



# BACH USER GUIDE SUMMARY

April 2018



*BANK FOR THE ACCOUNTS OF COMPANIES HARMONIZED*

**[www.bach.banque-france.fr](http://www.bach.banque-france.fr)**

Austria | Belgium | Croatia | Czech Republic | Denmark | France | Germany | Italy | Luxembourg | Poland | Portugal  
| Slovakia | Turkey | Spain



## MEMBER COUNTRIES

**Austria** | *Oesterreichische Nationalbank*

**Belgium** | *Banque Nationale de Belgique*

**Croatia** | *Hrvatska Narodna Banka*

**Czech Republic** | *Česká Národní Banka*

**Denmark** | *Danmarks Nationalbank*

**France** | *Banque de France*

**Germany** | *Deutsche Bundesbank*

**Italy** | *Cerved Group and Banca d'Italia*

**Luxembourg** | *STATEC*

**Poland** | *Narodowy Bank Polski*

**Portugal** | *Banco de Portugal*

**Slovakia** | *Národná Banka Slovenska*

**Spain** | *Banco de España*

**Turkey** | *Türkiye Cumhuriyet Merkez Bankası*



## USERGUIDE INDEX

*DATABASE CONTENTS*



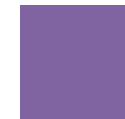
*NATIONAL SAMPLES*



*METHODOLOGY & WARNINGS*



*RELEASE CALENDAR & CONTACTS*





# Historical background

## *BANK FOR THE ACCOUNTS OF COMPANIES HARMONIZED - BACH*

BACH has been created under the aegis of the European Committee of Central Balance-Sheet Data Offices (ECCBSO). The ECCBSO is an informal body whose members consist of experts either from Central Balance-Sheet Data Offices belonging to or associated with the National Central Banks (NCB) of the European Community, or from National Statistical Institutions.

The BACH project was launched in 1985 by the General Directorate Economic and Financial Affairs (DGEcFin) of the European Commission. BACH was created in order to analyze the financial structures and performances of European companies. The BACH project was based on the idea of exploiting information supplied by the national Balance Sheet Data Offices, which use companies' individual accounts and therefore provide more detailed information than that available in National Accounts.

The database was developed in close co-operation with the European Committee of Central Balance Sheet Data Offices set up in 1987 at the initiative of the Banque de France, Banque Nationale de Belgique and Italian Centrale dei Bilanci.

In the late nineties it was created another database – European Sectoral references Database (ESD) – to provide financial ratios of non-financial companies. The aim was to provide sectoral benchmarks to compare companies' performances. It was based on dispersion' statistics (quartiles) and has been primarily developed as an additional tool for credit and financial institutions' risk analysis.



## New BACH database

*... A more harmonized and friendly database*

In 2010, national providers have decided to propose a single application with both complementary databases. However, following the joint effort of harmonization, the two databases were completely merged in a more friendly and comparable framework. The aim of the Working Group responsible for the BACH database was very straightforward: “Architecture of the new BACH must comprise a perfect marriage between the database and the users’ needs. In that sense, straight focus should be put on harmonization of the data and on a Userguide more friendly and integrated!”

In short the new database includes:

- (A) Eleven European countries: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia and Spain (more three countries a near future: Croatia, Luxembourg and Turkey); and,
- (B) Comparable information on the financial statements of companies and economic-financial ratios aggregated by sector and by size class.



# Bank for the Accounts of Companies Harmonized





## DATABASE CONTENTS | *Templates, Income Statement*

INCOME STATEMENT (in % of net turnover)		GENERAL CONTENTS
I1	<b>Net turnover</b>	Includes sales of goods and services net of returns, deductions and rebates. Sales are net of VAT and Excise taxes.
I2	<b>Variation in stocks of finished goods and work in progress</b>	Includes change in inventories of production recognized in the income statement.
I3	<b>Capitalised production</b>	Includes costs capitalized by the entity recognized as income in the period.
I4	<b>Other income</b>	Includes other income not identified in previous items (I1, I2 and I3).
I41	<b>Of which: Operating subsidies and supplementary operating income</b>	Details of other income relating to operating subsidies and supplementary operating income.
I42	<b>Of which: Financial income</b>	Details of other income relating to financial income.
I43	<b>Of which: Extraordinary income</b>	Details of other income relating to extraordinary income.
I5	<b>Cost of goods sold, materials and consumables</b>	Includes cost of materials and consumables used and the cost of goods sold in the period.
I6	<b>External supplies and services</b>	Includes expenses with external supplies and services in the period.
I7	<b>Staff costs</b>	Includes expenses with the staff recognized in the period.
I8	<b>Other expenses</b>	Includes other expenses not identified in previous items (I5, I6 and I7).
I81	<b>Of which: Operating taxes and other operating charges</b>	Details of other expenses relating to operating taxes and other operating charges.
I82	<b>Of which: Provisions (net of reversals)</b>	Details of other expenses relating to Provisions (net of reversals)
I83	<b>Of which: Financial expenses other than interests on financial debt</b>	Details of other expenses relating to financial expenses, except interests on financial debts (included in I10)
I84	<b>Of which: Extraordinary expenses and impairments (net of reversals), except on inventories and receivables</b>	Details of other expenses relating to extraordinary expenses and reduction/increase in fair value and impairment charges (net of reversals), except impairments (net of reversals) included in I85
I85	<b>Of which: Impairments (net of reversals) on inventories and receivables</b>	Details of other expenses relating to impairment charges (net of reversals) on inventories and receivables
I9	<b>Depreciation and amortization of intangible and tangible fixed assets</b>	Includes depreciation and amortization of assets included in the items A11 and A12 recognized in the period.
I10	<b>Interests on financial debts</b>	Includes financing costs recognized in the period.
I11	<b>Tax on profit</b>	Includes income taxes recognized in the period.
It1	<b>Total income</b>	(I1+I2+I3+I4)
It2	<b>Total expenses</b>	(I5+I6+I7+I8+I9+I10+I11)
It3	<b>Net profit or loss for the period</b>	(It1-It2)



