



# STATISTICAL PRESS RELEASE 37|2017

## International banking statistics on a consolidated basis

### 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2016

12 April 2017

Today, Banco de Portugal publishes statistics in Table [A.24](#) of the *Statistical Bulletin* and in *BPstat* on international consolidated banking statistics for the fourth quarter of 2016.

At the end of 2016, international financial assets of Portuguese banks, on an immediate risk basis,<sup>1</sup> stood at €83.8 billion, i.e. €4.1 billion less than in the previous year.

On an ultimate risk basis,<sup>2</sup> international financial assets held by Portuguese banks amounted to €84.3 billion, which corresponds to a decrease of €4.3 billion from end-2015 (Chart 1).

The decreases recorded in both risk bases were chiefly due to developments in external claims of Portuguese banks in Monetary Union countries, particularly in the Netherlands.

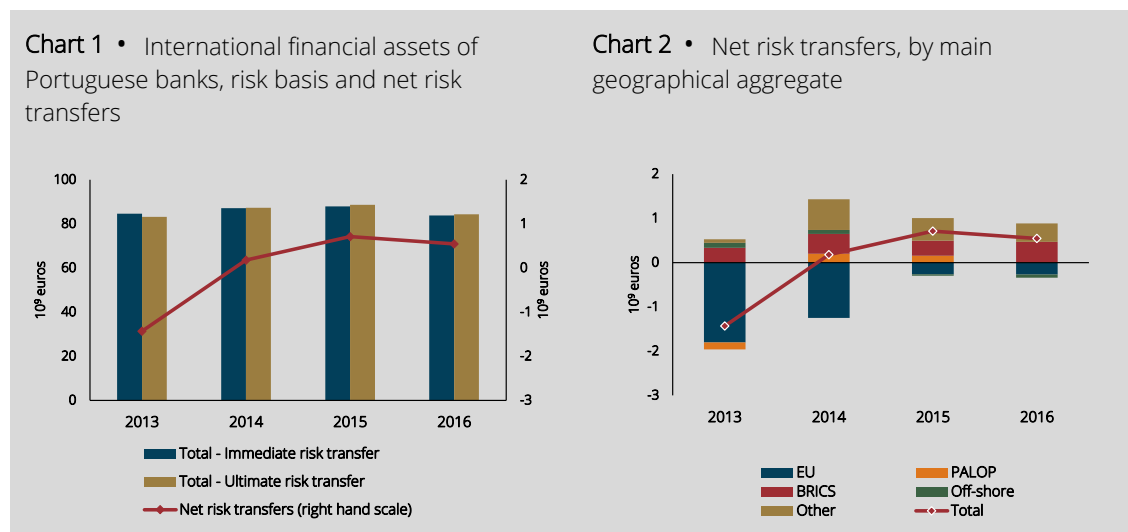
Claims held by branches and subsidiaries of Portuguese banks in the countries where they are located (local claims) also declined in 2016, in

particular in Portuguese-speaking African countries (PALOP).

Around two-thirds of international financial assets held by Portuguese banks were located in the European Union.

Exposure to immediate risk vis-à-vis European Union Member States was higher than exposure to ultimate risk. By contrast, with regard to the BRICs and other countries, Portuguese banks' exposure was higher to ultimate risk than to immediate risk (Chart 2).

The higher volume of international financial assets on an ultimate risk basis than on an immediate risk basis means that there are claims of Portuguese banks on resident entities guaranteed by non-resident entities. This difference, which amounted approximately to €0.5 billion at the end of 2016 corresponded to net risk transfers between Portugal and the rest of the world.



<sup>1</sup> International financial assets against the counterparty which signed the agreement with the bank, and which is primarily responsible for its compliance, even when guaranteed by a third party.

<sup>2</sup> International financial assets against the counterparty that is ultimately responsible for compliance with the agreement, i.e. when there is a third party that guarantees compliance with the agreement, it takes the place of the immediate counterparty.



Additional information available at:

[Table A.24 of the Statistical Bulletin](#)

[Statistical Press Release No 4 published in January 2017](#)

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Banco de Portugal | [info@bportugal.pt](mailto:info@bportugal.pt)