

## PRESS RELEASE

### Banking in Europe: EBF publishes 2019 Facts & Figures

- **Household and business deposits in the EU up by 4% to €13 trillion**
- **Loans to EU households and businesses up by 2.3% to €13.8 trillion**
- **Total number of credit institutions in EU down by 29% since 2008**

BRUSSELS, 11 September 2019 – The European Banking Federation today has published *Banking in Europe; the 2019 Facts & Figures*, its annual update on the banking sector in Europe. The publication shows that the European banking sector, both as measured in terms of staff numbers and branches, continued to contract as the industry continued to improve efficiency while attempting to bolster its profitability.

The *Banking in Europe* overview shows that banks last year continued to scale back their physical presence across Europe as having a widespread branch network become less important. Clients increasingly interact with banks through digital channels instead of branches.

The total number of credit institutions in the European Union fell by 2.6% in 2018 to 6,088 institutions, down by 2,437, or 29 percent, since the contraction began in 2008. Last year's decline was smaller than in recent years and was most notable in Germany and Italy. The number of credit institutions increased last year in seven countries, most notably in the United Kingdom.

The total number of bank branches in the EU last year declined to approximately 174,000, down 5.6 percent, or about 10,000 branches, when compared to the end of 2017. Compared to 2008 the total number of bank branches has declined 27%, or by almost 65,000, reflecting the accelerating uptake of online and mobile banking services in recent years. In 2018 more than half of all people in the EU, 54 percent, used Internet banking, compared to 51% in 2017 and 29 percent in 2008.

The number of people working for credit institutions in the EU fell to the lowest level since the ECB started measuring this in 1997 and stood at approximately 2.67 million people at the end of 2018, compared to 2.74 million a year earlier. This compares to 3.26 million in 2008. About two-thirds of all bank staff in the EU is employed by a bank headquartered in one of the five largest EU member states.

#### Deposits from householders and businesses continue to increase

The total deposits from businesses and households grew by 4 percent to €13 trillion, with €9.9 trillion in deposits in the euro area. Deposits from households rose 4.2 percent compared to a year earlier while business (non-financial corporation) deposits increased 3.6 percent.

#### European Banking Federation aisbl

**Brussels** / Avenue des Arts 56, 1000 Brussels, Belgium / +32 2 508 3711 / info@ebf.eu  
**Frankfurt** / Weißfrauenstraße 12-16, 60311 Frankfurt, Germany  
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The value of loans to EU households increased 2.5 percent to €8.3 trillion, led higher by loans to households in the euro area, which grew for a fourth consecutive year. The value of loans to households in the eurozone has risen by some €500 billion since 2014.

*Banking in Europe; the 2019 EBF Facts & Figures* is a multi-faceted digital resource with key data about banking in Europe. It also includes data on the European economy, the performance and structure of the banking sector and the digital transformation of banks. The data is based on publicly available information from the European Central Bank, the European Commission, Eurostat, the European Banking Authority and the EBF and its members. The publication is available online via the EBF website and can be found at <https://www.ebf.eu/facts-and-figures/>.

In addition to the public data, Banking in Europe 2019 includes comprehensive national bank sector data provided through all 32 national banking associations that are members of the EBF. The 2019 edition again includes descriptions of national banking sectors by EBF associate members, including banking associations in Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Monaco, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey. All this national data can be accessed via an interactive map of Europe at <https://www.ebf.eu/facts-and-figures/country-by-country-overview/>.

### **Media contact:**

Raymond Frenken, Head of Communications, European Banking Federation  
+32 2 508 3748, [r.frenken@ebf.eu](mailto:r.frenken@ebf.eu)

### **About the European Banking Federation:**

The European Banking Federation is the voice of the European banking sector, bringing together national banking associations from across Europe. The EBF is committed to a thriving European economy that is underpinned by a stable, secure and inclusive financial ecosystem, and to a flourishing society where financing is available to fund the dreams of citizens, businesses and innovators everywhere. Website: [www.ebf.eu](http://www.ebf.eu) Twitter: [@EBFeu](https://twitter.com/EBFeu).