

Communications

P.O. Box, CH-8022 Zurich
Telephone +41 58 631 00 00
communications@snb.ch

Zurich, 30 July 2021

Interim results of the Swiss National Bank as at 30 June 2021

The Swiss National Bank reports a profit of CHF 43.5 billion for the first half of 2021.

The profit on foreign currency positions amounted to CHF 44.5 billion. A valuation loss of CHF 1.4 billion was recorded on gold holdings. The profit on Swiss franc positions amounted to CHF 0.6 billion.

The SNB's financial result depends largely on developments in the gold, foreign exchange and capital markets. Strong fluctuations are therefore to be expected, and only provisional conclusions are possible as regards the annual result.

Profit on foreign currency positions

The profit on foreign currency positions totalled CHF 44.5 billion.

Interest and dividend income amounted to CHF 3.8 billion and CHF 2.0 billion respectively. While price losses of CHF 11.8 billion were recorded on interest-bearing paper and instruments, equity securities and instruments registered price gains of CHF 23.2 billion. Exchange rate-related gains totalled CHF 27.3 billion.

Valuation loss on gold holdings

A valuation loss of CHF 1.4 billion was recorded on gold holdings, which remained unchanged in volume terms. Gold was trading at CHF 52,267 per kilogram at the end of June 2021 (end-2020: CHF 53,603).

Press release

Profit on Swiss franc positions

The profit on Swiss franc positions totalled CHF 0.6 billion. It largely resulted from negative interest charged on sight deposit account balances.

Provisions for currency reserves

As at end-June 2021, the SNB recorded a profit of CHF 43.5 billion before the allocation to the provisions for currency reserves.

In accordance with art. 30 para. 1 of the National Bank Act (NBA), the SNB is required to set aside provisions permitting it to maintain the currency reserves at the level necessary for monetary policy. The allocation for the current financial year is determined at the end of the year.

Press release

Income statement, 1 January–30 June 2021¹

In CHF millions

	Item in Notes	Q1–Q2 2021	Q1–Q2 2020	Change
Net result from gold		– 1 388.5	7 121.1	–8 509.6
Net result from foreign currency positions	1	44 524.0	–6 783.8	+51 307.8
Net result from Swiss franc positions	2	551.6	633.5	–81.9
Net result, other		1.9	–8.3	+ 10.2
Gross income		43 688.9	962.6	+42 726.3
Banknote expenses		– 12.8	– 19.7	+ 6.9
Personnel expenses		–90.8	–90.5	–0.3
General overheads		–66.7	–65.2	– 1.5
Depreciation on tangible assets		– 18.4	– 19.3	+ 0.9
Interim result		43 500.2	767.9	+42 732.3

¹ Unaudited. The External Auditor only audits the annual financial statements.

Press release

Income statement for the second quarter of 2021¹

In CHF millions

	Q2 2021	Q2 2020	Change
Net result from gold	937.6	4 311.7	-3 374.1
Net result from foreign currency positions	4 655.5	34 415.4	-29 759.9
Net result from Swiss franc positions	284.8	366.4	-81.6
Net result, other	-0.1	0.5	-0.6
Gross income	5 877.7	39 094.0	-33 216.3
Banknote expenses	-3.4	-19.7	+16.3
Personnel expenses	-44.8	-44.1	-0.7
General overheads	-30.4	-27.6	-2.8
Depreciation on tangible assets	-9.3	-9.6	+0.3
Interim result	5 789.8	38 993.0	-33 203.2

¹ Unaudited. The External Auditor only audits the annual financial statements.

