period (see Figure 1).

Regarding the periodicity of the Spanish Financial Accounts, the regulation relating to the ESA 2010 requires only annual series. However, ever since this regulation entered into force, the Banco de España has been releasing quarterly series, as this is the periodicity demanded by users and by the ECB. The initial period of the time series is the first quarter of 1995. The information is updated quarterly within 102 calendar days of the last quarter included in the

Figure 1

Net financial transactions between institutional sectors (2023 III)

SOURCE: Banco de España, FASE 2023 II.

NOTE: The above diagram shows the net financial transactions between the various institutional sectors. The arrows indicate both the direction of the financing flows (net acquisition of financial assets less net incurrence of liabilities) and their volume (indicated by the thickness and colour of the arrows).

series. The specific dates of the updates of the accounts are announced in advance. The complete release calendar for the following year is published in November, along with the calendar for other Banco de España statistics, which may be consulted at: <https://www.bde.es/webbe/es/estadisticas/calendario/calendario-difusion-estadisticas.html>.

These releases are accompanied by a statistics press release. The data are disseminated in a series of predefined tables and in the Time Series Search Engine (BIEST). The predefined tables are available in PDF format (which include the last eight quarters and the last eight years in the series), CSV files² and Excel files (with the complete time series). The complete time series are also available in BIEST.³

Regarding the revision policy, in line with the agreements reached at European level for revising macroeconomic statistics, when the accounts for the first quarter and the third quarter of

² CSV stands for comma separated values.

³ BIEST may be accessed at http://app.bde.es/bie_www/faces/bie_wwias/jsp/op/Home/pHome.jsp.

each year are updated (in July and January, respectively), the quarters of the current year and previous year are revised. However, when the accounts for the second quarter and the fourth quarter are revised (in October and April, respectively) the quarters of the three previous years are also revised, if necessary. This regular revision procedure does not rule out unscheduled exceptional revisions when the circumstances warrant, which should in principle be concentrated, for all macroeconomic statistics, in September/October of each year. In addition, major revisions to the series (due to methodological changes, procedural changes, new sources of information or substantial changes in existing sources, etc.) are conducted once every five years in coordinated benchmark revisions for the national accounts, financial accounts and balance of payments and international investment position at European and national level. The last benchmark revision was conducted in 2019 and the next one will take place in October 2024.

3 Summary of the classification criteria and valuation methods

This section briefly sets out some methodological aspects of the Spanish Financial Accounts relating to the delimitation of institutional groupings, the classification of financial instruments and the valuation methods used, as part of the System of National Accounts.⁴

In the financial accounts, the resident institutional units are classified into *institutional sectors and sub-sectors* on the basis of their economic function. Specifically, the following institutional sectors are distinguished: *Non-financial corporations*, which produce market goods and non-financial services; *Financial corporations*, which engage in financial intermediation; *General government*, whose main functions are the production of “non-market” goods and services and the performance of transactions for the redistribution of national income and wealth; *Households*, in their two-fold function as consumers and producers (sole proprietors); and, finally, *Non-profit institutions serving households*, which produce “nonmarket” goods and services and make them available to households. Against this background, the legal entities existing in Spain are allocated to one institutional sector/sub-sector or another, as detailed in Table 1.

For their part, the financial instruments included in the financial accounts are classified according to their legal characteristics and their degree of liquidity, as detailed in Table 2. The ESA 2010 establishes homogeneous valuation methods for the financial instruments in balance sheets and transactions accounts, which are applicable across all institutional sectors and to

4 Also, for methodological matters, readers can refer to the Methodological Note on the Financial Accounts of the Spanish Economy ESA 2010, available on the Banco de España's website (www.bde.es), and also the Methodological Table on the Spanish financial accounts available at the IMF's web page on SDDS Plus (<http://dsbb.imf.org/Pages/SDDS/DQAfBase.aspx?ctycode=ESP&catcode=SBS00>) and the Quality Report prepared in the context of the statistics underlying the indicators used in the mechanism for the prevention and correction of macroeconomic imbalances in the EU (<https://www.cmfbb.org/main-topics/mip-quality>). Lastly, the statistical note Benchmark revision of the Financial Accounts of the Spanish Economy (2019) contains a summary of the salient methodological changes introduced in the last benchmark review (<https://www.bde.es/f/webbde/SES/Secciones/Publicaciones/PublicacionesSeriadas/NotasEstadisticas/20/Files/nest12e.pdf>).

