SCHWEIZERISCHE NATIONALBANK
BANQUE NATIONALE SUISSE
BANCA NAZIONALE SVIZZERA
BANCA NAZIUNALA SVIZRA
SWISS NATIONAL BANK

Version 1.2 / 17 January 2013

Statistics

Technical rules on transmission methods for statistical data [1]

1. Subject

For the purpose of fulfilling its statutory obligations and observing developments in the financial markets, the Swiss National Bank (SNB) collects the necessary statistical data. Reporting entities are called upon by the SNB to take part in surveys and are required to provide information using one of the methods prescribed by the Bank. These technical rules set out the details with regard to the methods by which statistical data are to be reported, in particular as concerns their transmission by e-mail. The rules are aimed at making reporting as easy and efficient as possible, while also ensuring the confidentiality, authenticity (origin) and integrity (immutability) of the reported data.

2. Transmission method

If the SNB provides an electronic form[2], this shall be used for reporting and shall be transmitted to the SNB by e-mail (cf. section 3).

Data reports may only be submitted on CD-ROM if agreed with the SNB, in cases where reporting via e-mail would impose an unreasonable burden on the reporting entity. The SNB recommends that CD-ROMs are sent by registered mail. The sender must implement appropriate technical measures to ensure that the sent CD-ROM is free from malware (e.g. viruses).

Data reports may only be submitted on paper if agreed with the SNB, in cases where electronic reporting would impose an unreasonable burden on the reporting entity, or where the SNB has not provided an electronic form.

[1] Based on Arts. 14 ff. of the National Bank Act and the associated Arts. 8 ff. of the National Bank Ordinance (NBO), in particular Art. 10 of the NBO.
[2] Alternatively, reports can be submitted in .xml format as specified by the SNB.

3. Transmission by e-mail

Statistical data must be submitted to the SNB in a secure one-way communication addressed to dataexchange@snb.ch. It is absolutely essential for each e-mail containing statistical data to be **encrypted**. In this context, the following criteria must be met:

- The e-mail client or gateway software must support encryption using certification or private key (signature key) under the S/MIME standard. As regards encryption/signature algorithms and associated key lengths, the following minimum requirements must be met:
    - Encryption: AES 128-bit, triple DES 168-bit.
    - Digital signature: RSA 1024-bit/SHA-1
- The sender may alternatively transmit the e-mail using Transport Layer Security (Secure SMTP over TLS).
- The sender must implement appropriate technical measures to ensure that the sent email is free from malware (e.g. viruses).

In addition, the SNB recommends the use of digital signatures according to the following criteria:

- The sender must possess a certificate binding their name and business e-mail address to their public key (signature authentication key). The certificate must support advanced[3] electronic signature. Certificates can be obtained from accredited certification authorities (CAs).[4] The SNB does not accept test certificates from CAs.

For each incoming e-mail, the SNB will reply with an automatic confirmation e-mail (unencrypted and unsigned). If the reporting entity does not receive such a confirmation within ten minutes after sending the statistical report, they must contact the SNB immediately (for contact details, cf. section 5).

If a technical fault renders e-mail transmission impossible and there is a danger that the submission could be delayed beyond the deadline, the SNB must be informed and an extension of deadline requested if necessary (for contact details, cf. section 5).

4. Confidentiality of e-mail transmissions

Reporting entities undertake transmission by e-mail at their own risk. It is possible that, during transmission from sender to recipient, there might be an uncontrollable routing of data across a national border, even though the sender and recipient are both in

[3] As set out by Article 2, letter b of the Law on Electronic Signature (ZertES) (www.admin.ch/ch/d/sr/9/943.03.de.pdf – not available in English www.admin.ch/ch/d/sr/9/943.03.de.pdf).

[4] Certification authorities currently accredited by the SNB: Federal Office for IT and Telecommunications (BIT), QuoVadis, Schweizerische Post, Swisscom, Solutions, SwissSign, TC TrustCenter, Thwate, Verisign. Other CAs can be accredited upon application.

Switzerland. Reporting entities are responsible for ensuring the correct implementation, within their own area of activity, of the safety precautions as set out in section 3. The SNB shall not accept any liability whatsoever, in cases where the transmission is affected by technical faults or a breach of confidentiality before the report is received by the SNB.

The SNB shall ensure that the data reported to it are treated confidentially and stored securely, as soon as they are received.

5. Contact details

For further information on these technical rules, please contact dataexchange@snb.ch or our *Publications and Data Banks* unit (Tel. 044 631 37 68).