Erste Group investor presentation FY 2015 preliminary results

26 February 2016

Erste Group posts net profit of EUR 968.2m in 2015 (ROTE: 10.8%) on return of volume growth to CEE, normalisation in risk costs and reduced one-offs – solid capital position underpins dividend proposal of EUR 0.5 per share

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Presentation topics

- Executive summary
- Business environment
- Business performance
- Assets and liabilities
- Outlook
- Additional information

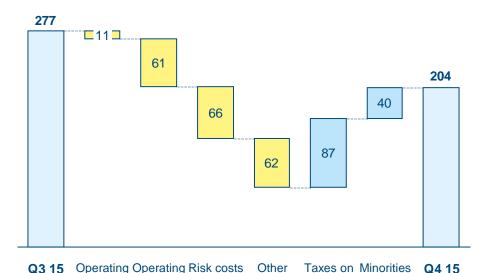


income expenses

Group income statement performance

QoQ net profit reconciliation (EUR m)



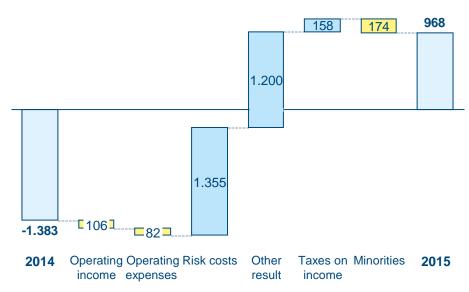


 Erste Group Q4 15 net profit declined to EUR 204.0m qoq due to higher risk provisions and weaker other result (negative one-offs of EUR 121.0m in Q4 15, related to Romania and Hungary), partly offset by lower tax charge

result

income

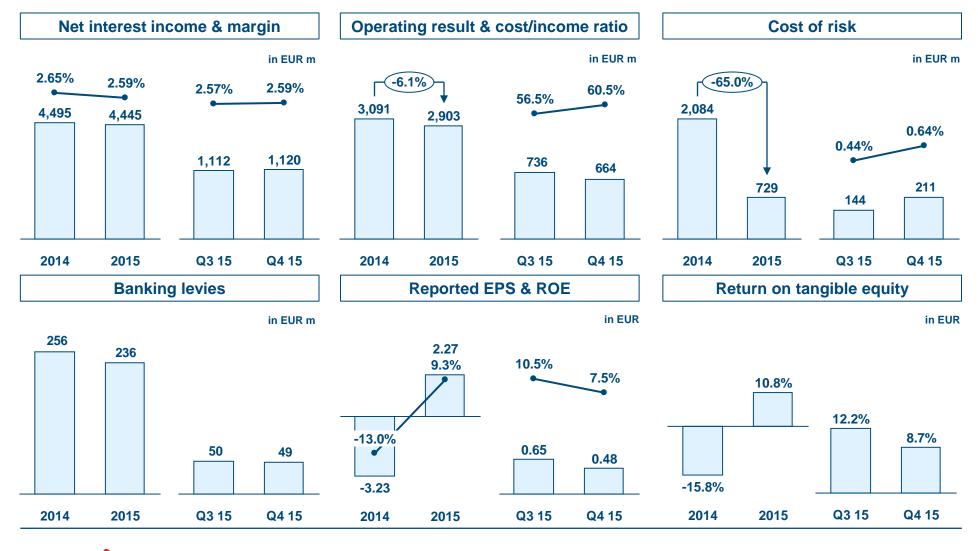
 Q4 15 also impacted by seasonally higher operating expenses and negative fair value impact in net trading and fair value result, NII stable, fees seasonally up



- Erste Group 2015 net profit equalled EUR 968.2m; turnaround driven by significantly lower risk costs, strongly improved other result (reduced one-offs compared to 2014) and lower tax charge
- Decline in operating performance, as revenues (NII, trading & FV result) impacted by low interest rate environment; costs up slightly
- Historically high minority charge due to exceptional risk performance at the savings banks and turnaround in Romania



Key income statement data

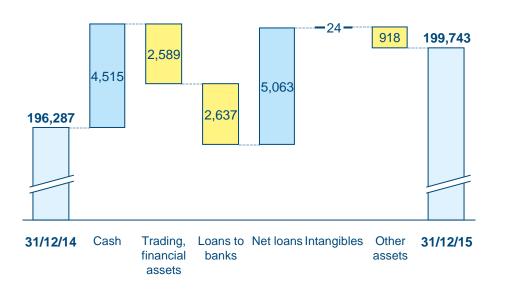


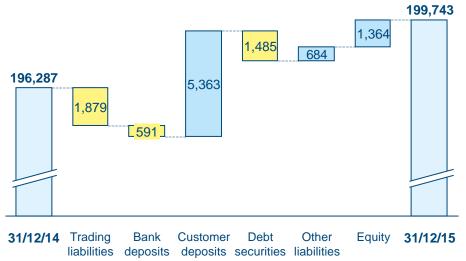


Group balance sheet performance

YTD total asset reconciliation (EUR m)

YTD equity & total liability reconciliation (EUR m)



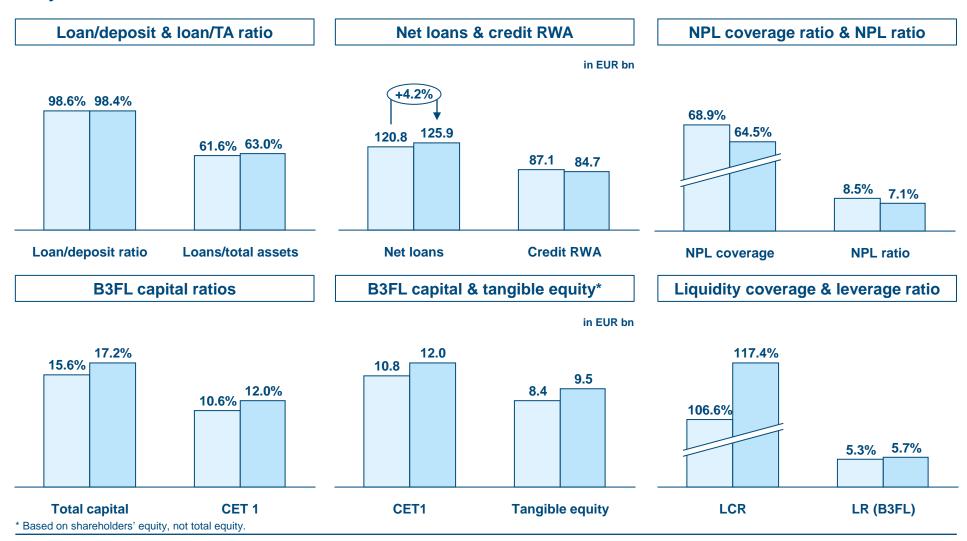


- Balance sheet total rises by 1.8% in 2015, driven by net loans and higher cash position, which was partly offset by lower stock of trading and financial assets and significant decline in interbank lending
- Net customer loans rise by 4.2% ytd, supported mainly by continued strong demand in Slovakia, accelerating growth in the Czech Republic and Austria
- 4.4% increase in customer deposits was main driver for expanding liabilities, partly offset by declines in trading liabilities, bank deposits and debt securities in issue
- 10.0% rise in total equity mainly driven by turnaround in profitability; shareholders' equity rose by 11.7% to EUR 11.0bn



Key balance sheet data







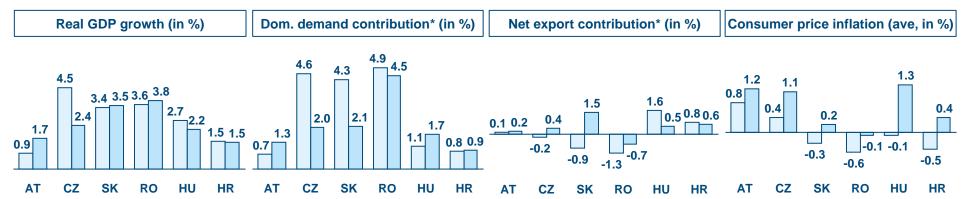
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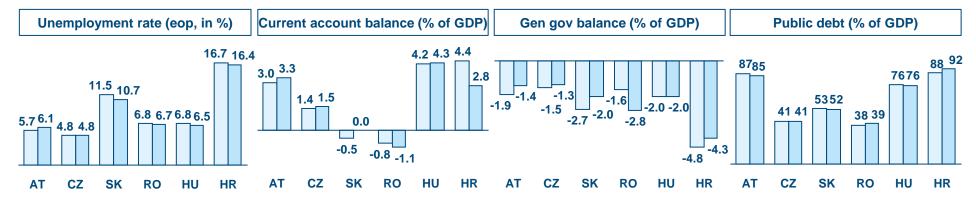


