

Statistical release

31 August 2020

Euro area insurance corporation statistics: second quarter of 2020

- [Total assets](#) of euro area insurance corporations amounted to €8,721 billion in second quarter of 2020, €279 billion higher than in first quarter of 2020
- [Total insurance technical reserves](#) of euro area insurance corporations rose to €6,647 billion in second quarter of 2020, up €239 billion from first quarter of 2020

Total [assets](#) of euro area insurance corporations increased to €8,721 billion in the second quarter of 2020, from €8,442 billion in the first quarter of 2020. Debt securities accounted for 40.9% of the sector's total assets in the second quarter of 2020. The second largest category of holdings was investment fund shares (26.3%), followed by equity (10.4%) and loans (7.3%).

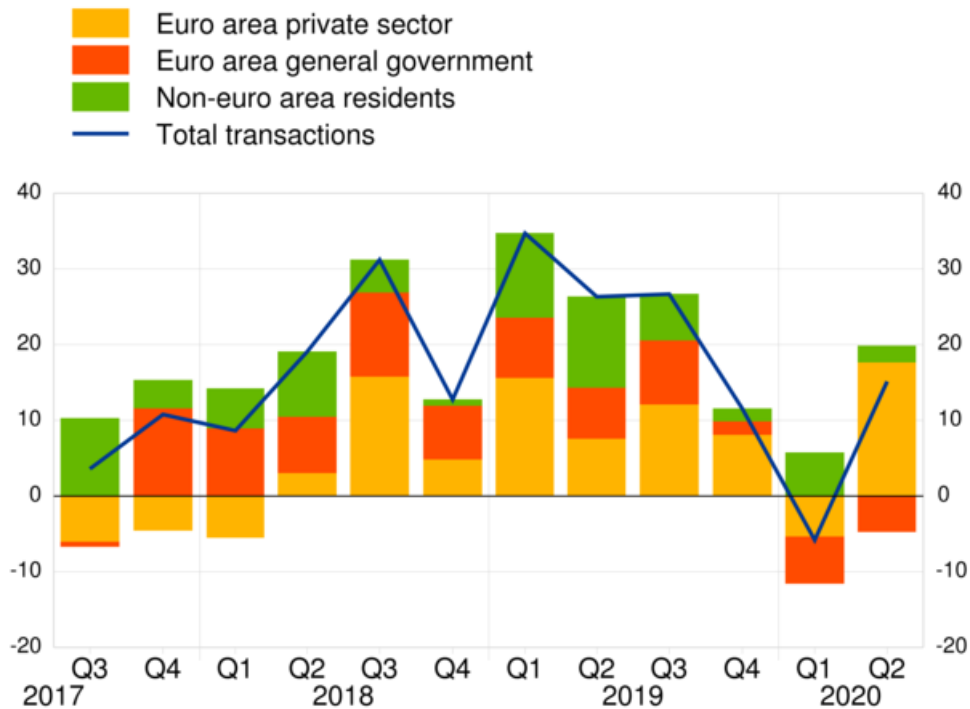
Holdings of [debt securities](#) increased to €3,568 billion at the end of the second quarter of 2020 from €3,476 billion at the end of the previous quarter (see Chart 1). Net purchases of debt securities amounted to €15 billion in the second quarter of 2020; price and other changes amounted to €77 billion. The year-on-year growth rate of debt securities held was 1.4%.

Looking at holdings by issuing sector, the annual growth rate of debt securities issued by euro area general government was 0.0% in the second quarter of 2020, with net sales in the quarter amounting to €5 billion. As regards debt securities issued by the private sector, the annual growth rate was 2.9%, and quarterly net purchases amounted to €18 billion. For debt securities issued by non-euro area residents, the annual growth rate was 2.3%, with quarterly net purchases of €2 billion.

