



Long series on central bank total assets

Documentation

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The BIS central bank total assets data set tracks the evolution of central banks' balance sheets size across the world. It covers more than 50 advanced and emerging market economies. The median start year is 1942 and several series go back to the 19th century or earlier.

Data on central bank balance sheets originate from multiple sources. Financial statements or accounting balance sheets are typically the main source and are compiled in accordance with national accounting standards. The BIS-spliced series use financial statements as the primary reference. These are typically disclosed at least once per financial year for auditing purposes and have usually been published since the foundation of the central bank. This choice facilitates the backdating of the series and ensures consistency across time in terms of sources.

Yet, for some jurisdictions, higher-frequency data are only available from other sources such as the monetary presentation or statistical balance sheets. In such cases, the BIS constructed the long series by splicing the monthly or quarterly data with historical annual financial statements.

The BIS ensured consistency between monthly, quarterly and annual data by following two principles. First, whenever monthly data are available, the annual series always corresponds to the December observation, to enhance comparability across countries. Since financial statements follow the financial year, the annual BIS-spliced series may differ from the annual figures reported by those central banks whose financial year does not match the calendar year. Second, annual series are always converted from monthly data whenever they are available. Therefore, if monthly series from the monetary statistics are sourced in the absence of monthly financial statements, the annual series deviates from the annual financial statements.

To facilitate better analysis and comparisons across countries, the data set also includes series adjusted for breaks, as well as series on the total assets expressed in US dollars and as a percentage of GDP. The break-adjustment calculations follow the methodological framework specified in the *BIS Quarterly Review* published in March 2013.¹

The BIS worked closely with national authorities to provide the most relevant and accurate data possible. The metadata of each series provide an extensive account of the multiple sources used to compile the BIS long series.

The BIS will update the data set once a quarter. Similarly to other BIS data sets, the central bank total assets series can be downloaded and visualised conveniently on the [Central bank total assets](#) page in the BIS Data Portal. Any use of the long series should be cited as follows: "Bank for International Settlements, Central bank total assets, BIS WS_CBTA 1.0 (data set), <https://data.bis.org/topics/CBTA>." Series may be downloaded, reproduced and disseminated as long as the appropriate source is quoted and the [BIS terms and conditions](#) are observed.

¹ Bank for International Settlements, *BIS Quarterly Review*, March 2013, p. 71.

1. Summary table

Characteristics of the series included in the data set

Summary of attributes

Table 1

Country	Establishment of the central bank	Start of the BIS-spliced series		Number of spliced series ²	Spliced sources		
		Annual ³	Monthly		Financial statements		Monetary
					Annual reports	Other ⁴	
Sweden	1668	1668	Sep 1999	2	✓	✓	
United Kingdom	1694	1696	Sep 1844	4	✓	✓	
France	1800	1800	Jun 1840	6	✓	✓	✓
Norway	1816	1817	Jan 1950	4	✓	✓	
Portugal	1846	1823	Dec 1979	5	✓	✓	✓
Denmark	1818	1839	Jan 1987	2	✓	✓	
Belgium	1850	1851	Jan 1999	7	✓	✓	
Spain	1856	1856	Jan 1962	4	✓	✓	✓
Netherlands	1814	1865	Dec 1982	4	✓	✓	✓
Finland	1811	1868	Jan 1868	3	✓	✓	
Germany	1948	1876	Sep 1948	4	✓	✓	
Italy	1893	1894	Jun 1936	6	✓	✓	✓
Switzerland	1907	1907	Jan 1948	2	✓	✓	
United States	1913	1914	Nov 1914	2		✓	
Peru	1922	1922	Jan 2006	2	✓	✓	
Austria	1923	1923	Sep 1955	4	✓	✓	
Mexico	1925	1925	Jan 1977	2	✓	✓	
Chile	1925	1926	Jan 2011	3		✓	✓
South Africa	1921	1926	Jan 1964	2	✓	✓	
Greece	1927	1928	Mar 1998	2	✓		
Türkiye	1931	1932	Jan 1986	3	✓	✓	
Argentina	1935	1935	Jan 1998	2	✓	✓	
Canada	1934	1935	Mar 1935	1		✓	
India	1934	1935	Oct 1945	4	✓	✓	
New Zealand	1934	1935	Oct 1993	3	✓	✓	
Ireland	1943	1943	Sep 1997	4	✓	✓	✓

² Primary series may also include discontinued series.

³ Highlighted if the BIS-spliced series starts with the establishment of the central bank or earlier than 1900.

