

Informative note

The statistics Unpaid Bills of Exchange offers monthly information on the number and amount of expired bills of exchange, and with respects to these, those that are unpaid.

During the last few years the National Statistics Institute, in collaboration with the Bank of Spain, has analysed in detail the effects of the impact of the mandatory entry into force, last 1 February, of SEPA ("Single Euro Payments Area"), and of the regulations of the Bank of Spain on the balance sheets of financial institutions.

Based on this analysis, and bearing in mind that the Bank of Spain currently publishes statistics on payment instruments and, furthermore, this statistics is not included in any Community Regulation, last 18 February the INE informed the Standing Committee of the High Council on Statistics that it would no longer be viable to continue publishing these statistics after 15 March, date initially earmarked for the publication of the data corresponding to January 2016.

As a consequence of the foregoing, the calendar for short-term statistics for 2016 has been modified. Information on these statistics as published up until this date shall continue to be available to users on the INE website.

The INE thanks the respondent units that have provided their assistance over the years. Without their assistance it would not have been possible to publish these statistics.