2015 2016

Solid CEE GDP growth expectations for 2016



- Erste Group's core CEE markets posted solid GDP growth in 2015, with continued positive outlook for 2016
 - Domestic demand is expected to be main driver of economic growth in 2016
 - Consumption is supported by wage increase across the region and by very low inflation rates across the region



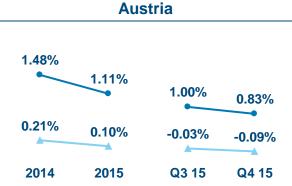
- Solid public finances across Erste Group's core CEE markets: almost all countries fulfill Maastricht criteria
- Sustainable current account balances, supported by competitive economies with decreasing unemployment rates

^{*} Contribution to real GDP growth. Domestic demand contribution includes inventory change. Source: Erste Group Research.



Decline in market interest rates continued in Q4 15





• ECB cut discount rate to 0.05% in Sept 14

Maintains expansionary monetary policy

- - National bank maintains ultra-low interest rates since November 2012 at 0.05%

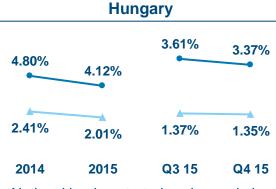


 Central bank cut policy rate to historic low of 1.75% in May 2015

Croatia



As part of euro zone ECB rates are applicable in SK



National bank restarted easing cycle in Feb 2015; cutting base rate to 1.35% in July 2015, completing easing cycle



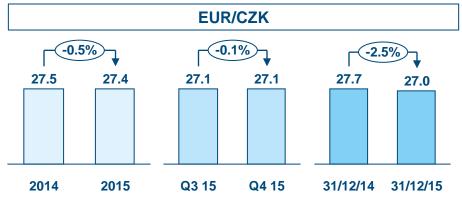
 Central bank maintains discount rate at 7.0% since mid-2011



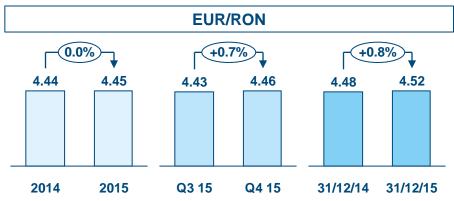
Source: Bloomberg.

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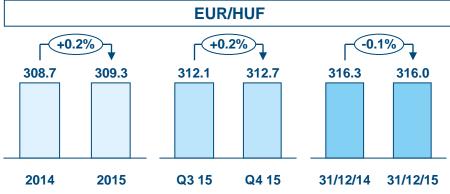
Limited currency volatility in CEE



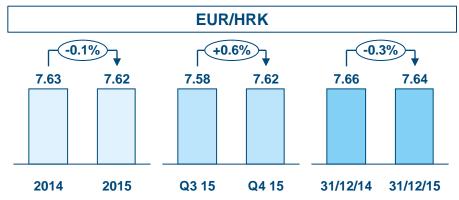
 Czech National Bank maintains exchange rate stability; discount rate also stable at 0.05% in Q3 15



 RON movements marked by limited volatility, despite decreasing interest rates: policy rate cut to 1.75% in Q2 15



 Stable currency development, despite expansionary monetary stance of the national bank; easing cycle completed



 Strong grip of national bank on HRK is reflected in lack of volatility

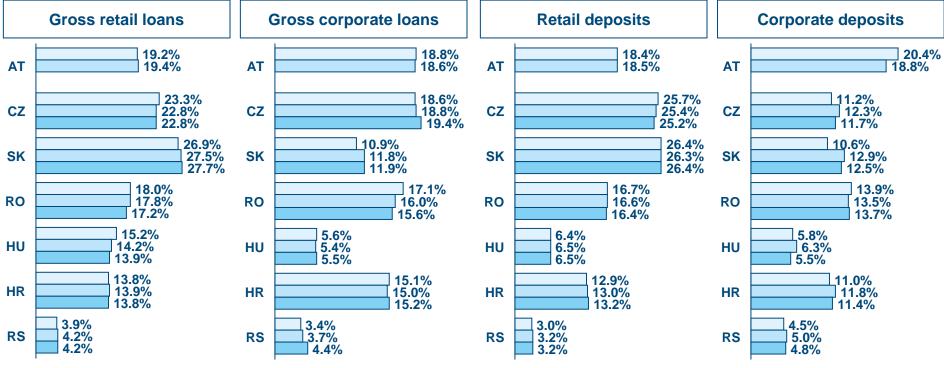
Source: Bloomberg.



31/12/14 30/09/15

31/12/15

Market shares: mostly stable, RO impacted by NPL sales, write-offs



- SK: steady market share gains in a growing market
- CZ: stable qoq market share in as market growth accelerates
- RO: qoq decline mainly due to lower new business volumes in Q4 15
- RO: continued pressure on gross loan based market share due to NPL sales
- CZ: qoq increase driven mainly by higher large corporate loan volumes
- Continued inflows in all markets despite low interest rate environment, with broadly stable market shares
- Changes mainly due to normal quarterly volatility in corporate business



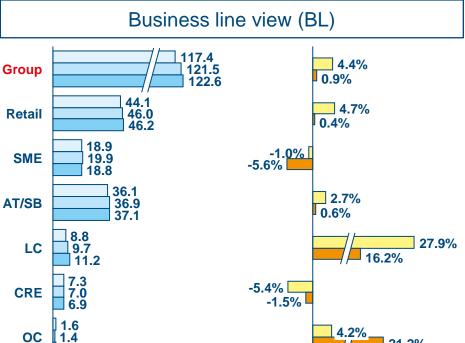
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Business performance: performing loan stock & growth – Performing loan volume increases by 4.4% yoy, up 0.9% qoq

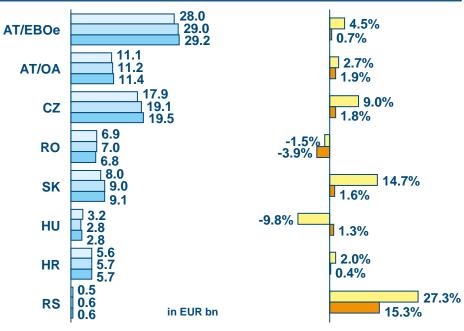






- Retail: solid yoy and qoq growth driven mainly by mortgage business; small yoy contribution from consumer loans
- LC & SME: qoq rise in LC primarily due to EUR 1.2bn shift from SME to LC



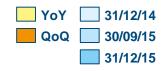


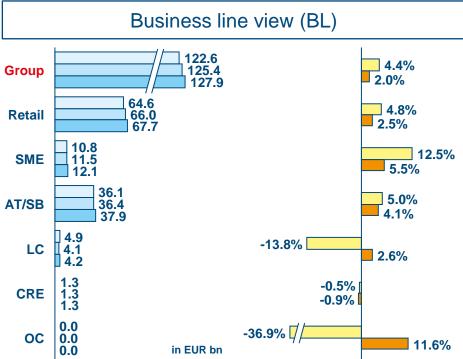
- SK: remains growth driver based on continued Retail strength
- CZ: accelerating growth (yoy and qoq) predominantly in Retail mortgages
- EBOe: yoy and qoq increase driven by Retail and SME
- HU: yoy decline mainly attributable to FX Retail loan conversion, marginal qoq increase due to higher corporate loan volumes