Table 1

Delimitation of the institutional sectors

ESA 2010 categories		Main types of entity
S.11 Non-financial corporations		Comprising public limited companies, private limited companies, other non-financial corporations that are separate legal entities and other market-producer public corporations and public bodies and head offices of non-financial corporations. Financial vehicle corporations that issue securities and are subsidiaries of non-financial corporations are consolidated with their parent companies when they lack decision-making autonomy
S.12 Financial corporations	S.121 Banco de España	The national central bank
	S.122/3 Other monetary financial institutions	<i>Deposit-taking corporations except the central bank (S.122)</i> Comprising credit institutions (commercial banks, savings banks, credit co-operative banks and the Instituto de Crédito Oficial), specialised lending institutions and electronic money institutions <i>Money market funds (MMFs) (S123)</i> Comprising monetary collective investment institution
	S.124 Non-MMF investment funds	Comprising non-monetary collective investment institutions including venture capital funds
	S.125/6/7 Other non-monetary financial institutions	<i>Other financial intermediaries (OFIs) (S125)</i> Comprising securities-dealer companies, securitisation financial vehicle corporations, venture capital companies, listed real-estate investment companies, bank asset funds, central counterparties and asset management companies <i>Financial auxiliaries (S126)</i> Comprising deposit guarantee funds (until 2011), securities agencies, mutual guarantee companies, appraisal companies, management companies (of pension funds, mutual funds and portfolios), operators of organised markets and companies performing settlement and market clearing functions, and head offices of financial groups <i>Captive financial institutions and money lenders (S127)</i> Comprising holding companies holding shares of financial and non-financial corporations controlled by non-residents and residents (if they have decision-making autonomy), special purpose entities (SPEs) and financial vehicle corporations that issue securities and are subsidiaries of financial institutions
	S.128 Insurance corporations	Comprising life and risk insurance corporations and non-profit insurance institutions
	S.129 Pension funds	Comprising autonomous pension funds and non-profit insurance institutions with the characteristics of pension funds
S.13 General government	S.1311 Central government	Comprises the State and State-controlled non-market producers, the Consorcio de Compensación de Seguros (Insurance Compensation Consortium) and the Sociedad de Gestión de Activos procedentes de la Reestructuración Bancaria (the asset management company for assets arising from bank restructuring), and general government-controlled funds created for specific purposes (a)
	S.1312 Regional (autonomous) governments	Comprises management institutions of the regional (autonomous) governments and regional (autonomous) government-controlled non market producers, including universities and transferred social security
	S.1313 Local government	Comprises provincial governments, island authorities, municipalities, town and minor local authorities and their related groupings, and local government-controlled non-market producers
	S.1314 Social security funds	Comprises the General Treasury and other management entities (including mutual insurance companies covering occupational accidents and diseases), the State Employment Public Service and the Wage Guarantee Fund
S.14 Households		Comprises individuals and groups of individuals (families and other groups) as consumers and as sole proprietors (firms that are not legal entities separate from their owners)
S.15 Non-profit institutions serving households		Comprises non-profit institutions that provide services to households and that are non-market producers, such as non-government organisations, foundations, associations, religious entities, political parties, trade unions, etc

a The Fund for the Acquisition of Financial Assets (FAAF), the Fund for the Orderly Restructuring of the Banking Sector (FROB), the Electricity Deficit Amortisation Fund (FADE), the Regional (Autonomous) Government Financing Fund (which was set up in 2014 and assumed the debts of the Regional (Autonomous) Government Liquidity Fund (FLA) and of the Fund for the Financing of Payments to Suppliers (FFPP)) and, since 2012, the Deposit Guarantee Fund (DGF).

