



EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK

EUROSYSTEM

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PRESS RELEASE

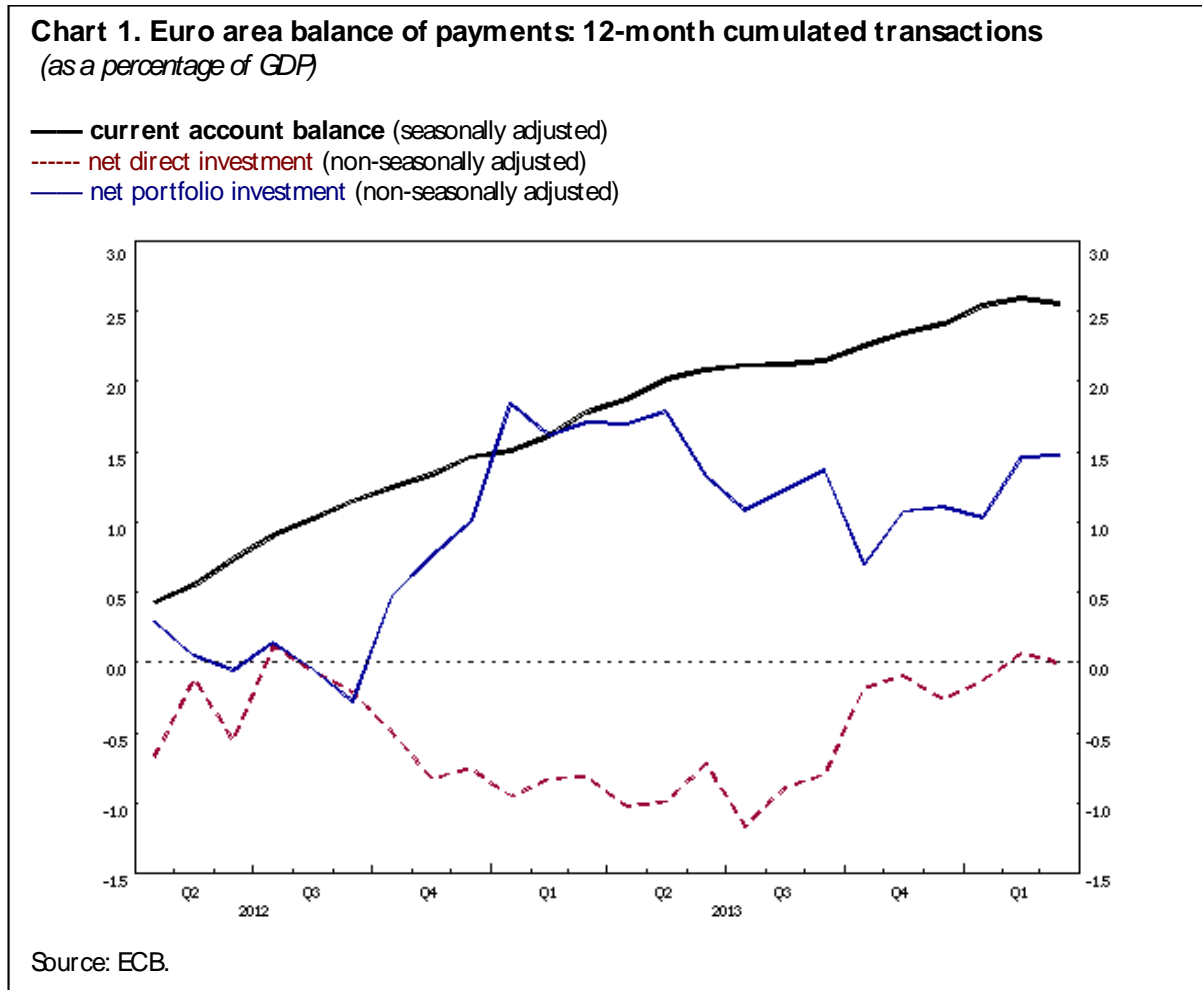
EURO AREA BALANCE OF PAYMENTS (March 2014)

In March 2014 the seasonally adjusted current account of the euro area recorded a surplus of €18.8 billion. In the financial account, combined direct and portfolio investment recorded net outflows of €30 billion (non-seasonally adjusted).

