

Press release

26 May 2021

EU structural financial indicators: end of 2020

- [Number of bank branches](#) continued to decline in most EU Member States, by 8.62% on average
- [Number of bank employees](#) decreased by 1.55% on average
- [Degree of banking sector concentration](#) continues to differ widely across countries

The European Central Bank (ECB) has updated its dataset of structural financial indicators for the banking sector in the European Union (EU) for the end of 2020. This annual dataset 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 foreign-controlled institutions in EU national banking markets.

The structural financial indicators show a further decline in the number of bank branches in the EU, averaging 8.62% across Member States. Contractions were observed in 24 of the 27 countries, ranging from -2.28% to -30.66%. The total number of branches in the EU was 143,158 at the end of 2020, 82.8% located in the euro area.

In the course of 2020, the number of employees of credit institutions fell in 22 EU Member States, with an average drop of 1.55% across all countries. This decrease in the number of bank employees is a trend that has been observed in most countries since 2008.

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) continues to vary considerably between EU Member States. At the national level the share of total assets of the five largest credit institutions ranged from 31.60% to 97.03%, while the EU average was 67.25% at the end of 2020.

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

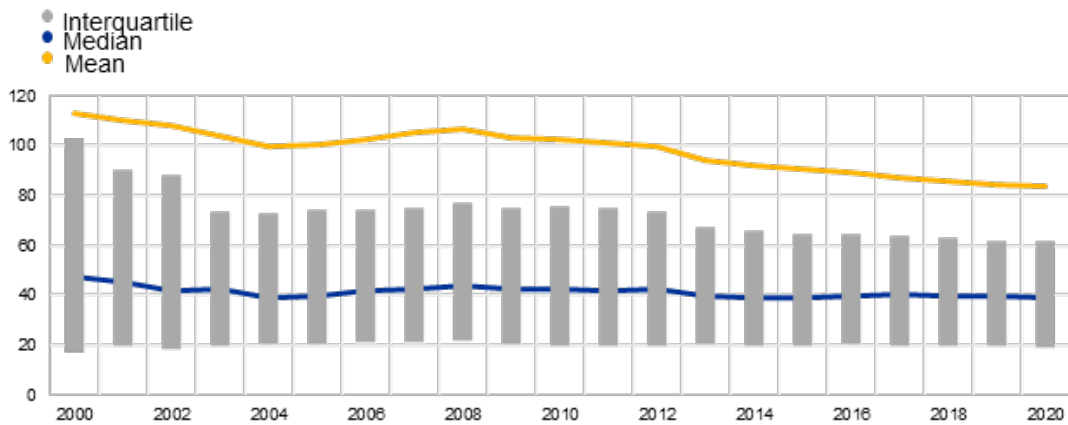
European Central Bank

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Chart 1

Number of employees of domestic credit institutions

Thousands

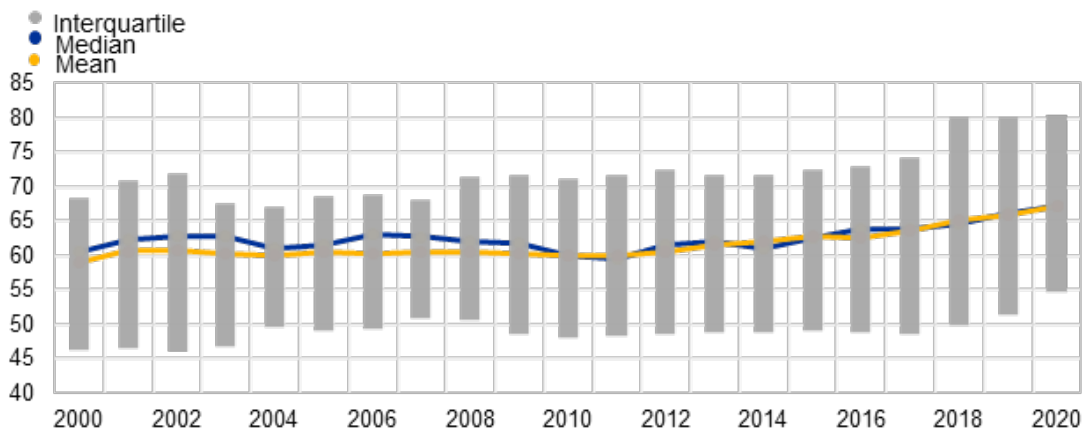


Notes: Interquartile ranges and medians are calculated across average country values. Data for EU27 countries are available.

