

# Short-Term European Paper statistics

## General and Methodological Notes

Version 2.1 – January 2025

### 1 Introduction

The Short-Term European Paper (STEP) initiative, set up and managed by the ACI-The Financial Markets Association (ACI)<sup>1</sup> and the European Money Markets Institute (EMMI), aims to foster the integration of the European markets for short-term securities through the voluntary adoption – by market players – of the standards set out in the STEP Market Convention. These standards relate to information disclosure, documentation format, settlement procedures and the provision of data for the production of STEP statistics.

An issuance programme would qualify as STEP-compliant, and would therefore be eligible to be “STEP-labelled”, if:

- the standards set out in the market convention for information disclosure and documentation format are met;
- settlement takes place in one of the settlement systems (SSSs) identified as eligible according to the criteria set out in the market convention;
- information is provided to the ECB/ESCB so that statistics on yields and volumes can be produced and published.

A STEP label granted to an issuance programme acknowledges the adoption of the standards, but guarantees neither the creditworthiness of the issuer nor the accuracy of the information provided.

The STEP market is not a new market, as issuance, intermediation and investments still take place under the existing European and national legislative, supervisory and regulatory frameworks.

The STEP Secretariat contributes to the day-to-day functioning of the STEP market, while the STEP Market Committee<sup>2</sup> is in charge of interpreting the Convention and of any amendments needed.

The STEP market went live on 9 June 2006 following the signing of the STEP Market Convention by the STEP sponsoring organisations, Euribor FBE and Euribor ACI.

---

<sup>1</sup> Euribor ACI – The Financial Market Association. (formerly “Association Cambiste Internationale”) and Euribor – Fédération Bancaire de l’Union Européenne.

<sup>2</sup> Further information is available at [www.stepmarket.org](http://www.stepmarket.org).

The ECB began to publish the outstanding amounts of all STEP securities on a monthly basis in September 2006. As of January 2025, STEP statistics are produced as part of the ECB's CSDB (Centralised Securities Database) processes. This means they can benefit from other data available in the CSDB.

## 2 Methodological framework

The STEP statistics aim to provide a timely and transparent overview of the STEP market and are based on data made available to the eligible data providers and high-quality data available in the CSDB.

The STEP statistics encompass aggregated volumes and prices collected on a security-by-security basis. The reporting requirements stipulate that STEP securities shall, in principle, be reported security by security by the eligible data providers, based on the country of issuance, in general as indicated by the ISIN country code prefix. In the case of international issues which have the prefix "XS", securities are reported where they are settled and held by the international settlement systems.

## 3 Volumes

The volumes concern outstanding amounts and new issues. All STEP issues outstanding in all settlement systems are covered in the outstanding amounts which the ECB has released on its website since September 2006.

New issues concern primary market issuances. Transactions on the secondary market or bridge transactions between settlement systems are neither transmitted to the ECB nor published, in order to exclude double-counting.

Data providers report all volumes in the actual original currencies, which are converted into euro by the ECB, applying the end-of-day ECB exchange rates for the reference day. The volumes are published at their face value in EUR equivalents.

The daily statistics on outstanding amounts and new issues are produced and published once a week by the ECB. They are published each week on the second TARGET 2 business day, with a daily reference period that runs from the previous Friday until the end of the revision window.

## 4 Yields and spreads

The aggregated yield statistics published by the ECB are calculated from zero-coupon issues denominated in euro that have been settled during the business days directly preceding the publication date, weighted by the primary market issuance amounts. The yields are reported as annualised percentages and a published yield of 5 represents an annualised yield of 5%.

[Short-Term European Paper statistics - General and Methodological Notes](#)

The published zero-coupon yields are not directly reported but calculated from the issue price based on the formula below.<sup>3</sup>

The zero-coupon yield equals the annualised yield:

$$\text{IssueYield} = \frac{\left(1 - \frac{\text{IssuePrice}}{100}\right)}{\frac{\text{IssuePrice}}{100} \times (\text{MaturityDate} - \text{SettlementDate})} \times 360 \times 100$$

Fixed rate yields are generally calculated based on the following formula:

$$P = \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{K}{E_i} + \frac{C}{E_n}$$

where:

$P$ : price

$K$ : coupon payment

$C$ : redemption value

$$E_i = \left(1 + y \times \frac{t_i}{360}\right)$$

with:

$y = \text{IssueYield}/100$ , (i.e.  $y = 0.03$  for a yield of 3%)

$t_i$ : number of days from settlement date to payment date for coupon  $i$

$n$ : numbers of coupons

$t_n$ : number of days from settlement date to final maturity.

The aggregate spreads to the euro short-term rate (€STR) are calculated from variable rate issues denominated in euro, which follow the €STR as a benchmark. They are weighted by the amounts of the primary market issuances and are expressed in percentages. A published spread of 0.3 thus represents 0.3%.<sup>4</sup>

Daily and weekly aggregates for yields and spreads are produced and disseminated in the ECB Data Portal once a week. They are published each week on the second TARGET 2 business day, with a daily and weekly reference period that runs from the previous Friday until the end of the revision window. Interactive reports only include weekly aggregates.

