

# Finance

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OECD work in the area of finance and investment focuses on identifying policies to keep markets open, competitive and sustainable, and on detecting macroeconomic and sectoral imbalances through international co-operation.

The *OECD Insurance Statistics Yearbook* provides major official insurance data for all OECD countries and selected non-OECD countries. The statistics contain not only general information on insurance activities but also insurance activity indicators (such as OECD market share, penetration, density and premiums per employee) and selected balance sheet items collected, both for direct insurers and reinsurers, under the framework of the global insurance statistics (GIS) framework. Along with its companion product, *Global Insurance Market Trends*, a better understanding of the insurance market is gained.

*Pension Markets in Focus* provides accurate, comprehensive, comparable and up-to-date statistics on pension funds on a yearly basis. Pension statistics are collected within the Global Pension Statistics project framework and gather data for more than 70 countries.

The financial and economic crises have underlined the importance of monitoring financial activity and position of the various institutional sectors of OECD economies by using timely, frequent and comparable financial statistics. The *OECD Financial Dashboard* presents financial indicators, based on data available in the *Financial Accounts* and *Financial Balance Sheets* datasets. They aim to give a picture of the short-term behaviour of the institutional sectors and which allow the analysis of the position and performance of the various institutional sectors as well as appropriate comparisons across countries.



## Find out more

- OECD (2012), *Insurance Statistics Yearbook 2011*.
- OECD (2012), *National Accounts of OECD Countries, Financial Accounts*.
- OECD (2012), *National Accounts of OECD Countries, Financial Balance Sheets*.
- OECD (2012), *OECD Pensions Outlook 2012*.
- OECD (2005), *Private Pensions: OECD Classification and Glossary*.
- *OECD Financial Dashboard* (database).
- *OECD Households' Assets and Liabilities* (database).
- *OECD Institutional Investors' Assets* (database).
- *OECD Insurance Statistics* (database).

The *Financial Accounts* and *Financial Balance Sheets* datasets, which are a consistent and integrated section of the System of National Accounts (SNA), have an important in-built quality control: they are both complete, because they encompass all sectors and all activities of the economy, and rigorous, because these are required to match not only with each other but also with the other accounts of the system.

The *Financial Accounts* and *Financial Balance Sheets* record annual and quarterly information, by type of financial instruments, relating respectively to the financial transactions, carried out by the institutional sectors during the accounting period, and to the stocks of financial assets and liabilities, held by the institutional sectors.

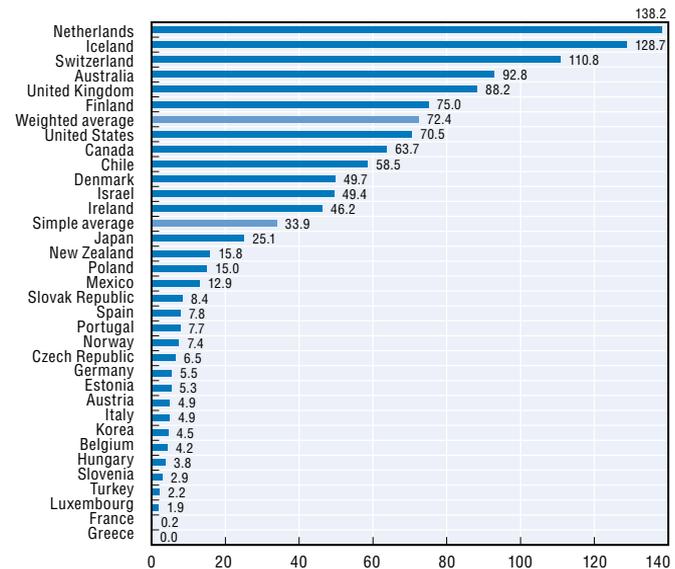
To complete the information contained in the financial balance sheets, additional annual datasets give a more precise view on two important sectors of the national economies of OECD countries:

- ▶ The OECD database on *Institutional Investors' Assets* presents the main assets, including some assets split by type of issuers (resident/non resident), according to a detailed breakdown by type of financial sectors, which are the major collectors of savings and are the suppliers of funds to financial markets, and which have a significant impact on investment strategies.
- ▶ The OECD database on *Households' Assets and Liabilities* aims at a better identifying and analysing of households'

wealth in OECD countries. It presents a finer classification of selected financial assets and liabilities, as well as some relevant non-financial assets.

## Importance of Pension Funds Relative to the Size of the Economy, 2011

As a percentage of GDP



Source: OECD (2012), *Pension Markets in Focus*, n°9, September 2012, OECD, Paris.