Chart 1

Insurance corporations' holdings of debt securities by issuing sector

(quarterly transactions in EUR billions; not seasonally adjusted)



[Data for insurance corporations' holdings of debt securities by issuing sector](#)

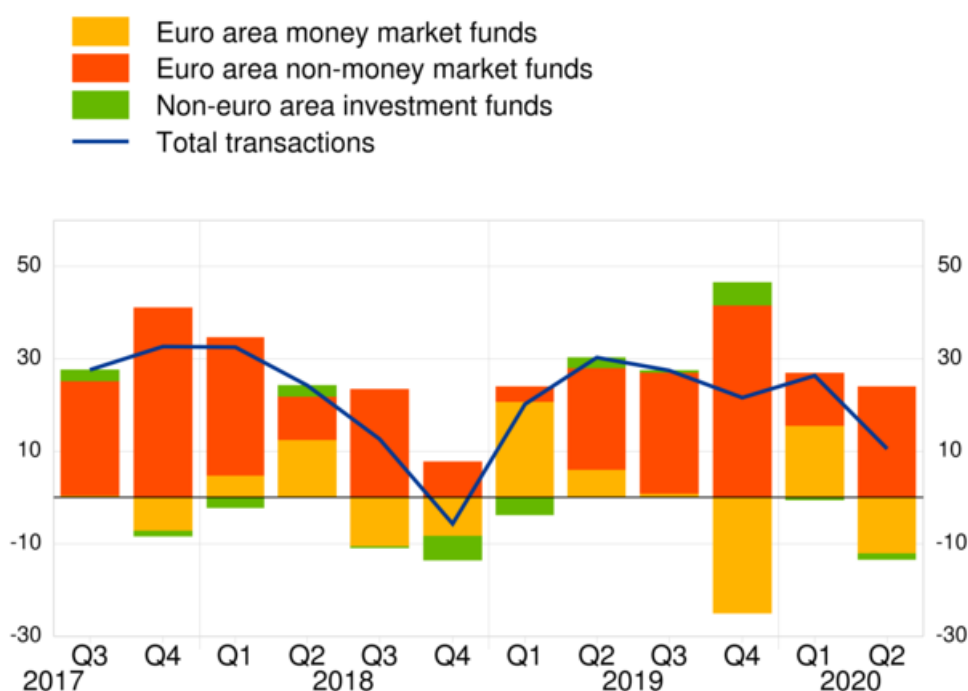
Turning to insurance corporations' holdings of [investment fund shares](#), these increased to €2,296 billion in the second quarter of 2020, from €2,167 billion in the previous quarter, with net purchases of €11 billion and price and other changes of €119 billion (see Chart 2). The year-on-year growth rate in the second quarter of 2020 was 3.9%.

The annual growth rate of euro area money market fund shares held by insurance corporations was -14.0% in the second quarter of 2020, with net sales in the quarter amounting to €12 billion. As regards holdings of euro area non-money market fund shares, the annual growth rate was 5.2%, with quarterly net purchases amounting to €24 billion. For investment fund shares issued by non-euro area residents, the annual growth rate was 5.3%, with quarterly net sales of €1 billion.

Chart 2

Insurance corporations' holdings of investment fund shares by issuing sector

(quarterly transactions in EUR billions; not seasonally adjusted)



[Data for insurance corporations' holdings of investment fund shares by issuing sector](#)

In terms of main liabilities, total [insurance technical reserves](#) of insurance corporations amounted to €6,647 billion in the second quarter of 2020, up from €6,407 billion in the first quarter of 2020 (see Annex). Life insurance technical reserves accounted for 90.6% of total insurance technical reserves in the second quarter of 2020. Unit-linked products amounted to €1,248 billion, accounting for 20.7% of total life insurance technical reserves.

From now on, this statistical release will also provide annual data on euro area insurance corporations' written premiums, incurred claims and acquisition expenses, which are related to the profitability of insurance corporations. Total written premiums rose to €1,127 billion in 2019 (corresponding to 18.9% of total insurance technical reserves at end-2018), up from €1,053 billion in 2018 (17.5%). In the same period, claims increased from €773 billion (12.8%) to €822 billion (13.8%) and acquisition expenses rose from €106 billion (1.8%) to €116 billion (1.9%).

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Notes:

"Other assets" includes currency and deposits, insurance technical reserves and related claims, financial derivatives, non-financial assets and remaining assets.

"Private sector" refers to euro area excluding general government.