Table 2

Classification of financial instruments

ESA 2010 categories		Main financial instruments included
1 Monetary gold and SDRs	1.1 Monetary gold	Gold of the Banco de España and of the Treasury
	1.2 Special drawing rights (SDRs)	SDRs allocated and acquired from other central banks
2 Currency and deposits	2.1 Currency	Banknotes and coins. Including residents' holdings of euro issued by Eurosystem NCBs other than the Banco de España
	2.2 Transferable deposits	Overnight deposits and savings deposits (in the latter case, since 2005)
	2.9 Other deposits	Interbank deposits and funding received in securitisation transactions, savings deposits (until 2005), time accounts, structured deposits, MFIs' repos, special covered bonds and accounts held abroad. In addition, the counterpart of the assets transferred and the positions vis-à-vis the ECB and IMF are included
3 Debt securities	3.1 Short-term securities	Treasury bills and commercial paper at up to one year issued by general government, financial corporations and non-financial corporations
	3.2 Long-term securities	Treasury bills at more than one year and medium and long-term public debt. Commercial paper at more than one year and bonds issued by financial corporations and non-financial corporations and securities issued by non-residents that are held by residents
4 Loans	4.1 Short-term loans	Loans from resident credit institutions to resident and non-resident sectors, loans from non-residents to resident sectors, loans between non-financial sectors and loans from non-financial sectors to non-resident sectors. Non-MFIs' repos and reverse repos of financial corporations vis-à-vis non-financial entities. Non-interbank transfers of private assets, general government loans to public corporations, Development Fund loans, issues of non-marketable securities and liabilities to the IMF. Overdrafts on current accounts and transferable deposit accounts
	4.2 Long-term loans	
5 Equity and investment fund shares or units	5.1.1 Listed shares	Shares of financial and non-financial corporations (excluding investment companies) listed on domestic and foreign markets
	5.1.2 Unlisted shares	Unlisted shares of financial and non-financial corporations
	5.1.9 Other equity	Capital of companies and public bodies that do not have the legal status of a <i>sociedad anónima</i> (public limited company), capital contributions to branches (of non-residents in Spain and of residents in Spain abroad), non-residents' real-estate investments, investments in the capital of international organisations and contributions from deposit guarantee funds to the FROB
	5.2 Investment fund shares	Shares in capital-market and real-estate investment funds

financial instruments both when they are financial assets and when they are liabilities.⁵ As a result of this homogeneity, the system of accounts has a high degree of internal consistency.

As a general principle, financial positions are valued in the balance sheets at current prices, which is either their nominal value or, in the case of instruments traded on markets, their market value. At the same time, as a general rule, transactions in financial instruments are recorded at their transaction value, i.e. the value at which the specific transactions have been carried out. Table 3 sets out the *valuation of the main categories of the system*, according to the general criteria mentioned above. Lastly, it should be noted that the base accounting information or

5 All financial assets, except for monetary gold, are liabilities from the standpoint of the issuer/debtor. Moreover, all liabilities are, by definition, financial, whereas there are non-financial assets (the capital stock of the various sectors that is not reflected in the financial accounts). The net financial assets (also called net financial wealth) of each institutional grouping represent the difference between financial assets and liabilities.

Table 2

Classification of financial instruments (cont'd)