Business performance: customer deposit stock & growth -

Deposits grow by 4.4% yoy, up 2.0% qoq

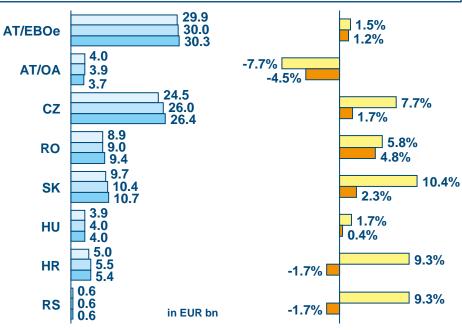






- Retail: well balanced yoy and gog growth across all geographies
- · SME: yoy inflows mainly driven by CZ, SK and RO
- LC: yoy decrease due to deposit outflows on holding level, only partially offset by increase in SK and EBOe, qoq growth mainly in CZ





- AT/OA: qoq and yoy driven by LC and CRE outflows
- CZ: yoy increase predominantly in Retail and SME, whereas qoq growth mainly in Retail and LC
- SK: yoy deposit growth broadly in line with loan growth
- RO: yoy and gog increase driven by Retail
- HR: yoy and qoq customer deposits growth mainly in Retail

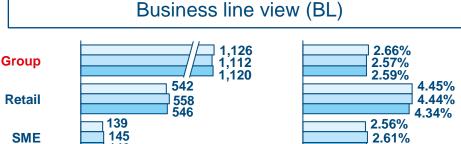


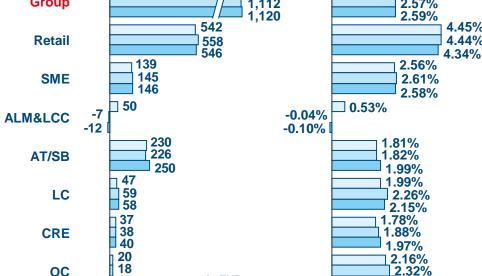
Business performance: NII and NIM –

Stable yoy and qoq NII in Q4 15 supported by loan growth, stable NIM

2.54%





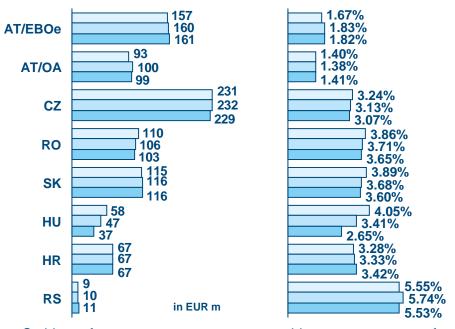




in EUR m

- ALM/LCC: decline in NII driven by low interest rate environment
- Retail: gog decrase mainly driven by Hungarian one-off, which also impacted NIM, yoy increase on higher volumes





- Stable performance across most geographic segments, except for **Hungary** and Romania
- RO: yoy and to a lesser extent gog decrease driven by significantly lower average loan volumes and lower unwinding impact
- HU: yoy decline driven by CHF conversion induced lower volumes: fair interest rate settlement and negative one-off of EUR 10.0m in Q4 15; gog decline due to one-off in Q4 15



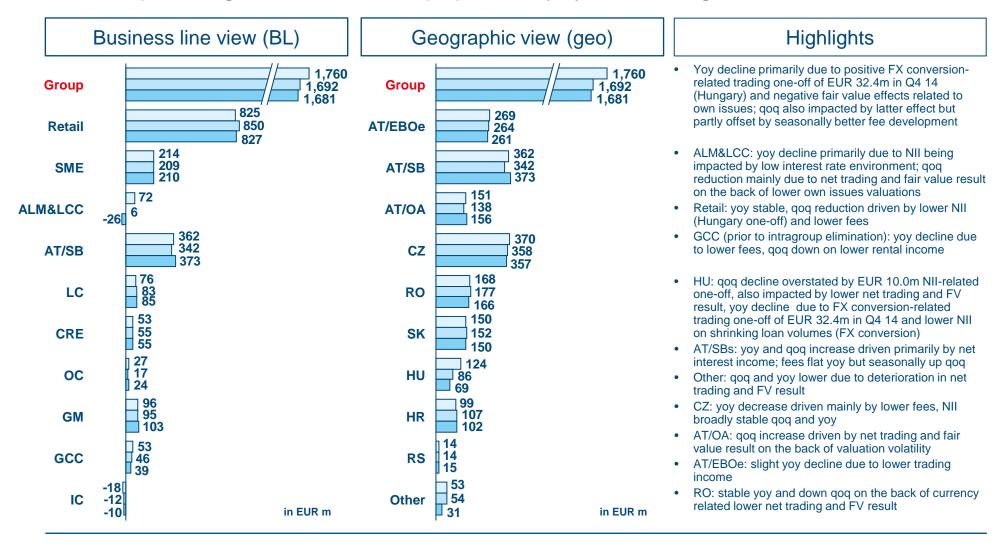
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Business performance: operating income –

Q4 14

Q4 15 operating income stable qoq, down yoy on trading & FV result

Q3 15 Q4 15



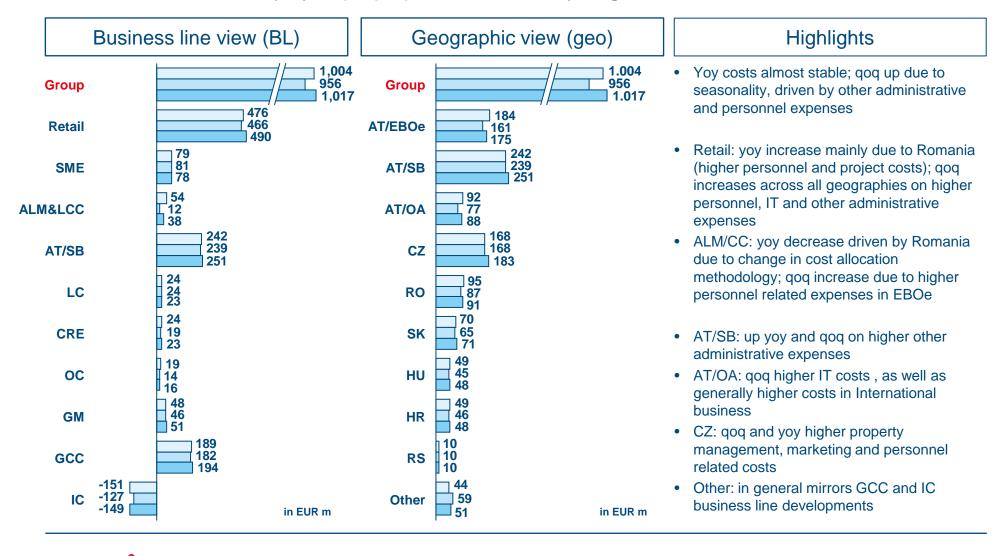


Business performance: operating expenses –

Q4 14

Q4 15 costs stable yoy, up qoq on seasonally higher costs





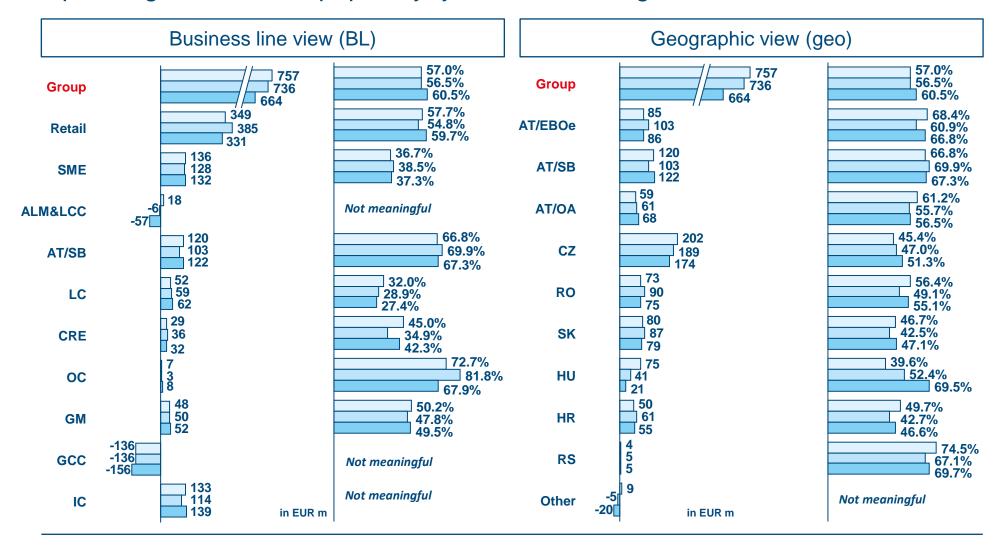


Business performance: operating result and CIR -

Q3 15 Q4 15

Q4 14

Operating result down qoq and yoy on weak trading & FV result, costs





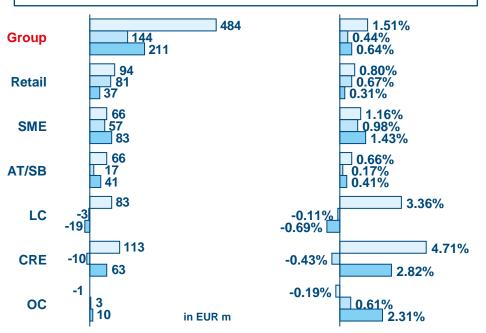
Business performance: risk costs (abs/rel*) –

