



Banks in Croatia: A system essential for growth and development

In today's world, banking services, such as payment transactions, saving financial surpluses in the form of deposits and the granting of loans, resemble electricity distribution or general practitioners' services – they are omnipresent and generally available, without any major supply interruption. People easily get used to availability. They fail to notice the system's complexity and risks behind its visible and accessible parts.

Similar to electricity prices, the terms for financial products prevailing in the market are subject to change. However, availability of such products stays the same. Fortunately for consumers, the terms have changed in their favour in recent years. Interest rates dropped to a historical low due to the fall in interest rates worldwide, and Croatia is no exception. Against the backdrop of financial stability, systemic bank problems have become the thing of the past, with Croatian banks being the only banks in Europe that have not relied on comprehensive state aid programmes from the 2008 crisis to the present.

The purpose of the CBA's publication Croatian banks' contribution to growth and development is to give a behind-the-scenes look to consumers, provide a better picture of the system – its "power plants" and "distribution network". The purpose is to inform the public about different processes, such as the reduction in the number of employees and operating units triggered by technological changes, and to make international comparisons, showing that Croatian banks are among the soundest in Europe – among the strongest in terms of capital and readiness to respond to the needs of both companies and consumers.

Croatian banks are among the most cost efficient in the Central and East European countries and are at the top in terms of deposit- and loan-to-GDP ratios, expansion of their business network and numerous other indicators presented below. However, potential for Croatian banks' contribution to growth and development is not yet exhausted.

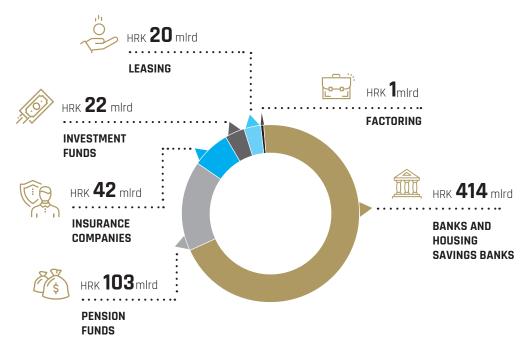
Internationally comparable indicators of the rule of law, and the quality of the judiciary and institutions indicate that Croatia lags behind its European peers. While regulatory and judicial issues raise the cost of financial intermediation, only in three more developed New Europe countries (the Czech Republic, Slovenia and Slovakia) are banks' interest margins notably lower than those of Croatian banks. This fact suggests that there is room for improvement to the benefit of consumers, which may be realised if Croatia made significant improvements in its legislation and court proceedings related to financial intermediation. Reduction of risks would provide an additional boost to economic growth, for which the banks stand ready.

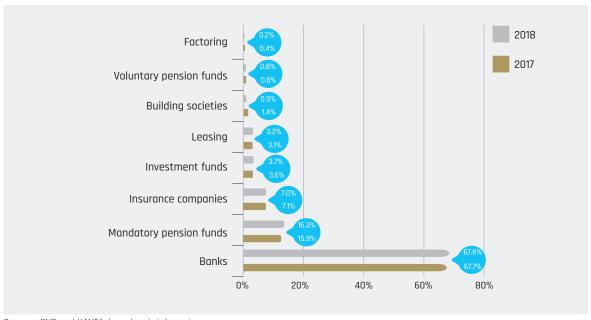
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I. Size and importance of the banking system



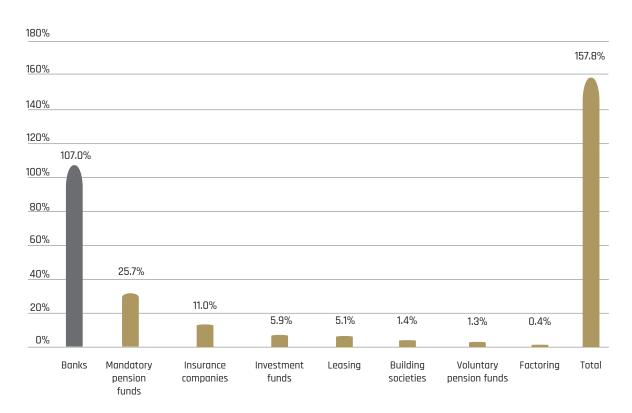
Structure of the financial sector in 2018





Importance and role of the financial sector in Croatia: total and by type of intermediary (assets as % of GDP)





Banks' significance in general







of the GDP

Financial sector's assets amount to 158% of GDP

- Banks account for 68% of the financial sector. Their assets amount to 107% of GDP
- Banks are at the centre of the system which includes also other financial intermediaries (funds. leasing companies, etc.)



Banks keep deposits, approve loans, carry out payment transactions and trade in financial instruments - they ensure liquidity, curb risks. enable savings and growth



Banks carry out maturity and currency transformation of savings into loans and other placements

Maturity transformation: short-term funds can become longer-term placements with certain limitations that originate in risk management



High capitalisation and responsible management ensure financial stability - peace of mind of citizens **and entrepreneurs** (Croatia is the only EU country that did not expose taxpavers' money to risk in order to bail out banks after the crisis broke out in 2008 and 2009)

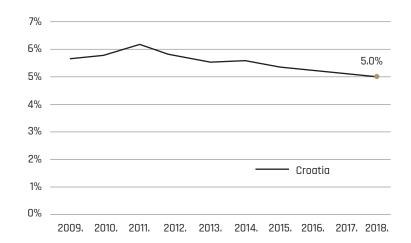


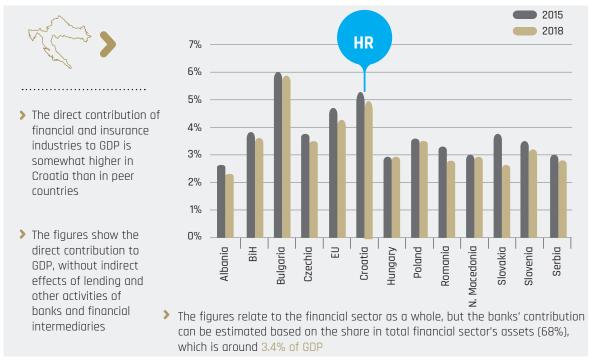
Banks encourage innovations and provide a strong boost to both employment and government **budget revenues -** Croatian banks employed more than 20,000 persons in 2018 (1.4% of total official employment in Croatia), most of them being women