ESA 2010 categories		Main financial instruments included
6 Insurance, pensions and standardised guarantees	6.1 Non-life insurance technical reserves	Non-life technical provisions of life and risk insurance corporations and non-profit insurance institutions. Including reinsurance
	6.2 Life insurance schemes and annuity entitlements	Technical life provisions of life and risk insurance
	6.3 Pension entitlements	Reserves and funds set aside for the payment of pensions by non-profit insurance institutions and pension funds and by means of collective insurance contracts. Also included are the funds set aside for the payment of benefits other than pensions and claims of pension funds on the sponsors
	6.4 Claims of pension funds on pension managers	Financial claims that pension funds hold on pension managers for any deficit in funding and financial claims that pension managers hold on pension funds for any excess funding (for example, when the investment income exceeds the increase in entitlements and the difference must be paid to the pension manager)
	6.5 Entitlements to non-pension benefits	The excess of net contributions over benefits constitutes an increase in the liabilities of the insurance scheme towards the beneficiaries
	6.6 Provisions for calls under standardised guarantees	Standardised guarantees granted by general government to a large number of beneficiaries, generally for fairly small amounts and within the same program or line
7/8 Other assets/liabilities	7 Financial derivatives	Comprising options, futures and similar instruments, and (since 2005) swaps. Employee stock options are also included
	8.1 Trade credits and advances	Client/supplier accounts and the like of non-financial corporations (and counterpart sectors)
	8.9 Other accounts receivable/payable, excluding trade credits	Diverse accounts receivable/payable; interest accrued on deposits/loans and pending receipt/payment; outstanding transactions between financial corporations, within general government and with European bodies; outstanding taxes and contributions

administrative registers are not always strictly compiled in accordance with the method mentioned, so that sometimes adjustments have to be made to maintain the system's consistency.

4 Procedure for compiling accounts and statistical sources

The Financial Accounts of the Spanish Economy are, in most cases, compiled under the bottom-up approach, which entails calculating the aggregate sectors and instruments using the available data of the sub-sectors and the different financial instrument sub-categories.

The FASE are compiled in various stages: (i) collection of the base data of each sector, (ii) consistent compilation of financial balance sheets, financial transactions and other flows, ensuring that resources equal uses in balance sheets and financial transactions, and (iii) analysis to ensure consistency between net lending/net borrowing of the non-financial accounts and net total financial transactions of institutional sectors and sub-sectors. The accounts of the various sectors are also subjected to a number of consistency tests and are checked against the accounting information available for these sectors and other indicators.

Table 3

Valuation of the main categories of the system

	Financial balance sheet	Financial transactions account
1 Monetary gold and SDRs	Market value	Amount of the transactions
2 Currency and deposits	Face value (currency) or nominal value (deposits)	Difference between balances, excluding revaluations and changes in volume
3 Securities other than shares	Market value (including interest accrued during the period)	Value of the transactions. The interest accrued less the interest paid is treated as if it were reinvested in the financial instrument
4 Loans	Principal of the debt	Difference between balances, excluding revaluations and changes in volume
5 Equity and investment fund shares or units		
5.1 Listed shares		
5.1.1 Mutual funds shares	Market value	Value of the transactions
5.1.2 Unlisted shares	Market value estimated on the basis of the valuation of listed shares and accounting information on the unlisted shares	Value of the transactions
5.1.9 Other equity	Book value of own funds	Net contributions of funds
5.2 Participaciones en fondos de inversión	Market value	Value of the transactions
6 Insurance, pensions and standardised guarantees		
6.1 Non-life insurance technical reserves	Current value of future payment commitments in accordance with the technical provisions and funds set aside	Premiums and net contributions including the investment income
6.2 Life insurance schemes and annuity entitlements		
6.3 Pension entitlements		
6.4 Claims of pension funds on pension managers	When the pension manager is a unit different from the administrator and the amount accruing to the pension fund is less than the increase in entitlements, a claim of the pension fund on the pension manager is recorded. Where the amount accruing to the pension fund exceeds the increase in entitlements, there is an amount payable by the pension fund to the pension manager	Difference between balances minus adjustments
6.5 Entitlements to non-pension benefits	The excess of net contributions over benefits represents an increase in the liability of the insurance scheme towards the beneficiaries	Difference between balances minus adjustments
6.6 Provisions for calls under standardised guarantees	The present value of the expected calls under existing guarantees, net of any recoveries the guarantor expects to receive from the defaulting borrowers	The counterpart to the capital transfer for the full value of the liability, net of any fees receivable
7 Financial derivatives	Market value	Value of the transactions. The difference between the market value of the underlying assets and the strike price at the time of settlement of the financial derivative is considered to be the transaction value
8 Other accounts receivable/payable	Nominal value on the balance sheet	Difference between balances