<sup>3</sup> See e.g. ISMA (International Securities Markets Association), *Formulae for yield and other calculations*, second edition 1992, chapter 10, Money Market Instruments.

<sup>4</sup> Please also refer to the item on “confidentiality” below.

## 5 Maturity breakdowns

The STEP issues are classified into a number of original and residual maturity brackets.

- The original maturity relates to the number of calendar days between the issue date and the final maturity date for a reported STEP security.
- The residual maturity relates to the number of calendar days between the latest published reference date in the STEP tables and the final maturity date for a reported STEP security.

## 6 Sector classifications

The issuers are classified according to the European System of Accounts 1995 (ESA95), with the exception of certain entities reclassified from the non-financial corporations sector into the other financial intermediaries.

The published sectors are:

- **Monetary financial institutions**

"Monetary financial institutions" (MFIs) are central banks, credit institutions as defined in Community law, and other financial institutions whose business is to receive deposits and/or close substitutes for deposits from entities other than MFIs and, for their own account (at least in economic terms), to grant credits and/or make investments in securities.

- **Other financial intermediaries:**

The ESA95 defines OFIs (except insurance corporations and pension funds) as "all financial corporations and quasi-corporations which are principally engaged in financial intermediation by incurring liabilities in forms other than currency, deposits and/or close substitutes for deposits from institutional units other than monetary financial institutions, or insurance technical reserves". In STEP statistics, this sector also includes financial corporations and quasi-corporations principally engaged in auxiliary financial activities (financial auxiliaries) and all captive financial institutions and money lenders (e.g. holding companies and special-purpose vehicles/enterprises).

- **Insurance corporations and pension funds**

This sector comprises all financial corporations and quasi-corporations that are primarily engaged in financial intermediation as the consequence of the pooling of risks.

- **Non-financial corporations**

This sector comprises all corporations or quasi-corporations that are not engaged in financial intermediation but are active primarily in the production of market goods and non-financial services.

- **General government**

This sector comprises all entities that are engaged primarily in the production of non-market goods and services intended for individual and collective consumption and/or in the redistribution of national income and wealth. Included are central, regional, and local government authorities as well as social security funds. Excluded are government-owned entities that conduct commercial operations, such as public enterprises.

- **Supranational and international organisations**

This sector encompasses multinational institutions such as the European Investment Bank, the IMF, and the World Bank.

- **Total economy**

The total economy classification in STEP refers to all the STEP securities issued by all sectors.

## 7 Ratings

The STEP issues are classified into two rating classes. Rating 1 includes issues with an underlying rating equal to A1, P1 or F1. Rating 2 includes issues rated A2, P2 or F2. The ratings classes include notched ratings within each rating class, e.g. issues rated A1+ are also included in the Rating 1 category. There is no breakdown for non-rated issuances in STEP – they are however part of the “All Ratings” breakdowns.

If an issue is rated with multiple ratings from different agencies, which would place it in different rating classes as distinguished above, the issue is classified in the lowest rating class. Moreover, when available, the instrument short-term rating is used for rating classification, and, if not available, it is defaulted to the issuer short-term rating.

## 8 Confidentiality

To preserve issuer confidentiality, data are published only if at least three issuers have undertaken issues within a given breakdown. If only one or two issuers have undertaken issues, a “- (Q)” – meaning “suppressed” – is published for the corresponding data point in the ECB Data Portal.

Nevertheless, the suppressed yields and spreads are taken into account when calculating the average values at higher aggregation levels.

[Short-Term European Paper statistics - General and Methodological Notes](#)

## 9 Release frequency

All STEP data are released on the second TARGET 2 business day of each week (i.e. on a weekly basis).

## 10 Data providers

The data providers are eligible securities settlement systems (SSS), national central banks and other institutional entities that have the capacity to fulfil the STEP reporting requirements. Each data provider covers all STEP issues that are settled through its system or are deposited in a domestic securities settlement system for which the data provider has a complete data coverage. The list of eligible data providers is released on the [STEP Market website](#).

Since January 2025, with the introduction of CSDB data compilation, STEP eligible data providers are complemented with CSDB data, which has other data providers, including ESCB NCBs and commercial data providers.

When multiple settlement systems are eligible to report issues for a given market, each settlement system transmits those issues that it has settled in its system. The depository location is reflected in the ISIN code of the security. In the case of securities issued under programmes which are settled in multiple systems (such as for STEP-labelled Euro-commercial paper), each SSS shall report the settlements of primary market transactions in its respective system. Each settlement system shall also report the outstanding amounts deposited with it (in the case of bridge transactions).

## 11 Reporting modalities

STEP new issues, outstanding amounts, issue prices, and spreads are reported to the ECB as specified in the [STEP reporting instructions](#).

© **European Central Bank, 2025**

Postal address 60640 Frankfurt am Main, Germany

Telephone +49 69 1344 0

Website [www.ecb.europa.eu](http://www.ecb.europa.eu)

All rights reserved. Reproduction for educational and non-commercial purposes is permitted provided that the source is acknowledged.

For specific terminology please refer to the [ECB glossary](#) (available in English only).