Chart 2

Share of assets held by the five largest banks.

Percentages



Notes: Interquartile ranges and medians are calculated across average country values. Data for EU27 countries are available.

Annex

The United Kingdom has been reclassified as a non-EU country in the structural financial indicators as of 2020, following the country's withdrawal from the European Union on 31 January 2020. As a result,

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the business of UK credit institutions, insurance corporations and pension funds is no longer published and is also excluded from the compilation of EU aggregates and indicators.

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Notes

- **Tables** containing further breakdowns of structural financial indicator statistics are available on the [ECB's website](#).
- **Structural Financial Indicators data** are available in the [ECB Statistical Data Warehouse](#).
- Hyperlinks in the main body of the press release lead to data that may change with subsequent releases as a result of revisions.

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EU structural financial indicators ^{1), 2), 3)}

Table 1: Credit institutions: Number of local units (branches) and employees of domestic credit institutions

	Number of local units (branches)					Number of employees of domestic credit institutions				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Belgium	3,347	3,195	2,983	2,739	2,430	54,657	53,059	51,758	50,458	48,924
Bulgaria	2,936	3,060	3,142	3,420	3,536	30,352	30,070	29,991	28,238	27,364
Czech Republic	1,977	1,873	1,868	1,807	1,606	39,654	39,990	40,057	39,735	39,136
Denmark	995	1,007	958	934	886	41,123	42,240	41,737	41,432	41,267
Germany	31,974	30,072	27,834	26,620	24,100	619,621	597,319	584,688	572,662	575,508
Estonia	99	95	91	83	74	4,924	4,920	5,317	5,425	5,733
Ireland	1,048	916	891	876	856	26,811	26,891	27,940	27,692	26,257
Greece	2,331	2,168	1,981	1,834	1,702	42,647	41,707	39,383	36,727	33,097
Croatia	1,142	1,112	1,035	964	916	20,607	20,434	20,028	19,563	19,109
Spain	28,807	27,480	26,166	24,004	22,392	186,982	183,053	179,054	173,447	171,432
France	37,261	37,209	36,519	35,837	32,276	410,925	409,925	404,555	403,726	402,899
Italy	29,039	27,374	25,454	24,350	23,520	295,305	281,928	274,056	280,219	273,669
Cyprus	544	460	386	328	282	10,663	10,632	8,946	8,554	8,347
Latvia	261	249	218	137	95	8,803	8,492	7,345	6,915	6,209
Lithuania	506	480	406	359	367	8,643	8,922	9,165	10,334	10,650
Luxembourg	230	217	210	210	186	26,062	26,149	26,317	26,333	26,101
Hungary	2,691	2,418	2,235	1,956	1,877	38,751	38,885	39,434	39,659	38,609
Malta	105	102	98	94	81	4,755	4,924	5,046	5,175	5,069
Netherlands	1,674	1,619	1,489	1,260	942	82,836	75,215	72,199	70,000	74,779
Austria	3,934	3,765	3,631	3,513	3,109	72,957	71,927	71,798	71,479	70,226
Poland	13,647	13,855	12,645	12,273	10,429	173,043	168,800	166,011	160,878	153,896
Portugal	5,323	5,001	4,136	4,052	3,859	51,472	50,794	50,866	50,771	49,719
Romania	4,798	4,596	4,382	4,059	3,871	55,396	55,044	53,737	53,106	52,650
Slovenia	583	560	532	526	479	10,055	9,844	9,683	9,553	9,201
Slovakia	1,293	1,233	1,174	1,140	1,074	19,788	18,879	19,539	19,393	18,580
Finland	1,039	970	858	801	738	21,965	21,381	21,148	19,490	19,754
Sweden	1,734	1,979	1,463	1,450	1,475	41,732	41,271	42,886	44,620	46,794
United Kingdom	.	.	.	7,649	-	387,571	368,037	352,556	344,076	-
Euro area	149,398	143,165	135,057	128,763	118,562	1,959,871	1,905,961	1,868,803	1,848,353	1,836,154
EU	.	.	.	163,275	143,158	2,788,100	2,710,732	2,655,240	2,619,660	2,254,979

Table 2: Herfindahl index ⁴⁾ for credit institutions and share of total assets of five largest credit institutions (index ranging from 0 to 10,000 and share of the five largest credit institutions in percent)

