

Zurich, April 2011

Statistics
serviceBOP@snb.ch

Notes on the current account survey for insurance corporations

I. General remarks

Purpose of survey

This survey is used for drawing up the current account, which covers the trade in goods and services, labour and investment income, as well as transfers between Switzerland or the Principality of Liechtenstein and other countries.

Legal basis

According to the Federal Act on the Swiss National Bank of 3 October 2003 (National Bank Act), the Ordinance on the National Bank Act of 18 March 2004 (National Bank Ordinance), and the annexes to the currency treaty between the Swiss Confederation and the Principality of Liechtenstein of 3 November 1998, the Swiss National Bank is authorised to collect the statistical data required for drawing up the balance of payments and the statistics on the international investment position.

Reporting institutions

Pursuant to the Appendix to the National Bank Ordinance, legal entities and companies are obliged to supply information if the transaction value of a reporting item (cf. description of categories) exceeds CHF 100,000 in the period under review.

Reporting period

Data reporting covers one calendar quarter or one calendar year. Data for the second, third or fourth quarter must not be combined with data for the preceding quarters. Receipts and expenses must be reported on an accrual basis.

Submission deadline

Quarterly survey: One month after the end of the reporting quarter (e.g. for first quarter of 2012 -> submission deadline, 30 April 2012).

Annual survey: Three months after the end of the reporting year (e.g. for 2012 -> submission deadline, 31 March 2013).

Confidentiality and data protection

The Swiss National Bank will treat the data collected as confidential. Confidentiality and data protection are governed by the National Bank Act and the National Bank Ordinance as well as by the Federal Act on Data Protection of 19 June 1992.

Queries and information

Questions regarding contents of the survey	e-mail: serviceBOP@snb.ch ; tel: +41 44 631 35 34
Technical questions regarding online delivery	to be announced
Questions regarding forms in Excel format	to be announced

II. Explanations**Definition of cross-border transactions**

One of the contracting parties (private or public entity) is resident in Switzerland and the other is either resident in a foreign country or is a foreign state. In principle, the distinction between resident and non-resident, and between individual countries, will be made according to the country of domicile of the contracting parties and not according to the place where the service is performed. The Principality of Liechtenstein is classed as part of the domestic market.

Receipts: The service recipient is resident in a foreign country, while the service provider is resident in Switzerland or the Principality of Liechtenstein.

Expenses: The service recipient is resident in Switzerland or the Principality of Liechtenstein, while the service provider is resident in a foreign country.

If both contracting parties are resident in Switzerland or the Principality of Liechtenstein, transactions shall not be reported. If both contracting parties are resident in a foreign country, transactions shall not be reported.

Geographical breakdown

All items must be broken down by country.

Estimates

Data estimates will be accepted for all items as long as the estimates have been made on a best efforts basis.

Intragroup transactions

Cross-border transactions within a corporate group must also be reported. Intragroup transactions must be reported at market prices; should these be unavailable, intragroup transfer prices will be accepted.

Centralised/decentralised reporting

Where several companies within a group are required to report in Switzerland, the group has the choice between submitting an aggregated report for all group companies in Switzerland or instructing the individual reporting companies to report their transactions themselves. If a group submits an aggregated report, it should notify the SNB which companies in Switzerland are covered by the report.

Conversion rules for transactions in foreign currency

Quarterly survey: It is recommended that the quarterly average exchange rate be used.

Annual survey: It is recommended that the annual average exchange rate be used.

Accuracy and zero entries

All figures should be entered in thousands of Swiss francs (CHF 1,000s). Reporting institutions may state figures to as many decimal places as they wish. If the figure for a particular entry is zero, the entry field should be left blank. No zero entries may be made. If a value is less than the unit required, a fractional amount must be stated using decimal places.

III. Description of categories

Item	Category	
X.1	Premiums	<p>Description</p> <p><u>1.1 Premiums received from non-residents (premiums earned)</u> Premiums earned abroad from direct insurance and reinsurance business (premiums written adjusted for prepayments of premiums).</p> <p><i>Excluding:</i> Premiums earned abroad by non-resident subsidiaries and branch offices.</p> <p><u>2.1 Premiums paid to non-residents</u> Premiums paid to non-resident insurance corporations (adjusted for prepayments of premiums). These mostly take the form of retrocessions in connection with reinsurance.</p> <p>Note -</p>

1.2	Investment income	<p>Description (receipts only) Premiums from abroad may be invested in Switzerland or abroad for investment purposes. Income on investments such as securities, real estate, etc. (interest income, dividends, rental income, etc.) is to be reported.</p> <p><i>Excluding:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Swiss and foreign investment income not earned on premiums from non-residents - Investment income from abroad stemming from domestic premium business - Investment income from the premium business of non-resident subsidiaries and branches - Income from participations of non-resident subsidiaries - Realised and unrealised capital gains and losses due to changing prices of an investment (such as share price and exchange rate movements) <p>Note If the investment income earned on premiums from abroad cannot be separated from the investment income earned on domestic premiums, the breakdown can be approximated by means of a breakdown of the technical reserves.</p>
X.3	Claims payments	<p>Description</p> <p><u>1.3 Claims payments received from non-residents</u> Claims paid by non-resident reinsurers to resident insurance corporations resulting from reinsurance ceded (including change in the claims reserves and in the actuarial reserves).</p> <p><u>2.3 Claims paid to non-residents</u> Claims paid to non-residents resulting from direct insurance and from reinsurance (including changes in the claims reserves and in the equalisation provisions).</p> <p><i>Excluding:</i> Claims payments by non-resident branches and subsidiaries.</p> <p>Note -</p>

X.4	Auxiliary insurance services	<p>Description Receipts and expenses from auxiliary insurance services, including remuneration for all services related to insurance such as: brokering services, insurance consultancy services, actuarial advisory services, administrative costs of salvage operations, etc.</p> <p><i>Excluding:</i> Transport costs associated with salvage operations Pension fund services</p> <p>Note Receipts and expenses resulting from auxiliary insurance services are to be allocated to a specific line of insurance. Estimates are acceptable.</p>
X.5	Commissions	<p>Description (to be reported only in connection with reinsurance transactions) Payments by reinsurers to primary insurers (ceding companies) for the acquisition and administration costs of insurance contracts.</p> <p><u>1.5 Commissions from non-residents</u> Resident primary insurers' receipts (ceding companies) from non-resident reinsurers.</p> <p><u>2.5 Commissions paid to non-residents</u> Payments made by resident reinsurers to non-resident primary insurers (ceding companies).</p> <p><i>Excluding:</i> Remuneration for brokering services -> Auxiliary insurance services (X.4).</p> <p>Note -</p>