⁴ For example, it may include weekly or monthly financial statements that are not fully aligned with the statements of financial position published in the annual report of the central bank.

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Summary of attributes

Table 1

Country	Establishment of the central bank	Start of the BIS-spliced series		Number of spliced series ²	Spliced sources		
		Annual ³	Monthly		Financial statements		Monetary
					Annual reports	Other ⁴	
Hungary	1924	1949	Jan 1998	3			✓
Philippines	1993	1950 ⁵	Jul 1993	2	✓		
Indonesia	1953	1953	Dec 2001	2	✓		✓
Japan	1882	1953	Jan 1953	1		✓	
Korea	1950	1954	Jan 1970	2	✓		
Thailand	1942	1958	Dec 1975	4	✓	✓	✓
Australia	1960	1959	Jul 1969	3	✓	✓	
Malaysia	1959	1959	Jan 1998	2	✓	✓	
Saudi Arabia	1952	1961	Jan 2000	2	✓	✓	
Brazil	1964	1965	Jul 1994	2	✓	✓	
Israel	1954	1966	Jan 2001	2	✓		
Poland	1924	1971	Dec 1996	2	✓		✓
United Arab Emirates	1973 ⁶	1974	Dec 1974	1	✓		
Singapore	1970	1975	Jan 1991	2		✓	
China	1948	1985	Dec 1999	4	✓		✓
Slovenia	1991 ⁷	1991	Dec 1991	3	✓	✓	✓
Czechia	1993 ⁵	1993	Jan 1993	1		✓	
Hong Kong SAR	1993	1993	Dec 1998	2	✓		
Slovakia	1993 ⁵	1993	Jan 2006	3	✓	✓	✓
Estonia	1990 ⁵	1994	Jan 1994	3		✓	
Lithuania	1990 ⁵	1994	Jun 2004	3	✓	✓	✓
North Macedonia	1992 ⁵	1995	Dec 1995	3	✓		✓
Latvia	1990 ⁵	1996	Jan 1996	3		✓	✓
Luxembourg	1998	1998	Jun 1998	1		✓	
Euro area	1998	1998	Dec 1998	1		✓	
Croatia	1990 ⁵	1999	Dec 2010	3	✓	✓	

⁵ The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), the central bank of the Republic of the Philippines, was established on 3 July 1993. The BSP took over from Central Bank of Philippines, which was established on 3 January 1949, as the country's central monetary authority. The BSP enjoys fiscal and administrative autonomy from the national government in the pursuit of its mandated responsibilities.

⁶ The United Arab Emirates Currency Board was established in May 1973, followed by the establishment of the Central Bank of the United Arab Emirates in December 1980.

⁷ The establishment date corresponds to the date of reestablishment.

2. Compilation and sources⁸

AE	United Arab Emirates	Compilation Sources	From 1974 onwards: monthly financial statements with December figures aligned with the annual audited reports. Central Bank of the United Arab Emirates; Bank for International Settlements.
AR	Argentina	Compilation Sources	From 1998 onwards: annual series derived from weekly financial statements. Before 1998: annual financial statements. Central Bank of Argentina; Bank for International Settlements.
AT	Austria	Compilation Sources	From June 2016 onwards: disaggregated financial statement of the Eurosystem. Between January 1999 and May 2016: monthly financial statements of the Central Bank of the Republic of Austria (end-month date corresponds to the business Friday of the last week of the month). Between 1990 and 1998: Statistische Monatshefte der Oesterreichischen Nationalbank. Between 1955 and 1989: Mitteilungen des Direktoriums der Oesterreichischen Nationalbank. Between 1923 and 1954: annual financial statements with no data available between 1938 and 1944. Central Bank of the Republic of Austria; European Central Bank; Bank for International Settlements.
AU	Australia	Compilation Sources	From July 1969 onwards: monthly financial statements (end-month positions). Between 1959 and June 1969: annual financial statements. Before 1969: data correspond to June positions in line with the fiscal year of the Reserve Bank of Australia. Reserve Bank of Australia; Bank for International Settlements.
BE	Belgium	Compilation	From June 2016 onwards: disaggregated financial statement of the Eurosystem. Between January 1999 and May 2016: monthly financial statement of the National Bank of Belgium. Between 1958 and 1999: monthly figures linearly interpolated from quarterly/annual figures. Between 1990 and 1999: Bulletin Statistique National Bank of Belgium. Between 1940 and 1990: annual and quarterly data from Statistiques Economiques Belges. Between 1914 and 1939: annual financial statements from Statistieken betreffende de bedrijvigheid van de Nationale

⁸ Details on the compilation, including full references, are specified in the attribute "collection detail" of each time series. It can be accessed by clicking the corresponding time series on the BIS Data Portal.