Current account

The seasonally adjusted *current account* of the euro area recorded a surplus of €18.8 billion in March 2014 (see Table 1). This reflected surpluses for goods (€13.8 billion), services (€8.5 billion) and *income* (€5.8 billion), which were partly offset by a deficit for *current transfers* (€9.3 billion).

The seasonally adjusted 12-month cumulated *current account* for the period ending in March 2014 recorded a surplus of €244 billion (2.5% of euro area GDP), compared with one of €169.4 billion (1.8% of euro area GDP) for the 12 months to March 2013 (see Table 1 and Chart 1). The increase in the *current account* surplus was due mainly to increases in the surpluses for goods (€174.3 billion, up from €116.3 billion) and, to a lesser extent, for services (€119.4 billion, up from €96.7 billion) and *income* (€68.6 billion, up from €65.6 billion). These surpluses were partly offset by an increase in the deficit for *current transfers* (from €109.2 to €118.3 billion).



Financial account

In the financial account (see Table 2), *combined direct and portfolio investment* recorded net outflows of €30 billion in March 2014 as a result of net outflows for *direct investment* (€22 billion) and *portfolio investment* (€8 billion).

The net outflows for direct investment were mainly a result of net outflows for *equity capital and reinvested earnings* (€15 billion), although net outflows for *other capital* (mostly *inter-company loans*) were also a factor (€7 billion).

The net outflows for portfolio investment were driven by net purchases of foreign securities by euro area residents (€14 billion), which were partly offset by net purchases of euro area securities by non-residents (€6 billion). Furthermore, the net outflows for *portfolio investment* resulted from net outflows for *bonds and notes* (€31 billion) and, to a much lesser extent, for *money market instruments* (€1 billion). These were partly offset by net inflows for *equity* (€25 billion).

The *financial derivatives* account recorded net outflows of €2 billion.

Other investment recorded net inflows of €7 billion, which mainly reflected net inflows for *other sectors* (€11 billion) and, to a lesser extent, for *MFIs (excluding the Eurosystem)* (€3 billion). These were partly offset by net outflows for the *Eurosystem* (€7 billion) and for *general government* (€1 billion).

The [Eurosystem's stock of reserve assets](#) decreased by €8 billion in March 2014 (from €579 billion to €570 billion), mainly on account of a decrease in the market price of gold.

Data revisions

In addition, this press release incorporates regular revisions for February 2014. These revisions have not significantly altered the figures previously published for the *current, capital and financial accounts*.

Additional information on the euro area balance of payments and international investment position

In this press release, the seasonally adjusted current account refers to working day and seasonally adjusted data. Data for the financial account are not working day or seasonally adjusted.

In line with the agreed allocation of responsibilities, the European Central Bank compiles and disseminates monthly and quarterly balance of payments statistics for the euro area, whereas the European Commission (Eurostat; see news releases for "Euro-indicators") focuses on quarterly and annual aggregates for the European Union. These data comply with international standards, particularly those set out in the IMF's Balance of Payments Manual (fifth edition). The aggregates for the euro area and the European Union are compiled consistently on the basis of transactions and positions vis-à-vis residents of countries outside the euro area and the European Union respectively.

A complete set of updated euro area balance of payments statistics (including a quarterly geographical breakdown for the main counterparts) and international investment position statistics as well as historical euro area balance of payments time series, can be downloaded from the [ECB's Statistical Data Warehouse \(SDW\)](#). Data up to March 2014 will also be published in the June 2014 issues of the ECB's Monthly Bulletin

and Statistics Pocket Book. Detailed [methodological notes](#) are available on the ECB's website. The [next press release](#) on the euro area monthly balance of payments will be published on 20 June 2014. The ECB will start publishing, at the end of 2014, the euro area balance of payments and international investment position statistics in accordance with its [Guideline ECB/2011/23](#), which adheres to the sixth edition of the IMF's Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual (BPM6). More detailed information is available on a dedicated [webpage](#).

