

17 April 2007

**Unpaid bills of exchange statistics
February 2007. Provisional data**

**The Average amount of unpaid bills of exchange increased by
17.9% in February with respect to the same month in 2006**

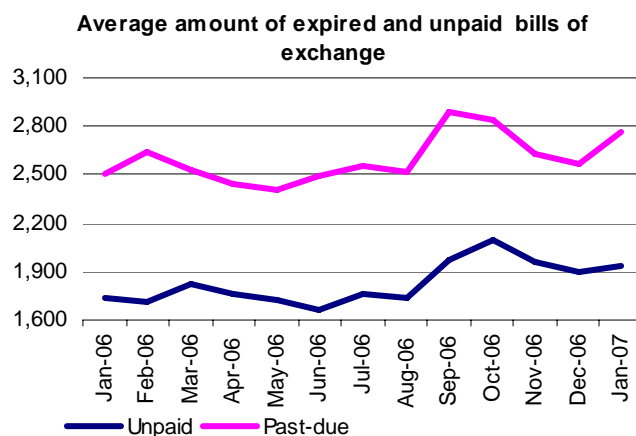
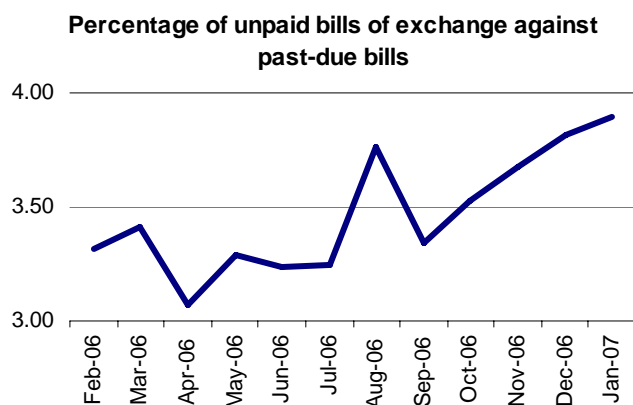
3.6% of the total amount of expired bills become unpaid

In February the number of returned unpaid bills of exchange amounted to 398,869, that is, 833% more than in the same month of the previous year. This figure adds up to a total of 806 million euros, a 27.7% increase as compared with February 2006.

Total unpaid and expired bills of exchange

	Total	Variation Rates (%)		
		Month-on-month	Interannual	Interannual cummulative
Number of bills of exchange(1)				
Number of expired bills of exchange	11.229.384	-11,80	0,97	1,59
Number of unpaid bills of exchange	398.869	-19,65	8,30	13,61
Amount of bills of exchange (2)(million €)				
Amount of expired bills of exchange	32.134	-8,71	9,47	11,14
Amounts of unpaid bills of exchange	806	-16,09	27,65	29,99
Average amount of bills (3=2/1)(€)				
Average amount of expired bills	2.862	3,50	8,42	9,40
Average amount of unpaid bills	2.020	4,43	17,87	14,42

The Average amount of unpaid bills of exchange is 2,020 euros, 17.9% more than in the same month of the previous year. 3.6% of expired bills become unpaid, thus breaking the upwards trend shown by this percentage during the last months.



Unpaid bills of exchange by financial entity

In the month of February, the number of unpaid bills of exchange increases in Banks and Savings Banks (by 11.9% and 0.4% respective), while in Credit Unions it decreases by 0.7%.

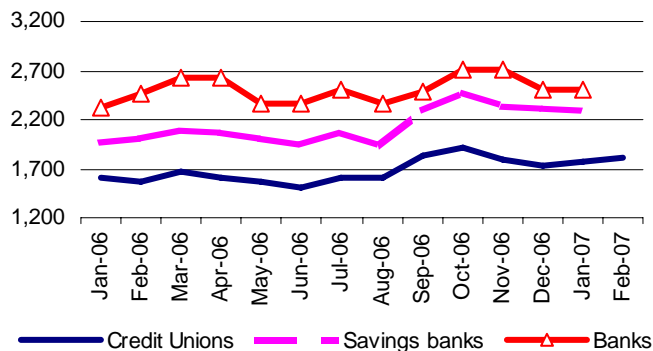
Total unpaid bills of exchange by financial entity

	Number of unpaid bills of ex.			Average amount (€)			% unpaid against expired		
	Total	Variation Rates		Total	Variation Rates		Total	Variation Rates	
		Inter- yearly	Interannual cumulative		Inter- yearly	Interannual cumulative		Inter- yearly	Interannual cumulative
TOTAL	398,869	8.30	13.61	2,020	17.87	14.42	3.55	7.26	11.83
Banks	285,828	11.85	18.04	1,821	16.93	13.71	3.69	12.85	18.72
Savings banks	99,092	0.40	3.84	2,508	24.68	20.14	3.28	-4.46	-2.61
Credit Unions	13,949	-0.70	3.14	2,626	6.56	7.07	2.96	-7.14	-3.15

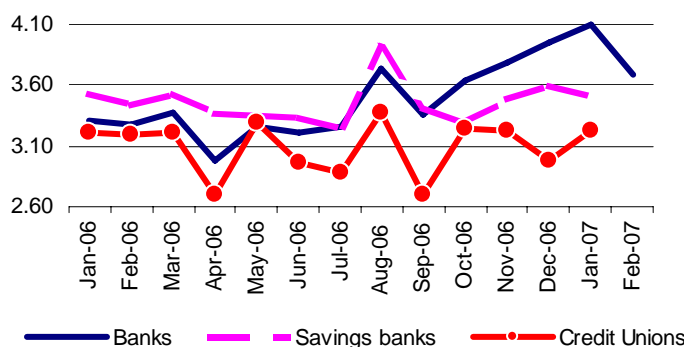
The trend registered throughout 2006 continued during February 2007, according to which Credit Unions are the financial entities with a greater average amount of unpaid bills of exchange (2,626 euros) followed by Savings Banks (2,508 euros) and Banks (1,821 euros).