	Herfindahl index for credit institutions (based on total assets)					Share of total assets of five largest credit institutions				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Belgium	1,017	1,102	1,218	1,246	1,299	66.2	68.8	73.4	74.0	75.3
Bulgaria	939	906	939	992	1,133	58.0	56.5	59.7	62.5	67.1
Czech Republic	1,016	1,039	1,070	1,082	1,109	63.9	63.7	64.5	64.8	65.3
Denmark	1,224	1,123	1,069	1,170	1,250	68.3	65.7	64.5	66.2	67.1
Germany	277	250	245	277	325	31.4	29.7	29.1	31.2	34.0
Estonia	2,406	2,419	2,698	2,545	2,578	88.0	90.3	91.0	93.0	93.7
Ireland	636	658	632	665	811	44.3	45.5	46.1	49.7	55.7
Greece	2,332	2,307	2,304	2,382	2,320	97.3	97.0	96.8	97.4	97.0
Croatia	1,405	1,387	1,554	1,564	1,582	73.0	72.8	79.4	79.8	80.5
Spain	937	965	1,138	1,110	1,081	61.8	63.7	68.5	67.4	66.4
France	572	574	663	654	688	46.0	45.4	47.7	48.7	49.2
Italy	452	519	579	643	675	43.0	43.4	45.6	47.9	49.3
Cyprus	1,366	1,962	2,379	2,276	2,285	65.8	84.2	86.9	85.7	86.5
Latvia	1,082	1,237	1,583	1,596	1,912	66.6	73.6	80.9	83.2	87.8
Lithuania	1,938	2,189	2,278	2,289	2,408	87.1	90.1	90.9	90.4	91.8
Luxembourg	260	256	261	277	315	27.6	26.2	26.3	27.7	31.6
Hungary	787	802	801	921	1,224	49.8	49.6	50.0	52.7	50.1
Malta	1,602	1,599	1,518	1,548	1,620	80.3	80.9	77.5	75.1	74.8
Netherlands	2,097	2,087	2,178	2,039	2,001	84.7	83.8	84.7	84.7	84.3
Austria	358	374	369	369	407	34.5	36.1	36.0	36.0	38.5
Poland	659	645	683	688	753	47.7	47.5	49.5	49.8	54.3
Portugal	1,181	1,220	1,203	1,225	1,239	71.2	73.1	73.0	73.3	73.6
Romania	903	915	962	971	997	59.1	59.5	61.6	62.6	62.4
Slovenia	1,147	1,133	1,020	1,008	1,189	61.0	61.5	60.8	60.9	67.3
Slovakia	1,264	1,332	1,383	1,404	1,430	72.7	74.5	75.6	75.7	76.8
Finland	2,300	1,700	2,570	2,420	2,250	80.5	73.5	81.6	80.4	80.1
Sweden	845	914	785	786	791	56.3	58.2	54.3	54.8	55.1
United Kingdom	422	453	353	349	-	35.5	36.9	31.8	31.2	-

NOTES TO TABLES

- 1) The data in these tables represent amounts recorded at the end of period, with the exception of the number of employees of credit institutions in Table 1 in which the average number in the period is in question.
- 2) These data as well as EU and euro area aggregates are available in the Statistical Data Warehouse (<http://sdw.ecb.europa.eu/browseSelection.do?type=series&node=SEARCHRESULTS&q=SSI?DATASET=0&DATASET=1>).
- 3) Following the country's withdrawal from the European Union on 31/01/2020, the business of UK credit institutions is no longer published and is excluded from the EU aggregates.
- 4) The Herfindahl index (HI) refers to the concentration of banking business (based on total assets). The HI is obtained by summing the squares of the market shares of all the credit institutions in the banking sector. The exact formula according to which data must be transmitted to the ECB is reported in the ECB Guideline on monetary and financial statistics (recast), (ECB/2014/15).

EU structural financial indicators

Table 3: Number of branches of credit institutions from EU and non-EU countries ³⁾