		Sources	Bank van Belgie. Between 1851 and 1914: annual financial statements. National Bank of Belgium; European Central Bank; Bank for International Settlements.
BR	Brazil	Compilation	From July 1994 onwards: financial statements in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards. Between 1965 and 1993: annual financial statements.
		Sources	Central Bank of Brazil; Bank for International Settlements.
CA	Canada	Compilation	From 1934 onwards: Bank of Canada assets and liabilities: month-end, in accordance with the Bank of Canada Act. From January 2011, financial statements are reported in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards.
		Sources	Bank of Canada; Bank for International Settlements.
CH	Switzerland	Compilation	From January 1948 onwards: balance sheet items series valued at end-quarter prices and aligned with the audited financial statements. Between 1907 and 1947: annual balance sheet figures of the Swiss National Bank.
		Sources	Swiss National Bank; Bank for International Settlements.
CL	Chile	Compilation	From 2011 onwards: monthly balances of the Central Bank of Chile following International Monetary Fund standardised reports methodology. Between 1926 and 2011: Filippi et al (2017): "Balance del Banco Central de Chile, 1926 a 2015".
		Sources	Central Bank of Chile; Bank for International Settlements.
CN	China	Compilation	From January 2002 onwards: monthly balance sheet of the People's Bank of China. Between 1993 and 2001: sum of foreign assets (net), claims against the government, bank claims on deposit money, claims against non-monetary financial institutions and claims on the non-financial sector. Before 2000: <i>Almanac of China's finance and banking</i> .
		Sources	People's Bank of China; Bank for International Settlements.
CZ	Czechia	Compilation	From January 2009 onwards: CNB's ten-day balance sheet. Before 2009: annual financial statements.
		Sources	Czech National Bank; Bank for International Settlements.
DE	Germany	Compilation	From January 1968 onwards: monthly consolidated financial statements. Between September 1948 and December 1967: Return of Deutsche Bank - II Deutsche Bundesbank. Between 1876 and 1948: Deutsches Geld- und Bankwesen in Zahlen 1876 bis 1945.
		Sources	Deutsche Bundesbank; Bank for International Settlements.

DK	Denmark	Compilation	From January 1987 onwards: Danmarks Nationalbank's balance sheet by specification and item (stock). Between 1839 and December 1986: Abildgren (2016): "175 years of financial risks and returns in central banking".
		Sources	Danmarks Nationalbank; Bank for International Settlements.
EE	Estonia	Compilation	From June 2016 onwards: disaggregated financial statement of the Eurosystem. Between January 1994 and May 2016: monthly financial statements of the Bank of Estonia.
		Sources	Bank of Estonia; European Central Bank; Bank for International Settlements.
ES	Spain	Compilation	From November 2007 onwards: monthly financial statements. Between January 1962 and November 2007: monthly statistical balance sheet compiled following the harmonised monetary statistics of monetary financial institutions. Between 1942 and 1961: annual financial statements. Before 1942: annual reports to the shareholders of the Bank of Spain: <i>Memoria leída en la Junta General de Accionistas del Banco de España</i> .
		Sources	Bank of Spain (institutional repository); Bank for International Settlements.
FI	Finland	Compilation	From January 1999 onwards: monthly financial statements (last Friday of the month). Between January 1993 and December 1998: monthly figures are derived from the annual financial statements. Before 1993: Ikonen (1998): "Suomen Pankin Tase Vuosina 1868–1992: Kuukausisarjat".
		Sources	Bank of Finland; Bank for International Settlements.
FR	France	Compilation	From June 2016 onwards: disaggregated financial statement of the Eurosystem. Between January 1999 and May 2016: monthly balance sheet items following the harmonised monetary statistics of monetary financial institutions. Between 1840 and 1998: Baubeau (2018): "The Bank of France's balance sheets database, 1840–1998: an introduction to 158 years of central banking". Before 1840: Bignon and Plüss (forthcoming): "Accounting for the first 223 years of Banque de France balance sheets".
		Sources	Bank of France; European Central Bank; Bank for International Settlements.
GB	United Kingdom	Compilation	From September 2013 onwards: Bank of England's Weekly Report. Between June 2006 and August 2013: weekly amounts outstanding of central bank total assets. Between September 1844 and May 2006: Huang and Thomas (2016): "The weekly balance sheet of the Bank of England 1844–2006".