The percentage of unpaid bills of exchange against expired bills increases in interannual rate by 12.9% for Banks, and it decreases 7.1% for Credit Unions and by 4.5 in Savings banks.

Average amount of unpaid bills of exchange by entity



Percentage of unpaid bills of exchange against expired bills by financial entity



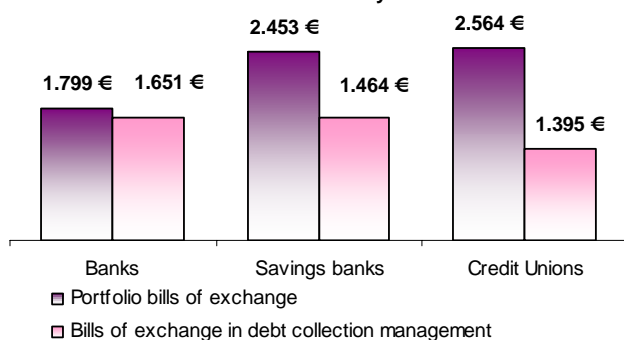
Unpaid Bills of exchange by financial entity and type of bill

The average amount of the unpaid bills of exchange is greater for portfolio bills of exchange than for bills of exchange in debt collection from clients, being the Credit Unions the entities with the greater average amount in portfolio (2,700 euros) and Savings banks the entities with the greater average value in debt collection management from clients (1,726 euros).

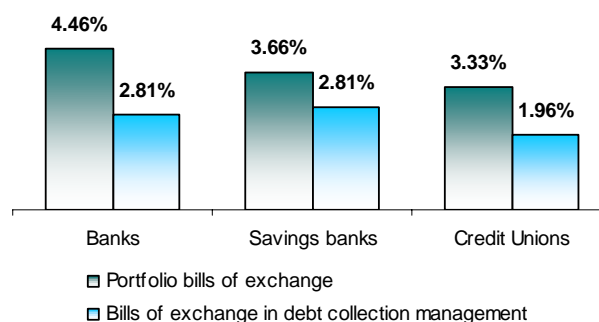
The percentage of unpaid bills of exchange against expired bills of exchange is greater for portfolio bills of exchange than for bills of exchange in debt collection from clients.

Banks are the financial institutions with the highest percentage of effects of unpaid portfolio trade-bills (4.1%), whereas regarding debt collection from clients the highest percentage is registered both in Savings Banks, with 2.6%.

Average amount of unpaid bills by type of bill and financial entity



Percentage of unpaid bills of exchange against expired bills by type of bill and financial entity



Geographic distribution of unpaid bills of exchange

Comunidad Valenciana, Región de Murcia and Canarias are the Autonomous Communities with higher percentages of unpaid bills of exchange against expired bills, with 5.5%, 5% and 4.8% respectively.

On the other hand, the Communities with the lower percentages of unpaid bills of exchange against expired bills are País Vasco with 2.4%, and Comunidad Foral de Navarra and Cantabria, both with 2.6%.

According to the average amount of unpaid bills of exchange, Illes Balears and Castilla y León are the Autonomous Communities with the greatest average amount, with 3,755 euros and 3,327 euros, respectively.

The Autonomous Communities with the lowest average amounts are Cataluña, with 1,514 euros, and Principado de Asturias, with 1,723 euros.

Bills of exchange by Autonomous Community

	Expired bills		Unpaid bills		% Unpaid against expired	Average amoun unpaid
	Number	Amount (€)	Number	Amount (€)		
TOTAL	12,731,168	35,200,072,434	496,398	960,330,978	3.90	1,935
Andalucía	965,632	3,547,070,401	40,270	123,348,375	4.17	3,063
Aragón	372,625	1,075,467,543	13,459	27,995,492	3.61	2,080
Asturias (Principado de)	228,103	663,314,519	7,175	10,247,322	3.15	1,428
Balears (Illes)	107,248	346,757,797	4,464	14,660,856	4.16	3,284
Canarias	138,408	601,380,436	6,695	23,773,959	4.84	3,551
Cantabria	100,512	331,039,096	2,570	6,596,326	2.56	2,567
Castilla y León	394,449	1,404,363,258	10,629	30,262,713	2.69	2,847
Castilla-La Mancha	345,805	1,115,129,847	10,886	24,951,964	3.15	2,292
Cataluña	4,049,799	7,930,567,713	138,738	218,812,271	3.43	1,577
Comunidad Valenciana	1,636,071	4,016,435,584	108,327	175,369,141	6.62	1,619
Extremadura	120,940	492,740,107	4,477	10,936,827	3.70	2,443
Galicia	630,999	1,790,394,330	16,643	34,473,463	2.64	2,071
Madrid (Comunidad de)	2,126,296	7,083,758,181	78,820	131,690,207	3.71	1,671
Murcia (Región de)	363,233	1,290,671,569	22,315	60,555,853	6.14	2,714
Navarra (Comunidad Foral de)	259,905	726,318,067	6,762	13,885,894	2.60	2,054
País Vasco	777,608	2,467,817,339	20,227	43,059,382	2.60	2,129
Rioja (La)	109,844	308,561,902	3,820	9,292,175	3.48	2,433
Ceuta y Melilla	3,691	8,284,745	121	418,758	3.28	3,461

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