

V. Money and credit

In 2009 the priority of the Central Bank's monetary policy was to counter the impact of the international financial crisis on aggregate demand, which had been substantially affected by the drop of exports and investment flows. In this scenario of lower economic growth, the Central Bank implemented an aggressive policy of interest rate cuts that reached unprecedented historical levels, as well as non-conventional monetary policy actions oriented at providing better credit conditions to the market. The monetary easing measures implemented –which represented an injection of liquidity equivalent to 9.6 percent of GDP– contributed not only to maintain the flow of credit, but also contributed to the growth of GDP in 2009 and to maintain core inflation and expectations within the target range.

TABLE 45
BCRP MONETARY POLICY OPERATIONS
(Millions of nuevos soles)

	FLOWS	
	Sep-2008-Mar-2009	As percentage of GDP
INJECTION MONETARY OPERATIONS		
1. REPO	5,989	1.6
2. CDBCRP	8,045	2.2
3. CDBCRP with Restricted Negotiation	18,643	5.0
4. SWAP	735	0.2
5. RESERVE REQUIREMENT	2,334	0.6
TOTAL	35,746	9.6

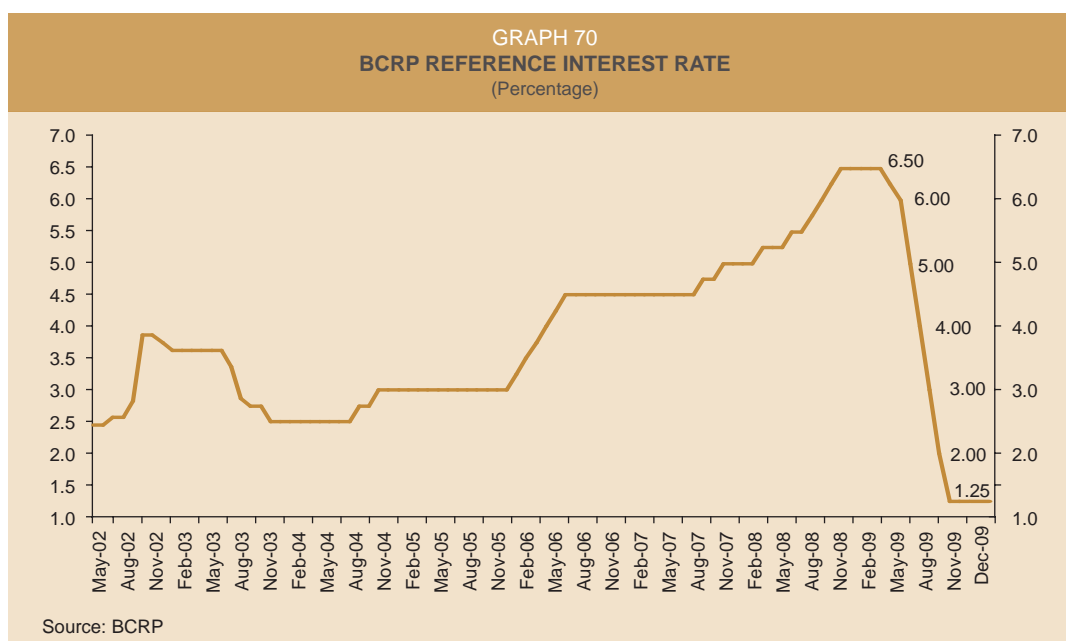
Source: BCRP.

1. Monetary policy actions

The BCRP started lowering the reference interest rate in February 2009, when the inflationary risks that prevented the Central Bank from doing so disappeared. The reference rate was reduced from 6.50 percent in January to 1.25 percent in August, accumulating a decline of 525 basis points. As a result of this series of cuts, the reference interest rate reached its lowest historical level and became the second lowest rate in the region.

It is worth remembering that significant depreciatory pressures on the nuevo sol persisted in early 2009 and that inflation expectations did not show a clear reversal trend yet. A reduction of the reference rate in these conditions would have generated a situation of additional financial stress and exacerbated depreciatory pressures on the nuevo sol, which would have brought about adverse



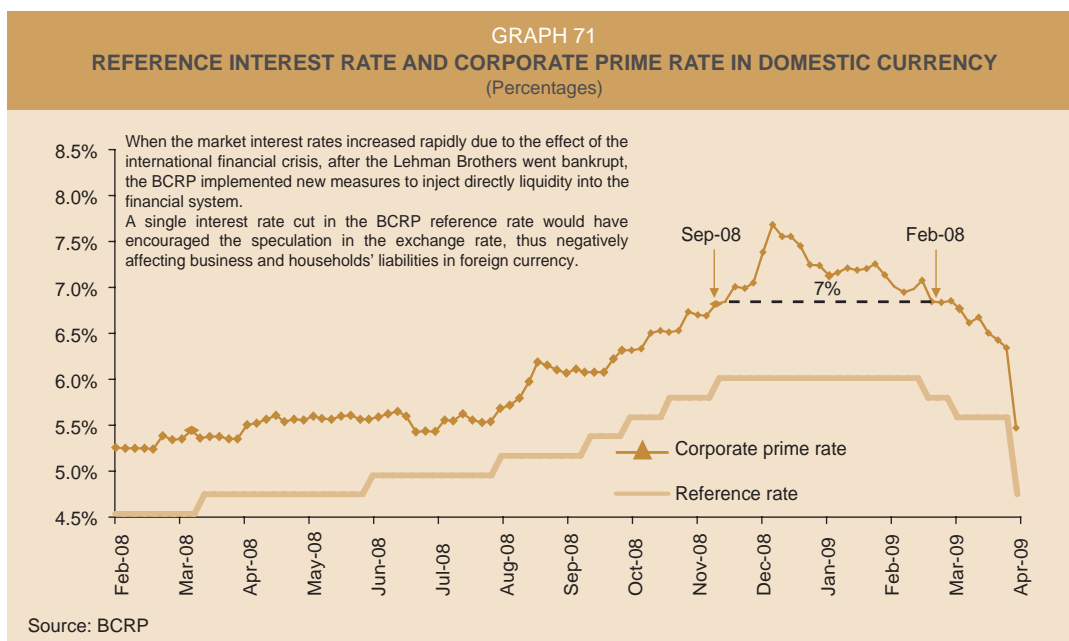


consequences on inflation and economic activity. In only six months, between September 2008 and March 2009, nearly US\$ 10,163 million (a third of international reserves) was negotiated through BCRP interventions in the foreign exchange market. Sales of FC amounted to US\$ 6,848 million and placements of Adjustable Certificates of Deposit amounted to US\$ 3,315 million.

When the monetary and exchange markets stabilized and inflation expectations began to reverse, the Central Bank rapidly reduced its reference rate from levels of around 6.5 percent in January to 1.25 percent in August. In these conditions of greater stability in financial markets, the reduction of the reference rate was immediately transmitted to the rest of interest rates, particularly to shorter-term rates and lower credit risk, thus contributing to ease monetary and credit conditions. This effect of interest rate cuts on the rest of rates in the financial system would not have been achieved if the Central Bank had lowered its reference rate during the period when high uncertainty prevailed in monetary and exchange markets.

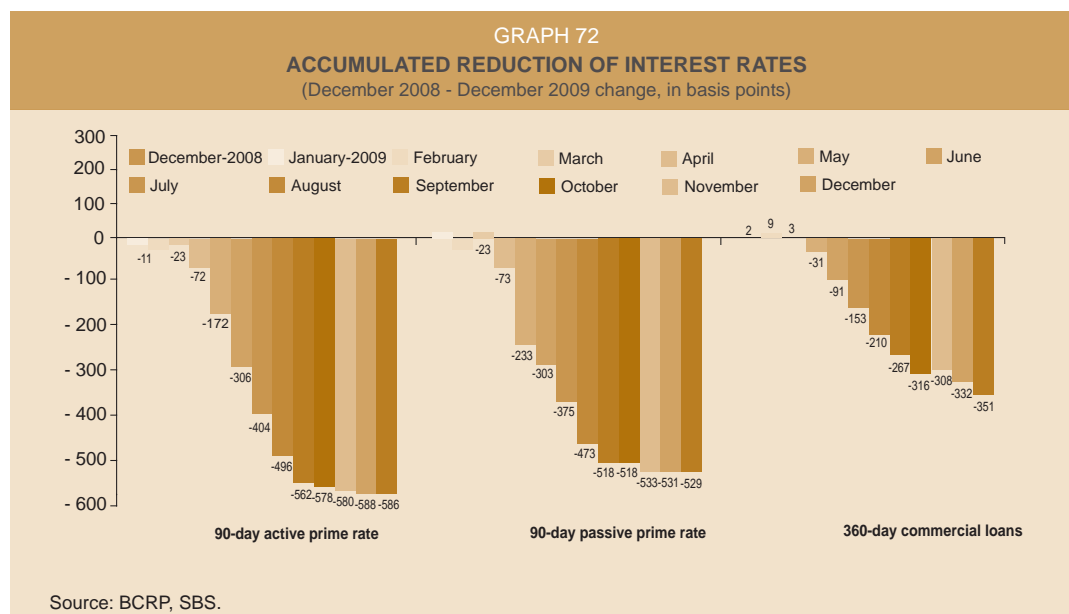
The reduction of the reference rate was coupled by other non-conventional measures aimed at making the transmission of monetary policy to longer-term interest rates more effective. These measures included the following:

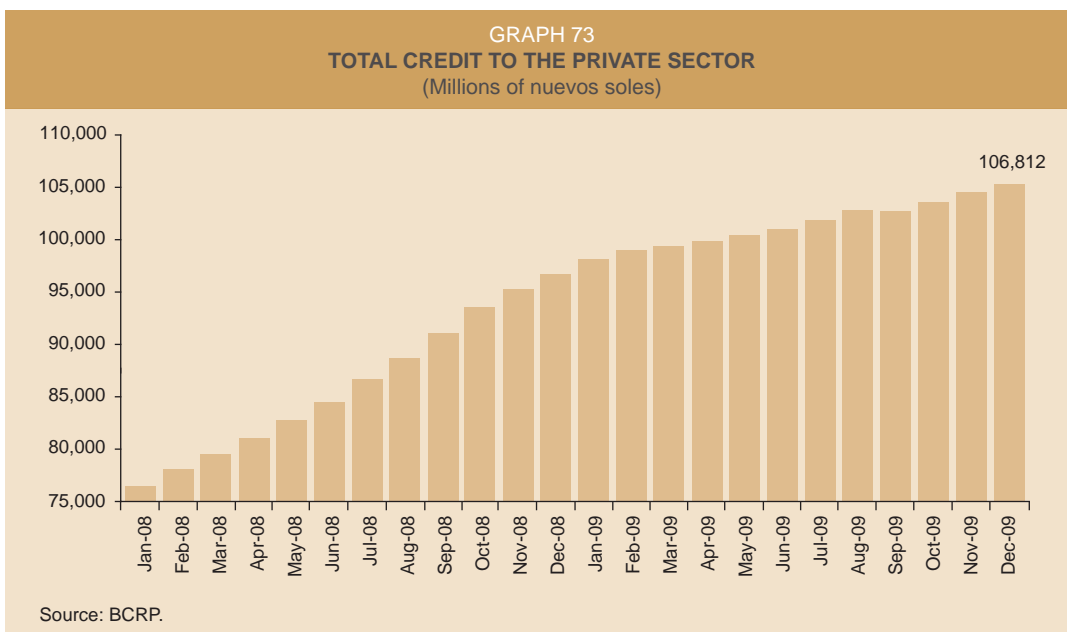
- Extending the term of swap operations (credits in nuevos soles collateralized with dollars) to one year. A total of S/. 260 million was injected mainly to the entities oriented to the segment of microfinance through this mechanism.
- Reducing the average term of CDBCRP placements in order to maintain banks' availability of liquidity.
- Enhancing the collaterals of repo operations to allow banks to have the possibility of receiving liquidity from the BCRP in exchange for portfolio trust papers and loans of high credit quality.



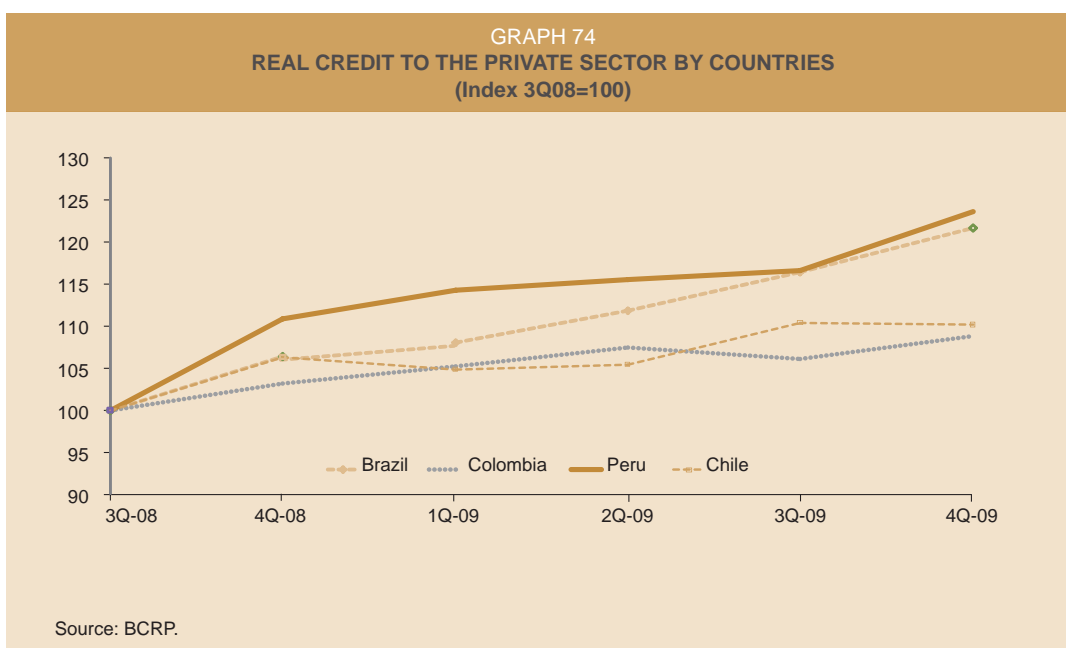
- Exempting funds up to S/. 100 million from reserve requirements, as a result of which smaller financial entities in practice had a lower effective requirement of reserves and had access to a greater availability of liquidity.

The loosening of monetary policy translated into lower short- and medium-term interest rates that facilitated a greater availability of resources for firms at a lower cost, both through bank credit and through the capital market. The prompt and timely actions implemented by the Central Bank translated into better credit and monetary conditions and contributed to a rapid recovery of the growth path of economic activity. In contrast with what happened in other economies, credit to the private sector never contracted in Peru.





By preventing a credit crunch, these actions prevented the real sector from being contaminated by the financial crisis and allowed the monthly flow of credit between September 2008 and April 2009 to record similar levels to the ones observed in the first nine months of 2008. Moreover, as a result of this, the financial system remained liquid. Thus, economic activity continued showing some dynamism even in Q4-2008, which allowed Peru to be one of the few countries whose GDP recorded a positive growth rate in 2009.



2. Interest rates

The evolution of interest rates in both the financial system and the capital market during 2009 was influenced by the reduction of the reference rate, which went from 6.50 percent in February to 1.25 percent in August, in a context of a strong weakening of the global economy due to the international financial crisis.

Thus, the corporate prime rate in nuevos soles –a three-month rate for low risk firms– declined 5.7 percentage points on average between December 2008 and December 2009 (from 7.5 percent to 1.7 percent). Passive rates showed a similar evolution, declining from 6.5 to 1.2 percent and from 6.3 to 3.6 percent for term deposits of 181 to 360 days. The average rate on commercial loans fell 4.9 percentage points; the rate on loans for microbusiness declined 2.6 percentage points, and the rate on mortgages fell 1.6 percentage points. However, the rate on consumer loans increased due to the higher premium for credit risk applied in this segment as a result of the lower dynamism of economic activity.

TABLE 46
INTEREST RATES ON OPERATIONS IN NUEVOS SOLES
(Percentages)

	2007	2008	2009
1. Interbank rate	5.0	6.5	1.2
2. Deposits up to 30 days	4.8	6.5	1.2
3. 181-day to 360-day term deposits	5.6	6.3	3.6
4. Corporate prime rate	5.6	7.5	1.7

Source: BCRP, SBS.

TABLE 47
INTEREST RATES BY TYPE OF CREDIT IN NUEVOS SOLES 1/
(Percentages)

	2007	2008	2009
1. Commercial loans	8.8	11.0	6.1
2. Loans for microbusinesses	34.4	35.3	32.7
3. Consumer loans	34.7	37.8	45.1
4. Mortgages	9.3	11.4	9.8

1/ Annual active rates of the operations executed in the last 30 working days.

Source: BCRP, SBS.

Interest rates in foreign currency also declined. This evolution was associated with the drop of the country risk indicator and with the decline of international interest rates. At end 2009, the active corporate rate in dollars had fallen four percentage points compared to December 2008 (from 5.2 percent to 1.2 percent). Likewise, the passive rates on 181 to 360-day term deposits declined from 0.9 to 0.4 percent and from 4.5 to 2.4 percent, respectively.

The reduction of interest rates on commercial loans, loans for microbusinesses, and mortgages was lower. The average interest rate on commercial loans declined 2.7 percentage points, the rate on loans for microbusinesses declined 1.5 percentage points, and the rate on mortgages declined 1.7 percentage points compared to December 2008. However, the average rate on consumer loans increased by 0.4 percentage points.

TABLE 48
INTEREST RATES ON OPERATIONS IN US DOLLARS
(Percentages)

	2007	2008	2009
1. 3-month libor rate	5.0	1.8	0.3
2. Interbank rate	5.9	1.0	0.2
3. Deposits (up to 30 days)	4.9	0.9	0.4
4. 181-day to 360-day term deposits	3.9	4.5	2.4
5. Corporate prime rate	6.4	5.2	1.2

Source: BCRP, SBS.

TABLE 49
INTEREST RATES BY TYPE OF CREDIT IN US DOLLARS^{1/}
(Percentages)

