

PRESS RELEASE

Household and non-financial corporate sector interest rates: December 2010¹

Budapest, 31 January 2011 - In December 2010, the total contract value of new forint-denominated housing loans fell slightly and that of general purpose mortgage loans to the household sector rose. Foreign currency-denominated mortgage loans as a percentage of total new lending fell to 2% as a result of recent legal changes.² There were significant increases in the total contract values of new euro and forint-denominated loans to non-financial corporations of over the equivalent of EUR 1 million in the month.

In December 2010, the average APRC on new forint housing loans barely changed, while that on general purpose loans to households rose.

The average APRC on new forint loans to the non-financial corporate sector of up to and over the equivalent of EUR 1 million rose. The average APRC on new euro loans of up to and over the equivalent of EUR 1 million rose after falling significantly in the previous month.

The total value of new forint-denominated housing loans to the household sector fell slightly, while that of general purpose loans rose. The total value of new forint personal loans was also down slightly compared with the previous month.

The total contract value of new forint loans to the non-financial corporate sector of up to the equivalent of EUR 1 million rose and that of euro loans fell slightly after rising sharply in the previous month. The contract values of new forint loans of over the equivalent of EUR 1 million and euro-denominated loans both rose significantly.

On the deposit side, the monthly average interest rate on households' forint deposits rose modestly in December relative to the previous month. The average interest rate on euro deposits remained unchanged. The values of new forint and euro deposits both fell.

¹ The values of new loans to households and non-financial corporations do not include restructured loans. Similarly, the effects of government bridging loans are eliminated from the values of new housing loans and general purpose loans to households. In the latter case, data on new lending and the APRC are estimates. (For more details, see the methodological notes.)

² Act XC of 2010 entered into force on 14 August 2010. According to the law, registering a mortgage under a foreign currency loan is prohibited. This has been reflected in a decline in foreign currency lending. The amount of new foreign currency lending of greater than zero is explained by the disbursement of loans already registered and by the opportunity to convert foreign currency loans disbursed earlier. (For more details, see the methodological notes.)

The monthly average interest rate on non-financial corporations' forint deposits rose, while that on euro deposits fell a little. The values of new forint and euro deposits both rose slightly in the month under review.

* * * * *

The seasonally adjusted data are subject to more uncertainty than usual, due to fluctuations caused by the financial crisis.

MAGYAR NEMZETI BANK STATISTICS

One of the primary statutory duties of the Magyar Nemzeti Bank is to collect and publish statistical information. The statistical press release aims to help the reader understand the latest published data. The Quarterly Report on Inflation and the Report on Financial Stability, published periodically, contain the Bank's analyses of underlying economic processes and are accessible at www.mnb.hu.

Detailed tables: <u>Time series</u> Charts: <u>Chart pack</u> Notes: <u>Methodological notes</u>

Availability: sajto@mnb.hu