Press release

Balance sheet as at 30 June 2021¹**Assets**

In CHF millions

	30.06.2021	31.12.2020	Change
Gold holdings	54 358.6	55 747.1	-1 388.5
Foreign currency investments ²	963 834.0	910 001.0	+53 833.0
Reserve position in the IMF	1 982.7	1 849.6	+133.1
International payment instruments	4 483.2	4 363.9	+119.3
Monetary assistance loans	931.4	907.6	+23.8
Claims from US dollar repo transactions	–	8 841.7	-8 841.7
Claims from Swiss franc repo transactions	–	549.9	-549.9
Swiss franc securities	3 985.5	4 072.9	-87.4
Secured loans ³	10 555.5	11 176.4	-620.9
Tangible assets	432.1	438.0	-5.9
Participations	133.6	134.0	-0.4
Other assets	724.4	945.6	-221.2
Total assets	1 041 421.0	999 027.9	+42 393.1

1 Unaudited. The External Auditor only audits the annual financial statements.

2 Includes, as at end-June 2021, cash received from repo transactions relating to the management of foreign currency investments amounting to CHF 14.0 billion (end-2020: CHF 9.6 billion). The associated liabilities are included in the balance sheet under foreign currency liabilities and result in a balance sheet expansion.

3 The SNB COVID-19 refinancing facility (CRF) for banks based in Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein. The CRF allows banks to obtain liquidity from the SNB by assigning as collateral loans that have been granted under surety and loan guarantee programmes provided by the Confederation or the cantons.

Press release

Liabilities

In CHF millions

	30.06.2021	31.12.2020	Change
Banknotes in circulation	88 395.7	89 013.6	-617.9
Sight deposits of domestic banks	634 460.6	628 825.2	+5 635.4
Liabilities towards the Confederation	26 831.6	13 755.3	+13 076.3
Sight deposits of foreign banks and institutions	22 549.9	28 120.2	-5 570.3
Other sight liabilities	28 999.1	32 160.9	-3 161.8
Liabilities from Swiss franc repo transactions	-	-	-
SNB debt certificates	-	-	-
Other term liabilities	-	9 027.1	-9 027.1
Foreign currency liabilities	14 054.3	9 573.0	+4 481.3
Counterpart of SDRs allocated by the IMF	4 328.5	4 214.0	+114.5
Other liabilities	352.2	387.9	-35.7
Equity			
Provisions for currency reserves ¹	86 981.0	79 073.6	+7 907.4
Share capital	25.0	25.0	-
Distribution reserve ²	90 943.1	83 982.4	+6 960.7
Annual result 2020		20 869.6	-20 869.6
Interim result	43 500.2		+43 500.2
Total equity	221 449.3	183 950.6	+37 498.7
Total liabilities	1 041 421.0	999 027.9	+42 393.1

1 The allocation to the provisions for currency reserves is made as part of the profit appropriation. The increase of around CHF 7.9 billion represents the allocation for the 2020 financial year.

2 The distribution reserve only changes once a year, as part of the profit appropriation.

Press release

Condensed changes in equity

In CHF millions

	Q1–Q2 2021	Q1–Q2 2020
Equity at beginning of period¹	183 950.6	167 082.5
Distribution of dividends to shareholders	– 1.5	– 1.5
Profit distribution to Confederation and cantons	– 6 000.0	– 4 000.0
Interim result	43 500.2	767.9
Equity at end of period	221 449.3	163 848.9

¹ At the beginning of the period, equity is composed of share capital, provisions for currency reserves, the distribution reserve and the annual result.

Valuation rates

	Year under review			Previous year		
	30.06.2021 CHF	31.12.2020 CHF	Change In percent	30.06.2020 CHF	31.12.2019 CHF	Change In percent
1 EUR	1.0969	1.0803	+ 1.5	1.0647	1.0848	– 1.9
1 USD	0.9240	0.8806	+ 4.9	0.9498	0.9668	– 1.8
100 JPY	0.8346	0.8545	– 2.3	0.8822	0.8900	– 0.9
1 GBP	1.2784	1.2027	+ 6.3	1.1684	1.2776	– 8.5
1 CAD	0.7468	0.6921	+ 7.9	0.6949	0.7436	– 6.5
1 kilogram of gold	52 267.44	53 602.51	– 2.5	54 068.72	47 221.54	+ 14.5

