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PRESS RELEASE

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

In the first quarter of 2012, the total financial assets of euro area insurance corporations and pension funds increased to €7,222 billion, from €6,935 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 €6,267 billion, from €6,136 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				
	Q2	Q3	Q4		
Total financial assets	6,955	6,951	6,935	7,222	n.a.
Insurance technical reserves ²	5,975	6,113	6,136	6,267	71
net equity of households in life insurance reserves	3,303	3,289	3,295	3,341	18
net equity of households in pension fund reserves	1,841	1,995	2,017	2,078	29
prepayments of insurance premiums and reserves for outstanding claims	830	829	824	848	24

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-March 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 €18 billion in the first quarter of 2012. The **net equity of households in pension fund reserves** increased by €29 billion in the same quarter, while **prepayments of insurance premiums and reserves for outstanding claims** increased by €24 billion.

Regarding the contributions of the two sub-sectors, **insurance corporations' total financial assets** accounted for €5,675 billion in March 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 €1,547 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 Q2	2011 Q3	2011 Q4	2012 Q1
Total financial assets	6,955	6,951	6,935	7,222
Currency and deposits	777	793	787	797
<i>of which:</i> Deposits with euro area MFIs	736	753	747	755
<i>of which:</i> Deposits with non-euro area residents	39	38	38	40
Loans	463	459	467	468
To euro area residents	436	434	436	436
MFIs	6	7	7	7
General government	138	139	137	139
Other financial intermediaries	34	30	33	28
Insurance corporations and pension funds	94	93	94	94
Non-financial corporations	43	43	43	46
Households	120	122	122	122
To non-euro area residents	27	26	31	32
Securities other than shares	2,713	2,742	2,683	2,812
Issued by euro area residents	2,285	2,309	2,260	2,357
MFIs	627	635	615	648
General government	1,269	1,265	1,189	1,232
Other financial intermediaries	214	231	274	279
Insurance corporations and pension funds	16	18	20	21
Non-financial corporations	159	161	161	177
Issued by non-euro area residents	428	432	424	455
Shares and other equity	844	791	797	819
Quoted shares	374	322	332	347
<i>of which:</i> Issued by euro area MFIs	29	22	21	22
Unquoted shares	470	469	465	473
Investment fund shares/units	1,597	1,549	1,586	1,701
<i>of which:</i> Issued by euro area residents	1,493	1,446	1,478	1,589
Money market fund shares	77	85	87	88
<i>of which:</i> Issued by euro area MFIs	64	74	76	81
Prepayments of insurance premiums and reserves for outstanding claims ²⁾	265	265	260	266
<i>of which:</i> Euro area residents	233	232	228	232
Other accounts receivable/payable and financial derivatives	218	267	268	271
Non-financial assets	148	148	150	151
Total liabilities	6,915	7,028	7,044	7,220
Loans	271	279	274	283
Securities other than shares	43	42	42	45
Shares and other equity	451	405	405	439
Quoted shares	120	97	97	111
Unquoted shares	331	308	309	328
Insurance technical reserves	5,975	6,113	6,136	6,267
Net equity of households in life insurance reserves	3,303	3,289	3,295	3,341
Net equity of households in pension fund reserves	1,841	1,995	2,017	2,078
Prepayments of insurance premiums and reserves for outstanding claims ³⁾	830	829	824	848
Other accounts receivable/payable and financial derivatives	175	189	187	187
Net worth ⁴⁾	188	70	40	153

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	
	2011 Q4	2012 Q1	2011 Q4	2012 Q1
Total financial assets	5,459	5,675	1,476	1,547
Currency and deposits	589	597	198	200
Loans	404	408	63	60
Securities other than shares	2,348	2,460	336	352
Shares and other equity	663	675	134	144
Investment fund shares/units	965	1,036	621	665
Money market fund shares	81	82	6	6
Prepayments of insurance premiums and reserves for outstanding claims	229	234	31	31
Other accounts receivable/payable and financial derivatives	181	182	87	89
Non-financial assets	115	116	35	35
Total liabilities	5,516	5,640	1,528	1,580
Loans	249	253	25	30
Securities other than shares	42	45	0	0
Shares and other equity	400	432	5	6
Net equity of households in life insurance reserves	3,295	3,341	0	0
Net equity of households in pension fund reserves	565	575	1,452	1,502
Prepayments of insurance premiums and reserves for outstanding claims	822	846	2	2
Other accounts receivable/payable and financial derivatives	144	147	43	40
Net worth	57	151	-17	2

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)

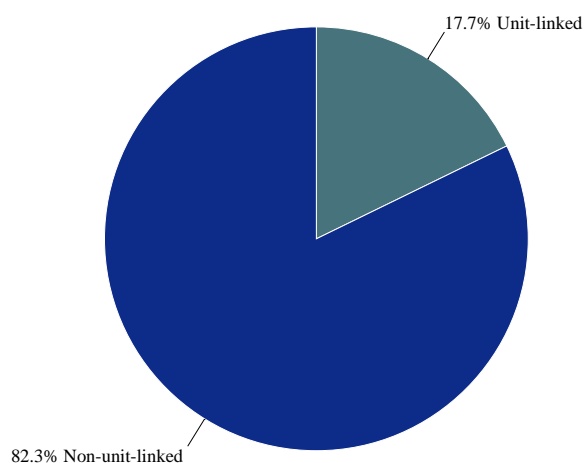


Chart 2: Net equity of households in pension fund reserves: breakdown by type of plan

(percentage of total; end-December 2011)