Financial sector's shares in the GDP

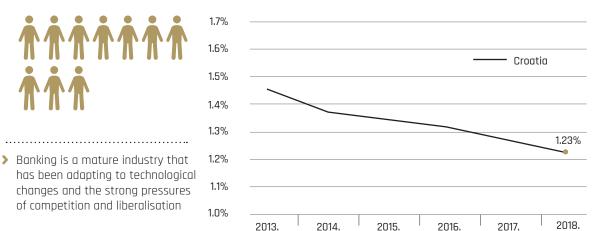


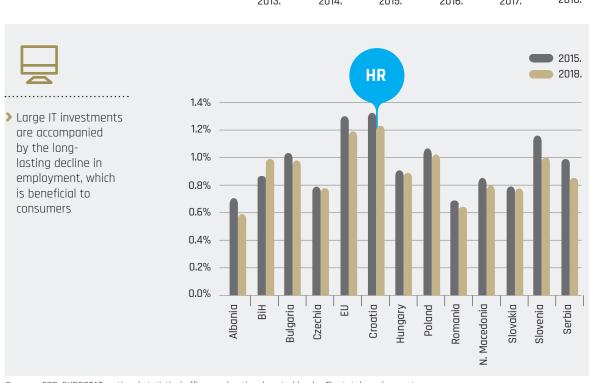
- Financial and insurance industries in Croatia have been accounting for more than 5 percentage points of GDP
- Their share in GDP has edged down in recent years due to the rise in other industries, but added value has grown





Number of employees in banks / total number of employees

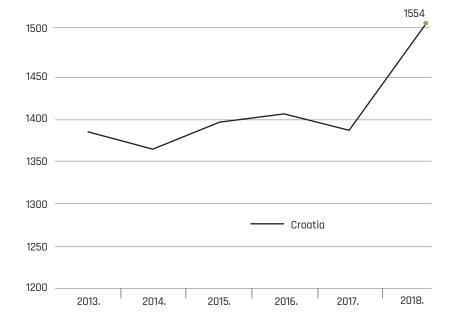




Herfindahl-Hirschman index of concentration



- The sum of the market shares of individual banks multiplied by 1,000 (results under 1,800 are not considered high concentration)
- The index is usually higher in smaller countries



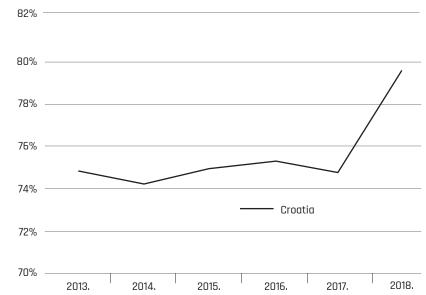


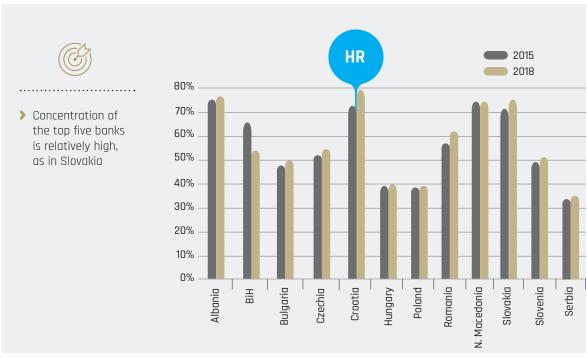
Source: ECB, nacionalne centralne Banks

Assets of the five largest banks / total assets



Five large and strong competitors accompanied by minor ones may imply strong competition



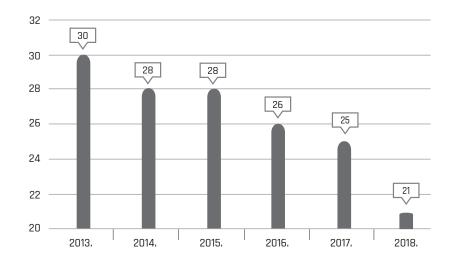


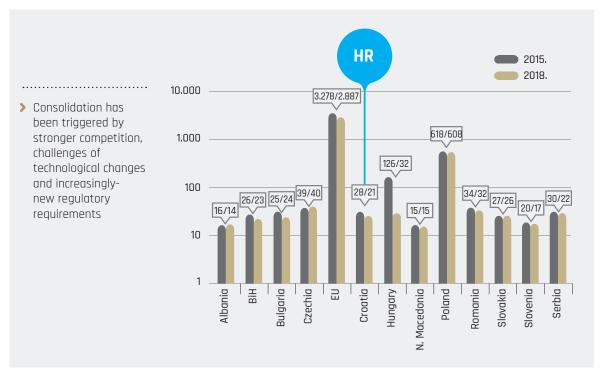
Source: ECB and national central banks.

