

Communications

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Annual result of the Swiss National Bank for 2015

The Swiss National Bank (SNB) is reporting a loss of CHF 23.3 billion for the year 2015 (2014: profit of CHF 38.3 billion).

The loss on foreign currency positions amounted to CHF 19.9 billion. A valuation loss of CHF 4.2 billion was recorded on gold holdings. The profit on Swiss franc positions was CHF 1.2 billion.

For the financial year just ended, the SNB has set the allocation to the provisions for currency reserves at CHF 1.4 billion. Taken together, the annual loss and allocation to provisions totalling CHF 24.6 billion are less than the distribution reserve, which amounts to CHF 27.5 billion. Thus, despite the annual loss, the resulting net profit will allow a dividend payment to shareholders of CHF 1.5 million as well as the ordinary profit distribution of CHF 1 billion to the Confederation and the cantons. The distribution reserve after appropriation of profit will amount to CHF 1.9 billion.

Loss on foreign currency positions

Overall, the loss on foreign currency positions was CHF 19.9 billion (2014: profit of CHF 34.5 billion).

The appreciation of the Swiss franc resulted in total exchange rate losses of CHF 26.4 billion. Interest income amounted to CHF 7.8 billion and dividend income to CHF 2.2 billion, however. Movements in bond prices differed from those in share prices. A loss of CHF 5.1 billion was recorded on interest-bearing paper and instruments. By contrast, equity securities and instruments contributed CHF 1.6 billion to the net result.

Press release

Valuation loss on gold holdings

At CHF 34,103 per kilogram, the price of gold was 11% lower than at the end of 2014 (CHF 38,105). This gave rise to a valuation loss of CHF 4.2 billion on the unchanged holdings of 1,040 tonnes of gold (2014: valuation gain of CHF 4.1 billion).

Profit on Swiss franc positions

The profit on Swiss franc positions, which totalled CHF 1,245.0 million (2014: CHF 276.6 million), essentially comprised CHF 1,163.9 million of negative interest charged on sight deposits since 22 January 2015, interest income of CHF 66.5 million and price gains of CHF 24.4 million.

Provisions for currency reserves

The allocation to provisions for currency reserves amounted to CHF 1.4 billion. The figure is lower than in the previous year (CHF 2.0 billion) because the average period for the calculation of the allocation upon which the 2015 financial year is based includes several years with low nominal GDP growth rates. At 1.2%, average nominal GDP growth was therefore lower than in the relevant previous period (1.8%). For the 2015 financial year, as in the preceding years, the basis for calculating the allocation was twice the average nominal GDP growth rate for the previous five years.

Press release

Income statement for 2015

In CHF millions

	Item no. in Notes	2015	2014	Change
Net result from gold		-4 162.9	4 067.4	-8 230.3
Net result from foreign currency positions	1	-19 943.0	34 487.7	-54 430.7
Net result from Swiss franc positions	2	1 245.0	276.6	+968.4
Net result, other		11.6	12.1	-0.5
Gross income		-22 849.3	38 843.8	-61 693.1
Banknote expenses ¹		-86.9	-233.6	+146.7
Personnel expenses		-157.7	-150.2	-7.5
General overheads		-117.6	-109.6	-8.0
Depreciation on tangible assets		-39.0	-37.6	-1.4
Annual result		-23 250.6	38 312.9	-61 563.5

¹ In line with practice at other central banks, from the 2014 financial year, acquisition and development expenses for banknotes are no longer recorded in the balance sheet. This change in accounting principles for banknote stocks resulted in a one-off depreciation amounting to CHF 156.7 million in the 2014 financial year.

Press release

Appropriation of profit for 2015

In CHF millions

	2015	2014	Change
Annual result	-23 250.6	38 312.9	-61 563.5
- Allocation to provisions for currency reserves	- 1 362.2	- 1 972.3	+ 610.1
= Distributable annual result	-24 612.8	36 340.6	-60 953.4
+ Profit/loss carried forward (distribution reserve before appropriation of profit)	27 518.8	- 6 820.2	+ 34 339.0
= Net profit	2 906.0	29 520.3	-26 614.3
- Payment of a dividend of 6%	- 1.5	- 1.5	-
- Profit distribution to Confederation and cantons ¹	- 1 000.0	- 2 000.0	+ 1 000.0
= Balance carried forward to following year's financial statements (distribution reserve after appropriation of profit)	1 904.5	27 518.8	-25 614.3

¹ Profit distribution agreement of 21 November 2011 between the Federal Department of Finance and the Swiss National Bank.