## DATABASE CONTENTS | *Templates, Balance sheet - Assets*

\*Assets are presented at net value of accumulated depreciation, accumulated impairment losses and other adjustments

ASSETS*		GENERAL CONTENTS
(in % of total balance sheet)		
A1	Fixed assets	(A11+A12+A13)
A11	Intangible fixed assets	Includes brands, patents, copyrights, licenses, etc., even if such assets are held under finance lease contracts. This item also includes the Goodwill recognized separately.
A12	Tangible fixed assets	Includes Lands, buildings, machineries, administration and transport equipments, etc., even if such assets are held under finance lease contracts. This item also includes the bearer biological assets and investment properties.
A13	Financial fixed assets	Includes holdings of shares in the capital of other entities on a continuing basis, as well as loans made to such entities.
A131	of which: Shares in affiliated undertakings and participating interests	Details of financial fixed assets relating to investments in (holdings of shares in the capital of) associates, subsidiaries and jointly controlled entities.
A2	Inventories	Includes raw materials and consumables, goods, work in progress and finished products, as well as consumable biological assets.
A21	of which: Payments on account	Details of inventories relating to payments on account.
A3	Trade receivables	Includes credit granted to customers for sales or services net of advances received (except for payments received on account of orders, included in L5).
A4	Other receivables	Includes other accounts receivables (except trade receivables), mainly non remunerated amounts owed by affiliated undertakings, staff receivables, tax receivables, other debtors and active dividends to be received, as well as non-current assets held for sale
A41	Current	Other receivables which are expected to be realized within 12 months after the reporting period
A42	Non-current	Other receivables which are not expected to be realized within 12 months after the reporting period
A5	Deferred assets	Includes expenses to be recognized in future periods, also including deferred tax assets
A51 <sup>1</sup>	Current	
A52 <sup>1</sup>	Non-current	
A6	Other financial assets, current	Includes financial assets held for trading and derivatives.
A7	Cash and bank	Includes the amount available in cash, demand deposits and other deposits in financial institutions.
A	TOTAL BALANCE SHEET	(A1+A2+A3+A4+A5+A6+A7)=E+L

(1) Those details are only available for data from 2000 to 2015.





## DATABASE CONTENTS | *Templates, Balance sheet – Equity and Liabilities*

EQUITY AND LIABILITIES (in % of total balance sheet)		GENERAL CONTENTS
E1	Capital, reserves, earnings and other equity instruments	Includes paid capital, reserves, treasury stock and other equity instruments. Subscribed capital but not paid is deducted from this item. This item also includes the cumulative net income of prior periods, the net income for the period as well as dividends paid in advance.
E2	Revaluations, adjustments on financial investments and other comprehensive income	Includes surplus revaluation of tangible and intangible assets, adjustments on financial assets recognized in equity and other changes in equity.
E	TOTAL EQUITY	(E1+E2)
Lp	Provisions	Includes all provisions.
Lp1	of which: Provisions for pensions and similar obligations	Details of provisions relating to liability for post-employment benefits.
L1	Bonds and similar obligations	Includes bonds and similar securities issued by the entity.
L11	Current	Bonds and similar securities due to be settled within 12 months after the reporting period
L12	Non-current	Bonds and similar securities not due to be settled within 12 months after the reporting period
L2	Amounts owed to credit institutions	Includes debt of the entity vis-à-vis credit institutions (includes financial leasing)
L21	Current	Amounts owed to credit institutions due to be settled within 12 months after the reporting period
L22	Non-current	Amounts owed to credit institution not due to be settled within 12 months after the reporting period
L3	Other creditors	(L31+L32)
L31	Other financial creditors	Includes the remaining funding from other financial creditors not identified in L1 and L2, mainly intra-group debt.
L311	Current	Funding from other financial creditors due to be settled within 12 months after the reporting period
L312	Non-current	Funding from other financial creditors not due to be settled within 12 months after the reporting period
L32	Other non-financial creditors	Includes other accounts payables (except trade payables and payables to other financial creditors), mainly tax and social security payables, staff debt and active dividends to be paid
L321	Current	Funding from other non-financial creditors due to be settled within 12 months after the reporting period
L322	Non-current	Funding from other non-financial creditors not due to be settled within 12 months after the reporting period
L4	Trade payables	Includes debts to suppliers of goods and services, net of advances made (except for payments on account, included in A21)
L5	Payments received on account of orders, current	Includes payments received by the entity on account of orders
L6	Deferred liabilities	Includes income to be recognized in future periods, including deferred tax liabilities
L61 <sup>1</sup>	Current	
L62 <sup>1</sup>	Non-current	
L	TOTAL LIABILITIES	(Lp+L1+L2+L3+L4+L5+L6)

(1) Those details are only available for data from 2000 to 2015.