Number of banks



The number of banks in Croatia has been falling. This is part of the general EU trend, typical for a mature industry undergoing consolidation



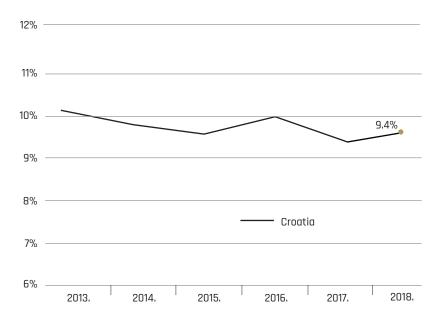


Sources: ECB and national central banks

Bank assets in majority domestic ownership / total assets

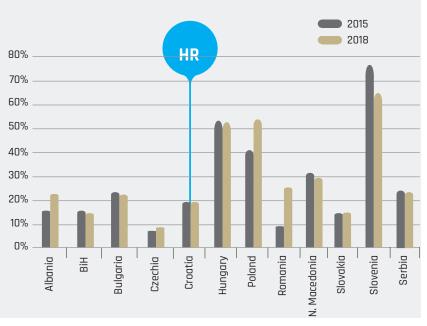


Croatia is a typical New Europe country – like the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Baltic countries (not shown here) – with banks controlled by European banking groups dominating the market



Only Hungary, Poland and Slovenia have slightly larger shares of domestic ownership

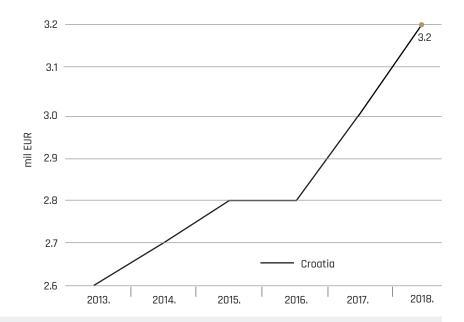
> State ownership predominated in Slovenia until November 2018 when 50%+1 of the shares of the leading Slovenian bank were listed in the stock exchange

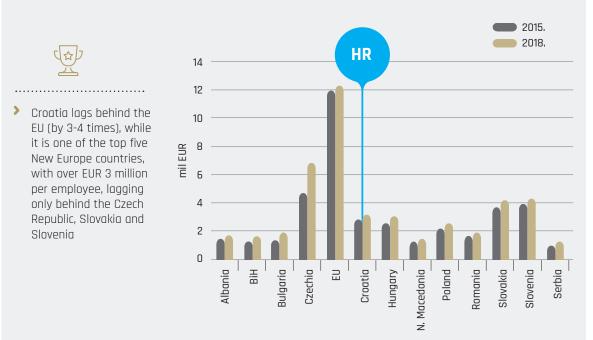


Total assets per bank employee



Performance, as measured by assets per employee, has been increasing



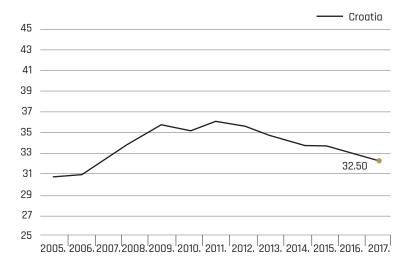


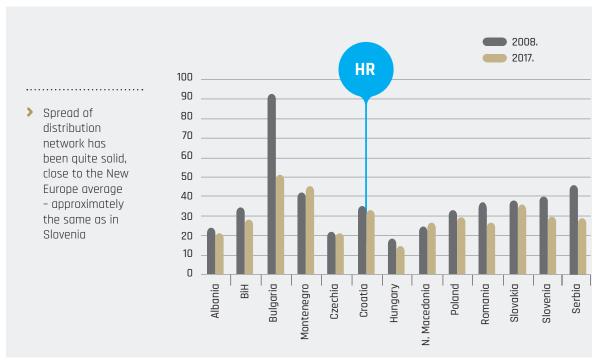
Sources: ECB and national central banks.

Number of operating units per 100,000 citizens



With the development of technology, the need for bank operating units has been decreasing, as is their number. This is also due to stricter safety-related regulatory requirements



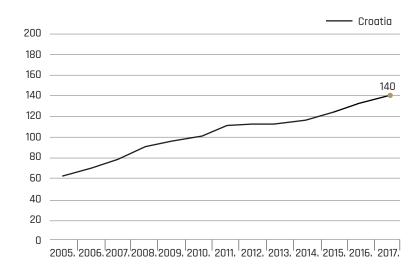


Source: World Bank

Number of ATMs per 100,000 citizens



- Fast development of the ATM network – technological changes, increased efficiency, multifunctional ATMs – in response to consumer preferences
- Udvostručenje pokazatelja premreženosti u 10 godina





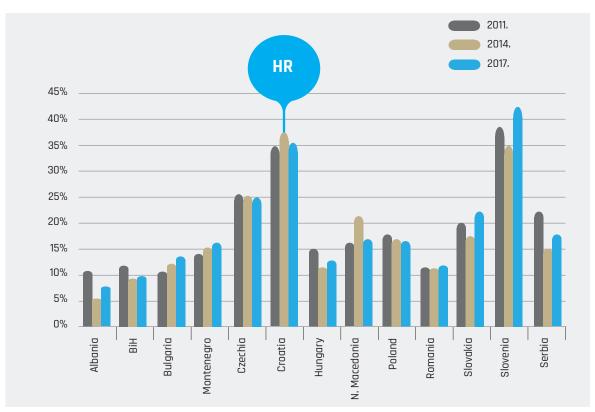
Source: World Bank.

^{*} Data for Poland refers to 2016.

Credit card share in the population over the age of 15



- Banks in the Czech Republic, Croatia and Slovenia have invested considerable efforts in the technological and market development of card operations
- Slovenia and Croatia are definitely at the top of New Europe



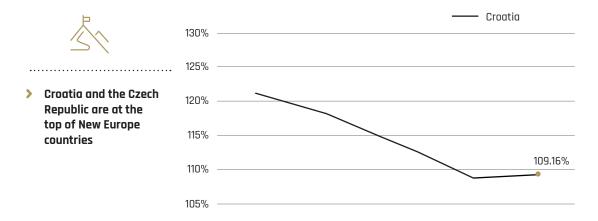
II. Assets, deposits, loans and balance sheet

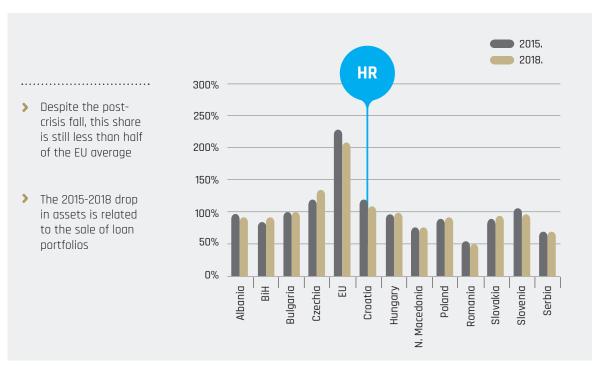


Total bank assets in relation to GDP

100%

2014.





