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PRESS RELEASE

DATA SHOWS SLIGHT DECLINE IN NUMBER OF BANK BRANCHES IN MOST EU COUNTRIES

- There were about 200,000 branches of domestic credit institutions at the end of 2013, confirming a downward trend in most EU countries, new data shows.

The European Central Bank (ECB) is today publishing a comprehensive dataset of annual structural financial indicators for the banking sector in the European Union (EU). It comprises statistics on the number of branches and employees of EU credit institutions, as well as data on the degree of concentration of the banking sector in each EU Member State, and data on the share of foreign-controlled institutions in the national banking markets of the EU.

The structural indicators show, for instance, that, in most EU Member States, the downward trend in the number of branches and bank employees of domestic credit institutions observed in previous years has continued.¹ There were about 200,000 branches of domestic credit institutions in the EU at the end of 2013.

The data also indicate that the degree of concentration and the share of foreign-controlled institutions continue to vary significantly across national banking markets. The share of total assets of the five largest credit institutions ranged at national level from a minimum of 31% to a maximum of 94%. The indicators also show that in 2013 the total assets of foreign-controlled subsidiaries declined in most EU Member States.

¹ Information on the number of monetary financial institutions in the euro area can be found at <http://www.ecb.europa.eu/press/pr/date/2014/html/pr140121.en.html>

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The dataset is published here http://www.ecb.europa.eu/stats/pdf/140711_ssi_table.pdf

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