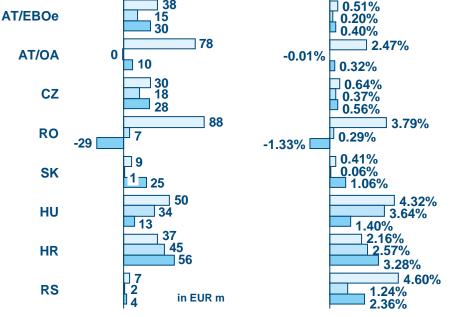
Risk costs remain at benign levels in Q4 15









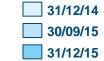


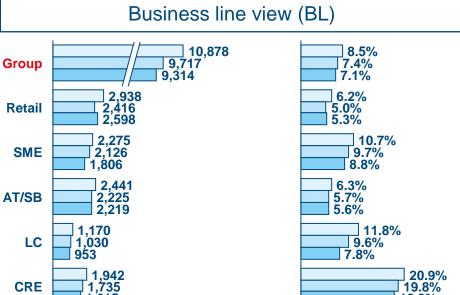
- Continued strong risk performance in Q4 15 supported by across the board yoy improvements in all business lines except SME, gog increase in risk costs from very low levels due to SME. CRE and AT/SB
- Retail: yoy improvement mainly attributable to RO, gog driven by RO and HU
- SME: yoy and gog deterioration mainly due to higher provisions in HR
- LC: improvements you in RO, AT/OA and EBOe; gog improvement due to RO
- CRE: yoy improvements mainly driven by better portfolio quality; gog increase due to single defaults in SK, CZ and workout costs in HR
- AT/SB: moderate year-end increase from historically low provisioning requirements

- RO: significant decline yoy and gog in provisioning following extra provisions booked for accelerated NPL resolution in 2014; releases in 2015
- AT/EBOe: gog higher LC provisions and impairments of participations
- AT/OA: vov improvement driven by CRE (see left)
- CZ: gog deterioration on CRE, PD calibration in Retail
- HU: yoy and gog mainly driven by CRE and EUR 8.5m positive one-off
- SK: yoy and gog increase due to single CRE default case
- HR: up yoy and gog on difficult economic situation *) Relative risk costs are defined as annualised guarterly risk costs over average gross customer loans.

Group

Business performance: non-performing loans and NPL ratio – NPL ratio improves to 7.1%, excluding Romanian NPL sale impact

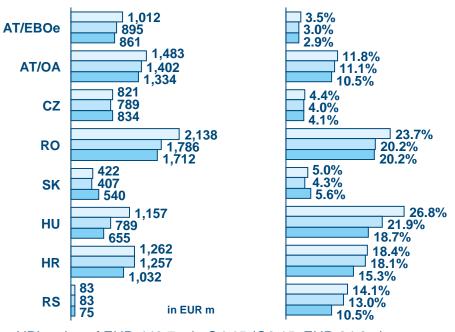






- segments and continued NPL sales in HR, RO and HU
- About EUR 500m NPL reduction impact from corporate NPL sale expected to be included as per Q1 16
- Despite adoption of EBA default definitions as per Q4 15 with negative impact of 38bps, NPL ratio improved to 7.1%





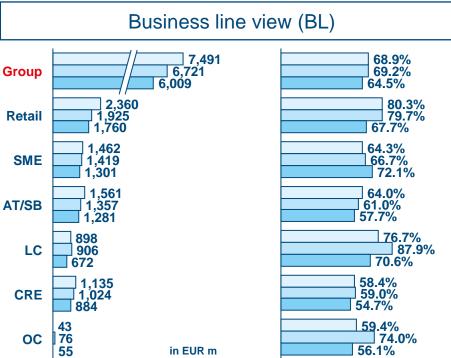
- NPL sales of EUR 448.7m in Q4 15 (Q3 15: EUR 94.9m)
 - Retail: EUR 77.0m (Q3 15: EUR 43.5m)
 - Corporate: EUR 371.7m (Q3 15: EUR 51.3m)
- NPL sales mainly in HR (178.3m), RO (EUR 80.0m), HU (EUR 56.5m), minor sales in AT, SK, CZ and RS



Business performance: allowances for loans and NPL coverage –

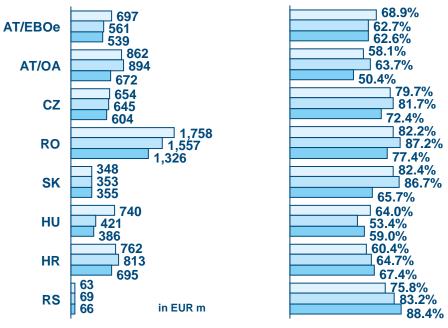
NPL coverage remains at comfortable level of 64.5%





- NPL coverage declined qoq and yoy exclusively due to adoption of EBA default definitions, which led to a EUR 502m updrift in NPLs and to a similar reduction in substandard loans; no underlying change in asset quality
- Retail and SME segments primarily affected by EBA default definitions adoption





- SK: qoq decline due to higher NPL stock on EBA default definition adoption, as provisions remained flat
- AT/OA and CZ: similar development as in SK, with unchanged underlying asset quality but methodological changes (EBA NPE definition adoption)