	Number of branches of credit institutions from EU countries					Number of branches of credit institutions from non-EU countries				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Belgium	32	29	30	32	30	25	24	24	21	20
Bulgaria	2	2	3	3	4	3	3	2	2	2
Czech Republic	22	21	22	23	23	0	1	1	2	2
Denmark	20	21	21	19	17	4	4	3	3	3
Germany	81	86	92	87	55	21	20	20	20	47
Estonia	6	6	7	6	4	1	1	1	1	1
Ireland	30	33	35	31	29	2	2	2	2	2
Greece	16	17	18	17	19	4	4	4	3	2
Croatia	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Spain	77	77	76	78	72	5	4	3	3	5
France	67	65	62	64	65	22	20	21	20	19
Italy	63	48	50	53	54	20	20	29	26	24
Cyprus	8	7	5	5	5	15	15	15	13	13
Latvia	7	5	5	5	3	0	0	0	0	0
Lithuania	8	7	9	8	8	0	0	0	0	0
Luxembourg	30	31	31	27	25	12	12	14	13	13
Hungary	9	8	8	7	7	1	1	1	1	1
Malta	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Netherlands	39	39	38	40	37	3	3	3	3	3
Austria	27	25	24	21	23	1	1	1	1	1
Poland	21	23	31	34	35	0	0	0	0	2
Portugal	18	19	20	31	30	1	1	0	0	0
Romania	8	7	7	7	8	0	0	0	0	0
Slovenia	3	3	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
Slovakia	15	15	15	15	15	0	0	0	0	0
Finland	26	26	25	21	24	2	2	2	2	2
Sweden	25	28	32	34	29	6	5	5	4	6
United Kingdom	64	65	63	58	-	90	94	95	94	-
Euro area	554	539	545	545	502	136	131	141	130	154
EU	726	715	733	731	626	240	239	248	236	170

Table 4: Total assets of branches of credit institutions from EU and non-EU countries ^{3), 5)}
(EUR millions)

	Total assets of branches of credit institutions from EU countries					Total assets of branches of credit institutions from non-EU countries				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Belgium	140,248	62,877	47,815	48,710	47,129	115,027	107,283	93,317	91,563	95,075
Bulgaria	.	.	1,157	1,326	1,378	477	500	.	.	.
Czech Republic	21,315	27,975	26,866	26,485	26,442	0	.	.	.	.
Denmark	32,911	98,157	99,051	99,208	99,406	5,601	5,731	5,295	5,431	5,868
Germany	309,763	325,278	287,495	276,519	218,574	77,067	80,145	106,963	88,460	199,375
Estonia	6,382	2,654	2,238	1,071	1,023	.	.	.	.	.
Ireland	89,017	79,353	78,960	88,829	92,563	.	.	.	.	.
Greece	5,499	4,920	4,932	3,080	3,637	407	392	309	339	.
Croatia	.	.	.	.	.	0	0	0	0	0
Spain	105,947	108,123	110,616	118,160	136,709	4,645	6,216	3,150	3,617	7,045
France	130,338	144,829	172,035	147,601	160,501	53,157	52,440	63,149	72,160	87,089
Italy	232,669	207,947	218,945	218,951	218,242	12,857	17,741	31,540	26,520	29,253
Cyprus	540	491	550	630	632	3,571	2,801	2,598	2,368	1,492
Latvia	4,040	1,171	1,278	5,313	4,149	.	0	0	0	0
Lithuania	4,386	2,136	1,772	8,973	10,274	0	0	0	0	0
Luxembourg	124,149	158,811	179,751	185,678	197,074	68,703	65,114	73,888	79,583	94,636
Hungary	6,303	5,318	5,679	5,316	5,694	.	.	.	.	.
Malta	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Netherlands	110,728	124,970	97,615	88,856	99,131	1,579	1,602	2,070	1,088	1,210
Austria	15,383	20,566	20,807	21,032	21,827	.	.	.	.	.
Poland	8,066	9,861	15,561	16,359	17,464	0	0	0	0	.
Portugal	19,339	19,205	25,669	27,732	27,399	.	.	0	0	0
Romania	9,554	10,256	11,008	12,740	2,987	0	0	0	0	0
Slovenia	1,490	1,318	.	.	.	0	0	0	0	0
Slovakia	10,617	10,640	10,463	10,702	12,015	0	0	0	0	0
Finland	41,274	145,083	68,202	69,300	84,873	.	.	.	.	.
Sweden	121,644	122,133	214,057	195,523	209,457	8,786	7,774	7,933	9,132	12,558
United Kingdom	993,710	1,009,870	875,360	882,406	-	2,129,819	1,998,104	2,070,500	2,215,366	-
Euro area	1,352,743	1,421,114	1,331,249	1,323,321	1,338,097	388,906	395,864	437,154	440,255	585,277
EU	2,547,151	2,705,678	2,580,347	2,563,068	1,701,332	2,538,003	2,414,639	2,527,688	2,676,542	610,318

NOTE TO TABLES

- 3) Following the country's withdrawal from the European Union on 31/01/2020, the business of UK credit institutions is no longer published and is excluded from the EU aggregates.
5) Where the number of institutions is less than three, the underlying data are not disclosed for confidentiality reasons.

