

Technical rules on transmission methods for statistical data^{1,2}

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,³ this shall be used for reporting and shall be transmitted to the SNB electronically, i.e.:

- by e-mail (cf. section 2.1); or
- on CD-ROM/diskette (cf. section 2.2).

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 Technical rules/statistics/No. 1.

² 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.

³ Alternatively, reports can be submitted in .xml format as specified by the SNB.

2.1 Transmission by e-mail

Statistical data must be sent to the SNB in a secure one-way communication addressed to dataexchange@snb.ch. Each e-mail containing statistical data must 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 e-mail 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 advanced⁴ electronic signature. Certificates can be obtained from accredited certification authorities (CAs).⁵ 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).

2.2 Transmission via CD-ROM/diskette

Statistical data can also be saved to CD-ROM or diskette and sent to the SNB **by post**. The SNB recommends that such items be sent by registered mail.

⁴ As set out by Article 2b of the Law on Electronic Signature (ZertES)
(<http://www.admin.ch/ch/d/sr/9/943.03.de.pdf> - not available in English)

⁵ Certification authorities currently accredited by the SNB: QuoVadis, Swisscom Solutions, Schweizerische Post, SwissSign, Thawte, TC TrustCenter, Verisign, Federal Office for IT and Telecommunications (BIT). Other CAs can be accredited upon application.

The sender must implement appropriate technical measures to ensure that the sent CD-ROM or diskette is free from malware (e.g. viruses).

3. Transitional rules

These rules shall enter into force with immediate effect. Reporting entities must start transmitting their reports to the SNB using one of the methods set out in these rules (cf. section 2) by 1 January 2009 at the latest.

Reporting entities who have hitherto been transmitting their reports to the SNB in encrypted and electronically signed form, using special software provided by the SNB for the purpose, may continue to use this method. The SNB will continue to maintain the requisite technical infrastructure. Such reporting entities are, however, free to change over at any time to another of the transmission methods set out in these rules (cf. section 2). Thus, the agreement between the reporting entity and the SNB on the use of special software can be terminated at any time and with immediate effect by means of a registered letter addressed to the SNB.

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 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 2.1. 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 (telephone 044 631 37 68; fax 044 631 81 91).