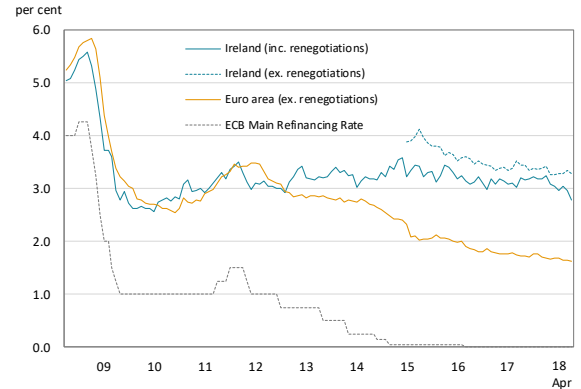




Key Developments in Loans

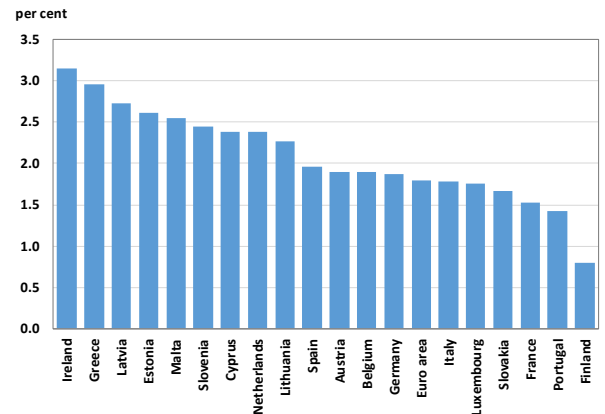
- In the first four months of 2018, the **volume and rates of new NFC loans of over €1 million fell** compared with the same period in 2017.
- **New business rates for NFC loans under €1 million**, which includes the majority of SME loans, recorded an average rate of 4.15 per cent over the year to April 2018; this is a reduction from the average rate of 4.34 per cent in the twelve months to April 2017.
- Monthly data for April show a **weighted average interest rate on new variable rate mortgage agreements** (excluding renegotiations) of 3.29 per cent (Chart 1). New business rates averaged 3.30 per cent over the first four months of 2018. The average new business rate in 2017 as a whole was 3.38 per cent.
- The **average interest rate across the euro area** on all new mortgages agreed in April (excluding renegotiations) was 1.80 (Chart 2). The rate varied considerably across countries with the lowest rate in Finland at 0.80 per cent and the highest rate in Ireland at 3.15 per cent.
- **Fixed rate mortgages** accounted for 54 per cent of new agreements over the three months to April 2018 compared with 80 per cent of new agreements over the same period in the euro area (Chart 3).
- This was a 32 per cent year-on-year increase in new mortgage agreements (excluding renegotiations) in the 12 months to April 2018. **The volume of new mortgage agreements** (excluding renegotiations) amounted to €513 million in April 2018, bringing new agreements to €7.0 billion over the past twelve months.

Chart 1: Interest rates on new variable rate loan agreements to households for house purchase



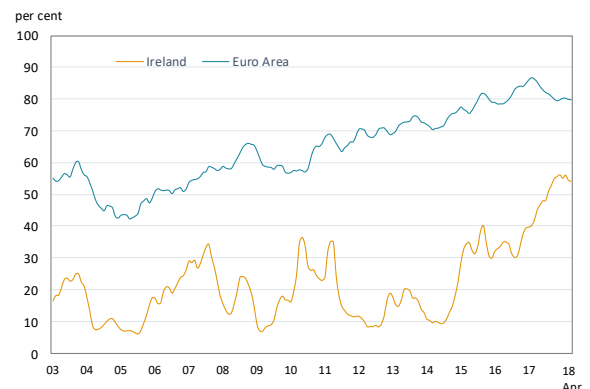
Sources: Retail Interest Rates [Table B.2.1](#), and [SDW](#)

Chart 2: Total fixed and floating new mortgage agreements (excluding renegotiations) across Euro area countries, April 2018



Sources: [SDW](#)

Chart 3: New mortgage agreements: Share of fixed rate mortgages (3-month rolling average)



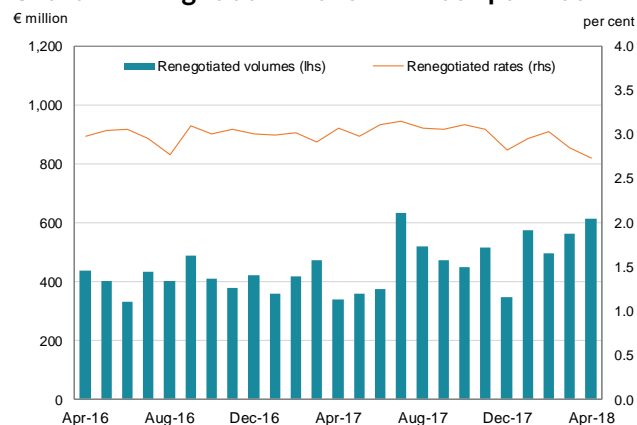
Sources: Retail Interest Rates [Table B.2.1](#), and [SDW](#)

- **Total renegotiated mortgages** amounted to €612 million in April (Chart 4), with fixed rate products accounting for 40 per cent of renegotiations. The weighted average interest rate for renegotiated mortgages was 2.73 per cent in April.