EU structural financial indicators

Table 5: Number of subsidiaries of credit institutions from EU and non-EU countries ³⁾

	Number of subsidiaries of credit institutions from EU countries					Number of subsidiaries of credit institutions from non-EU countries				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Belgium	12	12	11	9	8	7	7	7	5	5
Bulgaria	11	11	10	9	8	2	2	3	3	3
Czech Republic	16	16	16	16	16	1	1	1	1	1
Denmark	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Germany	19	17	17	17	13	16	17	17	16	19
Estonia	2	2	2	2	2	3	1	0	0	0
Ireland	7	6	6	6	6	9	9	9	10	10
Greece	3	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Croatia	12	11	8	8	10	2	2	1	1	1
Spain	11	12	12	11	10	7	7	7	6	7
France	48	46	43	42	39	44	40	38	37	35
Italy	18	17	19	18	17	4	2	2	2	2
Cyprus	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	1	1
Latvia	2	3	3	2	2	1	0	0	0	0
Lithuania	3	4	4	2	2	1	0	0	0	0
Luxembourg	51	49	43	35	33	42	40	39	41	41
Hungary	12	11	11	10	10	2	2	2	2	2
Malta	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	3
Netherlands	3	2	2	2	0	8	8	8	8	11
Austria	17	16	15	15	13	19	18	18	13	13
Poland	17	17	15	13	12	5	4	4	4	4
Portugal	7	6	5	7	8	2	2	2	2	2
Romania	16	16	13	14	12	1	1	1	0	0
Slovenia	7	6	6	6	6	0	0	0	0	0
Slovakia	11	10	10	10	10	0	0	0	0	0
Finland	4	4	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
Sweden	7	7	9	9	9	0	0	0	0	0
United Kingdom	14	14	16	17	-	76	76	74	70	-
Euro area	230	219	207	193	175	167	155	151	143	149
EU	337	323	306	290	253	256	243	237	224	160

Table 6: Total assets of subsidiaries of credit institutions from EU and non-EU countries ^{3), 5)}
(EUR millions)

	Total assets of subsidiaries of credit institutions from EU countries					Total assets of subsidiaries of credit institutions from non-EU countries				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Belgium	379,814	375,883	385,428	406,342	435,744	59,478	60,374	58,008	37,883	42,299
Bulgaria	37,075	38,860	41,115	44,266	47,590	.	.	1,696	1,860	1,909
Czech Republic	184,995	218,027	234,451	243,768	251,475	.	.	.	.	.
Denmark	.	.	.	.	.	0	0	0	0	0
Germany	612,022	611,563	598,145	654,385	679,709	88,322	87,685	107,758	156,579	298,358
Estonia	.	.	.	.	.	1,318	.	0	0	0
Ireland	92,242	83,981	82,359	139,850	202,786	79,403	73,422	118,703	124,739	135,675
Greece	465	.	.	.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Croatia	46,191	46,434	48,583	50,213	56,279	.	.	.	.	.
Spain	41,209	43,142	46,837	51,925	53,008	4,599	4,671	9,410	6,070	8,402
France	374,166	361,533	418,734	442,532	422,800	54,162	48,927	53,682	55,041	57,219
Italy	244,179	241,512	271,439	273,400	298,829	13,455	.	.	.	.
Cyprus	9,702	10,090	10,020	10,432	10,409	.	.	.	.	.
Latvia	.	14,000	14,476	.	.	.	0	0	0	0
Lithuania	15,574	23,245	24,749	.	.	.	0	0	0	0
Luxembourg	378,483	323,663	303,004	295,499	270,730	137,359	140,832	152,541	194,190	218,961
Hungary	42,809	44,132	46,536	50,285	56,643	.	.	.	.	.
Malta	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	7,875
Netherlands	21,076	.	.	.	0	41,547	40,845	50,328	40,583	71,392
Austria	131,580	125,435	122,188	125,336	142,507	75,522	66,889	66,036	21,288	19,591
Poland	169,824	169,013	181,472	186,953	199,147	18,747	16,977	18,238	18,879	21,190
Portugal	74,191	72,014	69,672	110,936	120,045	.	.	.	.	.
Romania	54,412	56,882	54,648	57,019	12,184	.	.	.	0	0
Slovenia	13,283	13,038	13,290	13,802	14,581	0	0	0	0	0
Slovakia	61,614	64,475	68,748	73,248	78,859	0	0	0	0	0
Finland	269,455	58,081	.	.	.	0	0	0	0	0
Sweden	8,498	8,180	74,844	78,045	85,204	0	0	0	0	0
United Kingdom	421,780	463,038	471,965	505,773	-	900,097	904,127	1,030,661	863,002	-
Euro area	2,749,825	2,459,893	2,473,126	2,679,693	2,794,635	566,315	534,584	627,401	645,538	865,771
EU	3,842,565	3,563,670	3,686,477	3,959,436	3,566,193	1,488,072	1,458,699	1,680,818	1,531,919	891,394

