

## Descriptive note

Every year Istat conducts a survey on the total amount of credit instruments subject to protests.

Data regarding protests relating to bills of exchange, sight drafts and cheques are recorded monthly by Chambers of Commerce and then transmitted to Istat in electronic form by Infocamere (the shareholding information technology consortium of the Italian Chambers of Commerce).

With the coming into force of the regulation issued with Decree no. 316 of 09.08.2000 (Official Journal of 02.11.2000) and Law no. 235 of 18.08.2000 (Official Journal of 28.08.2000), the electronic register of protests is a database that is subject to input and query rules which are distinct from the previous one. As of the first of June 2001 the distinction between individuals and companies is no longer present, as it is no longer recorded by the collection officer, not being a compulsory piece of information under the abovementioned new regulation.

As of the first of June 2001 data classified by appeal court district take into account the district of the province of collection of the bill, while data classified by administrative area (provinces, regions) consider the province of the chamber of commerce which records the bill in its register.

As of 2003, pursuant to Presidential Decree no. 298 of 28.11.2002, data regarding protests include both bank cheques and postal cheques.

## Symbols and convention used

The statistical data are reported by appeal court district, region and province. Any comparisons between regions and appeal court districts should take into account that regional boundaries do not always correspond to judicial boundaries; a number of appeal court districts in fact include, in addition to the municipalities of the respective region, a number of municipalities or even – as in the case of Liguria – an entire province of a neighbouring region.

### *Conventional symbols*

In the statistical tables the following conventional symbols have been adopted:

- |                   |                                                                                                             |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| line (-):         | when the phenomenon does not exist or when the phenomenon exists and is surveyed but no cases are recorded; |
| four dots (....): | when the phenomenon exists, but the data are unknown for whatever reason;                                   |
| two dots (..):    | for absolute or relative numbers which are less than half of the minimum significant unit considered.       |

### *Roundings in thousands of euros*

The total amount of protests is expressed in thousands of euros, therefore some totals may differ from the sum of the items that comprise them.

### *Percentage compositions*

Percentage compositions are automatically rounded to one or two decimal places. The sum of the percentage values thus calculated may therefore be not equal 100.

### *Adjusted data*

Data contained in previous publications which do not match with those in the downloaded tables are to be considered adjusted data.

### *Year-over-year percentage change*

Percentage change compared with the same quarter or the same period of the previous year.