The primary information sources are mainly, the financial statements reported by credit institutions to the Banco de España and those reported by other supervised entities to their supervisors (Spanish National Securities Market Commission and the Directorate General of Insurance and Pension Funds); government budgetary information; Banco de España information on its own positions and financial transactions; the financial statements of non-financial corporations, holding companies and Spanish real estate investment trusts (SOCIMIs), obtained from the mercantile register, and the information provided voluntarily to the Banco de España's Central Balance Sheet Data Office; securities market registers and databases; the information reported to the Banco de España by securities custodians on behalf of their clients; and other specific sources of information on transactions and positions vis-à-vis the rest of the world included in the balance of payments/international investment position. These base data are gathered by the Banco de España as part of its functions and largely made available to users on its website.

For each of the financial instruments recorded in the financial accounts, the institutional sectors that issue and that hold them are identified. The information sources used are those that provide greater detail, including counterparts, and better guarantees of data quality. In some cases, this may mean that part of the information for a given sector included in the financial accounts may come from sources not belonging to that sector, but rather to that of the counterpart. Figure 2 outlines the process for compiling the FASE on the basis of statistical sources, and their dissemination on the Bank's website and submission to international organisations.

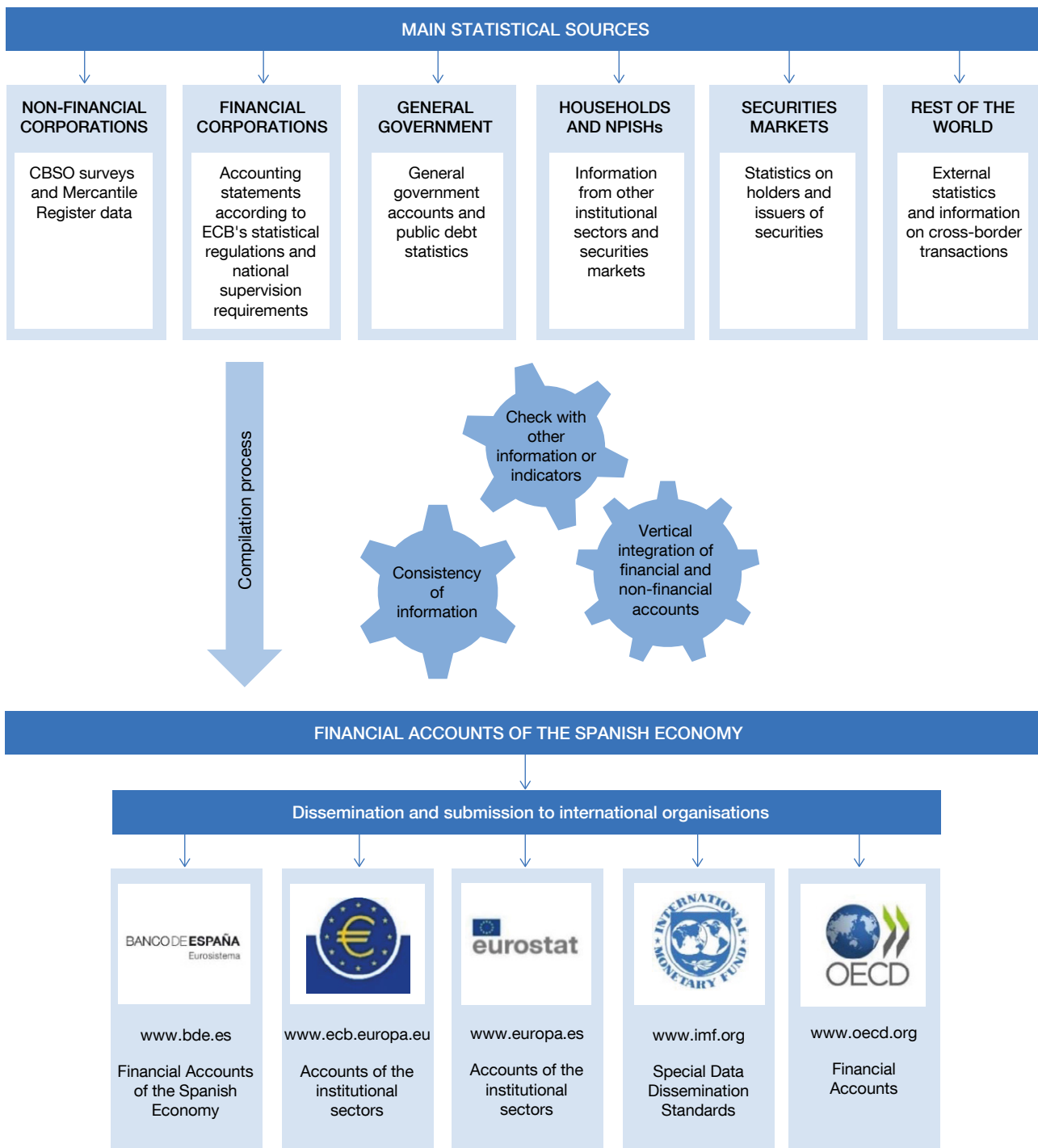
Regarding horizontal consistency, i.e. ensuring resources are equal to uses in balance sheets and financial transactions, or, in other words, that the total issued for an instrument/sector is equal to the sum of the corresponding holdings of all the sectors, a distinction needs to be drawn between three scenarios:

- When the source provides horizontally consistent data. This occurs, for example, with deposits and loans of resident banks, which are reported with comprehensive details of the counterpart sectors.
- When there are various sources of issuances and holdings, two scenarios may arise:
 - If priority is given to the information source with data on issuances (as in the case of securities), horizontal consistency is ensured by using one sector's portfolio as the residual. In most cases, the residual sector is the non-financial corporations sector, except in the case of debt securities issued by general government, for which the non-resident portfolio is the residual.
 - If priority is given to the portfolio sources, issuances are calculated as the sum of the portfolios, thus ensuring horizontal consistency. This is the case, for example, of long-term debt securities issued by non-financial corporations, other financial intermediaries and captive financial institutions and money lenders.

In these latter two cases, different checks are made to assess the results.

Figure 2

Compilation of the financial accounts



SOURCE: Banco de España.

NOTE: For each institutional sector, in addition to its own data sources, information from counterparty sectors and securities markets is also used, to maintain the system's consistency.

The financial accounts offer non-consolidated data on the assets and liabilities of each sector, i.e. without netting positions or flows within that sector. Information from the system can, however, be used to prepare the consolidated accounts of the institutional sectors, as the procedure for preparing the accounts identifies the counterpart sector for each position or flow, even when these are within the same sector.

To ensure vertical consistency between the financial and non-financial accounts of the institutional sectors, the compiler teams at the INE and the Banco de España, with collaboration from the IGAE in the case of the general government sector, coordinate their compilation procedures as much as possible. However, there is no single information source covering all the items of the non-financial and financial accounts that would ensure overall balancing. Consequently, fitting the different sources used necessarily leads to vertical discrepancies that require some adjustments. Adjustments are always applied to the financial accounts, because their quarterly compilation date falls later than that of the non-financial accounts (i.e. the vertical discrepancies are not available at the deadline of the non-financial accounts).