		Sources	Between 1696 and 1844: Thomas (2019): "The Bank of England's balance sheet 1696–2019". Bank of England; Bank for International Settlements.
GR	Greece	Compilation	From 1928: financial statements in accordance with national accounting principles.
		Sources	Bank of Greece; Bank for International Settlements.
HR	Croatia	Compilation	From January 2023 onwards: disaggregated financial statement of the Eurosystem. Between December 2010 and December 2022: monthly financial statements. Between 2001 and November 2010: audited financial statements.
		Sources	Croatian National Bank; European Central Bank
HK	Hong Kong SAR	Compilation	Exchange Fund Abridged Balance Sheet.
		Sources	Hong Kong Monetary Authority; Bank for International Settlements.
HU	Hungary	Compilation	From January 1998 onwards: balance sheet items. Between 1949 and December 1997: financial accounts.
		Sources	Magyar Nemzeti Bank; Bank for International Settlements.
ID	Indonesia	Compilation	From 2001 onwards: International Financial Statistics of the International Monetary Fund. Between 1953 and 2000: annual financial statements.
		Sources	Bank Indonesia; International Monetary Fund; Bank for International Settlements.
IE	Ireland	Compilation	From June 2016 onwards: disaggregated financial statement of the Eurosystem. Between January 2003 and May 2016: monthly financial statements. Between September 1997 and December 2002: data compiled following the harmonised monetary statistics of monetary financial institutions. Between 1974 and August 1997: annual financial statements.
		Sources	Central Bank of Ireland; European Central Bank; Bank for International Settlements.
IL	Israel	Compilation	From December 2010 onwards: financial statements. Between January 2001 and November 2010: data compiled following the monetary methodology. Before 2001: financial statements.
		Sources	Bank of Israel; Bank for International Settlements.
IN	India	Compilation	From 1935 onwards: monthly bulletins, except for 1935 and 1936 (annual reports).

		Sources	Reserve Bank of India; Bank for International Settlements.
IT	Italy	Compilation	From June 2016 onwards: disaggregated financial statement of the Eurosystem. Between September 1997 and May 2016: the Bank of Italy balance sheet aggregates following the harmonised monetary statistics of monetary financial institutions. Between December 1894 and August 1997: IBIS – Bank of Italy historical balance sheet series.
		Sources	Bank of Italy; European Central Bank; Bank for International Settlements.
JP	Japan	Compilation	The series follows the methodological specifications of the Bank of Japan accounts.
		Sources	Bank of Japan; Bank for International Settlements.
KR	Korea	Compilation	From 1970 onwards: main accounts of the Bank of Korea. Before 1970: annual financial statements.
		Sources	Bank of Korea; Bank for International Settlements.
LT	Lithuania	Compilation	From June 2016 onwards: disaggregated financial statement of the Eurosystem. Between January 2004 and May 2016: monthly balance sheet items following the harmonised monetary statistics of monetary financial institutions. Between 1994 and 2003: annual financial statements.
		Sources	Bank of Lithuania; European Central Bank; Bank for International Settlements.
LU	Luxembourg	Compilation	From 1998 onwards: financial statements.
		Sources	Central Bank of Luxembourg; Bank for International Settlements.
LV	Latvia	Compilation	From January 2023 onwards: monthly balance sheet items following the harmonised monetary statistics of monetary financial institutions. Between January 1996 and December 2022: monthly balance sheets of the Bank of Latvia.
		Sources	Bank of Latvia; European Central Bank; Bank for International Settlements.
MK	North Macedonia	Compilation	From December 2010 onwards: financial statements. Between December 1995 and November 2010: monetary statistics and statistics of other financial corporations.
		Sources	National Bank of the Republic of North Macedonia; Bank for International Settlements.
MX	Mexico	Compilation	From January 1977 onwards: monthly financial statements. Before 1977: annual financial statements.
		Sources	Bank of Mexico, Bank for International Settlements.

