



Pension Funds Statistics – Q4 2024

21 March 2025

Balance sheet (assets and liabilities) data for pension funds resident in Ireland (ESA 2010 sector S129) consists of financial corporations that principally engage in financial intermediation as a consequence of pooling social risks and providing for income in retirement. In Ireland, a pension fund is an autonomous occupational pension scheme established under trust.

Key Points

- Total assets of the Irish pension fund (PF) sector increased by 3 per cent in Q4 2024 to stand at €146 billion (Chart 1). This was driven by a continued upward trend in insurance technical reserves (ITRs) ¹, which grew by 3.6 per cent (€2.8 billion) over the quarter.
- Technical reserves relating to pension entitlements increased by 2.3 per cent in Q4 2024 to stand at 136 billion (Chart 2). This was driven by a growth in defined contribution (DC) technical reserves of 3.3 per cent alongside a growth of 1.3 per cent in defined benefit (DB) technical reserves².
- Pension funds with a total asset value greater than €1 billion account for the majority of pension fund assets (55 per cent) and 6.4 per cent of the total number of funds (Chart 3). Of this 6.4 per cent, 4 per cent are in the defined benefit (DB) sector, while the defined contribution (DC) sector accounts for 2 per cent. While both sectors have seen an increase in their number of funds with total asset value greater than €1 billion compared to Q4 2023, the DC sector has experienced a larger overall increase in total asset value.

Summary Charts



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Chart 1: Assets of Irish pension funds

- Insurance technical reserves
- Investment fund shares
- Debt securities
- Currency & deposits
- Equity
- Financial derivatives
- Remaining assets

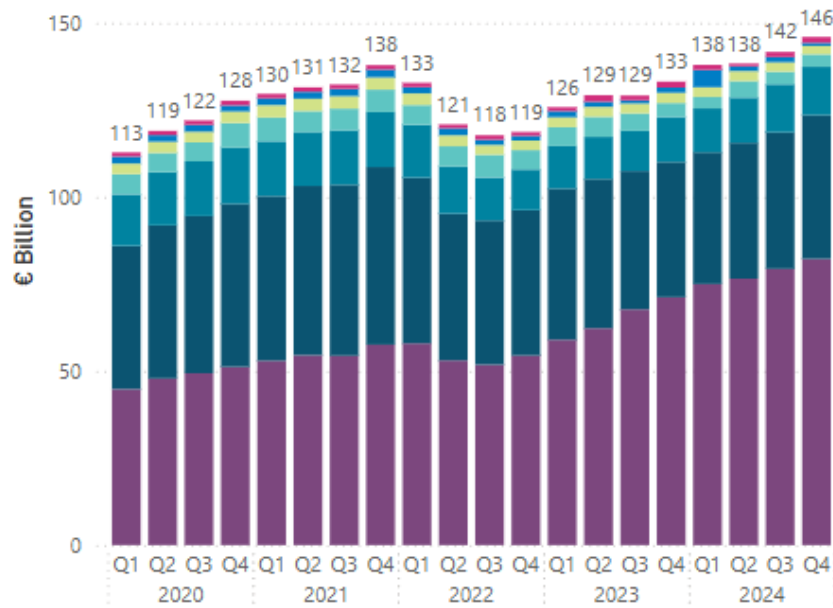
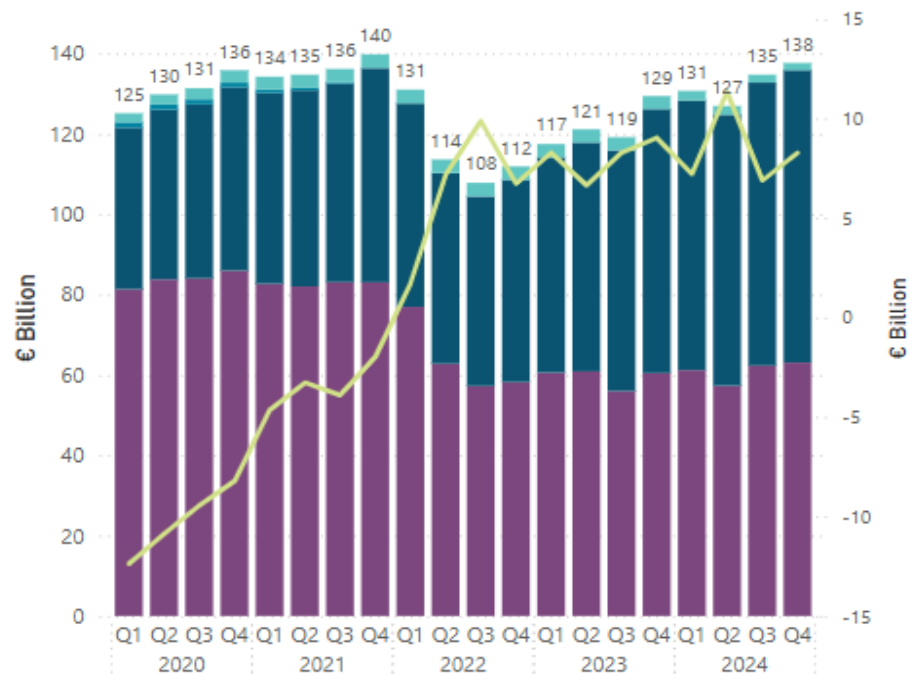