Annexes

Table 1: Current account of the euro area

Table 2: Monthly balance of payments of the euro area

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Table 1: Current account of the euro area

(EUR billions unless otherwise indicated; transactions; working day and seasonally adjusted data)

	Cumulated figures for the 12-month period ending		2013									2014		
	Mar. 2013	Mar. 2014	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
CURRENT ACCOUNT	169.4	244.0	17.6	23.3	20.9	15.3	16.5	18.1	21.2	23.6	21.5	25.4	21.8	18.8
<i>Memo: as a percentage of GDP</i>	<i>1.8</i>	<i>2.5</i>												
Credit	3,238.5	3,261.9	272.4	271.4	273.2	266.7	269.4	272.3	271.5	274.4	273.2	273.2	273.5	270.6
Debit	3,069.1	3,018.0	254.8	248.2	252.3	251.4	253.0	254.3	250.3	250.7	251.7	247.8	251.7	251.8
Goods	116.3	174.3	16.1	16.9	12.4	10.3	13.9	13.4	14.8	16.5	14.9	15.7	15.5	13.8
Credit (exports)	1,933.9	1,948.0	163.2	162.6	160.5	157.0	161.4	161.7	162.8	164.9	164.0	164.3	164.6	160.9
Debit (imports)	1,817.6	1,773.7	147.1	145.7	148.1	146.7	147.5	148.3	148.0	148.3	149.2	148.6	149.1	147.1
Services	96.7	119.4	9.0	8.3	9.8	10.7	8.1	10.7	10.2	10.8	10.2	11.5	11.6	8.5
Credit (exports)	639.1	673.5	55.1	54.9	55.7	55.1	54.2	57.3	56.1	56.8	57.0	57.5	57.5	56.2
Debit (imports)	542.3	554.1	46.2	46.6	45.9	44.4	46.2	46.7	45.9	46.0	46.8	45.9	45.9	47.8
Income	65.6	68.6	2.8	8.4	9.3	4.9	4.7	3.8	5.1	5.3	6.5	7.3	4.8	5.8
Credit	565.4	540.6	46.1	46.1	48.6	46.1	45.7	44.9	44.4	44.6	43.6	42.9	43.0	44.6
Debit	499.8	472.0	43.3	37.8	39.3	41.1	41.0	41.2	39.2	39.3	37.0	35.7	38.2	38.8
Current transfers	-109.2	-118.3	-10.3	-10.4	-10.6	-10.6	-10.2	-9.8	-9.0	-9.0	-10.1	-9.1	-10.0	-9.3
Credit	100.1	99.8	7.9	7.8	8.4	8.5	8.0	8.3	8.2	8.1	8.7	8.5	8.4	8.8
Debit	209.4	218.1	18.2	18.2	19.0	19.1	18.3	18.1	17.1	17.1	18.8	17.6	18.4	18.1

Source: ECB.

Table 2: Monthly balance of payments of the euro area

(EUR billions; transactions; non-working day and non-seasonally adjusted data)