## DATABASE CONTENTS | *Templates, Ratios (1)*

Notes: 1) EBITDA is calculated without provisions, impairments and extraordinary items; EBIT and EBT are calculated with these items; (2) This set of information is completed with the structures provided in the BS and IS; 3) some ratios are not computed for Holdings; 4) Edition of the ratios: denominator >0

R1	FINANCIAL STRUCTURE RATIOS (in %)	DEFINITION	CONTENTS
R11	Assets to Equity ratio	Total balance sheet/ Total equity	Numerator: A Denominator: E
R12	Liabilities to Equity ratio	Total liabilities/ Total equity	Numerator: L Denominator: E
R13	Current assets/ Total assets	Current assets/ Total balance sheet	Numerator: (A2+A3+A41+A51 <sup>1</sup> +A6+A7) Denominator: A
R14	Other financial assets and cash and bank/ Total assets	Other financial assets and cash and bank/ Total balance sheet	Numerator: (A6+A7) Denominator: A
R15	Non-current debt/ Total assets	Non-current debt/ Total balance sheet	Numerator: (L12+L22+L312+L322) Denominator: A
R16	Current debt/ Total assets	Current debt/ Total balance sheet	Numerator: (L11+L21+L311+L321+L4+L5) Denominator: A

(1) This variable (A51) is used from 2000 to 2015; from 2016 onwards, A5 is used instead.

R2	FINANCIAL AND DEBT SERVICE RATIOS (in %)	DEFINITION	CONTENTS
R21	Financial income net of charges other than interest over EBITDA	Financial income net of charges other than interest/ EBITDA	Numerator: (I42-I83) Denominator: (I1+I2+I3+I41+I42-I5-I6-I7-I81-I83)
R22	EBITDA over interest on financial debt	EBITDA/ Interest on financial debts	Numerator: (I1+I2+I3+I41+I42-I5-I6-I7-I81-I83) Denominator: I10
R23	Interest burden	EBT/ EBIT	Numerator: (I1+I2+I3+I4-I5-I6-I7-I8-I9-I10) Denominator: (I1+I2+I3+I4-I5-I6-I7-I8-I9)
R24	Interest and similar charges/ Net turnover	Interest and similar charges/ Net turnover	Numerator: (I83+I10) Denominator: I1
R25	Interest and similar charges/ Gross operating profit	Interest and similar charges/ Gross operating profit	Numerator: (I83+I10) Denominator: (I1+I2+I3+I41-I5-I6-I7-I81)
R26	Net financial income/ Gross operating profit	Financial income net of charges/ Gross operating profit	Numerator: (I42-I83-I10) Denominator: (I1+I2+I3+I41-I5-I6-I7-I81)
R27	Gross operating profit/ Total net debt	Gross operating profit/ Total net debt	Numerator: (I1+I2+I3+I41-I5-I6-I7-I81) Denominator: (L1+L2+L3+L4+L5+L6-A6-A7)



## DATABASE CONTENTS | *Templates, Ratios (II)*

Notes: 1) EBITDA is calculated without provisions, impairments and extraordinary items; EBIT and EBT are calculated with these items; (2) This set of information is completed with the structures provided in the BS and IS; 3) some ratios are not computed for Holdings; 4) Edition of the ratios: denominator >0

R3	PROFITABILITY RATIOS (in %)	DEFINITION	CONTENTS
R31	Gross value added/ Net turnover	Gross value added/ Net turnover	Numerator: (I1+I2+I3+I41-I5-I6-I81) Denominator: I1
R32	Gross operating profit/ Net turnover (ROS)	Gross operating profit/ Net turnover	Numerator: (I1+I2+I3+I41-I5-I6-I7-I81) Denominator: I1
R33	EBITDA/ Net turnover	EBITDA/ Net turnover	Numerator: (I1+I2+I3+I41+I42-I5-I6-I7-I81-I83) Denominator: I1
R34	Net operating profit/ Net turnover	Net operating profit/ Net turnover	Numerator: (I1+I2+I3+I41-I5-I6-I7-I81-I82-I85-I9) Denominator: I1
R35	EBIT/ Net turnover	EBIT/ Net turnover	Numerator: (I1+I2+I3+I4-I5-I6-I7-I8-I9) Denominator: I1
R36	EBT/ Net turnover	EBT/ Net turnover	Numerator: (I1+I2+I3+I4-I5-I6-I7-I8-I9-I10) Denominator: I1
R37	Net financial income/ Net turnover	Net financial income/ Net turnover	Numerator: (I42-I83-I10) Denominator: I1
R38	Return on equity	Net profit or loss for the period/ Total equity	Numerator: It3 Denominator: E
R39	Net operating profit/ Total assets	Net operating profit/ Total balance sheet	Numerator: (I1+I2+I3+I41-I5-I6-I7-I81-I82-I85-I9) Denominator: A
R310	Profit or loss of the year before taxes/ Equity	Profit or loss of the year before taxes/ Total equity	Numerator: It3+I11 Denominator: E

R4	ACTIVITY AND TECHNICAL RATIOS (in %)	DEFINITION	CONTENTS
R41	Asset turnover ratio	Net turnover/ Total balance sheet	Numerator: I1 Denominator: A
R42	Coefficient Employee expenses over Gross value added	Staff costs/ Gross value added	Numerator: I7 Denominator: (I1+I2+I3+I41-I5-I6-I81)



## DATABASE CONTENTS | *Templates, Ratios (III)*

Notes: 1) EBITDA is calculated without provisions, impairments and extraordinary items; EBIT and EBT are calculated with these items; (2) This set of information is completed with the structures provided in the BS and IS; 3) some ratios are not computed for Holdings; 4) Edition of the ratios: denominator >0