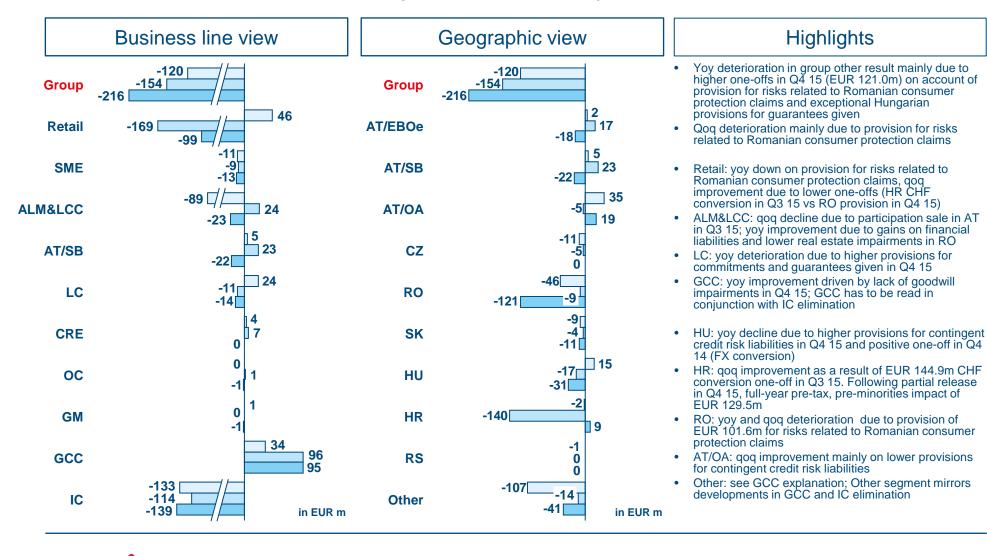


Business performance: other result –

__ Q4 14 __ Q3 15

Q4 15 other result burdened by one-offs, mainly related to Romania

Q4 15

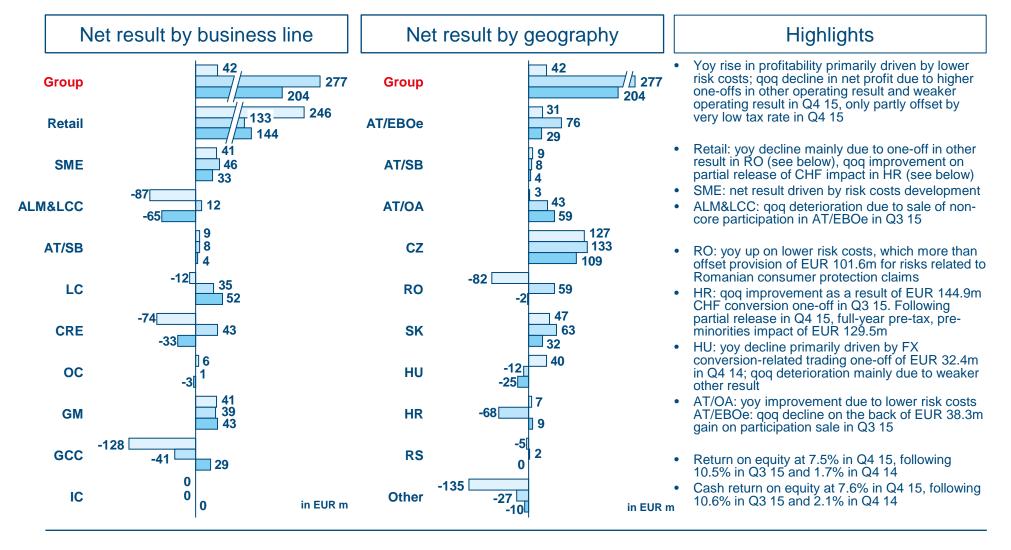




Business performance: net result –

Q4 15 net result up yoy on lower risk costs, down qoq







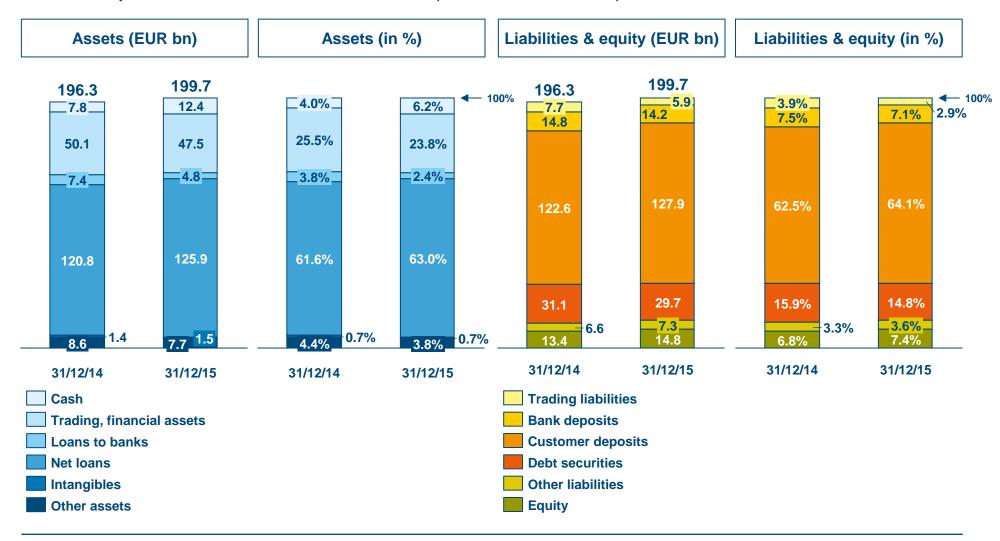
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Assets and liabilities: YTD overview -

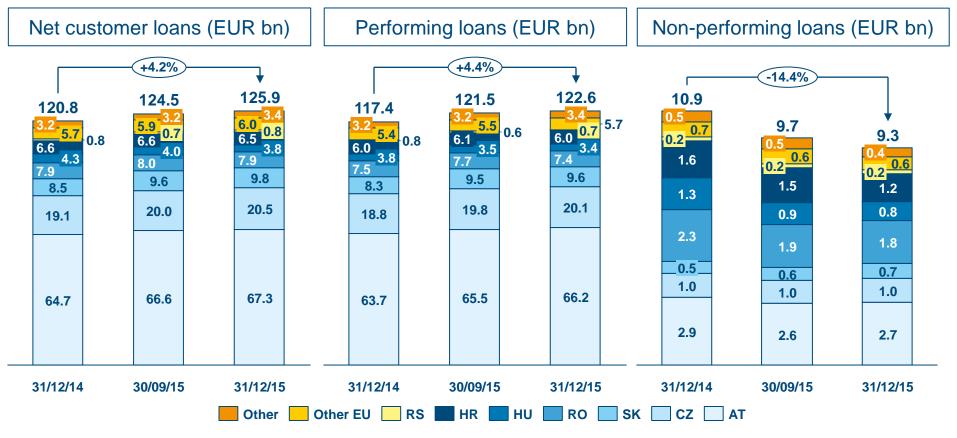
Loan/deposit ratio stable at 98.4% (Dec 14: 98.6%)





Assets and liabilities: customer loans by country of risk -

Performing loans up 4.4% yoy, NPLs down 14.4%



- Performing loan growth accelerates, driven by Austria, Slovakia and Czech Republic:
 - Main contributing business lines: Retail, SME and Large Corporates
 - Continued stabilisation in performing loans in Romania, continued decline in Hungary
- 14.4% yoy decline in NPL stock mainly driven by NPL sales and positive migration trends across most geographies



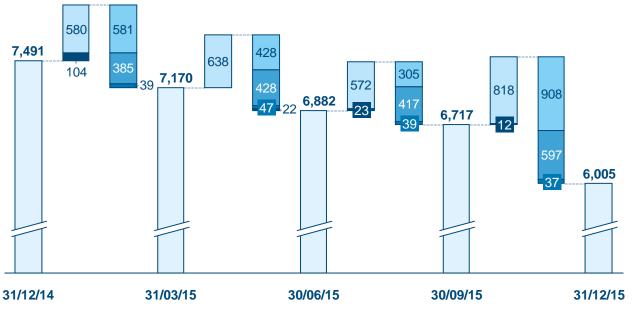
Assets and liabilities: allowances for customer loans -

Decrease in allowances mainly due to continued NPL reduction in Q4 15





- Higher allocations in Q4 15 on the back of higher NPL infows
- P&L unwinding impact = interest income from impaired loans = EUR 37m in Q4 15 (Q4 14: EUR 43m, Q3 15: EUR 39m)



Unwinding impact explained

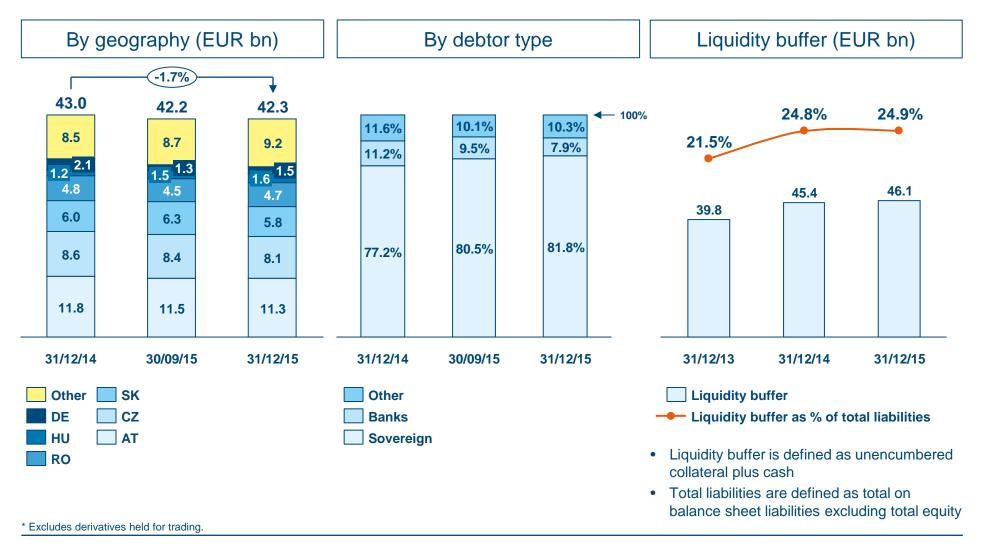
- Erste Group does not accrue interest on NPLs
- When a loan turns NPL Erste Group estimates the recoverable amount and the time frame of recovery
- The recoverable amount is discounted to present (at the effective interest rate of the underlying contract) and a provision reflecting the time value of money is created, ie a higher provision than without discounting
- The time value is released through NII until recovery realisation