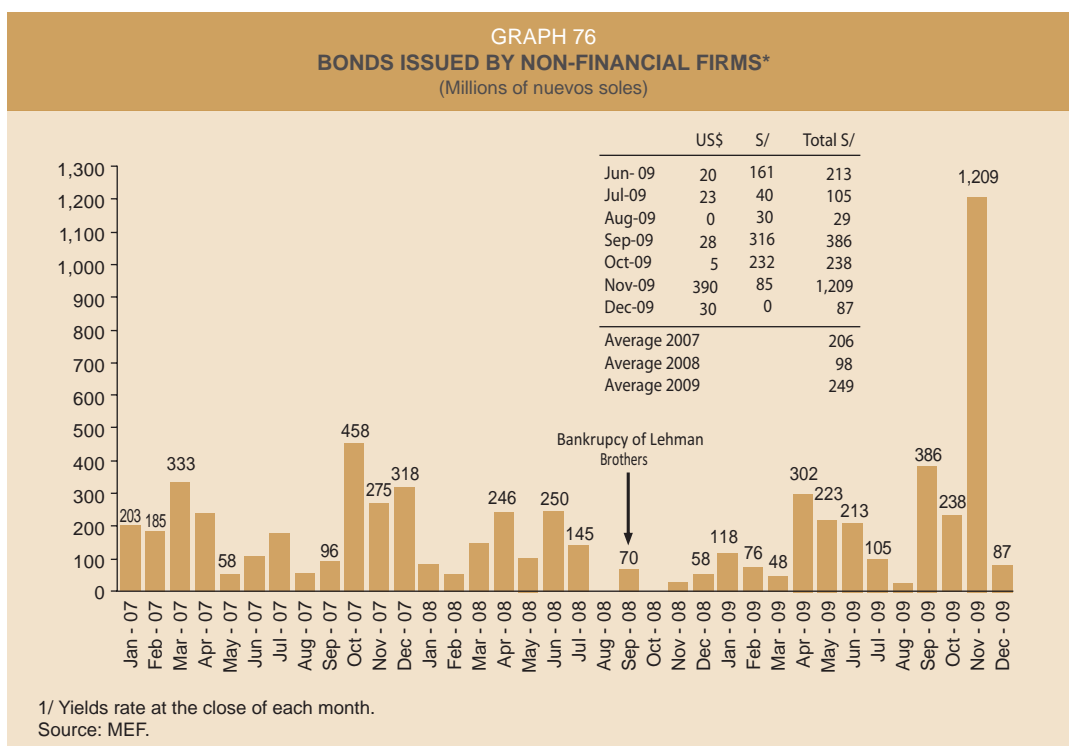
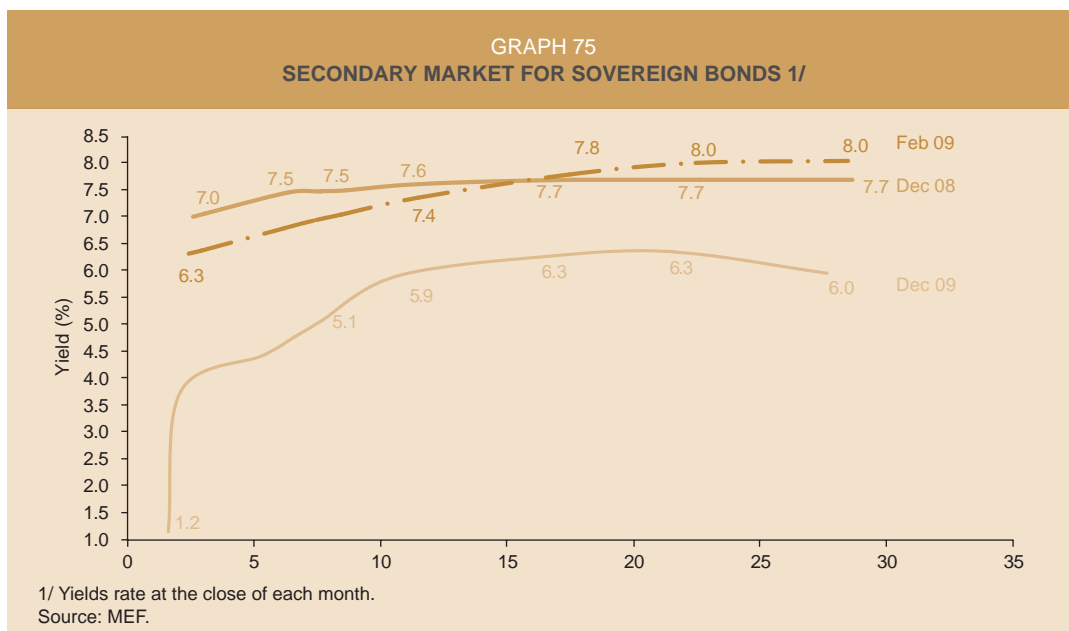
	2007	2008	2009
1. Commercial loans	9.0	9.3	6.7
2. Loans for microbusinesses	20.4	23.9	22.4
3. Consumer loans	15.8	20.8	21.2
4. Mortgages	9.6	10.8	9.1

^{1/} Annual active rates of the operations executed in the last 30 business days.
Source: BCRP, SBS.

The evolution of the yield curve of sovereign bonds was influenced by both the reduction of risk aversion in this market and by the loosening of the Central Bank's monetary policy position. These two factors generated parallel movements in the yield curve, with the short tranche showing the higher reduction. The levels of the yield curve declined to even lower levels than the ones observed in 2007, prior to the beginning of the international crisis. Thus, the rates on 28-year bonds recorded 6.0 percent at end 2009 (versus 7.7 percent in 2008 and 6.6 percent in December 2007).

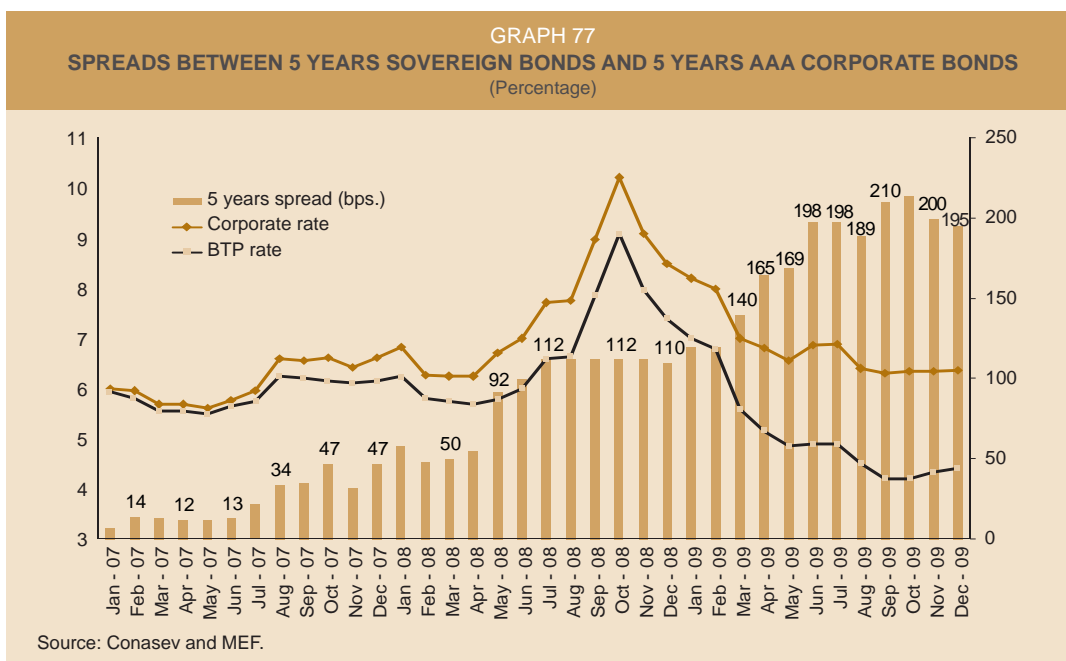
As regards the local capital market, the international financial crisis of 2008 affected private bond issuances due to investors' higher perception of risk. However, since Q2-2009, corporate bond issuances started showing a strong dynamism that reached unprecedented levels towards the last quarter of the year with Perú LNG's placement of bonds for a total of US\$ 200 million and Kallpa's placement of bonds for a total of US\$ 172 million. As a result of this, average bond issuances in 2009 were by far higher than the ones recorded in 2008 and even in 2007, which was a year of high economic growth.





Moreover, following the evolution of the interest rates on Treasury bonds, the interest rates on corporate bonds declined significantly, reaching levels even lower than the ones observed prior to the international crisis.





3. Exchange rate

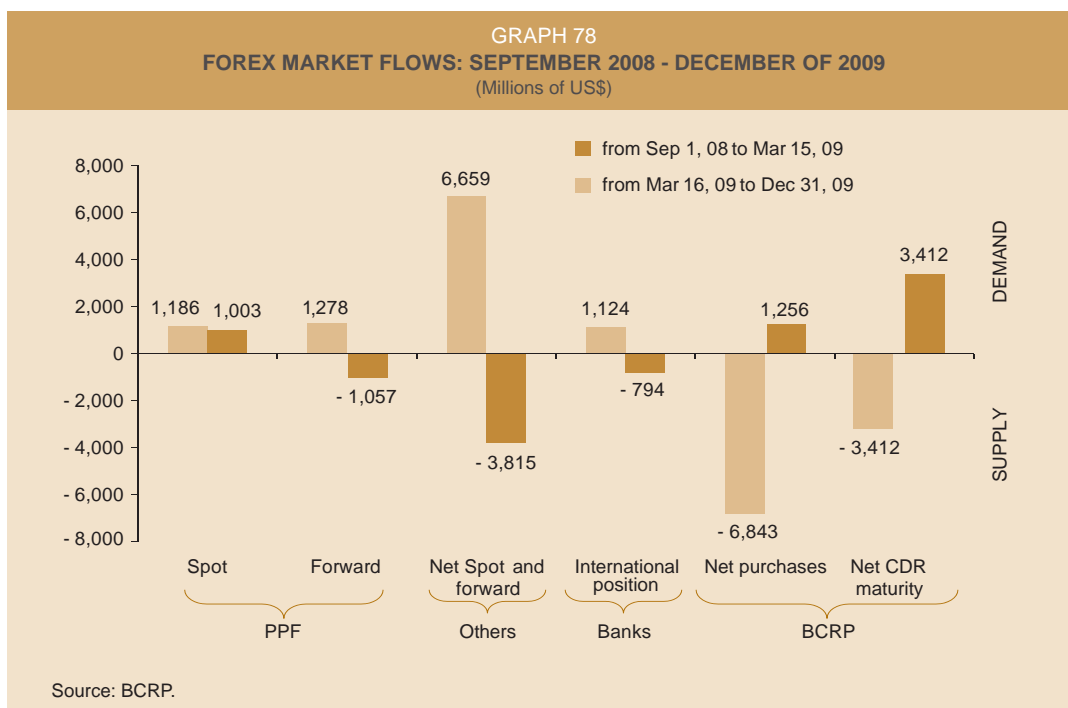
In spite of high volatility in international financial markets, the domestic currency remained relatively stable during 2009, although showing lower levels than in 2008. Thus, the nuevo sol appreciated 7.6 percent in nominal terms, but depreciated 0.9 percent in real terms at December 2009, leading the real exchange rate index to a value close to its historical average of 100. The evolution of the exchange rate also reflected the effect of the Central Bank interventions in this market and placements of CDR BCRP (Indexed Certificates of Deposit) during the periods of high volatility in the exchange market, which concentrated between January and March 2009.

The evolution of the nominal exchange rate was not homogeneous over the year. Between January and February, the nominal exchange rate continued depreciating as a result of the increased risk aversion generated by high uncertainty associated with the international financial crisis and its possible real effects on the global economy and international trade¹³. In this period, higher risk aversion was reflected in the outflows of mainly speculative short-term capitals and in resident investors and banks' greater preference for dollars.