2015.

2016.

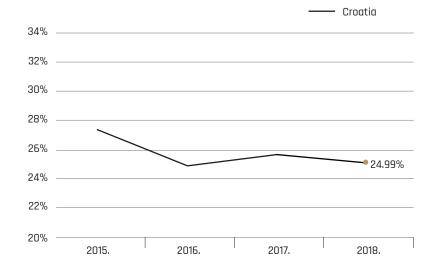
2017.

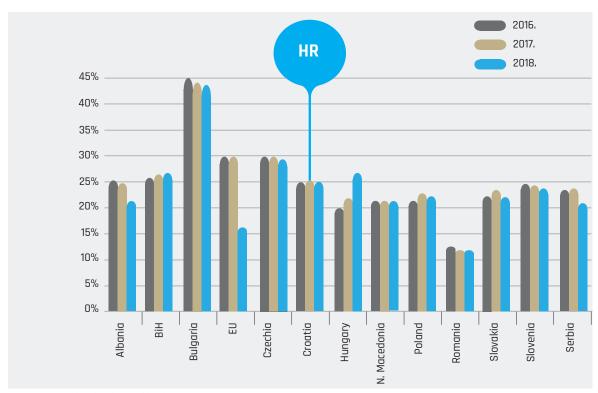
2018.

Corporate loans in relation to GDP



- Despite the post-crisis fall, the lag behind the EU average is still lower than double the value
- Croatia is just behind Bulgaria, the Czech Republic and Bosnia and Herzegovina, but ahead of most New Europe countries

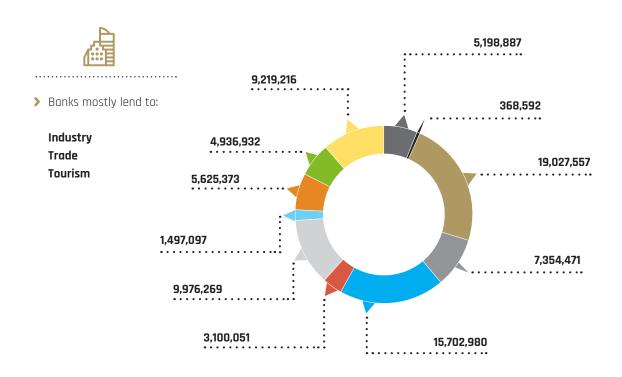




Sources: ECB and national central banks

Corporate loans' sectoral structure

In thousands of kuna

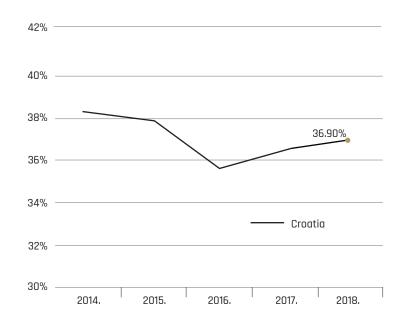


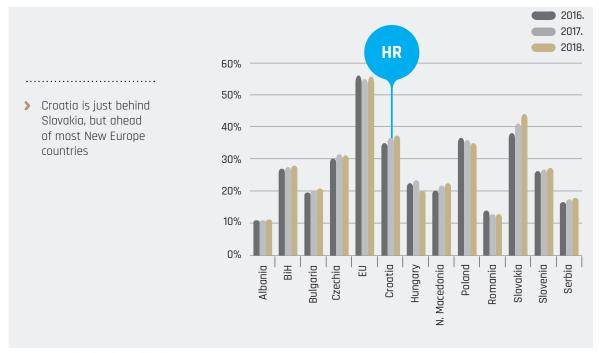
- Agriculture, forestry and fishery
- Mining and quarrying
- Processing industry
- Construction
- Retail and wholesale trade: repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles
- Transportation and storage
- Accommodation and food services
- Information and communication
- Real estate business
- Professional, scientific, and technical services
- Other activities

Household loans in relation to GDP



Despite the post-crisis decrease, this share is still nearly half of the EU average