Assets and liabilities: financial and trading assets * -

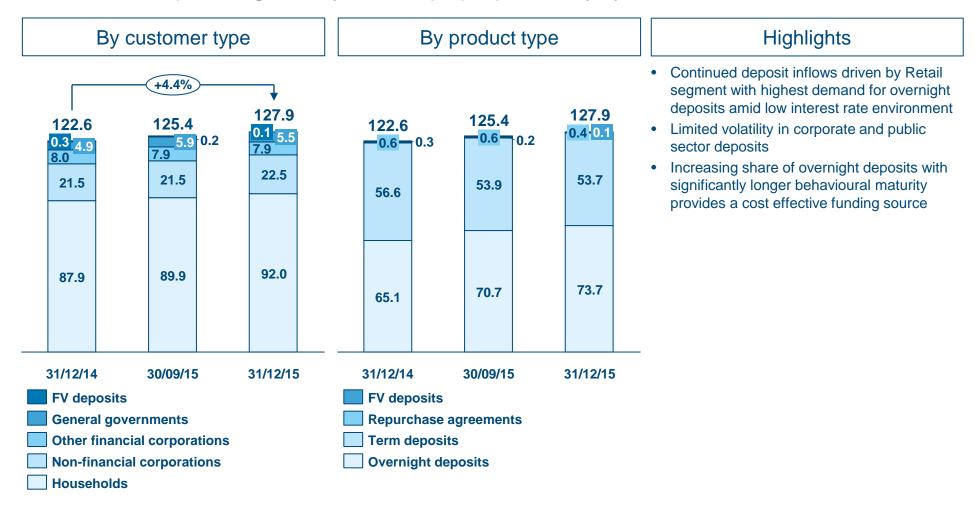
LCR at comfortable 117.4%





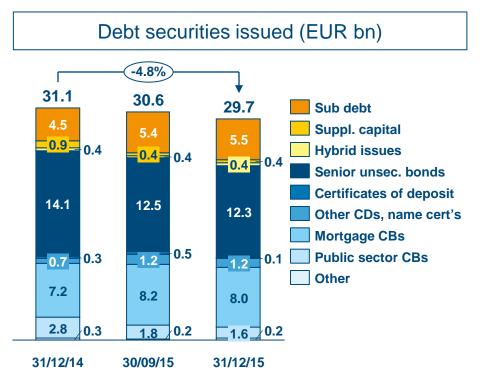
Assets and liabilities: customer deposit funding -

Customer deposits grow by 2.0% qoq, up 4.4% yoy

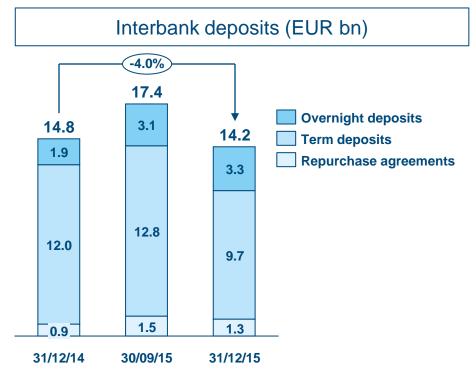




Assets and liabilities: debt vs interbank funding – Stable wholesale funding base



 Overall reduction in wholesale funding reliance led by decline in outstanding senior unsecured debt, which was only partly offset by increased subordinary debt and mortgage covered bonds



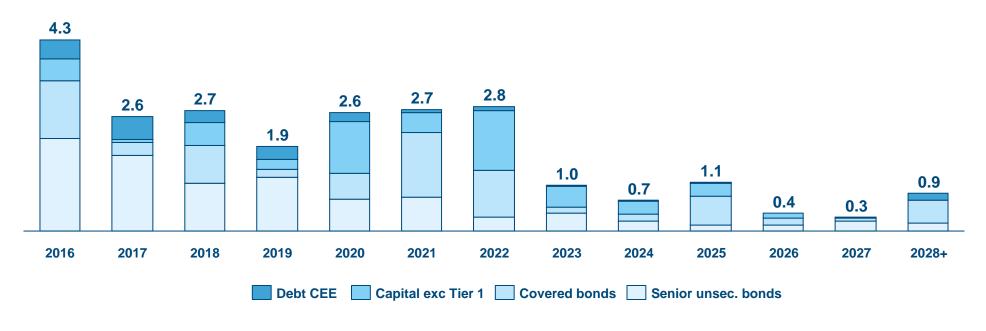
 Qoq and yoy reduction in term deposits led to overall decline in interbank funding reliance



Assets and liabilities: LT funding -

Limited LT funding needs

Maturity profile of debt (EUR bn)



- Total issuance activities in 2015 amounted to EUR 2.4bn, thereof 2 mortgage covered bond benchmark issues totalling EUR 1bn
- The average maturity of bonds issued in 2015 is above 7 years
- In January 2016 Erste Group issued a EUR 750m 7y mortgage covered bond (MS +16 bps)



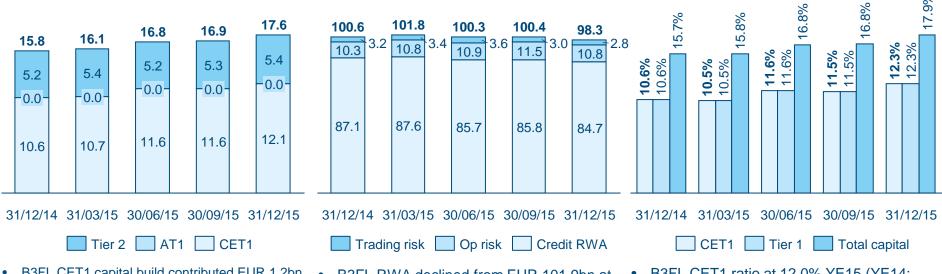
Assets and liabilities: capital position -

B3FL CET1 ratio advances to 12.0%, driven primarily by capital build-up

Basel 3 capital (phased-in)

Risk-weighted assets (phased-in)

Basel 3 capital ratios (phased-in)



- B3FL CET1 capital build contributed EUR 1.2bn or about +120 bps to higher capital ratios in 2015; B3FL CET1 capital at EUR 12.0bn (YE14: EUR 10.8bn)
- Main drivers for B3FL CET1 ratio increase:
 - Retained profit of EUR 0.7bn
 - Higher minority capital of EUR 0.3bn
 - Lower other comprehensive income deduction of about EUR 135m
- B3FL RWA declined from EUR 101.9bn at YE14 to EUR 100.3bn at YE15 (ratio impact of about +20bps), due to:
 - Decline in credit RWA due to portfolio improvements, which more than offset business growth
 - · Decline in trading risk RWA
 - · Increase in operational risk RWA

- B3FL CET1 ratio at 12.0% YE15 (YE14: 10.6%)
- B3FL total capital ratio at 17.2% at YE15 (YE14: 15.6%)
- SREP requirement for 2016: 9.5% + 0.25% systemic risk buffer; B3FL SREP ratio as per 1 Jan 2019 (based on 2016 data): 9.5% +2.0% = 11.5%



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Conclusion -

Outlook 2016

- CEE economic environment anticipated to be conducive to credit expansion
 - Real GDP growth of between 1.5-3.8% expected in 2016 in all major CEE markets, including Austria
 - Real GDP growth to be driven by solid domestic demand
- Return on tangible equity (ROTE) expected at about 10-11% in 2016 underpinning continued dividend payout
 - Support factors: re-emerging loan growth; continued improvement in asset quality amid a benign risk environment; positive one-off related to VISA sale in the amount of about EUR 127m pre-tax
 - Headwinds: persistent low interest rate environment affecting group operating income, primarily NII; lower operating results in Hungary (lower volumes) and Romania (following asset re-pricing); banking levies (total of banking taxes, FTT, resolution fund and deposit insurance fund contributions) expected at about EUR 360m pre-tax in 2016
 - Banking taxes and FTT booked pro rata in other operating result, except HU banking tax (booked upfront in Q1 16)
 - Resolution fund contributions expected to be booked upfront in Q1 16 in other operating result
 - Deposit insurance contributions expected to be booked partly pro rata and partly upfront in Q1 16 in operating expenses