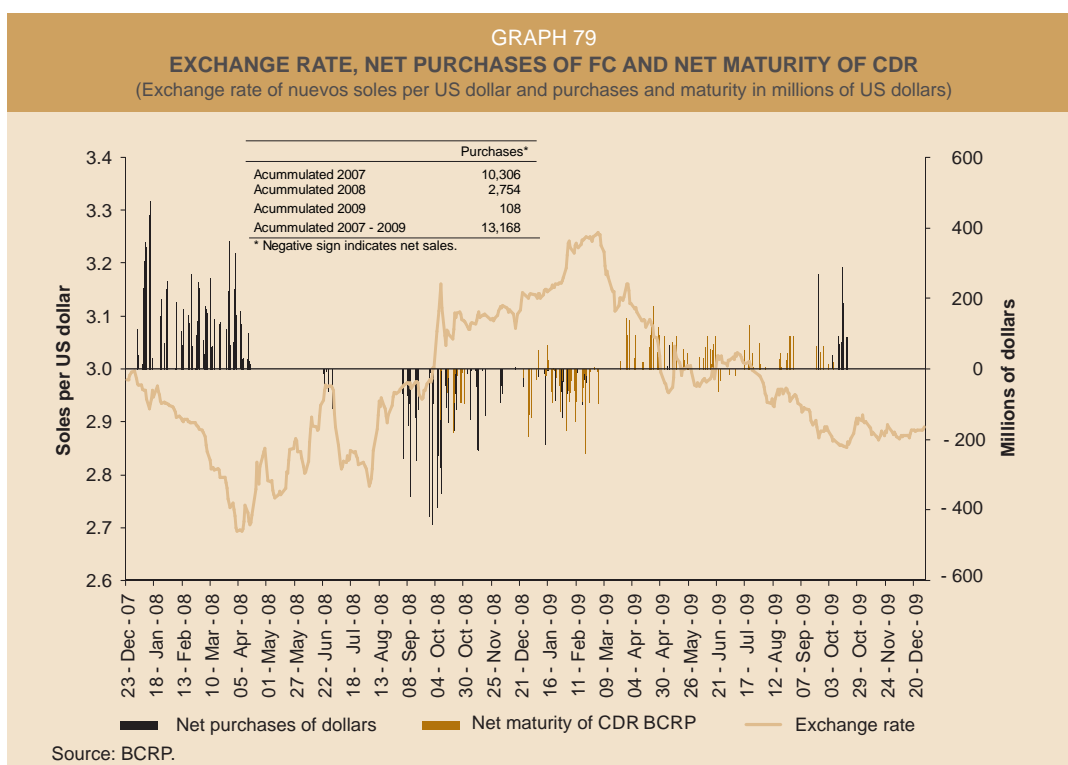
In this context, the BCRP continued intervening in the exchange market, selling FC for a total of US\$ 1,148.5 million and making a net placement of US\$ 1,562.4 million in CDR BCRP in order to reduce the excessive volatility of the exchange rate. In this way, between September 2008 and March 2009, the BCRP accumulated sales of FC for a total of US\$ 6,843 million and a balance of US\$ 3,412 million in placements of CDR BCRP. The BCRP also continued withdrawing the reserve requirement measures implemented in the previous year to discourage the inflow of short-term capitals.

¹³ Investors' risk aversion in emerging markets increased after Lehman Brothers went bankrupt. In many cases, this was reflected in a massive outflow of short-term capitals and in a high depreciatory pressure on the exchange rate, which continued during the first months of 2009.





Risk aversion in emerging markets subsided since March due to agents' better expectations regarding the crisis and due to the monetary policy measures adopted by several central banks to face the financial crisis and reduce its effects. As a result of this, depreciatory expectations about the exchange rate reversed.



The pressures on the exchange market in this period were generated by both the Private Pension Funds (AFPs) and non-resident investors in the forward market, as well as by the rest of agents operating in the spot market. Banks contributed to validate these expectations of appreciation by reducing their exchange position. In this context, the BCRP participated actively in the exchange market through the maturity of the balance of CDR BCRP, especially between March and September, as well as through purchases of FC (US\$ 1,256 million), especially between September and October. Thus, the BCRP continued intervening in the exchange market between March and October in order to reduce the excessive volatility of the exchange rate.

As a result of these operations, the BCRP accumulated international reserves for a total of US\$ 1,939 million during 2009, increasing the balance of reserves from US\$ 31,196 million in December 2008 to US\$ 33,135 million at end 2009.

4. Monetary and credit aggregates

Monetary and credit aggregates continued growing in 2009 as a result of the policies adopted by the Central Bank, which in part offset uncertainty in financial markets after the deepening of the crisis at end 2008.

Credit to the private sector grew 9.2 percent, with credit in DC showing a higher participation while credit in FC slowed down due to the lower demand for credit to finance foreign trade operations. As a result of this, the ratio of dollarization of credit to the private sector fell six percentage points between 2008 and 2009, from 52 to 46 percent between these two years.

Total liquidity grew at a rate of 11.3 percent in 2009. Average liquidity in DC increased from 14.2 percent of GDP in 2008 to 15.0 percent in 2009, and therefore the dollarization of liquidity fell from 46 percent in December 2008 to 42 percent in December 2009.

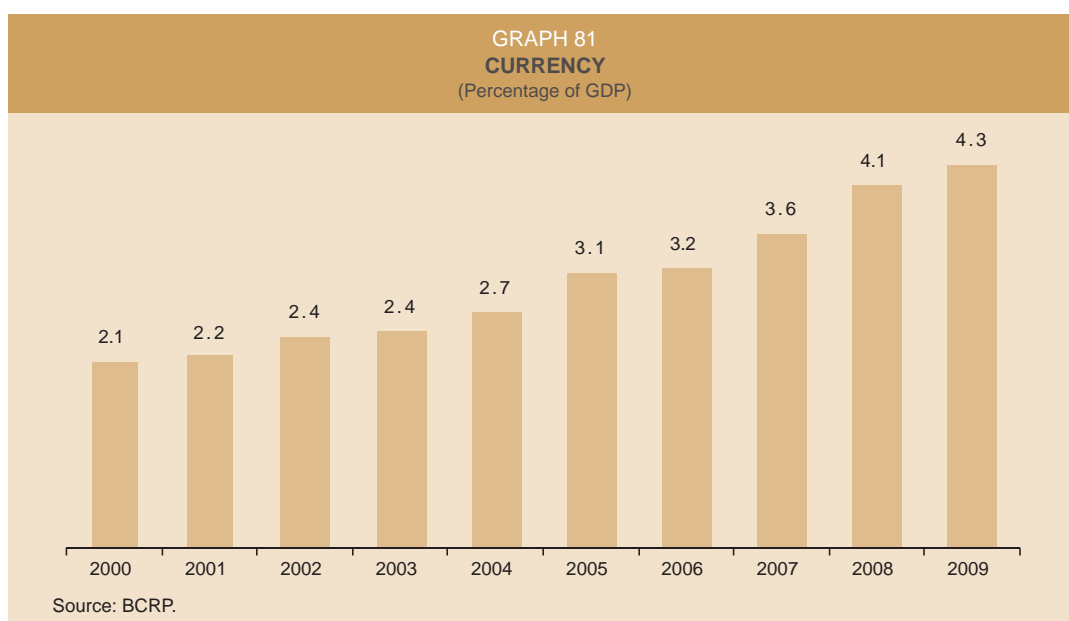
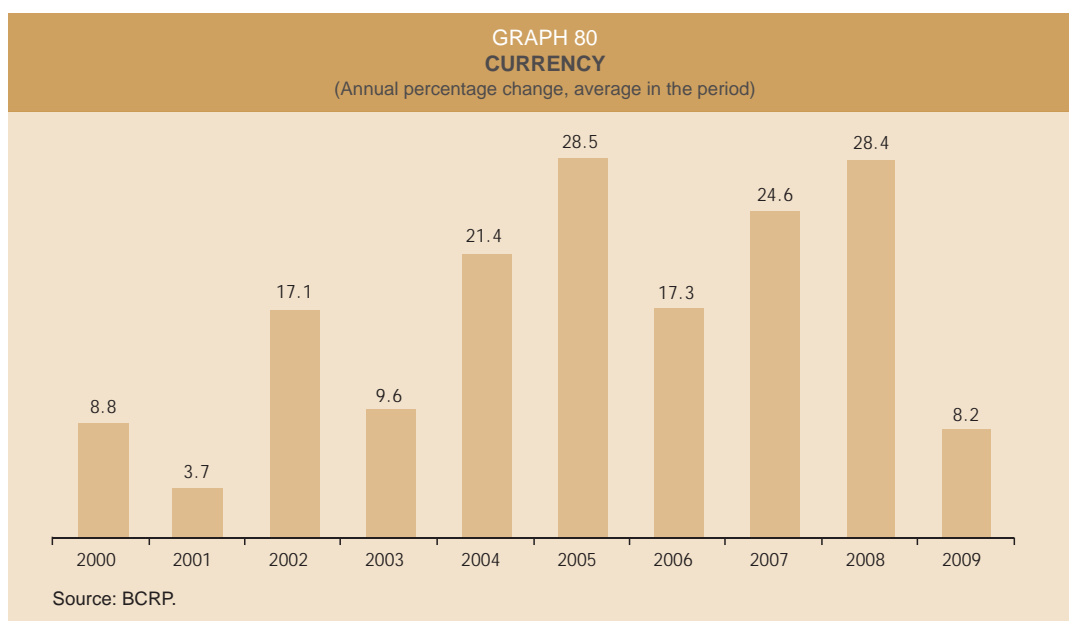
4.1 Currency in circulation

The average daily balance of currency in circulation grew 8.2 percent in 2009, and amounted to S/. 16,541 million at the close of the year. The magnitude of this increase marked a shift in the growing trend observed in 2007 and 2008, when currency accelerated in a higher proportion. This would be explained by the slowdown of economic activity observed especially during the first nine months of 2009, as well as by the lower level of dollarization of deposits and credit. However, in GDP terms, currency continued to grow, increasing from a level of 4.1 percent in 2008 to 4.3 percent of GDP in 2009.

Currency grew by S/. 1,905 million at end 2009. The BCRP exchange position increased by US\$ 1,623 million in the year due to higher public sector deposits in the Central Bank and to the net investment yield obtained by the Central Bank abroad.