Key Developments in Deposits

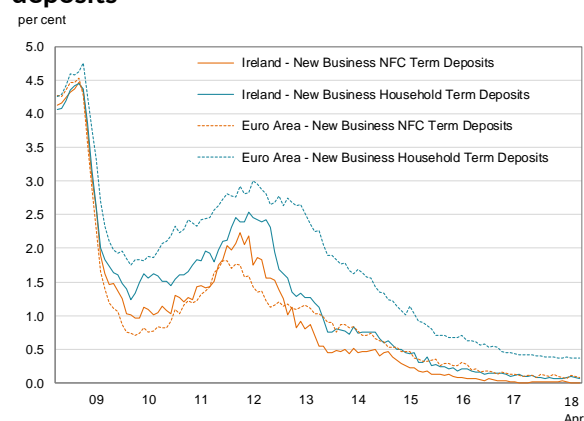
- **Interest rates on new household term deposits** remained low in April, at 0.06 per cent (Chart 5). This represented a 3 basis point decline over the last twelve months. Equivalent euro area rates experienced a decline of 4 basis points over the same period, but remain marginally higher at 0.37 per cent.
- **New business NFC term deposits** have remained relatively unchanged over the last twelve months, and stood at 0.00 per cent in April. Corresponding NFC term deposit rates for the euro area fell by 4 basis point over the same period, to 0.08 per cent (Chart 5).
- **The household loan to deposit spread** stood at 354 basis points in April (Chart 6)¹, a decrease of 2 basis points on the previous month.

Chart 4: Renegotiated loans for house purchase



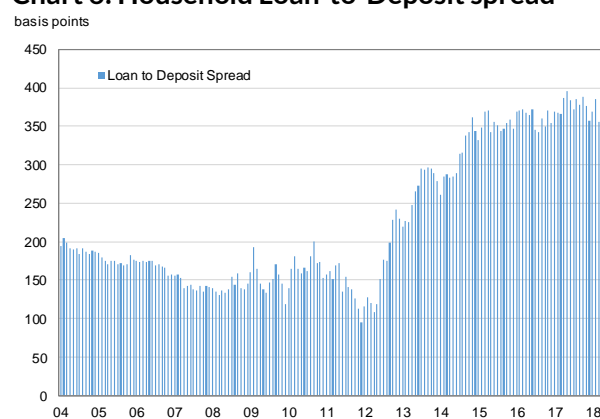
Source: Retail Interest Rates [Table B.2.2](#)

Chart 5: Interest rates on household & NFC term deposits



Sources: Retail Interest Rates [Table B.2.1](#), and [SDW](#)

Chart 6: Household Loan-to-Deposit spread



Source: Retail Interest Rates [Table B.2.1](#)

¹ The loan to deposit spread is the difference between new business term deposits and the weighted average rate on new business loans

to households for either house purchase or consumer purposes, with a floating or up to one-year initial fixation rate.

Note 1:

Interest rates and new business volumes are collected from credit institutions with a significant level of lending or deposit business with households or non-financial corporations (NFCs). The sample is monitored to ensure compliance with ECB Regulation.

Monthly *Retail Interest Rate Statistics* in Tables B.1.1 to B.2.2 cover all euro-denominated lending to, and deposits from, households and NFCs in the euro area. New business is defined as any new agreement during the month between the customer and the credit institution. This agreement covers all financial contracts that specify the interest rate for the first time, including any renegotiation of existing business (excluding automatic renewals). These statistics are compiled under ECB Regulation and are comparable across the euro area.

Quarterly *Retail Interest Rate Statistics* in Table B.3.1 cover all euro and non-euro denominated mortgage lending in the Republic of Ireland only. New business refers to new mortgage lending drawdowns during the quarter, broken down by type of interest rate (i.e. fixed, tracker and SVR). These statistics are not compiled under ECB MFI interest rate Regulation.

Note 2:

There are a number of factors that can lead to differences between *Retail Interest Rate* statistics and interest rates advertised by resident credit institutions. These include renegotiated loans, the inclusion of home improvement loans, and the underlying statistical compilation methodology.

Note 3:

In January 2015, a number of enhancements to the calculation of the national weighted average interest rates and national total business volumes were introduced under ECB Guideline

(ECB/2014/15). As a result of these enhancements, data have been recalculated for previous reference periods in order to ensure a consistent compilation of data across time.

Recent data are often provisional and may be subject to revision.

For further detail please see the [Retail Interest Rates](#) webpage for:

- An extensive set of [Retail Interest Rate Tables](#);
- [Retail Interest Rate Statistics Explanatory Note](#);

Previous Interest Rate Statistical Releases can be found [here](#).