

## Explanatory notes

### 1. Definitions

Banks are defined as companies that fulfil all the following requirements:

- are active mainly in the financial sphere;
- procure their funds either by accepting deposits from the public or by refinancing at various banks that do not hold any major participation in the bank in question;
- use their funds to finance an indefinite number of persons or companies with whom/which they do not form an economic unit.<sup>1</sup>

**Banks**

Only banks are required to report data (see also Section 1, *Definitions: Banks*). In principle, reporting banks are legally independent enterprises, although they may also take the form of a legally dependent branch.

**Reporting institutions**

The Swiss National Bank (SNB) determines which banks should report specific statistics, on the basis of geographic and economic criteria. In cases where data collected on the basis of a partial sample are not representative or pertinent, it conducts a full sample survey.<sup>2</sup> The statistics in this publication are all based on partial sample surveys.

Only domestic banks are required to report data. In the case of statistics that relate to the Swiss franc currency area (i.e. the comprehensive monthly balance sheet and the locational banking statistics), banks in Switzerland and banks in the Principality of Liechtenstein are both treated as domestic. In the case of statistics that describe the Swiss banking industry (credit volume statistics), only banks in Switzerland are treated as domestic (see also Section 2, *Legal basis: Currency Treaty between the Swiss Confederation and the Principality of Liechtenstein*).

**Geographic criteria**

For more detailed information on the economic criteria, see Section 4, *Surveys*.

**Economic criteria**

For the data collection, the Swiss National Bank defines three 'reporting entities': bank office, parent company and group.

**Reporting entities**

In addition, the SNB also uses the more general term of 'office'. Each 'reporting entity' is made up of a number of 'offices' whose business is reported by the institutions required to provide data.

Offices may be legally independent entities, such as registered offices or subsidiaries (where subsidiaries are legally independent banks). Alternatively they may be legally dependent entities, i.e. branches. The term **branch** covers all legally dependent banking entities, such as branch offices, agencies and representative offices, as laid down in the Federal Act on Banks and Savings Banks (Banking Act).<sup>3</sup> It includes, in particular, cash-receiving offices (*Einnehmereien*) and sub-branches (*Depositenkassen*).

- The **bank office** reporting entity comprises all domestic offices (see also section 1, *Definitions: Geographic criteria*). This also includes domestic branch offices and agencies organised under foreign law. However, representative offices with domestic locations that are organised under foreign law are included only if they belong to a branch office included under this reporting entity.
- The **parent company** reporting entity comprises offices included in the bank office entity as well as their foreign branches.
- The **group** reporting entity comprises offices included in the parent company entity as well as their foreign subsidiaries.
- Under the **bank office** reporting entity, the banks required to report data provide consolidated figures for their own business and that of their domestic branches.
- Under the **parent company** reporting entity, the banks required to report data provide consolidated figures for their own business and that of their domestic and foreign branches.
- Under the **group** reporting entity, the banks required to report data provide consolidated figures for their own business and that of their domestic and foreign branches and subsidiaries. Domestic subsidiaries are not required to report under the group reporting entity.

**Definition of reporting entities**

**Consolidation**

<sup>1</sup> SR 952.02: Ordinance on Banks and Savings Banks (Bank Ordinance), in particular art. 2a.

<sup>2</sup> SR 951.131: Ordinance on the Federal Act on the Swiss National Bank (National Bank Ordinance, NBO), in particular art. 4 et seq.

<sup>3</sup> SR 952.0. See also SR 952.111, Ordinance on Foreign Banks in Switzerland (Foreign Bank Ordinance).

Some tables distinguish between on and off-balance-sheet positions in Switzerland and other countries (domestic and foreign). As a rule, the differentiation is made according to the domicile principle, i.e. the place of residence or business of the creditor, the debtor or – in the case of securities – the issuer. However, special criteria apply to:

- Claims and liabilities from interbank business with branches of foreign banks in Switzerland, which are counted as domestic business
- Banknotes and coins, which are classified according to the location of the banknotes and coins
- Claims against customers secured by mortgages, which are classified according to the location of the pledged property
- Real estate, which is classified according to the location of the real estate

In this context, the Principality of Liechtenstein is always classified under domestic business.

