



EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK

EUROSYSTEM

# PRESS RELEASE

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## EU structural financial indicators: End of 2015

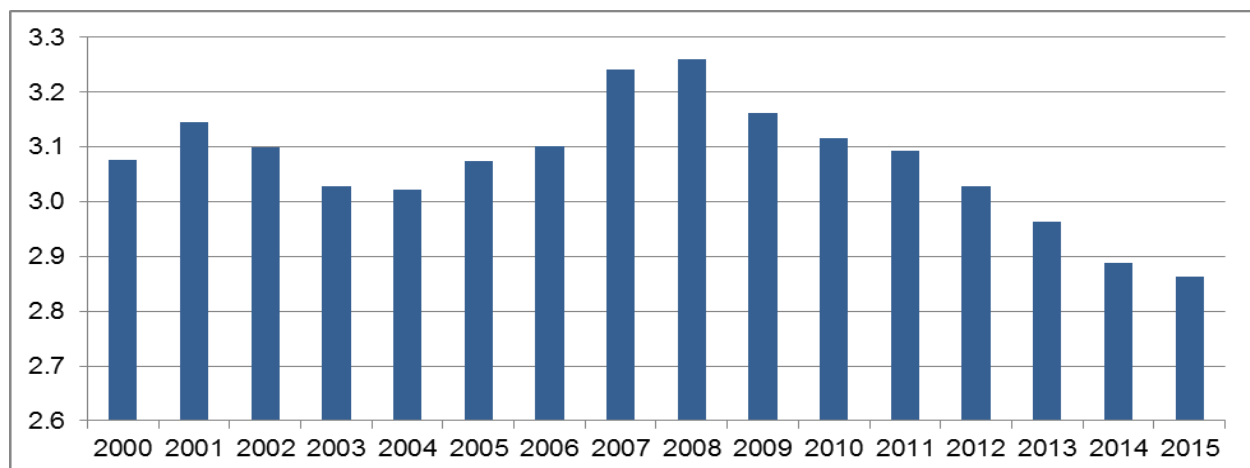
- Decline in number of bank branches continues in most EU countries
- Number of bank employees down by about 24,000 to around 2.86 million
- Share of assets of five largest institutions at national level varies from 31% to 95%

The European Central Bank (ECB) has published a comprehensive dataset of structural financial indicators for the banking sector in the European Union (EU). The yearly report comprises statistics on the number of branches and employees of EU credit institutions, 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 EU national banking markets.

The structural financial indicators show, for instance, that in most EU Member States the number of branches of domestic credit institutions has continued to decline. The number of employees of credit institutions in the EU has also fallen, to around 2.86 million in 2015, a decrease of some 24,000 compared with the figure for 2014. The number has been steadily decreasing since 2008.

### Number of bank employees

(millions)



European Central Bank Directorate General Communications

Global Media Relations Division, Sonnemannstrasse 20, 60314 Frankfurt am Main, Germany

Tel.: +49 69 1344 7455, e-mail: [media@ecb.europa.eu](mailto:media@ecb.europa.eu), website: [www.ecb.europa.eu](http://www.ecb.europa.eu)

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The data also indicate that the degree of concentration in the banking sector (measured by the share of assets held by the five largest banks) and the share of foreign-controlled institutions continue to vary significantly across national markets. The share of total assets of the five largest credit institutions, at national level, ranged from 31% to 95% at the end of 2015.

The structural financial indicators are published by the ECB on an annual basis.

**For media queries, please contact Stefan Ruhkamp, tel.: +49 69 1344 5057.**

**Notes:**

- Tables containing further breakdowns of structural financial indicator statistics are available on the [ECB's website](#).
- These statistical data as well as EU and euro area aggregates are available in the ECB's Statistical [Data Warehouse](#).