Press release

Balance sheet as at 31 December 2015

Assets

In CHF millions

	31.12.2015	31.12.2014	Change
Gold holdings	35 466.7	39 629.6	-4 162.9
Foreign currency investments ¹	593 234.1	510 062.4	+ 83 171.7
Reserve position in the IMF	1 608.4	2 037.3	-428.9
International payment instruments	4 707.3	4 413.8	+ 293.5
Monetary assistance loans	169.9	213.3	-43.4
Claims from Swiss franc repo transactions	-	-	-
Swiss franc securities	3 972.4	3 978.3	-5.9
Tangible assets	396.7	417.4	-20.7
Participations	135.5	133.5	+ 2.0
Other assets	460.8	316.2	+ 144.6
Total assets	640 151.8	561 201.9	+ 78 949.9

¹ Includes, as at end-December 2015, claims arising from repo transactions relating to the management of foreign currency investments amounting to approximately CHF 33.7 billion (end-2014: CHF 14.9 billion). The associated liabilities are included in the balance sheet under foreign currency liabilities.

Press release

Liabilities

In CHF millions

	31.12.2015	31.12.2014	Change
Banknotes in circulation	72 881.9	67 595.8	+5 286.1
Sight deposits of domestic banks	402 316.5	328 006.2	+74 310.3
Liabilities towards the Confederation	10 930.9	9 046.4	+1 884.5
Sight deposits of foreign banks and institutions	25 621.4	17 486.9	+8 134.5
Other sight liabilities	30 165.5	33 126.8	-2 961.3
Liabilities from Swiss franc repo transactions	-	-	-
SNB debt certificates	-	-	-
Foreign currency liabilities	32 521.4	14 753.1	+17 768.3
Counterpart of SDRs allocated by the IMF	4 547.7	4 727.2	-179.5
Other liabilities	113.9	154.8	-40.9

Equity

Provisions for currency reserves ¹	56 759.3	54 787.0	+1 972.3
Share capital	25.0	25.0	-
Distribution reserve ¹	27 518.8	-6 820.2	+34 339.0
Annual result	-23 250.6	38 312.9	-61 563.5
Total equity	61 052.5	86 304.6	-25 252.1
Total liabilities	640 151.8	561 201.9	+78 949.9

¹ Before appropriation of profit.

Press release

Valuation rates

	Year under review			Previous year		
	31.12.2015 CHF	31.12.2014 CHF	Change In percent	31.12.2014 CHF	31.12.2013 CHF	Change In percent
1 EUR	1.0861	1.2024	-9.7	1.2024	1.2268	-2.0
1 USD	0.9981	0.9923	+0.6	0.9923	0.8908	+11.4
100 JPY	0.8297	0.8300	0.0	0.8300	0.8489	-2.2
1 GBP	1.4771	1.5459	-4.5	1.5459	1.4736	+4.9
1 CAD	0.7197	0.8557	-15.9	0.8557	0.8384	+2.1
1 kilogram of gold	34 102.64	38 105.48	-10.5	38 105.48	34 194.73	+11.4

Press release

Notes to the annual financial statements

Item no. 1: Net result from foreign currency positions

Breakdown by origin in CHF millions

	2015	2014	Change
Foreign currency investments	-19 882.0	34 384.5	-54 266.5
Reserve position in the IMF	-89.4	105.6	-195.0
International payment instruments	37.2	-13.4	+50.6
Monetary assistance loans	-8.8	11.1	-19.9
Total	-19 943.0	34 487.7	-54 430.7

Breakdown by type in CHF millions

	2015	2014	Change
Interest income	7 817.9	7 736.0	+81.9
Price gain/loss on interest-bearing paper and instruments	-5 108.8	8 733.1	-13 841.9
Interest expenses	-9.3	-20.8	+11.5
Dividend income	2 176.5	1 795.4	+381.1
Price gain/loss on equity securities and instruments	1 621.0	4 447.0	-2 826.0
Exchange rate gain/loss	-26 419.9	11 811.3	-38 231.2
Asset management, safe custody and other fees	-20.3	-14.4	-5.9
Total	-19 943.0	34 487.7	-54 430.7

Press release

Item no. 2: Net result from Swiss franc positions**Breakdown by origin** in CHF millions

	2015	2014	Change
Negative interest on sight deposit account balances	1 163.9	–	+ 1 163.9
Swiss franc securities	83.4	285.5	–202.1
Liquidity-providing Swiss franc repo transactions	–	–	–
Liquidity-absorbing Swiss franc repo transactions	–	–	–
Liabilities towards the Confederation	–	–	–
SNB debt certificates	–	–	–
Other Swiss franc positions	–2.3	–8.9	+ 6.6
Total	1 245.0	276.6	+ 968.4

Breakdown by type in CHF millions

	2015	2014	Change
Negative interest on sight deposit account balances	1 163.9	–	+ 1 163.9
Interest income	66.5	74.8	–8.3
Price gain/loss on interest-bearing paper and instruments	24.4	217.8	–193.4
Interest expenses	–2.3	–8.9	+ 6.6
Trading, safe custody and other fees	–7.6	–7.2	–0.4
Total	1 245.0	276.6	+ 968.4