MY	Malaysia	Compilation	From January 1998: MSH Table 1.4 - Bank Negara Malaysia: Statement of Assets. Between 1959 and 1997: annual financial statements.
		Sources	Central Bank of Malaysia; Bank for International Settlements.
NL	Netherlands	Compilation	From June 2016 onwards: disaggregated financial statement of the Eurosystem. Between September 1997 and May 2016: European Central Bank compiled following the harmonised monetary statistics of monetary financial institutions. Between December 1982 and August 1997: balance sheet of De Nederlandsche Bank (monetary presentation). Before December 1982: annual financial statements.
		Sources	De Nederlandsche Bank; European Central Bank; Bank for International Settlements.
NO	Norway	Compilation	From January 1950 onwards: the Central Bank of Norway's balance sheet, excluding the Government Pension Fund Global (net value). Before 1950: Eitrheim et al (2022): "Historical monetary and financial statistics for Norway".
		Sources	Central Bank of Norway; Bank for International Settlements.
NZ	New Zealand	Compilation	From September 2013 onwards: monthly balance sheet. Between October 1993 and September 2013: discontinued monthly balance sheet. Before October 1993: annual financial statements.
		Sources	Reserve Bank of New Zealand; Bank for International Settlements.
PE	Peru	Compilation	From January 2006 onwards: financial statements. Before 2006: annual financial statements.
		Sources	Central Reserve Bank of Peru; Bank for International Settlements.
PH	Philippines	Compilation	From July 1993 onwards: monthly financial statements. Between 1950 and July 1993: annual financial statements.
		Sources	Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas; Bank for International Settlements.
PL	Poland	Compilation	From 1996 onwards: balance sheet items in accordance with the monetary methodology. Between 1971 and 1995: annual financial statements.
		Sources	Narodowy Bank Polski; Bank for International Settlements.

PT	Portugal	Compilation	From June 2016 onwards: disaggregated financial statement of the Eurosystem. Between December 1979 and May 2016: Banco de Portugal's balance sheet items following the harmonised monetary statistics of monetary financial institutions. Between 1823 and November 1979: Valério (2001): "Estatísticas históricas portuguesas".
		Sources	Banco de Portugal; European Central Bank; Bank for International Settlements.
SA	Saudi Arabia	Compilation	From January 2000 onwards: monthly balance sheets. Before 2000: annual financial statements.
		Sources	Saudi Central Bank; Bank for International Settlements.
SE	Sweden	Compilation	From September 1999 onwards: weekly reports of Riksbank's assets and liabilities. Between 1668 and 1998: Fregert (2014): "The Riksbank balance sheet, 1668–2011".
		Sources	Sveriges Riksbank; Bank for International Settlements.
SG	Singapore	Compilation	From January 1991 onwards: monthly balance sheet (Monetary Authority: Assets and Liabilities). Between 1975 and 1990: annual financial statements.
		Sources	Monetary Authority of Singapore; Bank for International Settlements.
SI	Slovenia	Compilation	From June 2016 onwards: disaggregated financial statement of the Eurosystem. Between January 2004 and May 2016: monthly balance sheet items following the harmonised monetary statistics of monetary financial institutions. Between December 1991 and December 2003: monthly balance sheet items.
		Sources	Bank of Slovenia; European Central Bank; Bank for International Settlements.
SK	Slovakia	Compilation	From June 2016 onwards: disaggregated financial statement of the Eurosystem. Between January 2006 and May 2016: monthly balance sheet items following the harmonised monetary statistics of monetary financial institutions. Between 1993 and 2005: annual financial statements.
		Sources	National Bank of Slovakia; European Central Bank; Bank for International Settlements.

TH	Thailand	Compilation	From February 2003 onwards: International Financial Statistics of the International Monetary Fund. Between December 1975 and January 2003: central bank sectoral balance sheets. Between 1958 and November 1975 annual financial statements.
		Sources	Bank of Thailand; International Monetary Fund; Bank for International Settlements.
TR	Türkiye	Compilation	From January 1986 onwards: weekly financial statements. Before 1986: annual financial statements.
		Sources	Central Bank of the Republic of Türkiye; Bank for International Settlements.
US	United States	Compilation	From March 1989 onwards: Factors Affecting Reserve Balances (H.4.1). Between November 1914 and March 1989: Bao et al (2018): "The Federal Reserve System's weekly balance sheet since 1914".
		Sources	Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; Bank for International Settlements.
XM	Euro area	Compilation	From 1998 onwards: consolidated financial statements of the Eurosystem, including the balance sheets of the European Central Bank and Eurosystem central banks, including all national central banks branches, vis-à-vis third parties.
		Sources	European Central Bank; Bank for International Settlements.
ZA	South Africa	Compilation	From January 1964 onwards: monthly financial statements. Before 1964: annual financial statements.
		Sources	South African Reserve Bank; Bank for International Settlements.