Press release

Appendix

Accounting and valuation principles

The SNB is a special-statute joint-stock company with head offices in Berne and Zurich. These interim results have been drawn up in accordance with the provisions of the NBA and the Swiss Code of Obligations (CO) as well as the accounting principles detailed in the notes to the annual financial statements as at 31 December 2020. These results present a true and fair view of the financial position and the results of operations of the SNB. Unless otherwise stated, the accounting principles are based on the Swiss GAAP FER standards (Accounting and Reporting Recommendations). Departures from Swiss GAAP FER occur only if an accounting principle runs counter to the provisions of the NBA or if the special nature of the SNB needs to be taken into account. In a departure from Swiss GAAP FER, no cash flow statement has been prepared. The structure and designation of the items in the balance sheet and the income statement take into consideration the special character of the business conducted at a central bank.

There were no changes to the accounting and valuation principles compared with the annual financial statements as at 31 December 2020.

The SNB interim results as at 30 June 2021 constitute an interim report in accordance with Swiss GAAP FER 31, with condensations in presentation and disclosures.

Swiss GAAP FER 31 requires the presentation of earnings per share. This has no informative value in view of the special statutory provisions for the SNB. Shareholders' rights are determined by the NBA. Their dividends, in particular, may not exceed 6% of share capital (with a nominal value of CHF 250 per share, a maximum of CHF 15); the Confederation is entitled to one-third and the cantons to two-thirds of the remaining distributable profit. Therefore, no presentation of earnings per share is made.

Press release

Notes to the balance sheet and income statement

Item no. 1: Net result from foreign currency positions

Breakdown by origin in CHF millions

	Q1–Q2 2021	Q1–Q2 2020	Change
Foreign currency investments	44 442.4	– 6 732.2	+ 51 174.6
Reserve position in the IMF	49.2	– 37.2	+ 86.4
International payment instruments	4.1	– 1.6	+ 5.7
Monetary assistance loans	28.3	– 12.7	+ 41.0
Total	44 524.0	– 6 783.8	+ 51 307.8

Breakdown by type in CHF millions

	Q1–Q2 2021	Q1–Q2 2020	Change
Interest income	3 785.9	4 122.2	– 336.3
Price gain/loss on interest-bearing paper and instruments	– 11 768.4	10 811.1	– 22 579.5
Interest expenses	9.5	– 23.2	+ 32.7
Dividend income	2 017.1	1 806.0	+ 211.1
Price gain/loss on equity securities and instruments	23 230.1	– 4 368.2	+ 27 598.3
Exchange rate gain/loss	27 269.5	– 19 114.0	+ 46 383.5
Asset management, safe custody and other fees	– 19.9	– 17.8	– 2.1
Total	44 524.0	– 6 783.8	+ 51 307.8

Press release

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

	Q1–Q2 2021	Q1–Q2 2020	Change
Negative interest on sight deposit account balances	672.9	664.0	+ 8.9
Swiss franc securities	–78.4	–6.9	–71.5
Liquidity-providing Swiss franc repo transactions	–0.7	–8.1	+7.4
Liquidity-absorbing Swiss franc repo transactions	–	–	–
Secured loans	–41.7	–14.9	–26.8
Liabilities towards the Confederation	–	–	–
SNB debt certificates	–	–	–
Other Swiss franc positions	–0.5	–0.4	–0.1
Total	551.6	633.5	–81.9

Breakdown by type in CHF millions

	Q1–Q2 2021	Q1–Q2 2020	Change
Negative interest on sight deposit account balances	672.9	664.0	+ 8.9
Interest income	–24.3	–3.0	–21.3
Price gain/loss on interest-bearing paper and instruments	–92.1	–23.1	–69.0
Interest expenses	–0.5	–0.4	–0.1
Trading, safe custody and other fees	–4.4	–3.9	–0.5
Total	551.6	633.5	–81.9