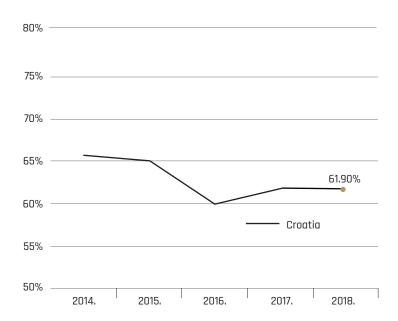


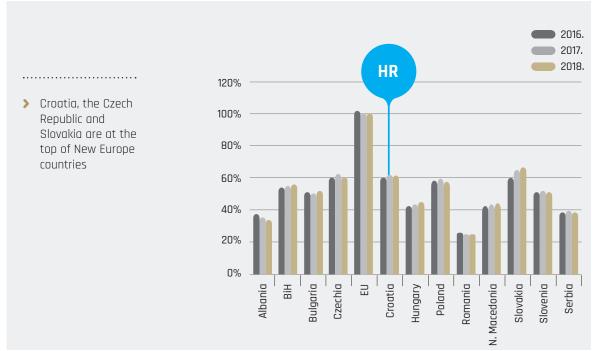
Sources: ECB and national central banks

Loans to private sector to GDP

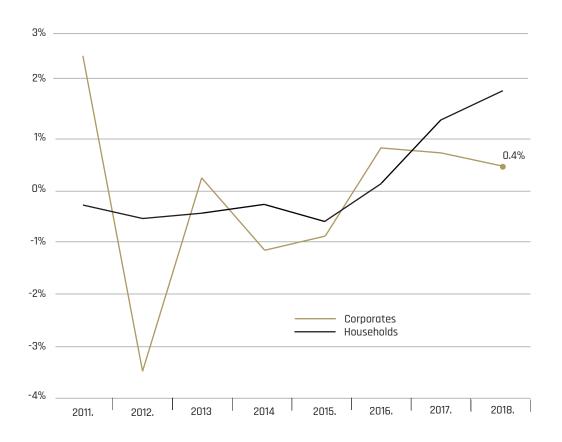


With the post-crisis fall, this share is less than half of the EU average





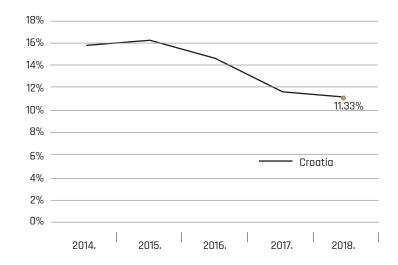
Contribution to economic recoverychange in loans (net transactions) in relation to GDP

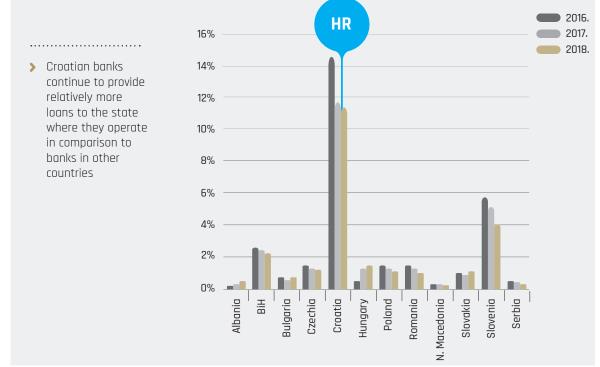


General government borrowing in relation to GDP



Lending to the government has been decreasing after deficit reductions and a surplus in 2017

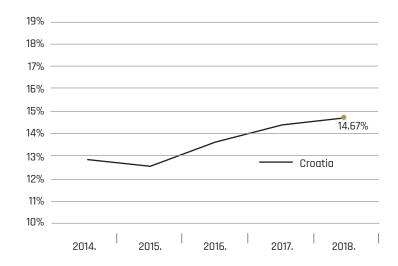




Bank investments in state securities in relation to GDP



Banks are key for the development of the government bond market





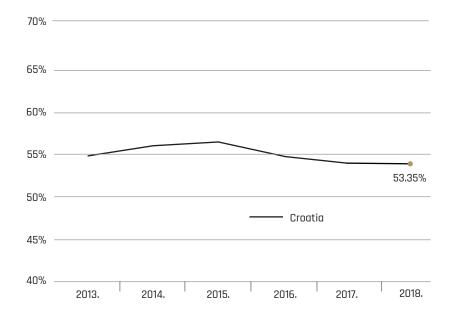
Source: ECB

Retail deposits in relation to GDP



- Systemic stability is key for maintaining the value of deposits

 all of them, not just those guaranteed by the State Agency for Deposit Insurance and Bank Resolution (DAB)
- Slight decrease recently due to GDP growth without rapid expansion of credit



> Croatia is the recordholder among the New Europe countries, Albania excluded – alongside the Czech banks, Croatian banks are relatively the biggest deposit keepers

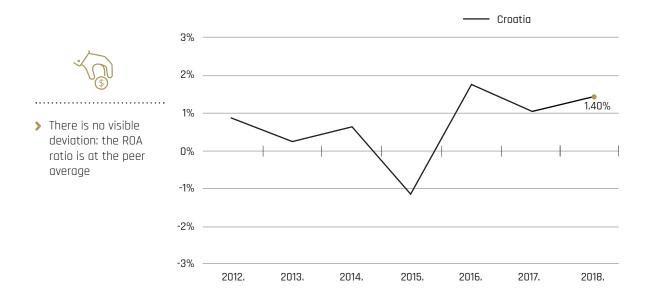


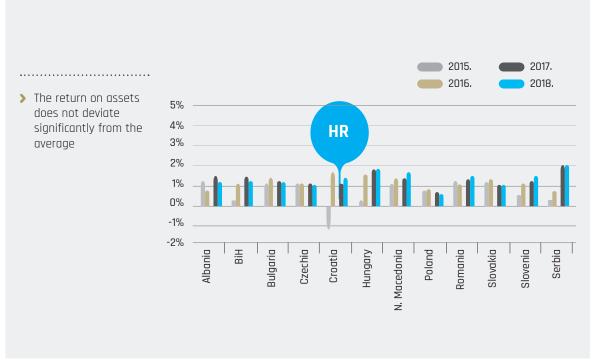
Source: ECB, nacionalne centralne Banks

III. Profitability, efficiency and invested capital



Return on banks' assets (ROA)

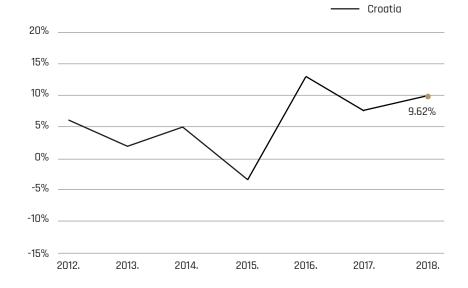


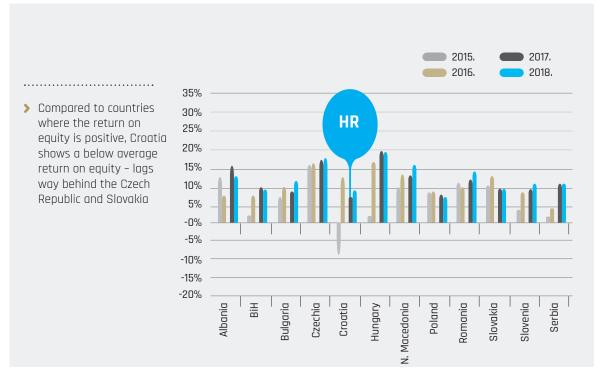


Return on banks' equity (ROE)