"Investment funds" includes money market funds and non-money market funds.

Hyperlinks in the main body of the statistical release and in the annex table lead to data that may change with subsequent releases as a result of revisions. Figures shown in the annex table are a snapshot of the data as at the time of the current release.

Table 1. Assets and liabilities of euro area insurance corporations
(EUR billions; amounts outstanding at end of period; transactions during the period; growth rates in percentages)¹⁾

	Q3 2019	Q4 2019	Q1 2020	Q2 2020
Total assets/liabilities	8,772	8,697	8,442	8,721
Assets				
Currency and deposits	508	471	487	482
Loans	616	619	634	638
Debt securities	3,643	3,568	3,476	3,568
Issued by euro area residents	2,940	2,872	2,801	2,867
General government	1,762	1,708	1,689	1,708
Domestic general government	1,172	1,133	1,116	1,135
Other euro area general government	591	575	573	573
Private sector	1,177	1,164	1,111	1,159
Issued by non-euro area residents	703	696	675	701
Equity	906	943	860	903
<i>of which: Listed shares</i>	221	231	182	202
Issued by euro area residents	165	171	133	145
Issued by non-euro area residents	56	59	49	57
Investment fund shares	2,290	2,330	2,167	2,296
Issued by euro area residents	2,228	2,265	2,109	2,238
Money market funds	149	123	139	129
Non-money market funds	2,080	2,142	1,970	2,108
Issued by non-euro area residents	62	65	58	59
Insurance technical reserves and related claims ²⁾	301	303	311	316
Financial derivatives	77	57	77	79
Non-financial assets	137	141	141	141
Remaining assets	294	264	289	296
Liabilities				
Loans	261	245	281	289
Debt securities issued	131	132	132	135
Equity	1,137	1,249	1,122	1,170
Insurance technical reserves	6,739	6,578	6,407	6,647
Life insurance technical reserves	6,136	6,000	5,790	6,021
Unit-linked insurance technical reserves	1,268	1,290	1,158	1,248
Non-unit-linked insurance technical reserves	4,867	4,710	4,632	4,772
Non-life insurance technical reserves	603	578	618	626
Financial derivatives	40	35	41	41
Remaining liabilities	464	458	459	438
Selected transactions - assets				
Debt securities	27	11	-6	15
Issued by euro area residents	21	10	-12	13
General government	8	2	-6	-5
Private sector	12	8	-5	18
Issued by non-euro area residents	6	2	6	2
Equity <i>of which: Listed shares</i>	1	-2	0	-2
Investment fund shares	27	22	26	11
Issued by euro area residents	27	17	27	12
Money market funds	1	-25	16	-12
Non-money market funds	26	42	11	24
Issued by non-euro area residents	0	5	-1	-1
Selected growth rates - assets				
Debt securities	3.0	2.9	1.7	1.4
Issued by euro area residents	2.6	2.5	1.2	1.1
General government	1.9	1.5	0.7	0.0
Private sector	3.6	3.9	2.0	2.9
Issued by non-euro area residents	4.6	4.7	3.8	2.3
Equity <i>of which: Listed shares</i>	-0.8	-1.2	0.7	-1.4
Investment fund shares	3.4	4.7	4.8	3.9
Issued by euro area residents	3.8	4.6	4.6	3.8
Money market funds	15.0	2.2	-1.7	-14.0
Non-money market funds	3.0	4.7	5.1	5.2
Issued by non-euro area residents	-10.0	5.5	12.0	5.3

Source: ECB.

1) Figures may not add up due to rounding.

2) May include non-life insurance technical reserves, claims of insurance corporations on pension managers and provisions for calls under standardised guarantees.

Table 2. Premiums written, claims incurred and acquisition expenses of euro area insurance corporations
(EUR billions; flows during the period; percentages)

	2017	2018	2019
Premiums written	1,028	1,053	1,127
as percentage of total technical reserves	17.4	17.5	18.9
Claims incurred	788	773	822
as percentage of total technical reserves	13.4	12.8	13.8
Acquisition expenses	103	106	116
as percentage of total technical reserves	1.8	1.8	1.9

Source: ECB.