

## Note on stock of liabilities of trade credits and advances (October 2016)

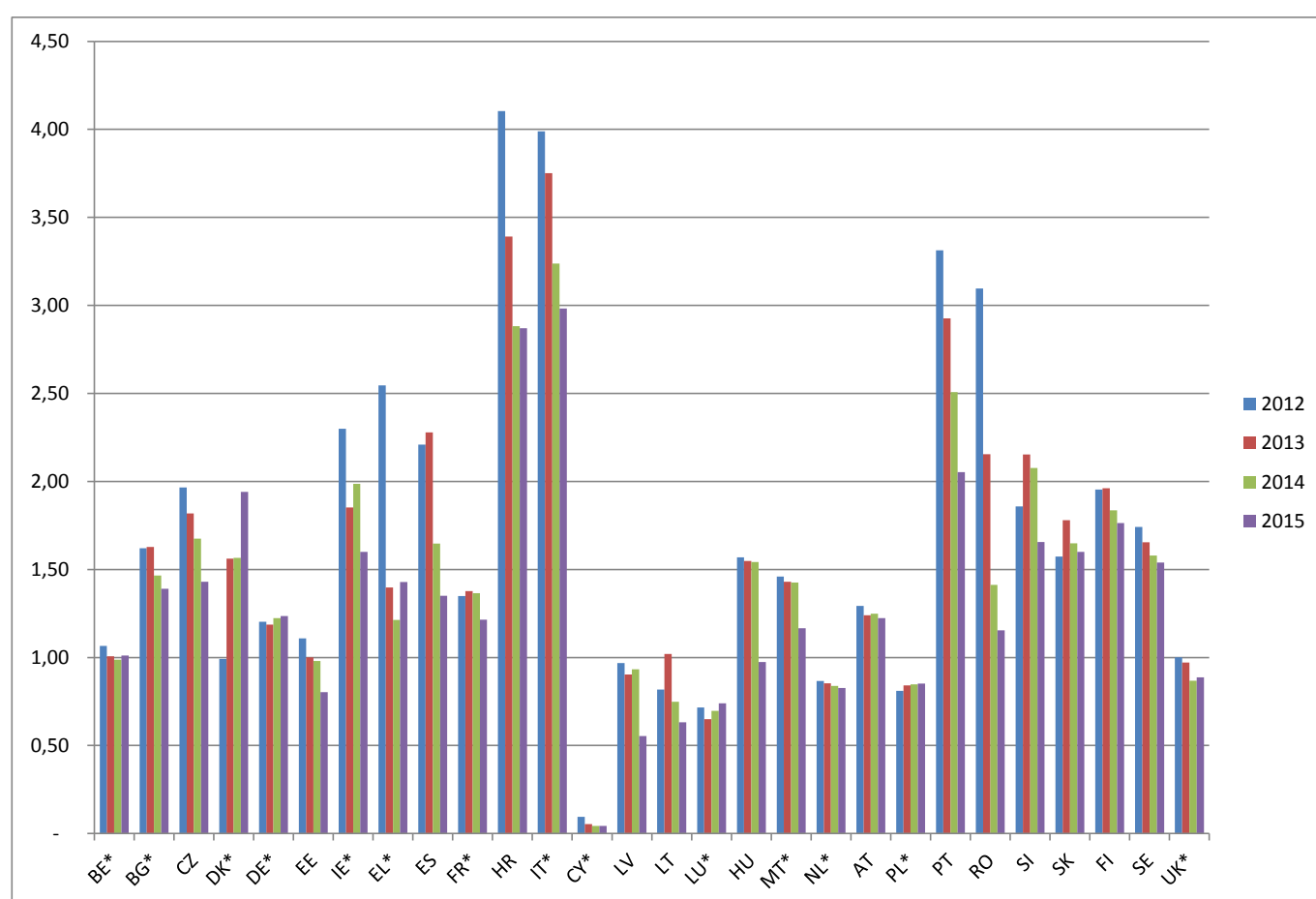
Alongside deficit and debt data, Eurostat publishes a note on the stock of liabilities of trade credits and advances (AF.81L). The data are reported by Member States, according to the Council minutes of 22/11/1993, twice a year (end March and end September), together with the reporting of government deficit and debt data.

The data are collected and already published in Table 4 "Provision of other data in accordance with the statements contained in the Council minutes 22/11/1993" of the deficit and debt notification, on Eurostat's website:

<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/government-finance-statistics/excessive-deficit-procedure/edp-notification-tables>

Trade credits and advances payable are unpaid (usually short-term) liabilities of government resulting from transactions in goods and services. While the expenditure relating to trade credits is included in ESA government expenditure in line with the accrual principle (and thus impacts the deficit/surplus), the stock of trade credits and advances payable are not included in government (EDP) debt<sup>1</sup>.

**Graph 1: Stock of trade credits and advances payable in 2012-2015 (% of GDP)**



\* See the country footnote

The figures below should normally cover all trade credits and advances of general government. However, complete coverage of all government sub-sectors as well as inside the sub-sectors is currently achieved for half of the Member States. For the other Member States, data are flagged as provisional, subject to revisions in future notifications. For details, see country footnotes below.

