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PRESS RELEASE

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

In the second quarter of 2012, the total financial assets of euro area insurance corporations and pension funds increased to €7,247 billion, from €7,193 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 €6,301 billion, from €6,241 billion. This increase is due almost equally to positive transactions and valuation changes.

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		
	Q3	Q4	Q1	2012 Q2	
Total financial assets	6,951	6,938	7,193	7,247	n.a.
Insurance technical reserves ²	6,103	6,124	6,241	6,301	32
net equity of households in life insurance reserves	3,284	3,288	3,335	3,364	10
net equity of households in pension fund reserves	1,992	2,013	2,061	2,089	17
prepayments of insurance premiums and reserves for outstanding claims	827	823	845	847	5

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 39% of the sector's total financial assets at end-June 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 €10 billion in the second quarter of 2012. The **net equity of households in pension fund reserves** increased by €17 billion in the same quarter, while **prepayments of insurance premiums and reserves for outstanding claims** increased by €5 billion.

Regarding the contributions of the two sub-sectors, **insurance corporations' total financial assets** accounted for €5,695 billion in June 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 €1,552 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⁾)

	2011 Q3	2011 Q4	2012 Q1	2012 Q2
Total financial assets	6,951	6,938	7,193	7,247
Currency and deposits	792	785	794	781
<i>of which:</i> Deposits with euro area MFIs	752	745	753	738
<i>of which:</i> Deposits with non-euro area residents	38	37	40	41
Loans	458	467	467	468
To euro area residents	434	437	436	434
MFIs	7	7	7	8
General government	139	137	139	138
Other financial intermediaries	30	33	28	25
Insurance corporations and pension funds	93	94	94	93
Non-financial corporations	43	43	46	44
Households	122	122	122	125
To non-euro area residents	24	30	31	34
Securities other than shares	2,746	2,693	2,807	2,847
Issued by euro area residents	2,314	2,259	2,347	2,365
MFIs	627	622	646	644
General government	1,282	1,232	1,271	1,269
Other financial intermediaries	227	224	233	233
Insurance corporations and pension funds	17	16	17	17
Non-financial corporations	161	165	179	203
Issued by non-euro area residents	432	434	461	482
Shares and other equity	792	801	812	804
Quoted shares	324	331	344	333
<i>of which:</i> Issued by euro area MFIs	22	22	22	25
Unquoted shares	469	470	468	471
Investment fund shares/units	1,543	1,571	1,679	1,680
<i>of which:</i> Issued by euro area residents	1,436	1,458	1,565	1,565
Money market fund shares	90	94	97	102
<i>of which:</i> Issued by euro area MFIs	83	88	94	99
Prepayments of insurance premiums and reserves for outstanding claims ²⁾	265	261	264	268
<i>of which:</i> Euro area residents	230	226	229	230
Other accounts receivable/payable and financial derivatives	265	267	272	296
Non-financial assets	148	150	151	153
Total liabilities	7,014	7,023	7,187	7,254
Loans	273	266	274	282
Securities other than shares	42	42	44	44
Shares and other equity	406	407	438	423
Quoted shares	97	97	111	101
Unquoted shares	309	310	327	323
Insurance technical reserves	6,103	6,124	6,241	6,301
Net equity of households in life insurance reserves	3,284	3,288	3,335	3,364
Net equity of households in pension fund reserves	1,992	2,013	2,061	2,089
Prepayments of insurance premiums and reserves for outstanding claims ³⁾	827	823	845	847
Other accounts receivable/payable and financial derivatives	189	185	188	204
Net worth ⁴⁾	85	64	158	145

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 Q1	2012 Q2	2012 Q1	2012 Q2
Total financial assets	5,675	5,695	1,518	1,552
Currency and deposits	594	579	200	202
Loans	406	410	61	58
Securities other than shares	2,462	2,489	345	358
Shares and other equity	672	666	140	139
Investment fund shares/units	1,032	1,027	647	653
Money market fund shares	91	96	6	6
Prepayments of insurance premiums and reserves for outstanding claims	232	236	33	32
Other accounts receivable/payable and financial derivatives	186	192	86	104
Non-financial assets	116	118	35	35
Total liabilities	5,641	5,652	1,545	1,603
Loans	243	246	31	37
Securities other than shares	44	44	0	0
Shares and other equity	432	418	6	5
Net equity of households in life insurance reserves	3,335	3,364	0	0
Net equity of households in pension fund reserves	596	584	1,466	1,505
Prepayments of insurance premiums and reserves for outstanding claims	843	845	2	2
Other accounts receivable/payable and financial derivatives	148	150	40	54
Net worth	150	161	8	-16

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)

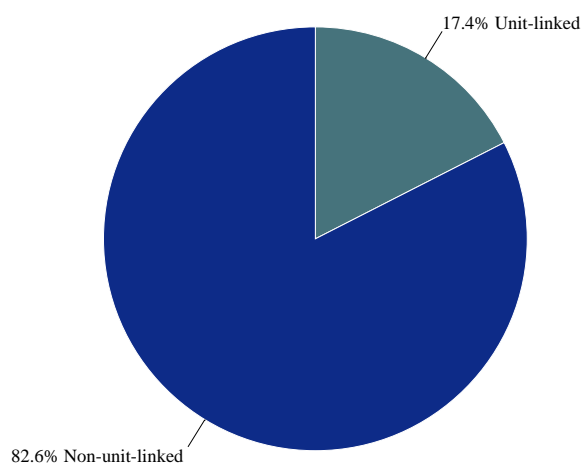


Chart 2: Net equity of households in pension fund reserves: breakdown by type of plan

(percentage of total; end-December 2011)

