

General Directorate Strategy, People and Data

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Foreign Portfolio Investment microdata (ICE)

BELab user guide

Statistics Department

Data available: 2013 - 2025

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1 Introduction

BELab provides the following foreign portfolio investment (FPI) data:

- FPI assets, which are Spanish residents' holdings of marketable securities (listed shares, investment fund shares or units and debt securities)¹ issued by non-residents.
- FPI liabilities, which are non-residents' holdings of marketable securities issued by residents in Spain.

In the case of listed shares, the foreign portfolio investment data do not include investments where the owner holds 10% or more of a firm's equity.

2 Description of the dataset

The characteristics of the available dataset are set out below.

Identification codes	Tax identification number (NIF) (anonymised)
Time horizon	Since 2013 Q2 for FPI assets (Spanish residents' holdings of securities issued by non-residents) and since 2019 Q1 for FPI liabilities (non-residents' holdings of securities issued by Spanish residents). The opening balance is included in both cases (March 2013 for assets and December 2018 for liabilities).
Frequency	Quarterly
Frequency of data delivery to BELab	Annual (September)
Type of information	The dataset includes positions or stocks and the flows reflecting their change, transactions and revaluations due to exchange rate changes and due to prices changes
Updating procedure	The last 14 quarters are reviewed (based on the balance as at the end of the 15th quarter)
Geographical area covered	FPI assets: holders resident in Spain and issuers resident in all countries except Spain FPI liabilities: holders resident in all countries except Spain and issuers resident in Spain
Format of the information	In csv format
Universe	FPI covers the population of Spanish resident holders of marketable securities issued by non-residents and Spanish resident issuers whose securities are held by non-residents

¹ Debt securities include treasury bills, bonds and other marketable securities other than equity securities.

3 Citation of the information

For any paper or other document that is published and contains information derived from the data provided, the researcher must correctly cite the data source as:

“BELab. Banco de España. Foreign portfolio investment data (ICE), DOI: 10.48719/BELab.ICE1325_01”

4 Description of the variables

The variables into which the information is broken down are described below. The possible values for each variable are included in the attached Excel.

Nomenclature	Code	Description
Holder or issuer identifier	nif	<p>A numerical identifier associated with the security holder (FPI assets) or issuer (FPI liabilities), resulting from anonymising the unique identification code of each holder or issuer.</p> <p>All natural persons are grouped under a single NIF (which, in turn, is allocated a dummy code). Due to insufficient information, there are some entries where the NIF is unknown. However, these entries account for amounts of no more than 0.95% of FPI assets and 0.1% of FPI liabilities.</p>
FPI Assets / Liabilities	assets_liabilities	Financial assets vis-à-vis the external sector or liabilities vis-à-vis the external sector.
Maturity	maturity	The original maturity of the different instruments (“N/A” in the case of equity) and also the residual maturity in the case of debt securities.
Financial instrument	codinstrum	Financial instrument
Currency	currency	Currency of denomination
Non-resident issuer country	country	Country of residence of the FPI asset issuer. When the issuer is an international organisation, the country code is not the country in which it is located but a specific code for this kind of issuers
Resident Sector	sector_r	Institutional sector of the resident issuer (FPI liabilities) or holder (FPI assets)
Non-Resident Sector	sector_nr	Institutional sector of the non-resident issuer (FPI assets)

Type of operation	amount_type	Distinguishes between stocks or positions, transactions, revaluation due to price changes and revaluation due to exchange rate changes
Date	fc_date	Reporting reference date
Amount	hc_amount	Amount in thousands of euros

Two clarifications should be made regarding the sector variable. Firstly, some entries may have a NIF associated with different issuer or holder sectors for the same period due to minor sectoral classification errors (negligible amounts). Secondly, the same NIF can change sectors over the course of the time series. This may sometimes be due to an actual sector change of the unit in question. However, it could also result from the late identification of the correct sector to which the unit belongs, particularly for units in other financial sectors and non-financial corporations.