<sup>1</sup> According to the Protocol on the excessive deficit procedure annexed to the Treaty on the functioning of the EU, government debt is the consolidated gross debt of the whole general government sector outstanding at the end of the year (at nominal value). According to Regulation 479/2009, as amended, it includes the following categories: currency and deposits (AF.2), debt securities (AF.3) and loans (AF.4).

**Table 1: Stock of liabilities of trade credits and advances by Member State**

	Stock of trade credits and advances payable							
	Millions of national currency				% of GDP			
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2012	2013	2014	2015
Belgium	4 129	3 945	3 957	4 148	1,1	1,0	1,0	1,0
Bulgaria	1 329	1 338	1 226	1 231	1,6	1,6	1,5	1,4
Czech Republic	79 784	74 507	72 240	65 163	2,0	1,8	1,7	1,4
Denmark	18 687	29 728	30 427	38 544	1,0	1,6	1,6	1,9
Germany	33 182	33 539	35 790	37 475	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,2
Estonia	199	189	194	163	1,1	1,0	1,0	0,8
Ireland	4 042	3 338	3 838	4 094	2,3	1,9	2,0	1,6
Greece	4 868	2 526	2 158	2 510	2,5	1,4	1,2	1,4
Spain	22 974	23 363	17 085	14 521	2,2	2,3	1,6	1,3
France	28 156	29 129	29 215	26 486	1,3	1,4	1,4	1,2
Croatia	13 560	11 175	9 456	9 580	4,1	3,4	2,9	2,9
Italy	64 354	60 196	52 459	48 984	4,0	3,8	3,2	3,0
Cyprus	19	10	8	8	0,1	0,1	0,0	0,0
Latvia	212	206	220	135	1,0	0,9	0,9	0,6
Lithuania	273	357	274	236	0,8	1,0	0,7	0,6
Luxembourg	314	301	343	379	0,7	0,6	0,7	0,7
Hungary	449 649	466 554	499 731	331 149	1,6	1,5	1,5	1,0
Malta	105	110	115	102	1,5	1,4	1,4	1,2
Netherlands	5 595	5 574	5 561	5 594	0,9	0,9	0,8	0,8
Austria	4 100	3 998	4 125	4 158	1,3	1,2	1,2	1,2
Poland	13 214	13 949	14 579	15 326	0,8	0,8	0,8	0,9
Portugal	5 580	4 983	4 340	3 686	3,3	2,9	2,5	2,1
Romania	18 435	13 739	9 441	8 228	3,1	2,2	1,4	1,2
Slovenia	669	773	775	639	1,9	2,2	2,1	1,7
Slovakia	1 144	1 320	1 252	1 259	1,6	1,8	1,6	1,6
Finland	3 903	3 989	3 769	3 688	2,0	2,0	1,8	1,8
Sweden	64 159	62 367	62 178	64 326	1,7	1,7	1,6	1,5
United Kingdom	16 754	16 892	15 823	16 590	1,0	1,0	0,9	0,9

**Country footnotes:**

**Belgium:** Data include trade credits of the main entities of the central and state government sub-sectors, trade credits of the social security funds and trade credits of some extra-budgetary units classified in the general government sector. Further progress is expected in terms of coverage and full implementation of the Eurostat decision of 31 July 2012 on the reclassification as government debt of some specific operations related to factoring and restructuring.

**Bulgaria:** Data include trade credits and advances of the public corporations classified inside the general government sector and advance payments made to budget units. Short-term trade credits of budgetary units cannot be identified separately in the Chart of Accounts and thus, in accordance with the public accounting guidelines, these are reported as accounts payable in public accounts and do not appear in EDP Table 4. On the other hand, the Bulgarian National Bank developed a reporting system for trade credits subject to factoring (showing separately factoring operations with and without recourse). This system has been used for the implementation of the Eurostat decision relating to factoring and restructuring.

**Denmark:** Data include all general government sub-sectors. The increase in the amount of trade credits since the last publication is due to the inclusion of trade credits for local government level.

**Germany:** Data are provisional as coverage is partly uncertain.

**Ireland:** For most government units, detailed source data on trade credits are available and used. In a minority of cases, data on stocks of trade credits and advances payable for some government units are estimated.

**Greece:** Data include trade credits of the central government (only budgetary central government and public hospitals) and the local government sub-sectors.

**France:** Data contain estimated amounts related to the implementation of the Eurostat decision of 31 July 2012 on the reclassification as government debt of some specific operations related to factoring and restructuring.

**Italy:** Data on stock of trade credits and advances payable are provisional.

**Cyprus:** Data only include the central government sub-sector.

**Luxembourg:** Data on trade credits are provisional as there are uncertainties regarding the full coverage of some entities.

**Malta:** Data on trade credits for budgetary central government are estimated.

**Netherlands:** Data on trade credits and advances payable are estimated on the basis of a time lag in payments.

**Poland:** Consolidated stocks of trade credits and advances include liabilities relating to the delivery of goods and services as well as prepayments on the delivery, excluding restructured liabilities and liabilities assumed by financial institutions.

**United Kingdom:** Data coverage includes both the central government and local government sub-sectors. While central government data sources include the main central government units, local government estimates are based on a sample of local authorities.