



BANK FOR INTERNATIONAL SETTLEMENTS



# The BIS

*Promoting global monetary  
and financial stability*

Established on 17 May 1930, the BIS is the world's oldest international financial organisation. Its head office is in Basel, Switzerland and it has representative offices in Hong Kong SAR and in Mexico City. The BIS's 633 staff members come from 61 countries.



The Bank for International Settlements (BIS) serves central banks in their pursuit of monetary and financial stability, fosters international cooperation in those areas and acts as a bank for central banks.

The BIS pursues its mission by:

- facilitating dialogue and collaboration among central banks and other authorities that are responsible for promoting financial stability;
- conducting research on policy issues confronting central banks and financial supervisory authorities;
- acting as a prime counterparty for central banks in their financial transactions; and
- serving as agent or trustee in connection with international financial operations.

The BIS has **60 member central banks**, representing countries from around the world that together make up about 95% of world GDP. These are the central banks or monetary authorities of Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong SAR, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Republic of Macedonia, Malaysia, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom and the United States, plus the European Central Bank

The BIS has **three main departments**. Two of these encompass the two principal activities of the BIS – policy analysis and banking – and the third provides internal support:

- **Monetary and Economic Department:** Undertakes research and analysis to shape the understanding of policy issues concerning central banks, provides committee support and organises key meetings of senior central bankers and other officials in charge of financial stability. The department collects, analyses and disseminates statistical information on the international financial system.
- **Banking Department:** Provides a range of financial services to support central banks in the management of their foreign exchange and gold reserves and invests the BIS's equity.
- **General Secretariat:** Provides the organisation with comprehensive corporate services, including human resources, facilities management, security, finance, communications and IT.

These departments are further supported by the Legal Service, as well as the Risk Management, Internal Audit and Compliance units.

# Monetary and financial cooperation

The BIS promotes international cooperation among monetary authorities and financial supervisory officials through its meetings programmes and through the Basel Process – hosting international groups pursuing global financial stability and facilitating their interaction.

## Meetings

At bimonthly meetings, normally held in Basel, Governors and other senior officials of BIS member central banks discuss current developments and the outlook for the world economy and financial markets. They also exchange views and experiences on issues of special and topical interest to central banks. In addition, the Bank hosts other regular consultations that variously include public and private sector representatives and the academic community.

The main result of these meetings is an improved understanding by participants of the developments, challenges and policies affecting various countries or markets.

## The Basel Process, committees and secretariats

The Basel Process refers to the way in which the BIS promotes international cooperation among monetary authorities and financial supervisory officials. By offering a forum for discussion among central banks and other financial authorities, and by hosting and supporting international groups, the BIS plays a key role in helping to strengthen the stability and resilience of the global financial system.

The hosted committees, whose agendas are guided by various sets of central banks and supervisory authorities, are the:

- Basel Committee on Banking Supervision
- Committee on the Global Financial System
- Committee on Payments and Market Infrastructures
- Markets Committee
- Central Bank Governance Group
- Irving Fisher Committee on Central Bank Statistics.

The hosted associations are the:

- Financial Stability Board
- International Association of Deposit Insurers
- International Association of Insurance Supervisors.

Furthermore, the BIS's Financial Stability Institute facilitates the dissemination of the standard-setting bodies' work to central banks and financial sector supervisory regulatory agencies.

## Economic analysis, research and statistics

The BIS's in-depth economic analysis and research on monetary and financial stability policy issues are conducted by its Monetary and Economic Department. The BIS also compiles and disseminates international statistics on financial institutions and markets. Through its economic analysis, research and statistics, the BIS helps to meet the needs of monetary and supervisory authorities for policy insight and data.

Monetary and financial stability is a precondition for sustained economic growth and prosperity. Reflecting the public good character of this goal, the BIS makes part of its work available free of charge to the public, including:

- its own analyses of monetary and financial stability issues;
- international banking and financial statistics that underpin policymaking, academic research and public debate.

Most BIS analysis and research is published on the Bank's website ([www.bis.org](http://www.bis.org)), and in the *Annual Report*, the *BIS Quarterly Review*, *BIS Papers* and *BIS Working Papers*.

## Bank for central banks

Through its Banking Department, the BIS offers a wide range of financial services designed to support the reserves management activities of central banks and other monetary authorities, and to foster international cooperation in this area. Some 140 institutions, as well as a number of international organisations, make use of these services. Currency deposits at 31 March 2017 stood at SDR 194 billion.

BIS financial services are provided from two linked trading rooms: one in Basel, at the Bank's head office; and one in Hong Kong SAR, at its Representative Office for Asia and the Pacific.

The BIS does not accept deposits from private individuals or corporate entities, or provide them with financial services, nor is it permitted to make advances to governments or open current accounts in their name.

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