R5	WORKING CAPITAL RATIOS (in %)	DEFINITION	CONTENTS	
R51	<i>Inventories/ Net turnover</i>	<i>Inventories/ Net turnover</i>	Numerator:	A2
			Denominator:	I1
R52	<i>Trade receivables/ Net turnover</i>	<i>Trade receivables/ Net turnover</i>	Numerator:	A3
			Denominator:	I1
R53	<i>Trade payables/ Net turnover</i>	<i>Trade payables/ Net turnover</i>	Numerator:	L4
			Denominator:	I1
R54	<i>Operating working capital/ Net turnover</i>	<i>Operating working capital/ Net turnover</i>	Numerator:	(A2+A3-L4-L5)
			Denominator:	I1

## DATABASE CONTENTS | *Templates, Notes*

NOTES (in % of net turnover)		GENERAL CONTENTS
N1	<i>Acquisitions less sales and disposals of intangible assets</i>	<i>Includes the acquisitions less sales and disposals in the period of assets included in A11 item of Balance Sheet</i>
N2	<i>Acquisitions less sales and disposals of tangible assets</i>	<i>Includes acquisitions less sales and disposals in the period of assets included in A12 item of Balance Sheet</i>
N3	<i>Acquisitions less sales and disposals of financial fixed assets</i>	<i>Includes acquisitions less sales and disposals in the period of assets included in A13 item of Balance Sheet</i>

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]



## DEVIATIONS | Notes, Comparisons

Notes: Detailed information for each country is available on the excel file on the BACH website; **Legend:** (1) "-" means the concept is in accordance with the general content; (2) "I" means additional information to the user; (3) "D" means possible deviation from defined concept; (4) N/A means not available; (5) "P\_N/A" means partial not available (e.g. not available for one size class)

	AT	BE	CZ	DK	FR	DE	IT	LUX	PL	PT	SK	ES
N1	N/A	-	-	N/A	D	N/A	N/A	D	N/A	-	-	D
N2	N/A	-	-	N/A	D	N/A	-	D	N/A	-	-	D
N3	N/A	-	N/A	N/A	D	N/A	-	D	N/A	P_N/A	-	D





## DATABASE CONTENTS | National Templates, Transition Tables

Note: on the BACH website it is available an excel file with the Transition Tables per country. In that sense, it is provided the code of the National Questionnaire that is associated with each BACH code. The hyperlinks to the National Questionnaire are available on the following table.

COUNTRY		BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF NATIONAL TEMPLATES	HYPERLINK(S) TO NATIONAL TEMPLATE(S)
AT	AUSTRIA	The data collected are the product of a cooperation between the Oesterreichische Nationalbank and the Austrian Institute for SME Research	No hyperlink is available for Austria. For a summarized pdf of the National Template, please contact Oesterreichische Nationalbank (icas@oenb.at)
BE	BELGIUM	Standard models for the filing of annual accounts of undertakings, to be published in accordance with the IVth Directive provisions: large undertakings use the full model, small undertakings use the abbreviated model	<a href="http://www.nbb.be/DOC/BA/Models/ENT/2012_C_20121201.pdf">http://www.nbb.be/DOC/BA/Models/ENT/2012_C_20121201.pdf</a> <a href="http://www.nbb.be/DOC/BA/Models/ENT/2012_A_20121201.pdf">http://www.nbb.be/DOC/BA/Models/ENT/2012_A_20121201.pdf</a>
CZ	CZECH REPUBLIC	The data collected are based on the annual statistical questionnaire (balance sheets, income statements) and additional information from tax returns	<a href="http://apl.czso.cz/pll/vykazv/pdf113?xvyk=1753&amp;cd=0">http://apl.czso.cz/pll/vykazv/pdf113?xvyk=1753&amp;cd=0</a>
DK	DENMARK	The data is based on the annual reported financial accounts and the tax returns.	No hyperlink is available for Denmark
FR	FRANCE	The data collected are based on the tax returns (balance sheets, income statements and additional information on some balance sheet and income statement items)	<a href="http://www.impots.gouv.fr/portail/deploiement/p1/fiche-descriptiveformulaire_7780/fiche-descriptiveformulaire_7780.pdf">http://www.impots.gouv.fr/portail/deploiement/p1/fiche-descriptiveformulaire_7780/fiche-descriptiveformulaire_7780.pdf</a>
DE	GERMANY	The financial statements (including balance sheet and income statement) are collected from different sources. They can be compiled either according to German GAAP or according to German tax law	No hyperlink is available for Germany. For a summarized pdf of the National Template, please contact presse-information@bundesbank.de
IT	ITALY	-	No hyperlink is available for Italy. For a summarized pdf of the National Template, please contact Cerved Group
LUX	LUXEMBOURG		
PL	POLAND	The data based on the annual statistical financial statements collected by Central Statistical Office. The survey comprises enterprises of more than 9 employees that deliver full balance sheet statement.	<a href="http://form.stat.gov.pl/formularze/2016/passive/F-02.pdf">http://form.stat.gov.pl/formularze/2016/passive/F-02.pdf</a>
PT	PORTUGAL	Annual data of the Central Balance-Sheet Database is gathered from Annex A of IES - Simplified Corporate Information ( <i>Informação Empresarial Simplificada</i> , in the Portuguese acronym)	<a href="http://info.portaldasfinancas.gov.pt/NR/rdonlyres/8DA59E51-0062-4558-B663-B483D7208E93/0/ANUAL-AN-A.pdf">http://info.portaldasfinancas.gov.pt/NR/rdonlyres/8DA59E51-0062-4558-B663-B483D7208E93/0/ANUAL-AN-A.pdf</a>
SK	SLOVAKIA	The data based on the annual statistical financial statements collected by Ministry of Finance. The survey comprises enterprises with double-entry bookkeeping.	<a href="https://www.finance.gov.sk/Default.aspx?CatID=4070">https://www.finance.gov.sk/Default.aspx?CatID=4070</a> <a href="https://www.finance.gov.sk/Default.aspx?CatID=4071">https://www.finance.gov.sk/Default.aspx?CatID=4071</a>
ES	SPAIN	The data collected and questionnaires are based on two sources: Banco de España survey and Commercial Registries (Administrative source).	<a href="http://www.bde.es/f/webbde/SES/Secciones/Publicaciones/PublicacionesAnuales/CentralBalances/15/Fich/cb15sm.pdf">http://www.bde.es/f/webbde/SES/Secciones/Publicaciones/PublicacionesAnuales/CentralBalances/15/Fich/cb15sm.pdf</a>