	Cumulated figures for the 12-month period ending						February 2014 (revised)			March 2014		
	March 2013			March 2014								
	Net	Credit	Debit	Net	Credit	Debit	Net	Credit	Debit	Net	Credit	Debit
CURRENT ACCOUNT	164.3	3,225.7	3,061.4	240.7	3,256.0	3,015.4	13.8	257.9	244.2	20.9	272.5	251.6
Goods	113.5	1,922.5	1,809.0	171.0	1,941.9	1,770.9	15.5	157.1	141.6	18.9	166.9	148.1
Services	96.8	637.8	541.0	119.2	672.5	553.3	9.0	49.7	40.7	7.2	53.3	46.2
Income	64.7	565.4	500.7	69.3	541.0	471.7	6.5	39.5	33.0	7.4	45.7	38.3
Current transfers	-110.7	100.1	210.8	-118.9	100.6	219.5	-17.3	11.6	28.9	-12.5	6.5	19.0
CAPITAL ACCOUNT	15.3	31.9	16.6	23.6	34.2	10.6	2.7	3.3	0.6	1.9	3.0	1.1
	Balance	Assets	Liabilities	Balance	Assets	Liabilities	Balance	Assets	Liabilities	Balance	Assets	Liabilities
FINANCIAL ACCOUNT¹⁾	-202.7			-265.2			-12.2			-24.6		
DIRECT INVESTMENT²⁾	-76.8	-363.2	286.4	-0.1	-250.3	250.2	30.8	46.5	-15.7	-22.2	0.1	-22.2
Equity capital and reinvested earnings	-28.9	-255.0	226.3	26.8	-205.6	232.9	32.7	50.8	-18.1	-15.3	7.3	-22.6
Other capital (mostly inter-company loans)	-48.3	-108.3	60.1	-27.4	-44.7	17.3	-1.9	-4.3	2.4	-6.8	-7.2	0.4
PORTFOLIO INVESTMENT	162.6	-179.7	342.3	141.7	-189.8	331.5	26.6	-14.6	41.2	-7.6	-13.6	6.0
Equity	80.9	-102.7	183.6	116.0	-108.3	224.3	13.4	4.1	9.3	24.7	-6.1	30.7
Debt instruments	81.7	-76.9	158.7	25.7	-81.5	107.2	13.2	-18.7	31.9	-32.2	-7.6	-24.7
Bonds and notes	15.9	-112.5	128.4	40.2	-70.2	110.4	42.4	-9.7	52.1	-30.8	-13.6	-17.2
Money market instruments	65.9	35.5	30.3	-14.5	-11.3	-3.2	-29.2	-9.0	-20.2	-1.4	6.0	-7.5
MEMO ITEM: COMBINED DIRECT AND PORTFOLIO INVESTMENT	85.8	-542.9	628.7	141.6	-440.1	581.7	57.4	31.9	25.5	-29.7	-13.5	-16.2
FINANCIAL DERIVATIVES (NET)	20.6			11.1			2.7			-1.5		
OTHER INVESTMENT	-296.4	72.6	-369.0	-411.8	-41.6	-370.1	-73.1	-47.3	-25.8	6.5	28.8	-22.3
Eurosystem	64.0	3.2	60.8	-60.0	19.6	-79.6	-13.4	-0.1	-13.3	-6.9	3.5	-10.4
General government	-12.6	-7.0	-5.6	-1.6	0.1	-1.7	-0.2	-1.5	1.2	-1.0	-1.0	0.0
of which: currency and deposits	0.4	0.4		-8.0	-8.0		-4.2	-4.2		-1.2	-1.2	
MFIs (excluding the Eurosystem)	-283.6	141.0	-424.6	-320.3	-76.8	-243.5	-48.1	-30.8	-17.3	2.9	20.5	-17.6
Long-term	-7.4	24.6	-32.1	37.0	113.9	-76.9	-1.1	3.6	-4.7	-11.5	-7.0	-4.4
Short-term	-276.2	116.3	-392.5	-357.3	-190.7	-166.6	-47.0	-34.4	-12.6	14.4	27.5	-13.1
Other sectors	-64.2	-64.6	0.4	-29.9	15.4	-45.3	-11.4	-14.9	3.5	11.4	5.9	5.5
of which: currency and deposits	-4.6	-4.6		-8.6	-8.6		-13.7	-13.7		-3.7	-3.7	
RESERVE ASSETS	-12.8	-12.8		-6.2	-6.2		0.8	0.8		0.1	0.1	
Errors and omissions	23.1			0.9			-4.3			1.9		

Source: ECB.

1) Financial account: inflows (+); outflows (-). Reserve assets: increase (-); decrease (+).

2) Direct investment: assets refer to direct investment abroad and liabilities to direct investment in the euro area.