Total exchange operations in 2009 amounted to a negative flow of US\$ 48 million, a lower figure than the one recorded in previous years. Given that the process of capital outflows that started in September





2008 continued, in Q1-2009 the Central Bank sold FC for a total of US\$ 1,149 million. With the recovery of global financial conditions between May and October, the BCRP preventively accumulated international reserves for a total of US\$ 1,256 million through purchases of FC. Additionally, the BCRP met net requirements of FC of the public sector for a total of US\$ 261 million.

Therefore, the flow of currency in 2009 was mainly explained by monetary operations in DC; that is, the net maturities of the securities issued by the BCRP (S/. 4,509 million) and the reduction of public sector deposits (S/. 2,561 million) were compensated by temporary purchases of securities (S/. 5,412 million).

TABLE 50
OPERATIONS OF THE BCRP
(Millions of nuevos soles)

	2007	2008	2009
I INTERNATIONAL POSITION	26,464	4,114	4,381
(Millions of US\$)	8,536	1,743	1,623
1. Foreign exchange operations	7,070	488	- 48
A. Over the counter trading	10,306	2,754	108
B. Public sector	- 3,275	- 2,316	- 261
C. Others	39	50	105
2. Other operations	1,466	1,256	1,671
II NET DOMESTIC ASSETS	- 23,294	- 1,636	- 2,476
1. Public sector deposits	- 6,751	- 6,644	2,561
2. Repos	0	5,412	- 5,412
3. CD-BCRP	- 13,393	13,737	- 6,399
4. CDR-BCRP	0	- 4,425	4,425
5. CDBCRP-NR	0	- 6,483	6,483
6. Overnight deposits	227	- 3	- 819
7. Reserve requirements in domestic currency	- 746	- 2,053	668
8. Other assets	- 2,631	- 1,177	- 3,982
III CURRENCY	3,170	2,478	1,905
Memo: Balance at end of period			
- CDBCRP	21,458	7,721	14,121
- CDR-BCRP	0	4,465	0
- CDBCRP-NR	0	6,483	0
- Public sector deposits	16,924	23,568	21,006

Source: BCRP.

4.2 Liquidity

Average liquidity in domestic currency grew at a rate of 8.7 percent in 2009, showing a deceleration compared to the pace of growth observed in the last years. Average liquidity in nuevos soles increased from 14.2 percent of GDP in 2008 to 15.0 percent in 2009.

The average growth of liquidity in DC (8.7 percent) –and the growth of currency (8.2 percent)– was associated with a nominal growth of GDP of 2.4 percent, with a decline of circulation velocity of 5.8 percent, and with a multiplier increase of 13.2 percent.

The increase of the average multiplier was mainly due to the reduction of the average mean of reserve requirements, which fell from 16.4 percent in 2008 to 9.9 percent in 2009 as a result of the reduction of reserve requirements in Q1- 2009. Additionally, the preference for currency in circulation fell slightly, from 29.0 percent in 2008 to 28.8 percent in 2009. The decline observed in the velocity of circulation,



TABLE 51
AVERAGE BROAD MONEY IN DOMESTIC CURRENCY
 (Annual average percentage change)

	GDP Deflator	GDP Growth		Velocity of money	Broad money in local currency	Monetary base components			Multiplier
		Real	Nominal			Monetary Base			
						Currency	Reserve requirement	Total	
2007	1.8	8.9	10.9	- 15.7	31.5	24.6	24.4	24.6	5.5
2008	1.2	9.8	11.2	- 21.9	42.4	28.4	143.2	48.5	- 4.1
2009	1.6	0.9	2.4	-5.8	8.7	8.2	- 34.3	- 4.0	13.2

Source: BCRP.

which followed a trend that started in 2001, reflects a higher demand for real balances in DC, while the increase observed in terms of the multiplier is associated with the public's greater preference for maintaining deposits.

In period terms, total liquidity to the private sector grew 11.3 percent in 2009 due to the increase of currency (11.0 percent) and total deposits (11.5 percent). The evolution of total deposits during 2009 was led by their most liquid component: saving deposits and demand deposits, which grew 19.4 percent and 16.7 percent, respectively, while term deposits grew 4.0 percent.

TABLE 52
MAIN MONETARY AGGREGATES
 (End of period data)

	Balance in millions of nuevos soles			% Change	
	2007	2008	2009	2008	2009
Currency	14,857	17,336	19,241	16.7	11.0
Money	24,753	28,852	33,048	16.6	14.5
Total deposits 1/	66,928	82,924	92,469	23.9	11.5
In nuevos soles	29,411	38,690	45,298	31.6	17.1
In dollars (Millions of US\$)	12,982	15,306	16,322	17.9	6.6
Liquidity 1/	82,630	101,352	112,825	22.7	11.3
In nuevos soles	44,862	56,742	65,282	26.5	15.0
In dollars (Millions of US\$)	13,068	15,436	16,451	18.1	6.6

1/ The balance of broad money in dollars is valued at the constant exchange rate of December 2009.

Source: BCRP.

Liquidity in nuevos soles increased 15.0 percent in the year, reflecting similar evolutions in all the modalities of financial assets. As previously mentioned, currency grew 11.0 percent (S/. 1,905 million), while demand deposits grew 19.9 percent (S/. 2,291 million), saving deposits grew 18.5 percent (S/. 2,157 million), and term deposits grew 13.9 percent (S/. 2,160 million).

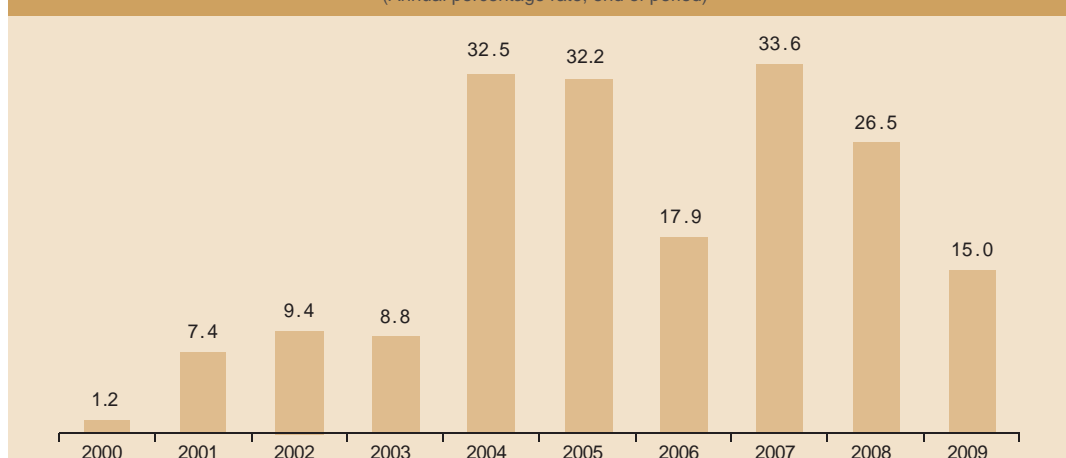


TABLE 53
LIQUIDITY IN DOMESTIC CURRENCY

	Balance in millions of nuevos soles			Growth rates	
	2007	2008	2009	2008	2009
Currency	14,857	17,336	19,241	16.7	11.0
Demand deposits	9,895	11,516	13,807	16.4	19.9
Savings deposits	8,543	11,667	13,824	36.6	18.5
Term Deposits	10,972	15,506	17,666	41.3	13.9
Securities and other instruments	594	717	743	20.6	3.7
TOTAL	44,862	56,742	65,282	26.5	15.0

Source: BCRP.

GRAPH 82
LIQUIDITY IN NATIONAL CURRENCY
(Annual percentage rate, end of period)



Source: BCRP.

Liquidity in dollars recorded a growth rate of 6.6 percent in 2009, a lower rate than in the previous year (18.1 percent). Demand and saving deposits in FC showed a positive variation. The latter grew 20.4 percent (US\$ 687 million), while the former grew 13.5 percent (US\$ 547 million). On the other hand, term deposits in FC declined 2.8 percent (negative flow of US\$ 218 million).

TABLE 54
LIQUIDITY IN FOREIGN CURRENCY

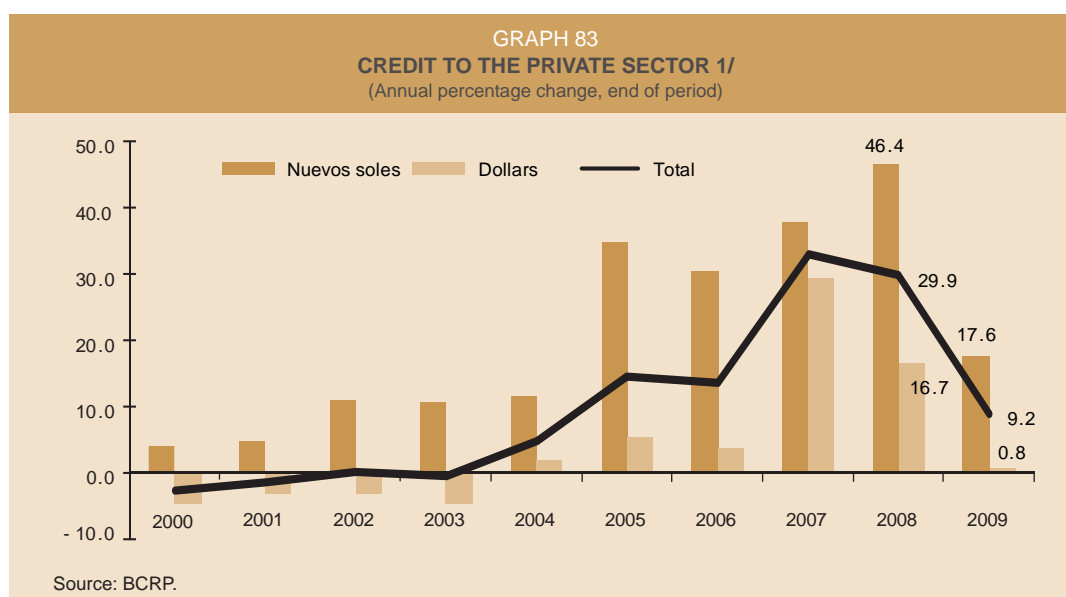
	Balance in millions of US\$			Growth rates	
	2007	2008	2009	2008	2009
Demand deposits	3,368	4,042	4,589	20.0	13.5
Savings deposits	2,837	3,365	4,052	18.6	20.4
Term Deposits	6,777	7,899	7,681	16.6	-2.8
Securities and other instruments	86	130	129	50.0	-0.7
TOTAL	13,068	15,436	16,451	18.1	6.6

Source: BCRP.



