

NOTES TO THE TABLES OF CHAPTER 10

INSURANCE CORPORATIONS AND PENSION FUNDS

Introduction

According to the provisions of the ESA 95, insurance corporations and pension funds form a sub-sector within the sector financial institutions. The inclusion of these entities within the sector financial institutions is basically due to the fact that their principal activity, the coverage of risks, involves significant intermediation of financial resources from some sectors to others. In recent years, the activity of this sub-sector has been growing significantly. This can be attributed not only to the increase in the desire of the population to cover the different types of risk that these entities offer but also to the growing use of a certain range of products as vehicles for saving.

The following sections of this note describe the various groups of agents that make up this sub-sector (section 2), the sources of information used and availability of the data (section 3); and the specific information contained in the various tables that make up this chapter (section 4).

The agents who make up the sub-sector

This sub-sector comprises four different groups of agents: private insurance corporations, mutualidades de previsión social (non-profit insurance entities), the Consorcio de Compensación de Seguros (insurance compensation consortium) and pension funds, all of which come under the supervision of the Directorate General of Insurance and Pension Funds (DGSFP).

- **Private insurance corporations** include the activity of public limited companies whose capital may be entirely Spanish, entirely foreign or a mixture of the two, private mutual insurance associations, the offices in Spain of foreign insurance corporations and reinsurance corporations resident in Spain (1).
- **Mutualidades de previsión social** are private beneficent entities generally set up by particular groups as a form of corporate support (they provide small benefits in the event of death, birth, etc. and grant small loans). They are independent of the body they originate from (companies, associations, etc.) and their purpose is to supplement social security pensions. Their main resources are the direct contributions of the members or other persons or patron entities. Membership of these entities may be voluntary or compulsory (for persons belonging to certain professional associations, groups or companies). This group includes cajas de pensiones sustitutorias (substitute pension funds), which existed until 1984 in the Spanish insurance system. These funds were created by particular groups in order to act as substitutes for the Social Security System. Additional provision five of the 1984 budget law required the groups covered by these funds (both retired and active employees) to be transferred to the Social Security System, so that the role of these entities then became one of supplementing social security, a status that they still have today.
- **The Consorcio de Compensación de Seguros (CCS)** is a public law entity with its own legal personality. Its object is to cover extraordinary risks to persons and property. It is basically financed by surcharges on the premiums paid by policyholders of all types of insurance, by State grants and loans and by direct premiums. In addition, it acts as the State's agent in dealings with the Spanish export credit company (CESCE), the public-sector private insurance corporation of which manages, on behalf of the State, the cover of political risks and certain commercial risks to Spanish exports. This latter activity of the CCS is not included in the series, since it is attributed directly to the State.
- **Pension funds** are funds created pursuant to Law 8/1987 of 8 June 1987. They are portfolios of assets separate and independent from the entities that promote them, but without separate legal status. They are made up of funds earmarked for the purposes laid down in the corresponding pension scheme. Their management is entrusted to a managing entity and a custodian, under the supervision of a control committee. These funds are usually known as "autonomous" or "external pension funds" in contrast to "non-autonomous" or "internal pension funds", which are those created by certain credit institutions and non-financial corporations by means of transfers of funds to provisions or internal reserves. Internal funds appear on the balance sheet of the sector or sub-sectors that have created them (other financial institutions and non-financial corporations) and represent a liability to the workers (households) with interests in them. Normally, the balance sheet does not show any separate assets to cover the aforementioned pension rights.

Sources and availability of information

- **Private insurance corporations** The main source of data is the annual balance sheets and other supplementary information that insurance corporations send to the DGSFP, which is published annually in its reports. Annual aggregate data for this group are available from 1962, and relate to three different accounting plans (1962-1982, 1983-

1997 and 1998 onwards). As a result, the compilation of time series has required the Banco de España to chain the different series. This has been done by adapting the information of the two plans prior to 1998, without any breaks arising that are worthy of mention. First, the differences attributable to the different coverage in different years, indicated in footnote 1, were small at the time the chaining was carried out and, second, the other differences due to the change in the accounting plan were, likewise, minor. Also, for a sample of entities whose insurance technical provisions account for approximately 98% of the total, quarterly information is available from 1986, although with certain limitations. Specifically, this quarterly information does not include data on reinsurance entities and data are not available for the quarters of 1990 and for the first three quarters of 1998, so that in the time series these quarters are shown as unavailable.

- **Mutualidades de previsión social** Information is available from 1970, with differing content, and is obtained from the following sources:

For the period 1970-1984 the data come from the individual balance sheets of the entities themselves and from the incomplete and heterogeneous information of the Labour and Social Security Ministry (to which they reported until 1984) and the Economy Ministry. The Banco de España has estimated the series on the basis of these data.

For the period 1985-1997, inclusive, data are available from the annual statistical reports of the DGSFP, which include information relating to the mutualidades with a national scope, which are supervised by this Directorate General, and the information on entities under the supervision of the regional governments, following the transfer of responsibilities in this area.

For 1998 the series only include the data of the mutualidades de previsión social with a national scope, obtained from the quarterly reports of the DGSFP, and of the Catalan and Basque regions' mutualidades for which information is supplied directly by these two regional governments.

Since 1999 the series are Banco de España estimates based on the reports of the Spanish Confederation of Mutualidades. These estimates will be replaced by official data as and when they become available.

- **Consortio de Compensación de Seguros** The data available for the period 1970-1982 are incomplete and from various sources, primarily the three bodies which in 1982 were merged to form the current CCS: the CCS itself, the Fondo Nacional de Garantía (National Guarantee Fund) and compulsory travel insurance. The Banco de España has estimated the relevant time series using this information. From 1983 the data are from the annual reports of the CCS itself.
- **External pension funds** Data are available from when these funds began to be created in 1988. The source is the annual statistical reports published by the DGSFP.

The information contained in the tables of the chapter

The tables include, in the form of time series, the accounting/administrative information obtained from the DGSFP, the regional governments that supply data and the CCS. The purpose of Table 10.1 is to give an overall view of the relative importance of each of the four groups of entities that make up the sub-sector based on the aggregate balance sheet and the most important item therein: the technical provisions and own funds, in the case of pension funds. Thereafter, Tables 10.2 to 10.6 provide certain details of the assets and liabilities of the aggregated balance sheet of the sub-sector (Table 10.2) and of each of the groups of agents of which it is composed (Tables 10.3 to 10.6). The structure of all these tables is identical so that some minor adaptations have had to be made to the format of the balance sheet which each group of agents sends to the DGSFP.

Footnotes

- Until 1997 (inclusive), the annual series presented include the activity in Spain of corporations resident in Spain (i.e., both those of Spanish nationality and the branches of foreign entities). Since then, information on the insurance business in Spain of branches that have their head office in other EU countries is not included, since the current legal framework makes no provision for these branches to submit information. As for the quarterly series, from 1996 Q1 these include the activity both in Spain and abroad of entities of Spanish nationality. In addition, from 1998, as in the case of the annual series and for the same reason, these series do not include the activity in Spain of the branches of entities that have their head office in other EU countries.