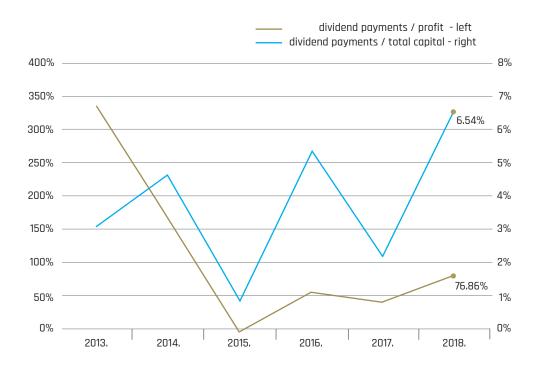
The return on invested capital is below the average





Sources: IMF and national central banks

Dividend payment to banks' shareholders



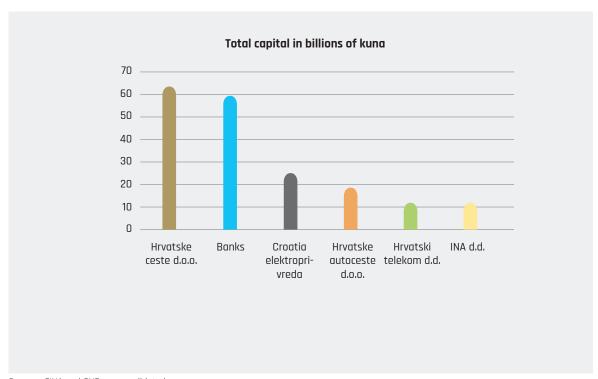


- Dividend payments account for a marginal portion of the capital invested
- Banks still keep the bulk of capital in Croatia

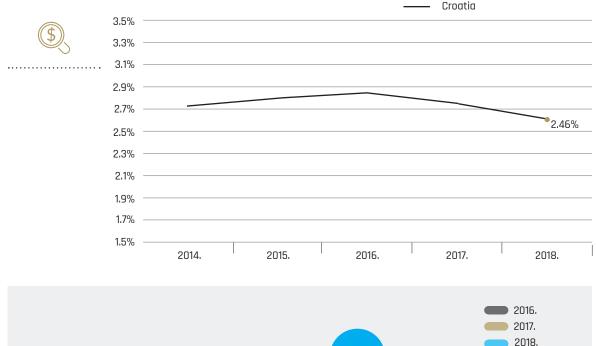
Capital invested in banks in Croatia (on Dec 31st, 2018) = HRK 57.9bn = 15.2% of GDP



- The capital invested in banks amounts to nearly as much as that invested in Croatia's road infrastructure
- This is nearly six times more than what was invested in INA, HT or HŽ



Net interest margin



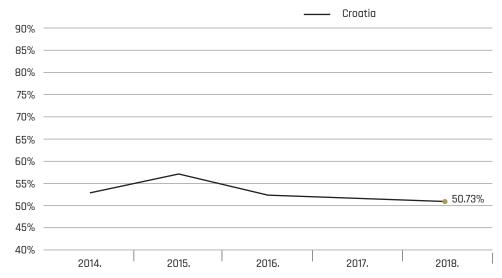


deviate significantly downwards



Cost income ratio





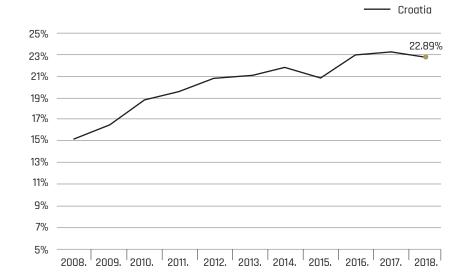


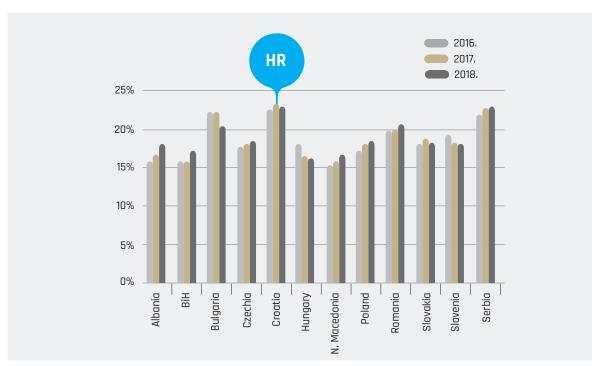


Capital adequacy of banks in Croatia



Croatian banks have the highest capital adequacy ratio in New Europe





Sources: IMF and national central banks

Costs of bank recovery in the EU since 2008

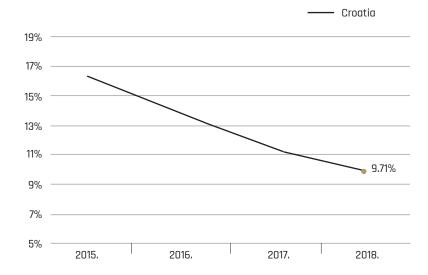
Croatia is the only EU member state where taxpayer funds were not used to bail out banks in the last decade