4.3 Credit to the private sector

In 2009 total credit to the private sector grew 9.2 percent. In comparison with the previous year, the demand of industrial activity and commerce, particularly foreign trade, was lower and a substitution of financial credit by bonds issued in the capital market by private non financial firms was observed. The rate of growth of credit in nuevos soles was 17.6 percent, while the rate of growth of credit in dollars was 0.8 percent. The ratio of dollarization of credit to the private sector declined from 52 to 46 percent between 2008 and 2009.



The growth of credit in nuevos soles (17.6 percent or S/. 8,613 million) was led by the segments of mortgages (51.2 percent) and credit to microbusinesses (26.9 percent). Corporate loans and consumer loans¹⁴ grew at lower rates (14.0 percent and 11.0 percent, respectively). In terms of flows, on the other hand, the growth of credit in DC was mainly driven by the modalities of credit oriented to productive sectors, particularly corporate loans (S/. 2,551 million) and credit for microbusinesses (S/. 2,353 million).

The flow of credits to individuals declined from S/. 4,316 million in 2008 to S/. 2,033 million in 2009, reflecting financial entities' greater caution in granting personal loans in a context of high uncertainty about the recovery of economic activity. Mortgage loans continued showing dynamism and grew from S/. 1,486 million in 2008 to S/. 1,676 million in 2009.

The series of consumer and mortgage loans of 2008 and 2009 were corrected for comparison purposes after banks reclassified part of their consumer loans as mortgage loans following the new "Regulation

14 Corporate loans comprise commercial credits plus investments in securities issued by private sector firms.

for the Evaluation and Classification of Debtors and Provisioning Requirements" (SBS Resolution N° 11356-2008)¹⁵.

TABLE 55
CREDIT TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN DOMESTIC CURRENCY BY TYPE OF LOAN

	Balance in millions of nuevos soles			% Change	
	2007	2008	2009	2008	2009
Corporate loans 1/	12,142	18,259	20,809	50.4	14.0
Loans for microbusinesses	5,175	8,739	11,093	68.9	26.9
Consumer loans	14,245	18,562	20,595	30.3	11.0
Mortgages	1,786	3,272	4,948	83.2	51.2
TOTAL	33,348	48,832	57,445	46.4	17.6

1/ Includes commercial loans and the purchase of non-financial corporate bonds.
Source: SBS and BCRP.

By type of financial entity, credit in nuevos soles in the segment of microbusinesses grew from 38.9 percent in 2008 to 54.6 percent in 2009: The growth of credit from rural saving banks (32.7 percent) and municipal saving banks (23.5 percent) was noteworthy in this segment. The growth of the credit granted by financial companies was associated with the statistical effect of the conversion of Banco del Trabajo (February 2009) and Edpymes Crear and Confianza (October and November of 2009, respectively) into financial companies. Finally, banks' credit to the private sector grew 10.3 percent in 2009.

TABLE 56
CREDIT TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN DOMESTIC CURRENCY BY INSTITUTION

	Balance in millions of nuevos soles			% Change	
	2007	2008	2009	2008	2009
Banks	25,195	38,648	42,627	53.4	10.3
Banco de la Nación	2,237	1,993	2,221	-10.9	11.4
Development banks	158	193	230	22.5	19.0
Micro-finance institutions	5,758	7,997	12,366	38.9	54.6
Municipal deposit banks	3,192	4,996	6,169	56.5	23.5
Rural deposit banks	669	926	1,229	38.4	32.7
Saving and credit cooperatives	952	1,317	1,609	38.3	22.2
Financial companies	945	758	3,360	-19.8	343.2
TOTAL	33,348	48,832	57,445	46.4	17.6

Source: BCRP.

15 In December 2008, banks reclassified mortgage loans which had been considered consumer loans until November 2008 because constituting individual mortgages based on granted loans was not possible until then.



By type of financial institution, credit in dollars in microfinance institutions grew 7.3 percent, while credit from banks grew 0.5 percent.

The greater contribution of microfinance institution in terms of credit in dollars is explained by the effect of the conversion of Banco del Trabajo into a financial enterprise, given that this organization maintained a portfolio of placements in FC after its conversion, in contrast with the rest of specialized institutions which mostly provide credits in DC due to the segment of borrowers they serve. In general, a higher demand for credit in nuevos soles is observed.

TABLE 57
CREDIT TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN FOREIGN CURRENCY BY TYPE OF LOAN

	Balance in millions of US\$			% Change	
	2007	2008	2009	2008	2009
Corporate loans 1/ of which:	10,721	12,891	13,028	20.2	1.1
Foreign trade	2,091	2,387	1,750	14.2	- 26.7
Loans for microbusinesses	463	423	429	-8.7	1.3
Consumer loans	1,051	1,180	1,129	12.3	- 4.3
Mortgages	2,290	2,456	2,497	7.3	1.7
TOTAL	14,525	16,950	17,082	16.7	0.8

1/ Includes commercial loans and the purchase of non-financial corporate bonds.
Source: SBS and BCRP.

TABLE 58
CREDIT TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN FOREIGN CURRENCY BY INSTITUTION

	Balance in millions US\$			% Change	
	2007	2008	2009	2008	2009
Banks	13,657	16,125	16,208	18.1	0.5
Banco de la Nación	12	11	11	- 2.2	- 0.3
Development banks	161	162	164	0.7	1.2
Micro-finance institutions	696	651	699	- 6.4	7.3
Municipal deposit banks	370	283	276	- 23.5	- 2.4
Rural deposit banks	48	48	54	0.6	12.5
Saving and credit cooperatives	250	285	307	13.9	7.9
Financial companies	28	35	61	24.5	74.5
TOTAL	14,525	16,950	17,082	16.7	0.8

Source: BCRP.

5. Banks' portfolio quality

The financial indicators on commercial banks reflected the context of the international financial crisis and the slowdown of domestic economic activity. The ratio of commercial banks' portfolio in arrears showed a slight deterioration, increasing from a level of 1.3 percent in 2008 to 1.6 percent at end 2009 as a result of the lower payment capacity of the segment of higher-risk clients. Moreover, the level of coverage of the delinquent loan portfolio declined from 151.4 to 138.2 percent.

Commercial banks maintained high levels of profitability, although a downward trend was observed. Thus, the return-on-equity ratio (ROE) declined from 31.1 percent to 24.5 percent between 2008 and 2009, affected in part by the increase of provisioning due to the deterioration of the delinquent loan portfolio. Nonetheless, this evolution was offset by a higher operational efficiency (reduction of operational expenses per asset unit).

TABLE 59
INDICATORS ON COMMERCIAL BANKS
(Percentages)

	2007	2008	2009
Non-performing loans / Gross assets 1/	1,3	1,3	1,6
Provisions / Non-performing loans 2/	124,4	151,4	138,2
Return on equity ratio (ROE)	27,9	31,1	24,5

1/ Overdue loans.

2/ Non-performing loans plus refinanced and restructured loans.

Source: SBS.

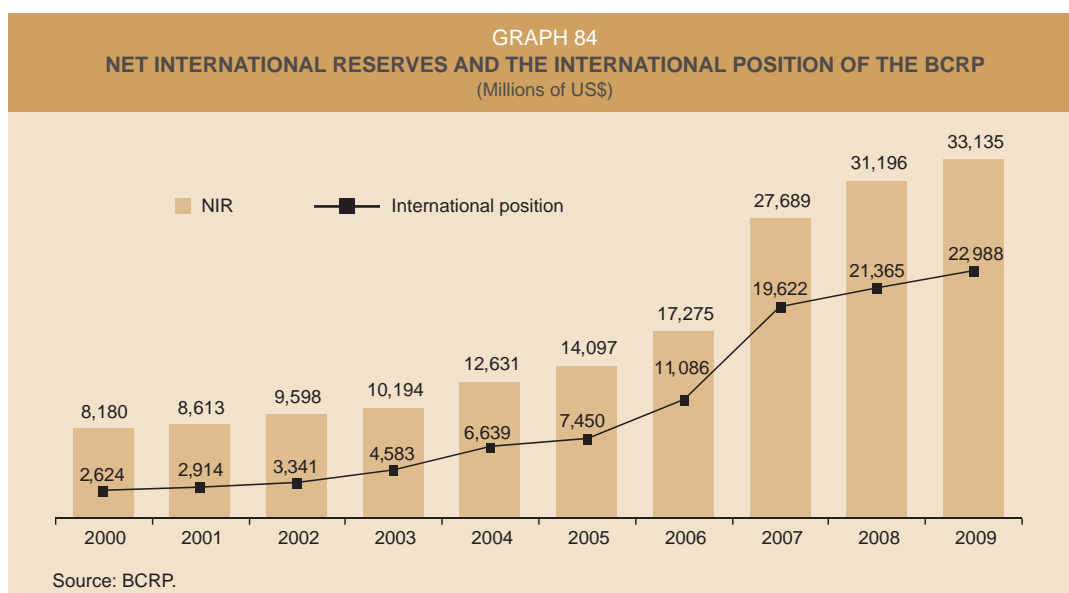
6. Net international reserves

The Central Bank's net international reserves (NIRs) increased US\$ 1,939 million during 2009, reaching a level of US\$ 33,135 million at the close of the year. The country's continuous improvement in terms of its international liquidity position has placed the Peruvian economy in a less vulnerable situation to face eventual turbulences in the international financial market.