## NATIONAL SAMPLES | General coverage

Notes: \* only non-financial corporation's (excluding sole proprietors) are covered by each country  
The coverage rates for this file are based on the aggregate **Zc - Total NACE (without K642 and M701)**, except for PL, for which are "computed for Z0 + K642", since it is not possible to exclude K642. For this country, data is exhaustive for companies with more than 9 employees that deliver full balance sheet statement.

COUNTRY	COVERAGE RATE*				
	NUMBER OF CORPORATIONS			TURNOVER (T), EMPLOYMENT (E)	
	2000	Provisional Figures (2015)	Final Figures (2014)	Provisional Figures (2015)	Final Figures (2014)
AT	AUSTRIA**	27.0%	40.6%	32.1%	-
BE	BELGIUM**	96.0%	47.6%	98.9%	63.0% (E)
CZ	CZECH REPUBLIC	16.0% (2008)	-	9.8%	-
DK	DENMARK	97.5%	92.1%	93.7%	99,98 (T)
FR	FRANCE	28.0% (2006)	27.1%	26.9%	82.1% (T)
DE	GERMANY	8.0%	6.3%	8.7%	59.5% (T)
IT	ITALY**	9.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100% (T)
PL	POLAND**	3% (2005)	2.8%	3.0%	56.7% (E)
PT	PORTUGAL**	6.0%	94.0%	94.0%	97.8% (T)
SK	SLOVAKIA****	-	61.5%		87.0% (T)
ES	SPAIN***	19.0%	35.5%	40.3%	59.0% (E)

\*\* Final figures for 2015 (instead provisional) in the signaled cases.

\*\*\* Average values

\*\*\*\* Final figures for 2013



## NATIONAL SAMPLES | General coverage

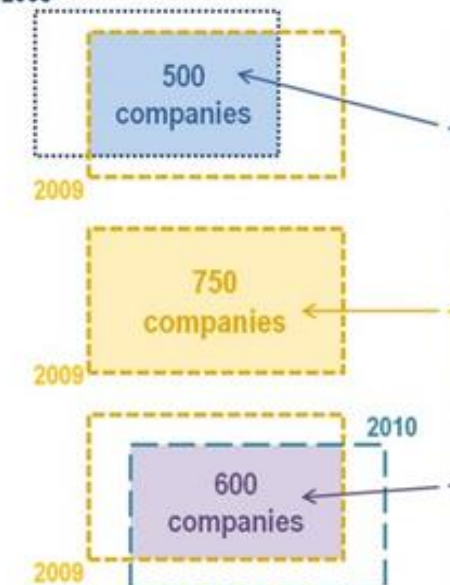
COUNTRY	DATA SOURCE	BREAKS AND BIAS IN SAMPLE TIME SPAN
AUSTRIA	Multiple sources	No break in time series. There is an over-representation of holding companies, head offices and real estate firms
BELGIUM	Administrative data	Almost full coverage of all corporate sizes and activity sectors; due to access to mandatory Official Accounts of the companies
CZECH REPUBLIC	Statistical survey & Administrative data	There are no breaks or bias in time series (since 2005)
DENMARK	Administrative data & Tax returns	No break in time series. Almost full coverage of all corporate sizes and activity sectors due to access to mandatory official accounts of the companies. A share of the net turnover is estimated based on tax returns. Small bias towards large companies.
FRANCE	Administrative data & Tax returns	No break in time series. Sample with an over-representation of the manufacturing sector
GERMANY	Multiple sources	No break in time series. Sample bias due to size class; large companies are over-represented
ITALY	Multiple sources	No break in time series. Bias towards large companies
LUXEMBOURG	Administrative data	Almost full coverage (for all sizes and activity sectors - except companies applying IFRS) from 2011 on: access to mandatory filing of official accounts of the companies
POLAND	Statistical survey	Sample includes only companies with more than 9 employees that deliver full balance sheet statement. The sample covers about 70% enterprises of this segment. Data according to NACE Rev. 2 are available since 2005
PORTUGAL	Administrative data	A statistical survey was used for collecting data before 2006. For that period, there is a bias toward large companies
SLOVAKIA	Administrative data	No break in time series. Sample bias due to changes in class structures between years
SPAIN	Multiple sources	Minor breaks due to changes of the Spanish GAAP (2008). Among them: a) until 2007, deferred interests have been deducted in liabilities in order to homogenize the serie (from 2008, onwards, debts are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method), b) until 2007, all assets held under finance lease have been included in tangible fixed assets (from 2008 on, assets held under finance lease are classified as tangible or intangible fixed assets depending on its nature)



