Frequently Asked Questions

What is the CPIS?

The Coordinated Portfolio Investment Survey (CPIS) is a voluntary data collection exercise conducted under the auspices of the IMF. To participate, an economy provides data on its holdings of portfolio investment securities (data are separately requested for equity and investment fund shares, long-term debt instruments, and short-term debt instruments). The survey covers end-December holdings for the period 2001-2012; beginning with data for end-June 2013, the survey also covers end-June holdings. All economies are welcome to participate.

The IMF augments the data that are reported in the CPIS with data from two other surveys, i.e., Securities Held as Foreign Exchange Reserves (SEFER), and Securities Held by International Organizations (SSIO). SEFER provides geographic and instrument detail on securities that are held as reserve assets, and SSIO provides the geographic and instrument detail on securities that are held by international organizations. Similar to the CPIS, SEFER is conducted semi-annually starting with data for end-June 2013, whereas SSIO is conducted annually. Data from the CPIS and SSIO surveys provide comprehensive information on holdings of portfolio investment securities and, together with data from the SEFER survey, the geographic detail captured in these three surveys can be used to derive estimates of portfolio investment liabilities for every economy.

In response to requests from data users, a number of enhancements to the CPIS were implemented starting with data for end-June 2013. These enhancements include increased frequency (as noted above, semi-annual CPIS data collections were implemented), improved timeliness (acceleration in both the collection and re-dissemination of data), and expanded scope (collection of data on an encouraged basis on the institutional sector of the nonresident issuer of securities; on short or negative positions; and on the institutional sector of the resident holder cross-classified by the institutional sector of selected nonresident issuers).

Are foreign direct investment positions included in the CPIS?

Foreign direct investment positions are excluded from the CPIS. However, under the international statistical standards including the sixth edition of the *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual (BPM6)* and the fourth edition of the *OECD Benchmark Definition of Foreign Direct Investment (BD4)*, debt positions between financial intermediaries (other than insurance corporations and pension funds) that are in a direct investment relationship are excluded from direct investment and classified instead in portfolio or other investment. In the circumstance where the data are classified in portfolio investment, the data would be in-scope of the CPIS.

Foreign direct investment is a category of cross border investment associated with a resident in one economy having control or a significant degree of influence on the management of enterprise in another economy. In practice, ownership of equity by a direct investor that entitles it to 10 percent or more of the voting power is used to determine a significant degree of influence (see *BPM6*, paragraphs 6.9-6.18). Data on bilateral direct investment positions are available from the IMF's Coordinated Direct Investment Survey (CDIS).

Are loans included in the CPIS?

Generally, No. Loans are financial claims where a creditor lends directly to a debtor, and are evidenced by documents that are not negotiable, i.e., cannot be traded (see *BPM6* paragraph 5.51). Cross border data on loans and deposits are available in the BIS International Locational Banking Statistics database.

However, loans that have become negotiable are reclassified from loans to debt securities, in which case they should be included in the CPIS. For such reclassification to occur, there should be evidence of secondary market trading, including the existence of market makers, and frequent quotations of the instrument, such as provided by bid-offer spreads (see *BPM6* paragraph 5.45).

Are reserve assets included in the CPIS and how?

As noted above, economies are invited to report data on securities held as reserve assets on the IMF's SEFER survey, which is a companion survey to the CPIS. The results from SEFER are included (along with the SSIO data) in the overall CPIS results. The SEFER data reported by individual reporting economies are not separately identified; SEFER data are disseminated only at an aggregate level.

The CPIS survey itself (not SEFER) covers portfolio investment securities (as opposed to reserves) held by the monetary authorities.

Are holdings of domestic securities covered?

No. The CPIS covers cross-border positions in equity and debt securities. Securities issued and held by residents of the same economy are excluded.

Are securities that a resident holder provides to a nonresident as collateral under a repurchase agreement or a securities lending agreement included in the resident economy's CPIS?

Yes. Foreign securities that a resident holder owns and provides as collateral to a nonresident under securities repurchase agreements and securities lending agreements are treated as not having changed economic ownership. These foreign securities remain part of the resident economy's portfolio investment holdings, and should be reported in the CPIS.

Are securities that a resident economy acquires from a nonresident as collateral under a reverse repurchase agreement or a securities lending agreement included in the resident economy's CPIS?

No. Securities that a resident economy acquires from a nonresident under a reverse repurchase agreement or under a securities lending agreement are not treated as having changed economic ownership. These securities remain part of the nonresident's holdings.

Why are there sometimes differences between International Investment Position (IIP) and CPIS data?

The concepts and valuation principles underlying the CPIS are the same as those contained in the *BPM6* for valuing the IIP, and so the value of portfolio investment assets in both the CPIS and the IIP should in principle be the same. For most of the CPIS-reporting economies, the datasets are consistent, with some variances arising from differences in time of recording. For a few economies, there are more substantial differences, which are sometimes due to incomplete sectoral coverage in the CPIS or different data vintages (i.e., the IIP and CPIS may be compiled at different times and so one may have more up-to-date data). For both the CPIS and IIP, portfolio investment securities should be valued at market prices. A few CPIS reporting economies do not compile IIP statistics.

Can transactions be derived from the position data in the CPIS?

Cross border securities transactions can only be derived with significant uncertainty using the CPIS data. The CPIS currently collects end-June and end-December position data. Flows are defined as the difference between beginning- and end-of-period positions; flows reflect changes that are associated with a) transactions; and b) other flows. The latter cover changes that are recognized analytically under three broad sub-categories: Other changes in volume, revaluations due to changes in exchange rates, and revaluations due to other price changes. The CPIS does not contain information to distinguish between transactions and other flows.

Do you have more detailed information that is not published?

No, all of the data reported to the IMF on the CPIS are published. However, the individual data collected on the two companion surveys (SEFER and SSIO) are reported to the IMF on a strictly confidential basis. These data are released only in aggregate form.

Why are sectoral breakdowns not available for some reporting economies?

The reporting of data by sector of holder is encouraged in the CPIS, but these data are not required for an economy to participate in the CPIS. Many economies report full sectoral breakdowns, a few economies report partial sectoral breakdowns, and others provide no sectoral breakdowns. The same is true of other encouraged CPIS data.

Are all economies participating in the CPIS?

No. Participation in the CPIS is voluntary. The IMF is actively working to expand participation, and most significant portfolio investment holding economies participate in the CPIS.

Why are data collected from the asset side, and what does “derived liabilities” mean?

More reliable detailed cross border positions data can usually be collected on an economy’s holdings of portfolio investment because the holder (creditor) will usually know what securities it holds. On the liabilities side, the issuer of a security (debtor) may not know the residency of the holder because the securities may be held by foreign custodians or other intermediaries. Using the assets data reported by CPIS participating economies, the IMF derives liabilities data for all economies (CPIS reporters as well as nonreporters); these data are termed “derived liabilities”. A subset of economies also report liabilities data (an encouraged item in the CPIS).

How often are CPIS updated and revised?

End-June and end-December data are collected by the IMF with a lag of about seven months after the measurement date, and published within nine months after the reference date. Economies may submit revisions to previous periods’ data at any time, including when submitting data for the most recent period.

Are more high-frequency data available?

The IMF’s CPIS database is based on semi-annual data collections that began in January 2014 for the end-June 2013 observation. However, there are economies that are compiling higher or lower frequency data. Further information is available from individual economy metadata tables.