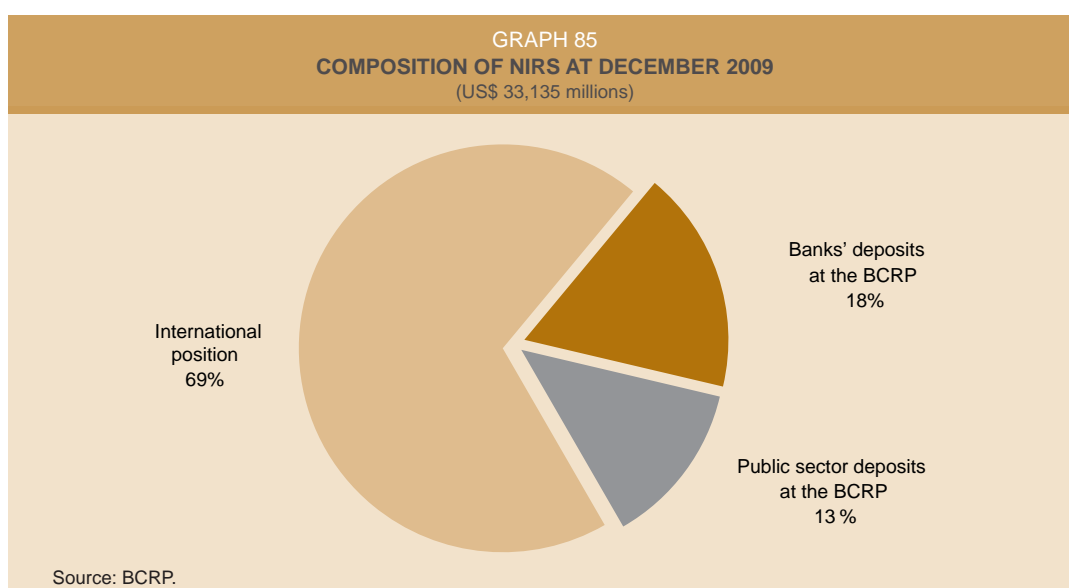
The accumulation of NIRs in 2009 resulted mainly from higher public sector deposits in the BCRP (US\$ 1,030 million), from net investment yield (US\$ 828 million), and from the allocation of Special Drawing Rights for a total of SDR 518 million (US\$ 810 million).

The flow of foreign exchange operations in 2009 was negative by US\$ 48 million. This result is explained by net sales of FC to the public sector (US\$ 261 million), which were higher than the net purchases of FC made by the BCRP (US\$ 108 million) and temporary purchases of FC or swaps (US\$ 102 million).





Additionally, the deposits of financial entities in the BCRP were US\$ 728 million lower than in the previous year. As a result, the foreign exchange position of the Central Bank increased by US\$ 1,623 million, reaching a balance of US\$ 22,988 million at end 2009.



The share of the foreign exchange position in terms of NIRs increased one percentage point, from 68 percent to 69 percent, between 2008 and 2009. Other fund sources explaining the composition of NIRs at the close of 2009 were banks' reserve requirements and deposits in the BCRP (18 percent) and public sector deposits in dollars (13 percent).

6.1. Management of international reserves

The BCRP continued accumulating international assets in 2009. Thus, NIRs at year-end amounted to US\$ 33,135 million, while the foreign exchange position was US\$ 22,988 million. Gross International Reserves –also called International Reserve Assets– amounted to US\$ 33,175 million at the end of 2009, a sum US\$ 1,942 million higher than the one recorded in the previous year.

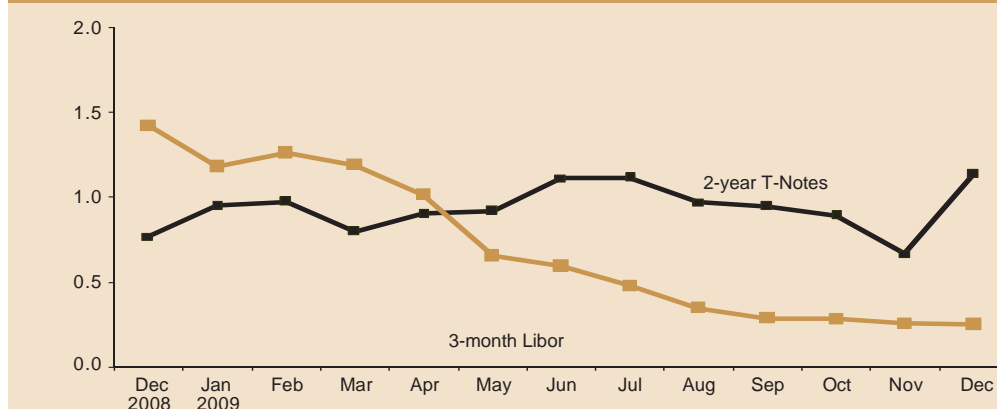
The increase of international reserves contributed to improve the indicators of international liquidity. Thus, at end 2009, NIRs were equivalent to 19 months of imports, 4.6 times short-term external liabilities, and 4.1 times the balance of the monetary base.

TABLE 60
HIGH LEVEL OF INTERNATIONAL RESERVES STRENGTHENS
PERU'S INTERNATIONAL LIQUIDITY POSITION

NIRs in US\$ 33.1 billion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.6 times one-year debt liabilities (short term external liabilities plus amortization of long-term debt) • 4.1 times the monetary base • 19 months of importss
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Developed countries continued to be affected by the international financial crisis during 2009. USA continued showing a slower pace of economic growth, higher unemployment, and a credit contraction in financial markets in a context of high uncertainty. In this scenario, the Federal Reserve deemed necessary to maintain its reference rate between 0 percent and 0.25 percent during the year and to complement this monetary expansionary policy with the acquisition of financial assets (Quantitative Easing), which influenced a markedly downward trend in the Libor rate. The yield on US Treasury bonds, on the other hand, increased since the beginning of the year. This was coupled by a higher supply of these securities to finance the higher financial fiscal deficit.

GRAPH 86
3-MONTH LIBOR AND 2-YEAR US TREASURY BONDS
(Annual yield (%))



Source: Bloomberg.



Although banking activities in the major economies of the world continued being one of the most affected sectors in 2009, the levels of risk declined as a result of the support provided by central banks and governments, which translated into a gradual recovery of confidence in banks.

In this context, the BCRP administered its investment portfolio with a conservative stance, applying stricter criteria for the placement of deposits abroad and diversifying even more its investments in securities with the highest credit quality. Some tactical deviations were also temporarily adopted when circumstances favored improving the portfolio yield. A neutral stance in terms of length was maintained on average relative to the benchmark portfolio.

It is worth remembering that the preservation of equity and guaranteeing the liquidity of investments are the priority criteria on which the BCRP policy for the investment of international reserves is based. Once these conditions are met, the Bank's aim is to maximize the yield on international assets. The management of international assets is closely associated with the characteristics of the sources of these resources in terms of value, currency, maturity term, and volatility. In this way, the Bank seeks to minimize the market risks that could affect the value and availability of the resources that the BCRP is in charge of managing.

6.2 Composition of international reserve assets

At end 2009, 75 percent of the international reserve assets were invested in high credit-quality liquid securities; 17 percent in first-class foreign banks, and the remaining 8 percent in gold and other assets. The security portfolio included debt bonds issued by sovereign issuers, supranational organizations or foreign public entities with long-term credit ratings of AA- or higher, and bonds issued by the Bank for International Settlements.

In 2009, international reserves generated a yield of S/. 2,788 million, a result lower than the one observed in the previous year due to the lower interest rates obtained in the BCRP investments.

TABLE 61
INTERNATIONAL RESERVE ASSETS
(Millions of US\$)

ITEM	12.31.2008		12.31.2009	
	Amount	%	Amount	%
Deposits abroad	2,656	8.5	5,795	17.5
Securities	27,178	87.0	24,750	74.6
Gold	983	3.1	1,218	3.7
Other assets 1/	416	1.3	1,412	4.3
TOTAL	31,233	100,0	33,175	100,0

1/ Includes contribution to the FLAR and balance of assets associated with international agreements.
Source: BCRP.

On the other hand, liquid international reserve assets¹⁶ at the close of 2009 reached a level of US\$ 31,979 million. In terms of their currency structure, the share of currencies other than US dollars increased. Moreover, investments maturing in less than 3 months were also increased and 3-month, 12-month or longer-term investments were reduced. As regards the quality of the portfolio, 87 percent of these investments were made in entities that have a long term credit rating of **AAA**, and the rest is mostly invested in entities with a rating of **AA+** or **AA-**. The average maturity of the investment portfolio during the year was 1.19 years.

TABLE 62
COMPOSITION OF LIQUID INTERNATIONAL ASSETS
(Percentage structure)

	12.31.2008	12.31.2009
1. By currencies and gold	100.0	100.0
US\$	83.2	79.9
Other currencies	15.2	18.1
Gold	1.6	2.0
2. By maturity-term	100.0	100.0
0-3 months	27.8	36.7
3-12 months	22.4	19.0
more than 1 year	49.8	44.3
3. By long-term rating	100.0	100.0
AAA	85.6	86.5
AA+ / AA / AA-	13.3	10.7
A+	1.1	2.8

Source: BCRP.

7. Financial saving and capital market

Financial saving is the total of firms' and households' assets that are held as saving deposits, term deposits, securities, shares in mutual funds, life insurances, and contributions to private pension funds in the financial system.

In 2009, financial saving increased 8.2 percent on average compared to 2008, showing a lower growth rate than the one recorded in that year (11.0 percent). As a percentage of GDP, financial saving increased to 38.7 percent.

By currencies, financial saving in nuevos soles –which includes workers' contributions to the private pension system– recorded a growth rate of 3.5 percent (lower than the rate of 13.9 percent registered in

16 Easily negotiable assets in international financial markets. These assets do not include capital contributions to international organizations –such as the FLAR–, the balances of assets associated with international agreements, or gold holdings at the Bank's vaults.



2008). In spite of this, financial saving in GDP terms increased from 23.7 to 24.0 percent. Financial saving in dollars –which consists mostly of deposits in this currency– increased 14.0 percent (14.8 percent in GDP terms).

The lower growth of financial saving in nuevos soles is explained by the effect of the international crisis which reduced the equity of private pension funds during most of the year, affecting the calculation of annual average aggregates. If the values at year-end are considered, financial saving in nuevos soles records a growth rate of 31.9 percent, a higher result than the one observed in the previous year (-5.5 percent).