NOTE TO TABLES

- 3) Following the country's withdrawal from the European Union on 31/01/2020, the business of UK credit institutions is no longer published and is excluded from the EU aggregates.
5) Where the number of institutions is less than three, the underlying data are not disclosed for confidentiality reasons.

EU structural financial indicators

Table 7: Total assets under management by insurance corporations and by pensions funds ³⁾
(EUR millions)

	Total assets under management by insurance corporations					Total assets under management by pensions funds				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Belgium	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Bulgaria	3,242	3,580	3,732	4,132	4,494	5,534	6,515	6,884	8,045	8,900
Czech Republic	19,759	20,684	20,989	19,812	19,081	14,874	16,919	18,338	19,779	20,491
Denmark	310,036	322,980	330,635	373,446	395,710	232,891	216,868	218,691	247,608	266,668
Germany	1,567,147	1,631,101	1,674,076	1,767,362	1,726,512	2,451	2,697	2,921	3,171	3,457
Estonia	1,097	1,167	1,269	1,355	1,362	3,096	3,640	3,940	4,755	5,302
Ireland	270,354	283,036	281,498	324,359	340,859	119,970	122,446	117,987	137,020	143,458
Greece	15,942	16,894	17,042	18,877	19,966	1,117	1,242	1,270	1,465	1,648
Croatia	4,729	4,861	4,973	5,341	5,464	11,826	13,047	13,979	16,100	16,773
Spain	330,452	336,934	341,021	375,795	375,695	133,163	137,032	136,932	144,957	151,778
France	2,686,535	2,781,130	2,765,271	2,980,775	3,040,815	0	0	0	0	0
Italy	811,190	849,344	865,144	932,229	1,023,580	87,414	85,199	90,095	109,516	113,096
Cyprus	3,791	3,989	3,885	4,092	4,083	2,838	2,925	3,180	3,955	3,917
Latvia	441	481	566	587	756	397	454	461	555	610
Lithuania	1,737	1,885	2,039	2,318	2,576	2,576	3,014	3,274	4,030	4,675
Luxembourg	186,083	191,168	196,329	231,349	228,137	1,945	2,026	2,078	2,425	2,449
Hungary	8,420	8,797	8,775	9,307	9,335	5,226	5,767	5,611	5,939	5,799
Malta	3,814	3,832	3,342	3,707	3,771	0	0	0	0	0
Netherlands	486,557	468,452	461,498	515,418	551,331	1,378,415	1,453,454	1,457,032	1,742,202	1,924,380
Austria	131,243	129,018	124,579	128,668	130,686	20,882	22,234	21,494	24,341	23,515
Poland	36,896	40,357	39,306	39,314	40,337	35,614	42,680	37,432	36,589	34,710
Portugal	55,728	56,601	56,525	59,797	57,350	17,171	18,453	18,447	20,896	21,894
Romania	4,676	5,095	4,712	5,242	1,413	7,359	9,098	10,840	13,809	3,313
Slovenia	8,099	8,390	7,855	7,813	8,154	1,696	1,804	1,903	2,059	2,206
Slovakia	6,726	6,858	6,823	7,388	7,603	8,700	9,550	10,350	11,629	13,138
Finland	75,493	78,466	75,421	81,719	84,504	4,267	3,938	4,117	3,922	3,828
Sweden	441,060	468,042	436,299	494,411	529,042	40,386	41,191	38,506	38,719	40,030
United Kingdom	2,165,491	2,190,970	2,139,437	2,289,488	-	2,469,805	2,500,828	2,442,007	2,613,278	-
Euro area	6,956,298	7,160,863	7,199,192	7,802,155	7,980,606	1,815,231	1,904,323	1,909,466	2,256,832	2,462,620
EU	9,950,607	10,226,229	10,188,051	11,042,648	8,985,483	4,638,747	4,757,237	4,701,754	5,256,697	2,859,303

NOTE TO TABLES

3) Following the country's withdrawal from the European Union on 31/01/2020, the business of UK insurance corporations and pension funds is no longer published and is excluded from the EU aggregates.