## NATIONAL SAMPLES | Accounting basis and data availability

**IMPORTANT:** STRUCTURES AND COVERAGES BY SIZE CLASS AND SECTOR ARE AVAILABLE ON AN EXCEL FILE IN THE BACH WEBSITE

	COUNTRY	TIME SPAN	CONSOLIDATION BASIS	ACCOUNTING STANDARDS	IFRS COMPLIANCE
AT	AUSTRIA	Since 2000	Non-consolidated	National GAAP	Legislation on GAAP has considerably restricted the implementation of IFRS in individual financial statements in recent years
BE	BELGIUM	Since 2000	Non-consolidated	National GAAP	No IFRS compliance. Possible limited convergence in the future
CZ	CZECH REPUBLIC	Since 2002	Non-consolidated	National GAAP	No IFRS compliance. Possible limited convergence in the future
DK	DENMARK	Since 2000	Non-consolidated	National GAAP	No IFRS compliance. Possible limited convergence in the future
FR	FRANCE	Since 2000	Non-consolidated	National GAAP	Progressive endorsement of IFRS through selective approach. National rules evolved in 2005 with the partial adoption of four rules namely IAS 16, IAS 36, IAS 37 and IAS 38
DE	GERMANY	Since 2000	Non-consolidated	National GAAP	There are distinct differences between German GAAP and IFRS. The reform of German Commercial Code in 2010 (BilMoG) reduced the differences only partially
IT	ITALY	Since 2000	Non-consolidated	National GAAP & IFRS	IFRS for listed companies
LUX	LUXEMBOURG	From 2011 on	Non-consolidated	National GAAP	Companies opting for IFRS are not in the scope of this database - only data from companies applying LuxGaap is considered in the database
PL	POLAND	Since 2005	Non-consolidated	National GAAP	There are significant differences between Polish statement and IFRS items
PT	PORTUGAL	Since 2000	Non-consolidated	National GAAP	The most recent national GAAP (data since 2009) is very close to IRFS
SK	SLOVAKIA	Since 2004	Non-consolidated	National GAAP & IFRS	The most recent national GAAP is very close to IRFS
ES	SPAIN	Since 2000	Non-consolidated	National GAAP	From 2000-2007 close to IFRS; since 2008, in line with IFRS



Year	Sample	Number of companies	Turnover
2008	-1	500	80 M€
2009	1	500	78 M€
2009	0	750	95 M€
2009	-1	600	83 M€
2010	1	600	86 M€

Sliding samples allow to study the same set of firms over two subsequent years.

Thus, from the example above, for a given country – sector – company size, 3 records are available just for the year 2009:

- **Sample = 0: The variable sample of 2009** includes all the companies whose balance sheet is available in 2009. (750 units)
- **Sample = 1: The sliding sample of 2008-2009** contains the companies whose balance sheet is available both in 2008 AND in 2009. (500 units)
- **Sample = -1: The sliding sample of 2009-2010** contains the companies whose balance sheet is available both in 2009 AND in 2010. (600 units)



## METHODOLOGY & WARNINGS | Criteria for aggregation

**SOURCE:** (1) **SECTOR OF ACTIVITY** - Based on the Regulation (EC) No 1893/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council, 20 December 2006, <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2006:393:0001:0039:EN:PDF>; (2) **SIZE CLASS** - Based on the Recommendation of the European Commission, 6 May 2003 (2003/361/EC), only in what concerns the turnover, <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2003:124:0036:0041:en:PDF>

BY SECTOR OF ACTIVITY		
NACE SECTION		NACE DIVISION
Z0	Total NACE (includes M701, but excludes K642)	
Zc	Total NACE (without K642 and M701)	
A	Agriculture, forestry and fishing	01,02,03
B	Mining and quarrying	05,06,07,08,09
C	Manufacturing	10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23,24,25,26,27,28,29,30,31,32,33
D	Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	35
E	Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation act.	36,37,38,39
F	Construction	41,42,43
G	Wholesale and retail trade; repair; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	45,46,47
H	Transportation and storage	49,50,51,52,53
I	Accommodation and food service activities	55,56
J	Information and communication	58,59,60,61,62,63
K642	Activities of holding companies	
L	Real estate activities	68
M	Professional, scientific and technical activities	69,70,71,72,73,74,75
Mc	Total M (without M701)	
M701	Activities of head offices	
M702	Management consultancy activities	
N	Administrative and support service activities	77,78,79,80,81,82
P	Education	85
Q	Human health and social work services	86,87,88
R	Arts, entertainment and recreation	90,91,92,93
S	Other service activities	94,95,96

BY SIZE CLASS		
0	All sizes	-
1a	Small	Turnover < 10 million €
1b	Medium	10 million € ≤ Turnover < 50 million €
1	SME	Turnover < 50 million €
2	Large	Turnover ≥ 50 million €

For Poland and Czech Republic, values of total assets were converted into EUR using exchange rates as at the end of the year, whereas the values of turnover and gross value added were converted into EUR using annual average exchange rate. For Denmark, all values are converted into EUR using the central rate, as this country has had, since 1999, a fixed exchange rate against the EUR. The central rate is 746,038 DKK per 100 EUR. This rate can only fluctuate with +/- 2.25 per cent and in reality fluctuates with even less.



