

PRESS RELEASE

EURO AREA INVESTMENT FUND STATISTICS FEBRUARY 2012

In February 2012, the amount outstanding of shares/units issued by euro area investment funds other than money market funds was €137 billion higher than in January 2012. This increase was due mainly to increases in share/unit prices.

The **amount outstanding of shares/units issued by euro area investment funds other than money market funds** increased to €6,021 billion in February 2012, from €5,884 billion in January 2012. Over the same period, the amount outstanding of shares/units issued by euro area money market funds decreased to €924 billion, from €938 billion.

Transactions¹ in shares/units issued by euro area investment funds other than money market funds amounted to €25 billion in February 2012, while transactions in shares/units issued by money market funds amounted to €3 billion.

The annual growth rate of shares/units issued by euro area investment funds other than money market funds, calculated on the basis of transactions, was 0.7% in February 2012, while the annual growth rate of shares/units issued by euro area money market funds was -0.7%.

Shares/units issued

(EUR billions and annual growth rates; not seasonally adjusted; amounts outstanding at the end of the period, transactions during the period)

	2011		2012	
	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.
<u>Investment funds other than money market funds:</u>				
Amount outstanding	5,448	5,665	5,884	6,021
Transactions	-22	0	13	25
Annual growth rate (%)	1.6	1.0	0.7	0.7
<u>Money market funds:</u>				
Amount outstanding	1,084	992	938	924
Transactions	19	1	6	3
Annual growth rate (%)	-4.7	-1.6	-0.2	-0.7

Source: ECB.

In terms of the **breakdown by investment policy**, the annual growth rate of shares/units issued by bond funds was 1.6% in February 2012. Transactions in shares/units issued by

¹ Transactions in shares/units issued mainly reflect the difference between shares/units issued and those redeemed, but may also include other transactions, such as those resulting from dividend payments received or distributed by the fund.

bond funds amounted to €8 billion in February 2012. The annual growth rate and transactions of equity funds were -1.5% and €3 billion respectively. For mixed funds, the corresponding figures were 0.5% and €10 billion.

Notes

- *Money market funds are presented separately in this press release since they are classified in the monetary financial institutions sector within the European statistical framework, while other types of investment fund are classified in the other financial intermediaries sector.*
- *After a transitional period that ended on 31 January 2012, the definition of money market funds for euro area statistical purposes has been brought into line with the criteria applied for supervisory purposes under the guidelines on a common definition of European money market funds issued on 19 May 2010 by the Committee of European Securities Regulators (CESR), the predecessor of European Securities Market Authority (ESMA). This change has led to reclassifications of money market funds and other investment funds, in particular in January and February 2012.*
- *Further predefined tables, statistical data and methodological notes, as well as the advance release calendar, are available in the "Statistics" section of the ECB's website under "Euro area investment fund statistics" (<http://www.ecb.europa.eu/stats/money/funds/html/index.en.html>) and "The balance sheets of monetary financial institutions" (<http://www.ecb.europa.eu/stats/money/aggregates/bsheets/html/index.en.html>).*

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Investment funds shares/units issued by euro area investment funds other than money market funds

(EUR billions and annual percentage changes; not seasonally adjusted; amounts outstanding at the end of the period, transactions during the period)

	JANUARY 2012			FEBRUARY 2012		
	Amount outstanding	Transactions	Annual percentage change ¹⁾	Amount outstanding	Transactions	Annual percentage change ¹⁾
Breakdown by investment policy²⁾						
Bond funds	2021	12	1.8	2060	8	1.6
Equity funds	1576	2	-1.4	1631	3	-1.5
Mixed funds	1432	0	0.2	1463	10	0.5
Real estate funds	300	0	8.8	301	1	9.0
Hedge funds	122	0	2.4	122	-1	1.0
Other funds	432	-1	-0.7	444	4	0.1
Breakdown by type of fund³⁾						
Open-end funds	5798	13	0.7	5935	25	0.7
Closed-end funds	85	0	0.0	86	1	1.1
Total	5884	13	0.7	6021	25	0.7

1) Annual percentage changes are calculated on the basis of transactions.

2) The breakdown by investment policy is generally based on the types of asset in which the investment funds primarily invest, usually on the basis of a stated strategy (e.g. if the fund primarily invests in shares and other equity it is allocated to the "equity funds" category). Funds investing in both equity and bonds, without any prevalent policy for either, are allocated to the "mixed funds" category. Hedge funds are classified in line with the statistical definition set out in Guideline ECB/2007/9. In particular, they cover funds with relatively unconstrained investment strategies and few restrictions on the types of financial asset in which they may invest. If a fund cannot be classified as an equity, bond, mixed, real estate or hedge fund, it is included in the residual "other funds" category.

3) The shares/units of open-end funds can be redeemed out of the fund's assets. Closed-end funds are funds with a fixed number of issued shares/units.