## 2. Legal basis

Pursuant to art. 14 para. 1 of the Federal Act on the Swiss National Bank (National Bank Act, NBA)<sup>4</sup>, the National Bank may collect the statistical data required for it to fulfil its statutory tasks and monitor developments on the financial markets. In the National Bank Ordinance (NBO)<sup>5</sup> the National Bank determines what data are to be provided and with what frequency (art. 15 para. 3 NBA).

The National Bank must maintain confidentiality with respect to the data collected (art. 16 para. 1 NBA). It publishes this data in the form of statistics. To maintain confidentiality, the data are aggregated (art. 16 para. 2 NBA).

Based on the Currency Treaty between the Swiss Confederation and the Principality of Liechtenstein<sup>6</sup> the National Bank is entitled to request the same statistical data from banks in Liechtenstein as from banks in Switzerland. The data provided by banks in Liechtenstein may not be shown separately in the published statistics; they are, however, included in the aggregate figure for all banks.

The SNB makes use of this right for surveys that relate to the common currency area (see also Section 1, *Definitions: Geographic criteria*).

## 3. Financial reporting regulations

This publication is based mainly on the data contained in the banks' monthly balance sheets. Banks are required to observe the principles laid down in art. 24, Banking Ordinance, when drawing up their monthly balance sheets. The Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority (FINMA) is responsible for interpreting this Ordinance and publishes its interpretation in the Bank Accounting Guidelines (FINMA-RS 08/2)<sup>7</sup>. Accordingly, this publication uses the breakdowns and terminology contained in the relevant laws, ordinances and guidelines.

The provisions in the Banking Ordinance relating to grouping within annual financial statements were revised in February 1995 and banks were required to meet more detailed minimum grouping requirements by the end of 1996, at the latest. In most cases it was possible to link the new figures to previous ones, thus allowing for the publication of uninterrupted time series. However, in a few individual cases comparison with data for previous years is not possible. In these cases, data are published only from December 1996 onwards.

<sup>4</sup> SR 951.11

<sup>5</sup> In particular art. 5 and the Appendix to the National Bank Ordinance.

<sup>6</sup> SR 0.951.951.4

<sup>7</sup> Cf. also the corresponding FINMA circulars at [www.finma.ch](http://www.finma.ch).

## 4. Surveys

**Content of survey:** Reporting covers both detailed balance sheet items and fiduciary business. Both the grouping and the terminology used for balance sheet items are governed by the FINMA-RS 08/2. Banks that enter non-monetary claims and liabilities arising from lending and repo transactions in their balance sheets also report these separately. The individual items are broken down by currency and by customer domicile (domestic or foreign).

**Reporting entity:** Bank office or parent company

**Reporting institutions:** Banks in Switzerland or the Principality of Liechtenstein whose total assets and fiduciary business combined exceed CHF 150 million and whose total assets amount to at least CHF 100 million are required to report data.

**Frequency:** Monthly

**Comments:** Please note Section 3, *Accounting provisions* for information about revisions to the minimum grouping requirements and their impact on the survey.

**Comprehensive  
monthly balance sheet**

**Content of survey:** Information on bank lending activities (credit limits, utilisation, direct value adjustments and provisions, write-downs, impaired receivables) is reported. Credits are broken down according to type of credit (mortgage loans and claims against customers [secured and unsecured]) by sector/economic activity of borrower, by registered office or residence of borrower in Switzerland or abroad and by size of borrower's company (9 or fewer staff, 10–49 staff, 50–249 staff, 250 or more staff). Loans to public law institutions are recorded separately from the breakdown by company size.

**Reporting entity:** Bank office

**Reporting institutions:** Banks located in Switzerland whose domestic lending amounts to at least CHF 280 million are subject to the reporting requirement.

**Frequency:** Monthly

**Comments:** The survey procedure was thoroughly revised in March 2009. A detailed description of the changes and their impact on the data may be found in the *Monthly Statistical Bulletin* of July 2009.