## METHODOLOGY & WARNINGS | Holdings & Head Offices

### HOLDINGS & HEAD OFFICES

In order to preserve the harmonization of the BACH database and in order to ease sectoral analysis:

- Holdings and head offices do not have detail by NACE section or division neither by size
- It is provided an aggregated item of all companies without holdings and head offices
- NACE group 642 is excluded from division 64 since companies in this group are not considered as non-financial companies
- Ratios that involve the turnover of holdings and head offices are not available

Memo:

**K 64** = 'Financial service activities, except insurance and pension funding'

**M**= 'Professional, scientific and technical activities'

**M 701** = 'Activities of head offices'

**M 702** = 'Management consultancy activities'

### EDITION OF VALUES FOR HOLDINGS AND HEAD OFFICES BY NACE SECTOR AND SIZE

SIZE/ NACE SECTOR	K642	M701	M702	M70= M701+M702	Mc (M without M701)	M (including 701)	Zc (without K642 and M701)	Z0 (including M701, not K642)
SMALL	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
MEDIUM	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
SME	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
LARGE	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
ALL SIZES	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes



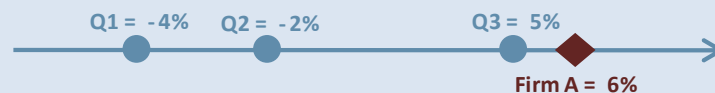
## METHODOLOGY & WARNINGS | Statistical measures

STATISTICAL MEASURES	
Absolute values <sup>1</sup>	Total assets (€ thousands), value added (€ thousands), turnover (€ thousands), number of employees and number of enterprises (in the case of the Ratios, nbq = number of companies used to calculate q1, q2 and q3)
Percentage of the Total Balance Sheet	Items of the balance sheet
Percentage of the Net Turnover	Items of the Income Statement and the information on the notes
Weighted mean (wm)	Ratios. Computed by aggregating the data of the numerator on the one hand, and the data of the denominator on the other hand. This measure provides a complementary approach and is influenced by the largest companies in each category (sector or size)
Q1 = First quartile*	Ratios. For each single ratio the observations of a certain sample are sorted in ascending order. This sample is then divided into four quarters. 25% of the enterprises have a ratio below this quartile and 75% have a ratio above
Q2 = Second quartile*	Ratios. For each single ratio the observations of a certain sample are sorted in ascending order. This sample is then divided into four quarters. Middle value that cuts the data in half. It is also known as the median
Q3 = Third quartile*	Ratios. For each single ratio the observations of a certain sample are sorted in ascending order. This sample is then divided into four quarters. 75% of the enterprises have a ratio below this quartile and 25% have a ratio above

### \*IMPORTANCE OF THE QUARTILES

Advantage of this measure: values of very large enterprises and other extreme values cause no bias in the results. The relative weight of each ratio within the distribution is the same, irrespective of the relative importance of an enterprise and the existence of extreme values

Example: Return on equity



*In this sector, on the one hand, half of the companies have negative return on equity (Q2 = -2%). On the other hand, one quarter of the enterprises have a return on equity bigger than 5% (Q3 = 5%). Firm A have a return on equity superior to 75% of the enterprises of this sector*

<sup>1</sup> For Poland and Czech Republic, values of total assets were converted into EUR using exchange rate as at the end of the year, whereas the values of turnover and gross value added were converted into EUR using annual average exchange rate.





## METHODOLOGY & WARNINGS | Confidentiality rules

CONFIDENTIALITY RULES – <i>minimum number of companies required for the edition of the data</i>			
	WEIGHTED MEAN	Q2	Q1 AND Q3
AT, CZ <sup>2</sup> , PL, PT, LUX	3	6	12
BE, ES, FR, IT, SK	6		
DE	12	12	
DK	5	10	20

## METHODOLOGY & WARNINGS | Conventions

### CONVENTIONS USED

\* If there are not enough companies regarding the rules of confidentiality, the amounts and the ratios are not filled

\* Zero does not mean missing value (there is no default value like NA)

\* The coverage rates are expressed in percentage (example: 98.54)

\* The ratios are expressed in percentage

\* The number of firms used to calculate the weighted mean is the same for all the ratios, namely nb\_firms

<sup>2</sup> There are some other additional confidentiality rules regarding entities with dominant position.



## METHODOLOGY & WARNINGS | Limitations

### DISCLAIMER

Condition of use agreement: redistribution of data is prohibited, even when this is done without charging

Users must indicate the data source in their documents as follow: "BACH database: ECCBSO, Banco de España, Banco de Portugal, Banque de France, Czech National Bank (in cooperation with the Czech Statistical Office), National Bank of Belgium, National Bank of Poland (calculations of National Bank of Poland on the basis of the data from the Central Statistical Office), Centrale dei Bilanci - Cerved srl, Deutsche Bundesbank, Statec Luxembourg, National Bank of Slovakia (calculations based on data from the Ministry of Finance), Oesterreichische Nationalbank"

### WARNING 1 – HETEROGENEOUS SAMPLES

The compilation methods used by the national authorities to produce the time series for both datasets (variable and sliding samples) are different. They depend on the degree of exhaustiveness or representativeness of the statistical base material available of the national financial statements.

Those countries which have an exhaustive survey (like Belgium and Portugal) are able to provide figures which are not affected by changes in the composition of the sample population and therefore can directly be compiled as time-series. These results are representative for the entire population of the firms included in the statistical survey and the observed changes in the ratios can only be interpreted as a result of economic changes.