Risks to guidance

- Geopolitical risks and global economic risks
- Impact from negative interest rates
- Consumer protection initiatives



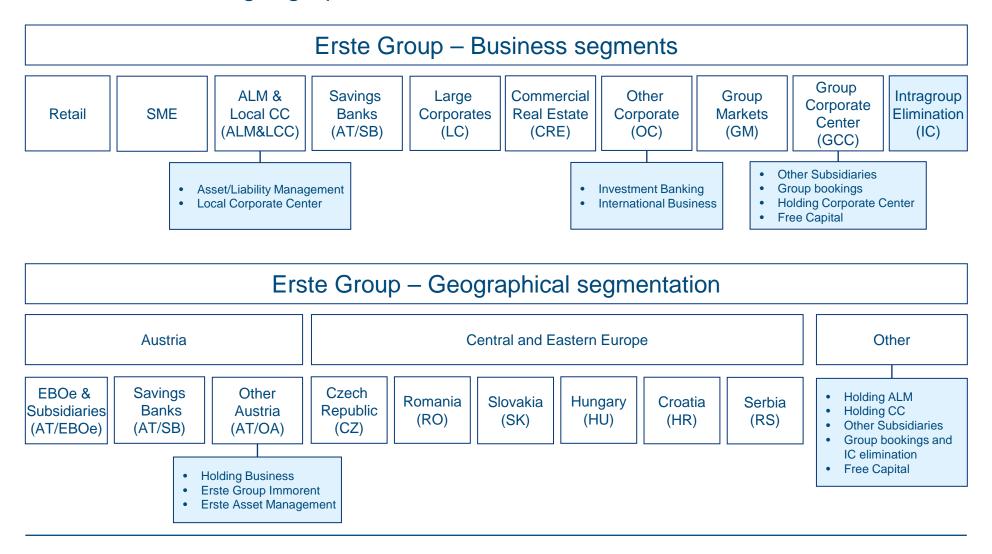
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Additional information: segmentation –

Business line and geographic view





Additional information: income statement -

Year-to-date and quarterly view

	Year-to-date view			Quarterly view				
in EUR million	2014	2015	ΥΟΥ-Δ	Q4 14	Q3 15	Q4 15	ΥΟΥ-Δ	QOQ-Δ
Net interest income	4,495.2	4,444.7	-1.1%	1,125.6	1,112.3	1,120.4	-0.5%	0.7%
Net fee and commission income	1,869.8	1,861.8	-0.4%	497.1	455.2	489.2	-1.6%	7.5%
Dividend income	74.2	49.9	-32.8%	11.3	11.2	6.6	-41.5%	-40.9%
Net trading and fair value result	242.3	210.1	-13.3%	75.8	56.4	17.2	-77.3%	-69.5%
Net result from equity method investments	15.8	17.5	10.8%	4.2	4.7	3.1	-25.7%	-32.9%
Rental income from investment properties & other operating leases	180.6	187.9	4.0%	46.5	51.7	44.4	-4.5%	-14.2%
Personnel expenses	-2,184.2	-2,244.6	2.8%	-577.2	-553.6	-577.1	0.0%	4.3%
Other administrative expenses	-1,136.9	-1,179.3	3.7%	-315.1	-295.6	-324.1	2.9%	9.6%
Depreciation and amortisation	-466.1	-445.0	-4.5%	-111.3	-106.4	-115.3	3.6%	8.3%
Gains/losses from financial assets and liabilities not measured at fair								
value through profit or loss, net	18.3	100.9	>100.0%	4.0	22.8	42.1	>100.0%	85.2%
Net impairment loss on financial assets not measured at fair value								
through profit or loss	-2,083.7	-729.1	-65.0%	-484.3	-144.4	-210.7	-56.5%	45.9%
Other operating result	-1,752.9	-635.6	-63.7%	-124.3	-176.8	-258.2	>100.0%	46.0%
Levies on banking activities	-256.3	-236.2	-7.8%	-47.6	-50.5	-48.5	1.9%	-4.0%
Pre-tax result from continuing operations	-727.7	1,639.1	n/a	152.2	437.4	237.6	56.1%	-45.7%
Taxes on income	-521.5	-363.9	-30.2%	-75.5	-88.9	-1.6	-97.8%	-98.2%
Net result for the period	-1,249.2	1,275.1	n/a	76.7	348.5	236.0	>100.0%	-32.3%
Net result attributable to non-controlling interests	133.4	307.0	>100.0%	34.7	71.6	32.0	-8.0%	-55.4%
Net result attributable to owners of the parent	-1,382.6	968.2	n/a	42.0	276.9	204.0	>100.0%	-26.3%
Operating income	6,877.9	6,771.8	-1.5%	1,760.5	1,691.6	1,680.9	-4.5%	-0.6%
Operating expenses	-3,787.3	-3,868.9	2.2%	-1,003.6	-955.6	-1,016.5	1.3%	6.4%
Operating result	3,090.7	2,902.9	-6.1%	756.9	735.9	664.4	-12.2%	-9.7%



Additional information: group balance sheet –

Assets

	Quarterly data							
in EUR million	Dec 14	Mar 15	Jun 15	Sep 15	Dec 15	ΥΟΥ-Δ	YTD-Δ	QOQ-A
Cash and cash balances	7,835	8,223	7,011	11,097	12,350	57.6%	57.6%	11.3%
Financial assets - held for trading	10,531	11,366	9,022	8,805	8,719	-17.2%	-17.2%	-1.0%
Derivatives	7,173	7,628	5,613	5,633	5,303	-26.1%	-26.1%	-5.9%
Other trading assets	3,357	3,738	3,409	3,172	3,416	1.7%	1.7%	7.7%
Financial assets - at fair value through profit or loss	350	271	269	332	359	2.7%	2.7%	8.2%
Financial assets - available for sale	22,373	23,187	21,804	21,187	20,763	-7.2%	-7.2%	-2.0%
Financial assets - held to maturity	16,877	17,462	17,949	17,585	17,701	4.9%	4.9%	0.7%
Loans and receivables to credit institutions	7,442	8,345	8,775	8,384	4,805	-35.4%	-35.4%	-42.7%
Loans and receivables to customers	120,834	123,437	123,504	124,521	125,897	4.2%	4.2%	1.1%
Derivatives - hedge accounting	2,872	2,914	2,181	2,284	2,191	-23.7%	-23.7%	-4.1%
Changes in fair value of portfolio hedged items	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	n/a	n/a
Property and equipment	2,264	2,340	2,330	2,368	2,402	6.1%	6.1%	1.4%
Investment properties	950	947	805	751	753	-20.7%	-20.7%	0.2%
Intangible assets	1,441	1,415	1,395	1,393	1,465	1.6%	1.6%	5.2%
Investments in associates and joint ventures	195	190	194	164	167	-14.6%	-14.6%	1.5%
Current tax assets	107	107	150	166	119	10.7%	10.7%	-28.6%
Deferred tax assets	301	293	255	234	310	3.0%	3.0%	32.4%
Assets held for sale	291	229	429	487	526	80.7%	80.7%	8.1%
Other assets	1,623	1,844	1,457	1,411	1,217	-25.0%	-25.0%	-13.8%
Total assets	196,287	202,570	197,532	201,171	199,743	1.8%	1.8%	-0.7%