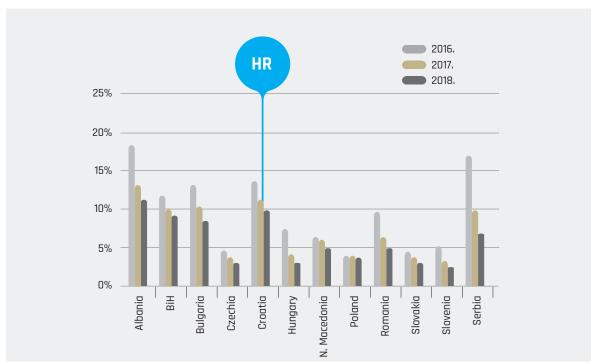
	GDP	Capital injection		Impaired assets		Guarantees on liabilities (b)		Other measures	
	2015	Total approved	Used	Total approved	Used	Maximum approved	Used	Maximum approved	Used
Belgium	410.4	23.3	20.8	28.2	21.8	275.8	46.8	20.5	0.0
Bulgaria	45.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.7	0.0
Denmark	271.8	14.6	10.8	2.3	0.3	580.0	145.0	4.9	2.0
Germany	3,032.8	114.6	64.2	82.8	80.0	447.8	135.0	9.5	4.7
Ireland	255.8	91.6	62.8	57.2	2.6	376.0	284.3	40.7	0.9
Spain (c)	1,075.6	174.3	61.9	139.9	32.9	200.0	72.0	30.0	19.3
Greece	175.7	59.6	46.6	0.0	0.0	93.0	62.3	8.0	6.9
France	2,181.1	29.2	25.0	4.7	1.2	319.8	92.7	8.7	0.0
Croatia	43.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Italy	1,642.4	25.8	11.8	0.4	0.0	80.0	85.7	0.0	0.0
Cyprus	17.6	3.5	3.5	0.0	0.0	6.0	2.8	0.0	0.0
Latvia	24.3	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.4	5.1	0.5	2.1	1.0
Lithuania	37.3	0.8	0.3	0.6	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Luxembourg	51.2	2.5	2.6	0.0	0.0	4.5	3.8	0.3	0.
Hungary	109.7	1.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	5.4	0.0	3.9	2.5
Netherlands	676.5	39.8	23.0	30.6	5.0	200.0	40.9	52.9	30.4
Austria	339.9	40.1	11.8	0.6	0.5	75.0	19.3	0.0	0.0
Portugal	179.5	34.8	15.3	4.4	3.1	28.2	16.6	6.1	3.8
Slovenia	38.6	4.5	3.6	3.7	0.3	12.0	2.2	0.0	0.0
Sweden	446.9	5.0	0.8	0.0	0.0	156.0	19.9	0.5	0.0
United Kingdom	2,580.1	114.6	100.1	248.1	40.4	364.5	158.2	39.9	33.3

Ratio of non-performing loans to total loans



Non-performing loans are relatively high, but on a steep downward slope



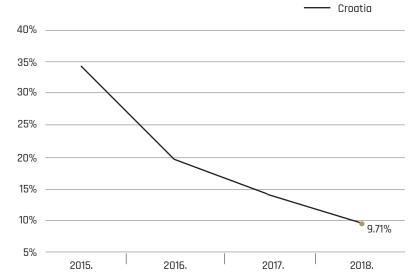


Sources: IMF and national central banks

Ratio of non-performing loans to banks' capital



The non-performing loans are tying up less and less capital, which is being freed for a business expansion thanks to the sale of credit portfolios

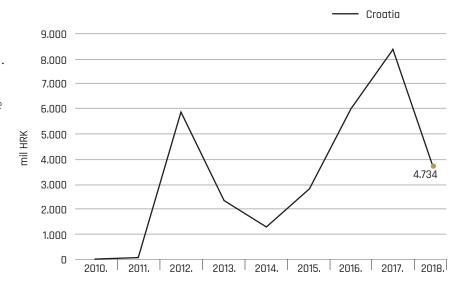




Gross value of sold credit portfolios



The main reason behind the drop in assets is the sale of loan portfolio, which has slowed down since 2018



		Jan Dec. 2018					
	Total	Households	Non-financial corporations	Other sectors			
Gross carrying amount of the claim	5.392.930	1.452.950	3.804.357	135.623			
of which: accrued interest	258.023	161.540	94.671	1.812			
Impairment of the claim	4.090.538	1.247.632	2.807.433	35.474			
of which: accrued interes	253.053	161.122	90.119	1.812			
Off-balance sheet claims	1.683.294	387.276	1.268.469	27.549			
Purchase price	2.221.900	523.218	1.587.986	110.696			

Source: CNB

Croatian banks in the global contextcomparison of 32 countries according to the last balance in the IMF's FSI database

- The uncovered share of NPLs is low and it does not deviate from global standards
- Capitalisation is very high compared with global standards
- The capitalisation level in Croatia is very high in terms of asset quality and coverage
- Account should also be made of conservative valuation methods that are not sensitive to valuation of collateral instruments

		1
	Capital ratio	Uncovered NPL*
Estonia	28.4	1.0
Sweden	27.0	0.5
Ireland	24.5	4.6
Croatia	22.6	3.3
Netherlands	22.2	1.9
Norway	22.0	1.6
Latvia	22.0	0.6
Dennmark	21.3	2.4
UK	20.2	0.7
Bulgaria	20.0	4.3
Romania	20.0	2.5
Lithuania	19.0	1.6
Slovenia	18.9	0.7
Belgium	18.6	1.2
France	18.4	1.5
Slovakia	18.3	1.3
Turkey	18.1	0.7
Austria	17.8	0.8
Czechia	17.6	1.0
Hungary	17.1	0.8
Malta	17.0	2.5
Singapore	16.5	0.9
Cyprus	16.5	13.4
N. Macedonia	16.3	0.4-
Greece	16.2	13.7
Italy	16.0	5.2
ВіН	15.5	2.4
Špain	15.4	2.3
Portugal	15.3	3.9
USA	14.7	0.9
Australia	14.6	0.7
Israel	14.3	0.3
San Marino	13.8	34.7