The Banco de España participates in the Working Group on Financial Accounts and Government Finance Statistics, the Expert Group on Sector Accounts, and the Task Force on Annual Financial Accounts (along with the INE in the latter two), whose work led to the joint publication by the ECB and Eurostat of the “Report on developing a common approach to improve vertical consistency” in 2022.⁶ This report sets out recommendations on how to improve vertical consistency across institutional sectors in order to improve cross-country comparability. These recommendations are followed as closely as possible in the Spanish National Accounts. A harmonised table with information on the adjustments made in different countries has also been released.⁷

5 Recent and future developments

The Eurosystem has developed a medium-term strategy⁸ in cooperation with external users and experts from the different statistical domains, taking into account the recommendations set out in the G20 Data Gap Initiative. This led to new requirements being included in *Guideline ECB/2021/20*. In this context, the following progress has recently been made, or is about to be made, in the information disseminated on the financial accounts:

The sector, Other non-monetary financial institutions, has been divided into three sub-sectors: S.125 Other financial intermediaries, S.126 Financial auxiliaries and S.127 Captive financial institutions and money lenders. This information began to be disseminated in October 2022 with data starting from the reporting period corresponding to the first quarter of 1995. The

6 https://www.ecb.europa.eu/stats/pdf/Recommendations_on_Vertical_consistency.en.pdf.

7 https://www.ecb.europa.eu/stats/pdf/vertical_reconciliation_summary_table.en.pdf.

8 For further information, see Box 8 of the Annual Report of the ECB (2019) (<https://www.ecb.europa.eu/pub/pdf/annrep/ar2019~c199d3633e.en.pdf>).

assets and liabilities of each of the three sectors are provided, by instrument, without distinguishing between counterpart sectors. Work is under way to be able to disseminate details of the various counterpart sectors in the future.

In the area of household financial assets, users can consult a new breakdown of pension entitlements: defined benefit pensions and defined contribution pensions. These details began to be disseminated in October 2023 with data starting from the last quarter of 2016.

For each sector, in financial assets and liabilities vis-à-vis the rest of the world, the information on the various financial instruments relating to foreign direct investment has been made available in BIEST since October 2023 with information starting from the last quarter of 2017. The definition of foreign direct investment is that corresponding to this functional category in the balance of payments/international investment position, and the data are fully consistent with those of this statistic.

In order to improve the understanding of the situation of households, the introduction of indicators of the distribution of the main financial aggregates – wealth and indebtedness – and their components is planned. The standardisation of household financial surveys across Europe⁹ facilitates the achievement of complementarity between this micro information and the macro financial-accounts data. Thanks to the work of a European expert group, in which the Banco de España participates, Distributional Wealth Accounts (DWA) covering households have been compiled. This is an experimental statistic of the ESCB, and it has been agreed that it will be published from January 2024 on the ECB's website (accessible from the Financial Accounts section of the Banco de España's website).

6 Financial accounts in the international sphere

Regulation (EU) No 549/2013 on the European System of National and Regional Accounts, besides being the main methodological reference in the area of financial accounts, incorporates a transmission programme of national accounts data to Eurostat, the EU body charged with compiling national statistics of interest at the EU level and making them available to users. The *European Sector Accounts* database¹⁰ contains the financial accounts data of the 27 EU countries.

In addition, Regulation (EC) No 501/2004, amended by Regulation (EU) 517/2013, establishes the obligation on Member States to compile *quarterly non-financial and financial accounts for the general government sector*, within 85 calendar days of the last reference quarter. The *Government finance statistics* database¹¹ contains the public finances data for the 27 EU countries.