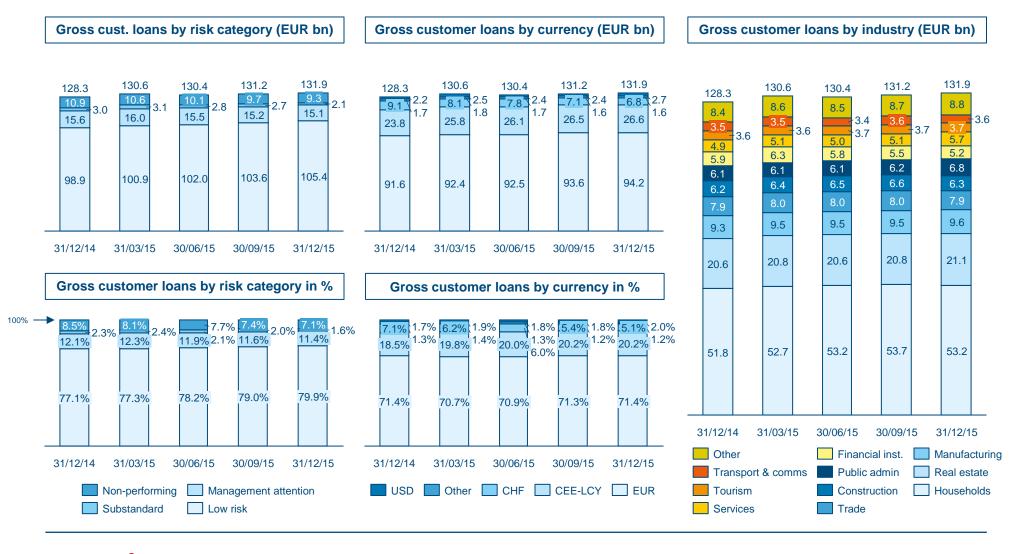


Additional information: group balance sheet – Liabilities and equity

	Quarterly data							
in EUR million	Dec 14	Mar 15	Jun 15	Sep 15	Dec 15	ΥΟΥ-Δ	YTD-Δ	QOQ-A
Financial liabilities - held for trading	7,746	8,988	6,632	6,364	5,867	-24.3%	-24.3%	-7.8%
Derivatives	7,188	8,163	5,875	5,654	5,434	-24.4%	-24.4%	-3.9%
Other trading liabilities	558	824	758	711	434	-22.3%	-22.3%	-39.0%
Financial liabilities - at fair value through profit or loss	2,073	1,966	1,881	1,907	1,907	-8.0%	-8.0%	0.0%
Deposits from banks	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	n/a	n/a
Deposits from customers	320	257	237	197	149	-53.5%	-53.5%	-24.5%
Debt securities issued	1,753	1,709	1,644	1,710	1,758	0.3%	0.3%	2.8%
Other financial liabilities	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	n/a	n/a
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	166,921	170,616	168,769	172,186	170,787	2.3%	2.3%	-0.8%
Deposits from banks	14,803	16,389	15,704	17,414	14,212	-4.0%	-4.0%	-18.4%
Deposits from customers	122,263	124,495	124,296	125,242	127,797	4.5%	4.5%	2.0%
Debt securities issued	29,387	29,143	28,270	28,910	27,896	-5.1%	-5.1%	-3.5%
Other financial liabilities	469	590	497	620	882	87.9%	87.9%	42.2%
Derivatives - hedge accounting	726	833	639	621	593	-18.3%	-18.3%	-4.5%
Changes in fair value of portfolio hedged items	1,225	1,277	962	1,013	966	-21.2%	-21.2%	-4.7%
Provisions	1,653	1,688	1,608	1,752	1,736	5.1%	5.1%	-0.9%
Current tax liabilities	91	111	121	120	90	-1.2%	-1.2%	-25.0%
Deferred tax liabilities	99	140	85	92	96	-3.0%	-3.0%	4.2%
Liabilities associated with assets held for sale	0	0	33	33	578	n/a	n/a	>100.0%
Other liabilities	2,310	2,996	2,786	2,647	2,317	0.3%	0.3%	-12.5%
Total equity	13,443	13,956	14,015	14,437	14,807	10.1%	10.1%	2.6%
Equity attributable to non-controlling interests	3,605	3,718	3,701	3,746	3,802	5.5%	5.5%	1.5%
Equity attributable to owners of the parent	9,838	10,238	10,314	10,691	11,005	11.9%	11.9%	2.9%
Total liabilities and equity	196,287	202,570	197,532	201,171	199,743	1.8%	1.8%	-0.7%



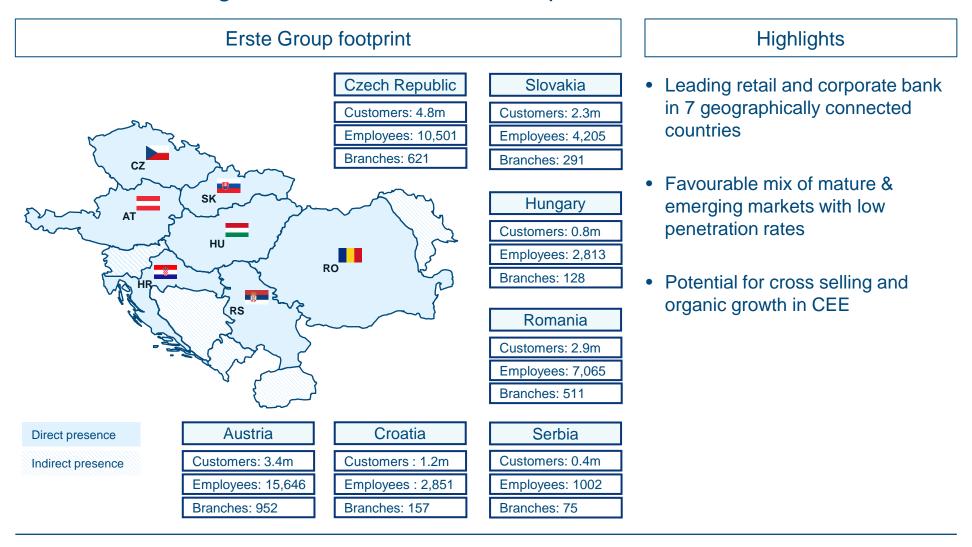
Additional information: gross customer loans – By risk category, by currency, by industry





Additional information: footprint –

Customer banking in Austria and the eastern part of the EU





Additional information: strategy -

A real customer need is the reason for all business

Customer banking in Central and Eastern Europe

Eastern part of EU

Focus on CEE, limited exposure to other Europe

Retail banking

Corporate banking

Capital markets

Public sector

Interbank business

Focus on local currency mortgage and consumer loans funded by local deposits

FX loans only in EUR for clients with EUR income (or equivalent) and where funded by local FX deposits (HR & RS)

Savings products, asset management and pension products

Large, local corporate and

SME banking

Advisory services, with focus on providing access to capital markets and corporate finance

Real estate business that goes beyond financing

Focus on customer business, incl. customer-based trading activities

In addition to core markets, presences in Poland, Turkey, Germany and London with institutional client focus and selected product mix

Building debt and equity capital markets in CEE

Financing sovereigns and municipalities with focus on infrastructure development in core markets

Any sovereign holdings are only held for marketmaking, liquidity or balance sheet management reasons Focus on banks that operate in the core markets

Any bank exposure is only held for liquidity or balance sheet management reasons or to support client business

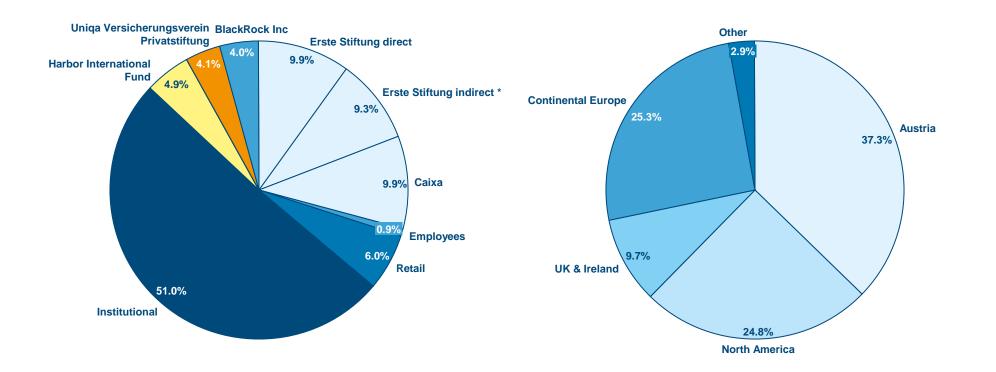


Additional information: shareholder structure -

Total number of shares: 429,800,000

By investor

By region



^{*} Including voting rights of Erste Foundation, savings banks, savings banks foundations and Wiener Städtische Wechselseitige Versicherungsverein



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