**Credit volume statistics**

**Content of survey:** Reporting covers foreign claims and liabilities of the domestic banking sector, as well as foreign fiduciary business conducted by the domestic banking sector. The individual items are broken down by country, currency and sector (banks or non-banks).

**Reporting entity:** Bank office

**Reporting institutions:** Banks in Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein whose foreign assets and liabilities exceed one billion Swiss francs are required to report data.

**Frequency:** Quarterly

**Comments:** The locational banking statistics are collected in collaboration with the Bank for International Settlements (BIS).

In March 2007, the list of countries was adjusted to comply with the BIS country definitions. This adjustment affected aggregate data on country groupings as well as the figures for individual countries. The data for France are particularly strongly affected by the new definitions. France now includes French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Monaco and Reunion. Mayotte, St. Pierre and Miquelon, and the French Southern Territories were already included in the French data previously. Locational Banking Statistics according to the BIS country definitions are not available before the first quarter of 2004.

**Locational banking statistics**

## 5. Historical comparability of the statistics

Comments on the most important methodological modifications to the time series published in the *Monthly Bulletin of Banking Statistics* may now be found in *Banks in Switzerland*, in section 8 of the *Explanatory Notes*. Although the commentary in *Banks in Switzerland* relates to series published on an annual basis, the impact of the methodological modifications also affects the monthly time series published here.

## 6. Publications on the SNB website

### **The Monthly Bulletin of Banking Statistics on the SNB website**

The *Monthly Bulletin of Banking Statistics* is published in booklet form (in German and French) every quarter. All monthly issues are available on the SNB website, [www.snb.ch](http://www.snb.ch); *Statistics, Statistical publications; Monthly Bulletin of Banking Statistics*. Moreover, some tables that are not included in the printed version of the *Monthly Bulletin* for lack of space are published on the website (i.e. non-monetary claims and liabilities arising from lending and repo transactions recorded in the balance sheet, and locational banking statistics). In the table of contents, the word internet appears in place of the page number for these supplementary tables.

### **Longer time series**

The Excel and text files contain longer time series than those provided in the published form in cases where such data are available.

## 7. Websites

### **Bank for International Settlements (BIS)**

[www.bis.org](http://www.bis.org)

### **Swiss Confederation**

Classified Compilation of Federal Laws

[www.admin.ch/ch/e/rs/rs.html](http://www.admin.ch/ch/e/rs/rs.html)

### **Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority (FINMA)**

[www.finma.ch/e/](http://www.finma.ch/e/)

### **Swiss Federal Statistical Office (SFSO)**

[www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/portal/en/index.html](http://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/portal/en/index.html)

### **Swiss National Bank (SNB)**

[www.snb.ch/en](http://www.snb.ch/en)

## Geographical breakdown of countries for the locational banking statistics (4Aa)

BIS definitions, with effect from January 2011

### Developed countries

Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Faeroe Islands, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Greenland, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, Vatican. **Europe**

Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, United States. **Other**

### Offshore centres

Aruba, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Gibraltar, Guernsey, Hong Kong, Isle of Man, Jersey, Lebanon, Macau, Mauritius, Netherlands Antilles, Panama, Samoa, Singapore, Vanuatu, West Indies UK

### Developing countries

Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Turkey, Ukraine, residual Europe. **Europe**

Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Falkland Islands, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos, Uruguay, Venezuela, residual Latin America and Caribbean. **Latin America and Caribbean**

Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros Islands, Congo (Brazzaville), Congo Democratic Republic (formerly Zaire), Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Palestinian Territory, Qatar, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, St. Helena, Sudan, Swaziland, Syria, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe, residual Africa and Middle East. **Africa and Middle East**

Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, British Overseas Territories, Brunei, Cambodia, China, Chinese Taipei, Fiji, French Polynesia, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kyrgyz Republic, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, New Caledonia, North Korea, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor Leste, Tonga, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, US Pacific Islands, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Wallis and Futuna, residual Asia and Pacific. **Asia and Pacific**

### Unallocated