9 Available at https://www.ecb.europa.eu/stats/ecb_surveys/hfcs/html/index.en.html.

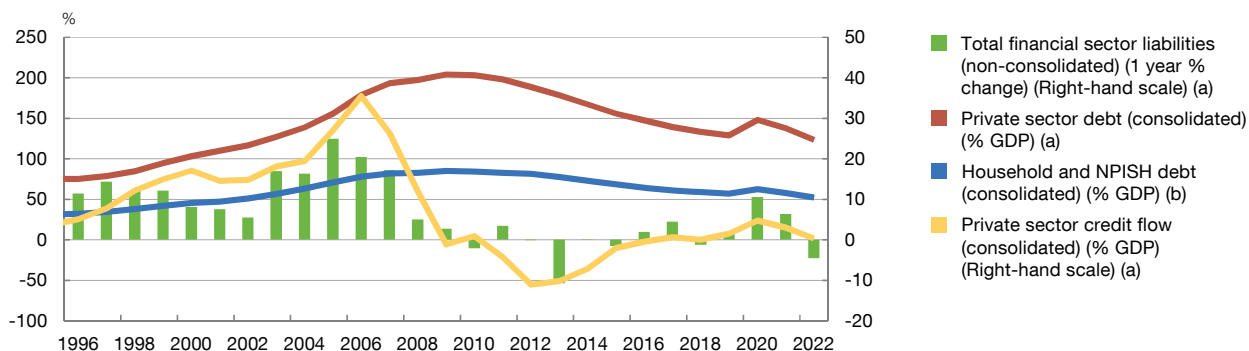
10 Available at <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/sector-accounts>.

11 Available at <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/government-finance-statistics/overview>.

Chart 2

Macroeconomic imbalance procedure

2.a Headline and auxiliary indicators



SOURCE: Banco de España, CFEE 2022.

a Headline indicator.

b Auxiliary indicator.

The ECB, meanwhile, has established obligations to report financial accounts data by means of Guideline ECB/2013/24, amended by Guideline ECB/2021/20. This Guideline obliges the euro area national central banks (NCBs) to submit *quarterly financial accounts* to the ECB currently within 97 calendar days of the reference quarter. A significant portion of this information is disseminated in the *Euro area accounts* section of the ECB's *Statistical Data Warehouse*.¹²

The financial accounts data that are submitted to Eurostat and the ECB are used to develop some of the indicators in the EU's Macroeconomic Imbalance Procedure scoreboard. This procedure was established in Regulation (EU) No 1176/2011 as part of a set of rules relating to economic governance for the prevention and correction of macroeconomic imbalances in the EU. The European Statistical System (ESS) and the ESCB both have procedures in place to ensure the quality of the statistics underlying these indicators, the comparability of national data and compliance with the required standards for economic policy purposes, having signed a Memorandum of Understanding in November 2016 to boost their cooperation.¹³

Within the scope of financial accounts, there are three headline indicators, namely: (i) private sector debt (consolidated), (ii) private sector credit flow, and (iii) total financial sector liabilities (non-consolidated, year-on-year rate of change); and one auxiliary indicator: (iv) consolidated debt of households (including NPISHs).¹⁴ The quarterly data for these indicators are included as additional information (memorandum item) in the tables "Non-financial sector debt"¹⁵ and "Financial institutions"¹⁶. These four indicators are shown from 1995 to 2022 in Chart 2.

12 Available at <http://www.ecb.int/stats/acc/html/index.en.html>.

13 Available at <https://www.cmfb.org/main-topics/mip-quality>.

14 Data available at <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-eurostat-news/-/ddn-20221122-2>.

15 Available at https://www.bde.es/webbe/es/estadisticas/compartido/datos/pdf/cf_2_3ab.pdf.

16 Available at https://www.bde.es/webbe/es/estadisticas/compartido/datos/pdf/cf_2_7ab.pdf.

The IMF has on its website a *Principal Global Indicators* section that includes various macroeconomic statistics available at international organisations, with a sub-section on the financial accounts of the main developed economies.¹⁷

As part of its data initiatives, the IMF approved two sets of requirements in accordance with Special Data Dissemination Standards (SDDS). Spain adheres to the second, more stringent, level, called “SDDS Plus”, as it meets all the requirements in the nine categories. The financial accounts are the basis for four of the new categories: (i) sectoral financial balance sheets; (ii) general government financial transactions accounts; (iii) consolidated financial balance sheet of other financial intermediaries; and (iv) securities portfolios of institutional sectors, all of which must be disseminated quarterly within four months of the end of the reference quarter. The data and methodology of the various countries adhering to the SDDS Plus are available at: <https://dsbb.imf.org/sdds-plus/country>.

¹⁷ Available at <http://www.principalglobalindicators.org>.