Chart 2: Liabilities of Irish pension funds

- DB pension entitlements
- DC pension entitlements
- Financial derivatives
- Remaining liabilities
- Net worth (RHS)

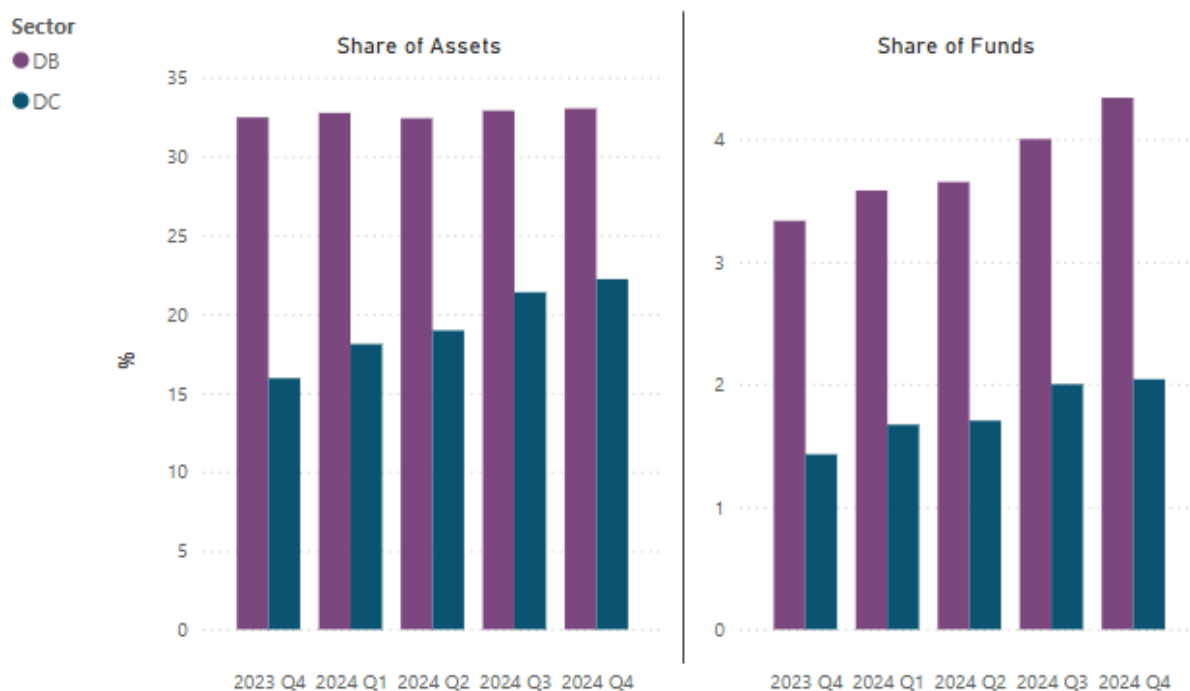




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Chart 3: Sector split for large Irish Pension Funds



Footnote: Large Irish Pension Funds include any funds greater than €1 billion in total assets

The data and explanatory notes are available [here](#).

Notes

[1] In the pension funds context insurance technical reserves (ITRs) are assets relating to claims on insurance corporations by pension funds (also known as pension fund reserves) while pension entitlement technical reserves are liabilities relating to claims on pension funds by households.

[2] Defined benefit technical reserves includes hybrid schemes. Technical reserves are valued on an accounting standard basis. Defined benefit technical reserves and net worth are reported on an annual basis (at year end), values for other quarters are estimated and subject to revision on receipt of latest annual data.