Conclusion on the sector situation - mature industry pressured by deregulation and

consolidation

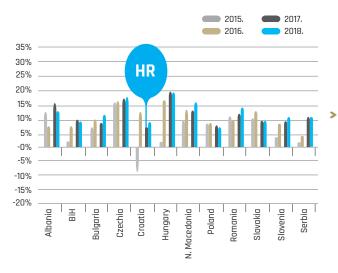


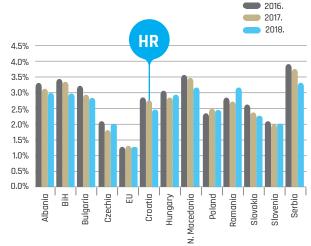
Capital ratio

Outstanding capitalisation and safety



Competition, pressure on interest margins



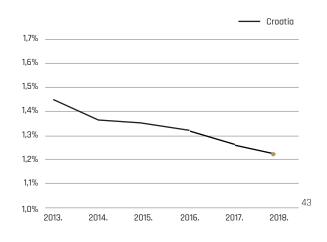


ROE

Moderate profitability, no signs of any major pick-up in credit expansion



Decrease in employment, IT investment, pressure to cut down costs; consolidation of a mature industry



V. Institutional framework

Good credit information and weak legal rights
Weak legal rights are the main factor driving risks, margins and sluggish economic growth



Strength of legal rights index (0 - 12)



- The strength of lenders' legal rights index measures the degree to which collateral and bankruptcy laws protect the rights of lenders and borrowers
- It measures the quality of protection of secured credit and the functioning of the collateral registry
- Croatia and Slovenia have the weakest regulations in New Europe



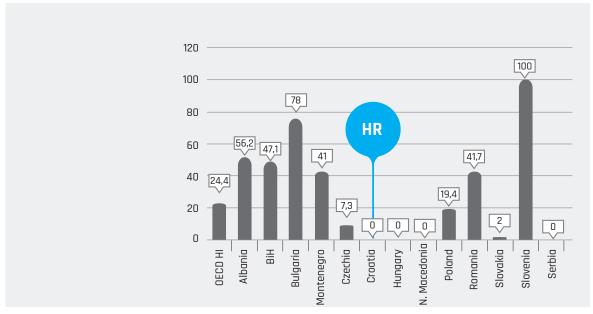
Depth of credit information index (0-8)



- Croatia is not positioned well in terms of credit information and credit registry
- Indicators take into account recent problems with the Croatian Credit Information Registry (HROK), but HROK re-started as of August 26th

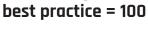


Credit registry coverage (percentage of adults)



Contract implementation – inter-company enforced

recovery





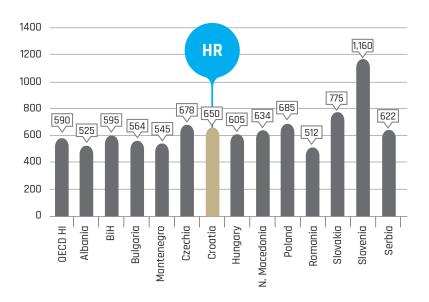
 Croatia is doing well in terms of enforced recovery based on inter-company contracts



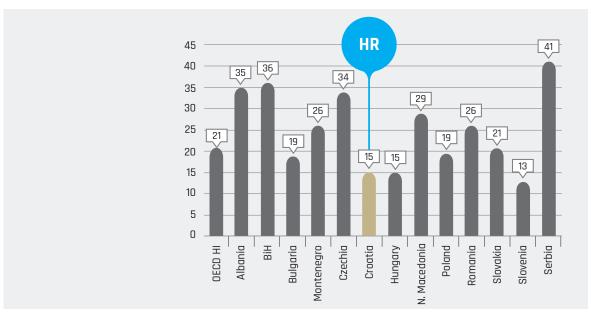
Contract implementation - inter-company enforced recovery



Time to enforced recovery in days



Cost of enforced recovery in percentage of claim value



Resolving insolvency

best practice = 100



 Croatia is very poorly positioned in terms of resolving insolvency



Resolving insolvency – global ranking



Recovery rate while in liquidation or bankruptcy

In percentage of claim value



Croatia is very poorly positioned in terms of insolvency resolution measured by subsequent recovery and time required for proceedings



Average time to bankruptcy

in years

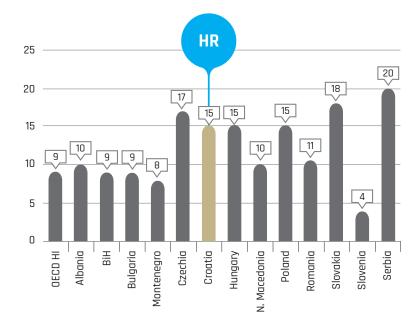


Cost of recovery

In percentage of value in case of liquidation or bankruptcy



 Croatia is generally very poorly positioned in terms of cost of recovery and the overall quality of insolvency law



Insolvency regulatory quality index

> The insolvency regulatory quality index is a summary quality indicator of the most important legal procedures in bankruptcy and liquidation, such as the right to initiate proceedings, ability to dispute harmful acts, protection of lender's property, financing restructuring in insolvency proceedings, etc.



METHODOLOGICAL APPENDIX

- Data sources include the ECB, the IMF (FSI Financial Soundness Indicators) and the World Bank (GFDD – Global Financial Development Database) for countries that submit the information, and the national central banks for other countries. Consolidated bank data is used, together with indicators from supervisory publications and/or reports
- Calculations use the gross domestic product figure in current prices as reported by EUROSTAT
- For household deposits, data is sourced from monetary statistics. For all loans, supervisory data is used

- Certain indicators for Bosnia and Herzegovina are aggregate calculations from individual federal entity banking agency figures
- Unless otherwise noted in individual charts, the data reflect the situation at the end of 2018. The cut-off date for data extraction was 18 July 2019. Up to that date, end-of-2018 supervisory data for Serbia were not available, so that data for the third quarter of 2018 were used instead. In charts, this is marked with an asterisk (*)
- The calculation of the indicators total assets/ GDP for Croatia used unconsolidated revised data reported by the CNB in the interest of methodological comparability with the presentation of the Croatia's financial sector structure in slide 4

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