For other countries the initial data collection is made for different purposes. In some of them the main target is to support credit policy in refinancing of the central bank. In others the objective is monitoring the economic system, helping in the analysis of non-financial enterprises and the effect of the decisions of the monetary policy on this sector. **Therefore, the selected companies represent neither a complete survey, nor a statistically representative sample.**

Furthermore, the composition of the sample population is changing every year and the compilation of time series from such samples can raise problems of analysis, as the changes in the results over time do not necessarily reflect primarily representative economically induced evolutions of the monitored variables or ratios but also fluctuations in the sample population. **This statistical error originating from differences in the sample population is called "sample composition bias".**

### WARNING 2 – HARMONIZATION PROCESS AND COMPARABILITY

Harmonization work has been at the centre of this project and comparability has remained its main target, occasionally at the cost of a reduction in the amount of detailed information. However, it has not been possible to harmonize the data fully owing to the special characteristics of the national accounting methodologies and the difficulty of drawing up accounting documents a posteriori using a common layout.

BACH provides the information necessary to analyze the remaining methodological differences and to decide whether an item could be compared or not. Database contents chapter of this Userguide must be analyzed. **Nevertheless all responsibility for the application of the BACH data remains exclusively on the side of the user. The ECCBSO may not be blamed for inadequate empirical research results and their interpretation by users.**



## RELEASE CALENDAR & CONTACTS | calendar

	COUNTRY	TYPE OF DATA	RELEASE CALENDAR
AT	AUSTRIA	<i>Provisional</i>	-
		<b>Final</b>	<i>jul n+2</i>
BE	BELGIUM	<i>Provisional</i>	<i>nov n+1</i>
		<b>Final</b>	<i>mar n+2</i>
CZ	CZECH REPUBLIC	<i>Provisional</i>	<i>dec n+1</i>
		<b>Final</b>	<i>mar n+2</i>
DK	DENMARK	<i>Provisional</i>	<i>apr n+1</i>
		<b>Final</b>	<i>oct n+2</i>
FR	FRANCE	<i>Provisional</i>	<i>dec n+1</i>
		<b>Final</b>	<i>dec n+2</i>
DE	GERMANY	<i>Provisional</i>	<i>feb n+2</i>
		<b>Final</b>	<i>nov n+2</i>
IT	ITALY	<i>Provisional</i>	<i>nov n+1</i>
		<b>Final</b>	<i>mar n+2</i>
LUX	LUXEMBOURG	<i>Provisional</i>	<i>dec n+1</i>
		<b>Final</b>	<i>dec n+2</i>
PL	POLAND	<i>Provisional</i>	-
		<b>Final</b>	<i>dec n+1</i>
PT	PORTUGAL	<i>Provisional</i>	<i>nov n+1</i>
		<b>Final</b>	<i>may n+2</i>
SK	SLOVAKIA	<i>Provisional</i>	<i>jan n + 2</i>
		<b>Final</b>	<i>may n + 2</i>
ES	SPAIN	<i>Provisional</i>	<i>dec n+1</i>
		<b>Final</b>	<i>jun n+2</i>



## RELEASE CALENDAR & CONTACTS | National data providers and contacts

	COUNTRY	INSTITUTION	DEPARTMENT	MAIN OBJECTIVE	E-MAIL
AT	AUSTRIA	National Central Bank	Statistics	Risk assessment, Rating	<a href="mailto:icas@oenb.at">icas@oenb.at</a>
BE	BELGIUM	National Central Bank	Micro-economic information	Publication of micro-data	<a href="mailto:ba@nbb.be">ba@nbb.be</a>
CZ	CZECH REPUBLIC	National Central Bank	Statistics and Data Support Department	Statistics	<a href="mailto:miroslav.kalous@cnb.cz">miroslav.kalous@cnb.cz</a>
DK	DENMARK	National Central Bank	Statistics	Statistics	<a href="mailto:loi@nationalbanken.dk">loi@nationalbanken.dk</a>
FR	FRANCE	National Central Bank	Corporate	Risk assessment, Rating	<a href="mailto:1356-bach-ut@banque-france.fr">1356-bach-ut@banque-france.fr</a>
DE	GERMANY	National Central Bank	Statistics	Statistics	<a href="mailto:presse-information@bundesbank.de">presse-information@bundesbank.de</a>
IT	ITALY	Private Company	-	Risk assessment, Rating	<a href="mailto:bachinfo.it@cervedgroup.com">bachinfo.it@cervedgroup.com</a>
LUX	LUXEMBOURG	National Statistical Institute	Central balance sheet data office	Statistics, Publication of micro-data	<a href="mailto:centralebilans@statec.etat.lu">centralebilans@statec.etat.lu</a>
PL	POLAND	National Central Bank	Statistics	Statistics	<a href="mailto:sekretariat.ds@nbp.pl">sekretariat.ds@nbp.pl</a>
PT	PORTUGAL	National Central Bank	Statistics	Statistics	<a href="mailto:centraldebalancos@bportugal.pt">centraldebalancos@bportugal.pt</a>
SK	SLOVAKIA	National Central Bank	Statistics	Statistics, Risk assessment	<a href="mailto:info@nbs.sk">info@nbs.sk</a>
ES	SPAIN	National Central Bank	Statistics	Statistics	<a href="mailto:cenbalan@bde.es">cenbalan@bde.es</a>



# BACH USER GUIDE SUMMARY



*BANK FOR THE ACCOUNTS OF COMPANIES HARMONIZED*

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