TABLE 63
FINANCIAL SAVINGS
(Average period balance, in percentage of GDP)

	Domestic currency	Foreign currency	Total
2000	7.9	17.5	25.5
2001	9.1	17.5	26.6
2002	10.6	16.8	27.4
2003	12.1	16.3	28.4
2004	13.4	14.7	28.1
2005	15.4	13.6	29.0
2006	17.2	13.4	30.5
2007	23.2	13.6	36.7
2008	23.7	13.0	36.7
2009	24.0	14.8	38.7

Source: BCRP.

7.1 Fixed-rate primary market

The balance of securities issued by private firms at end 2009 increased 13.4 percent compared to 2008¹⁷. Excluding financial entities, the number of issuers with valid securities declined from 50 to 48.

By economic sector, the annual flow of bonds issued by non financial firms was S/. 3,635 million (S/. 1,624 million in 2008), which represents an increase of 14.2 percent of this flow compared to the previous year¹⁸. On the other hand, the annual flow of bonds issued by financial entities was S/. 1,417 million (S/. 2,389 million in 2008), which represents an increase of 11.9 percent. Thus, the share of non financial firms in terms of total instruments in circulation increased from 66.8 percent to 67.2 percent.

17 Includes short term bonds and instruments placed through public auctions in the domestic market. The effect of changes in the exchange rate is isolated for comparison purposes.

18 The economic sector of the originator is considered in the case of securitization bonds.

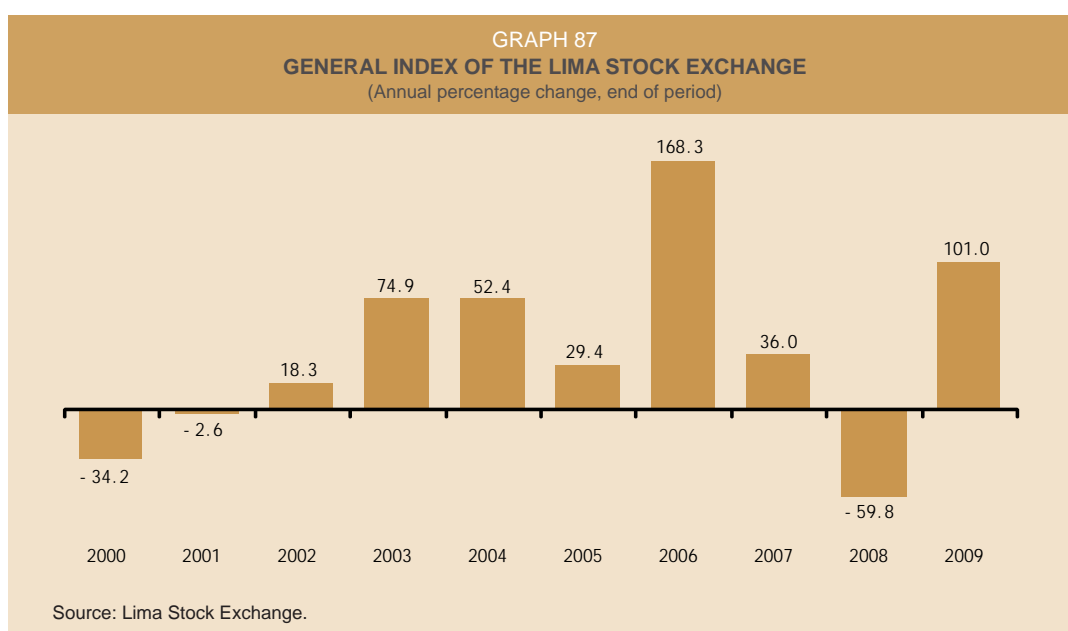
By currencies, 48.0 percent of the balances valid at December 2009 were instruments in dollars (47.7 percent in December 2008). The share of fixed-rate instruments in nuevos soles was 42.9 percent (41.9 percent in December 2008), while the share of indexed bonds in nuevos soles (VAC) was 9.2 percent (10.4 percent in December 2008).

The interest rates on the bonds issued decreased in comparison to the previous year as the perception of risk associated with the international crisis declined. Thus, the rate on an issuance of 3-year bonds in soles, with a risk rating of AAA, which was 8.3 percent on average at end 2008, dropped to 4.4 percent towards Q3-2009. Likewise, the rate on an issuance of 1-year bonds, with a risk rating of AA, fell from 8.2 percent at end 2008 to 3.1 percent at end 2009.

The issuers that placed the highest amounts of bonds in the year were Banco de Crédito del Perú (S/. 587 million), Perú LGN (S/. 578 million), and Kalpa Generación (S/. 497 million).

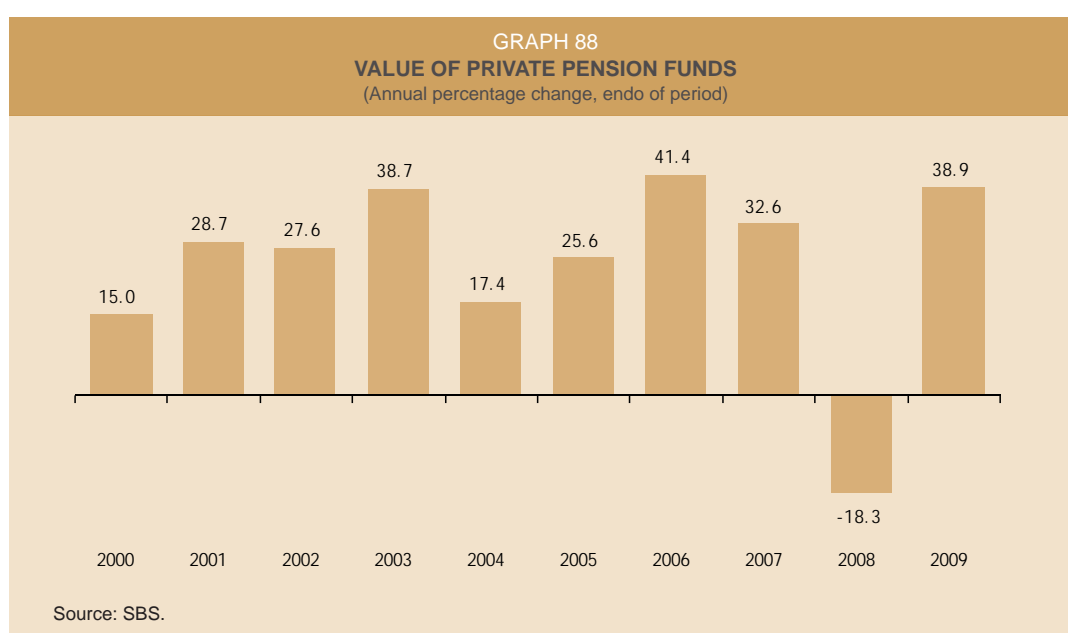
7.2 Stock market

The strong impact of the international crisis on the local stock market in Q4-2008 was reflected in a strong decline in the indices and amounts negotiated in this market. This situation continued during the first two months of 2009, but in March the stock market initiated a period of recovery that lasted until July. A mixed trend was observed thereafter. The General Index of the Lima Stock Exchange gained 101.0 percent during the year, the second highest result recorded in the main stock markets of the region after Buenos Aires (115.0 percent). By economic sector, the stocks that grew the most were the mining stocks (151.2 percent), followed by bank and financial entities' papers (120.3 percent), and agriculture stocks (110.6 percent). Despite the growth of the volumes negotiated in the second half of the year, these volumes were lower than in the two previous years.



7.3 Private pension system

The equity of pension funds, which lost 18.3 percent of its value in 2008 as a result of the international crisis, recovered in 2009 recording an annual growth of 38.9 percent. The equity of private pension funds as of December 2009 was S/. 68,595 million (18.2 percent of GDP), of which 0.8 percent was voluntary contributions (S/. 575 million). Having recovered from the losses resulting from the international crisis, at end 2009 the annualized real profitability of these funds was 32.9 percent. The number of members of private pension funds increased 3.8 percent to over 4.4 million.



As regards portfolio instruments, it is worth pointing out that the investments of private pension funds (AFPs) abroad increased their share in terms of total assets from 12.4 percent in December 2008 to 21.0 percent in December 2009. The legal limit for these investments was raised from 20 to 22 percent. An increase was observed in the share of stocks in terms of domestic investments –due to the recovery of prices–, while the share of deposits in the financial system and fixed-income bonds, including government bonds, declined. The share of government bonds declined from 24.3 to 19.6 percent.

TABLE 64
COMPOSITION OF THE PORTFOLIO OF THE PRIVATE PENSION SYSTEM
(Percentages)

	Dec-07	Dec-08	Dec-09
a. GOVERNMENT SECURITIES	21.9	25.2	20.1
Central government	20.6	24.3	19.6
Central Bank securities	1.3	0.9	0.5
Brady bonds	-	-	-
b. FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS	8.0	17.4	11.8
Deposits in domestic currency 1/	2.1	4.3	1.8
Deposits in foreign currency 1/	0.3	3.7	0.7
Financial system shares	1.6	1.6	2.7
Bank bonds	2.4	4.2	3.4
Others 2/	1.7	3.6	3.1
c. NON-FINANCIAL PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS	56.9	45.0	47.3
Common and investment shares 3/	39.7	22.9	29.3
Short-term corporate bonds and commercial papers	13.0	18.2	14.2
Others 4/	4.1	3.9	3.7
d. FOREIGN INVESTMENTS	13.2	12.4	21.0
International bonds	0.3	2.4	1.2
Deposits in foreign banks 5/	0.6	0.8	1.1
International mutual funds	10.4	6.4	5.8
International shares and ADS	0.5	1.5	10.5
Others	1.4	1.3	2.3
e. OTHER SECURITIES 6/	-	-0.1	-0.1
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0
Millions of nuevos soles	60,195	48,384	69,329
% of GDP	18.0	13.0	18.2

1/ Includes current account and certificates in foreign currency.

2/ Includes investment fund quotas.

3/ Includes American Depository Reviews (ADR) and American Depository Shares (ADS) acquired locally.

4/ Includes commercial papers, repos, and promissory notes.

5/ Includes Stand-by deposits.

6/ Includes unsettled operations.

Source: SBS.

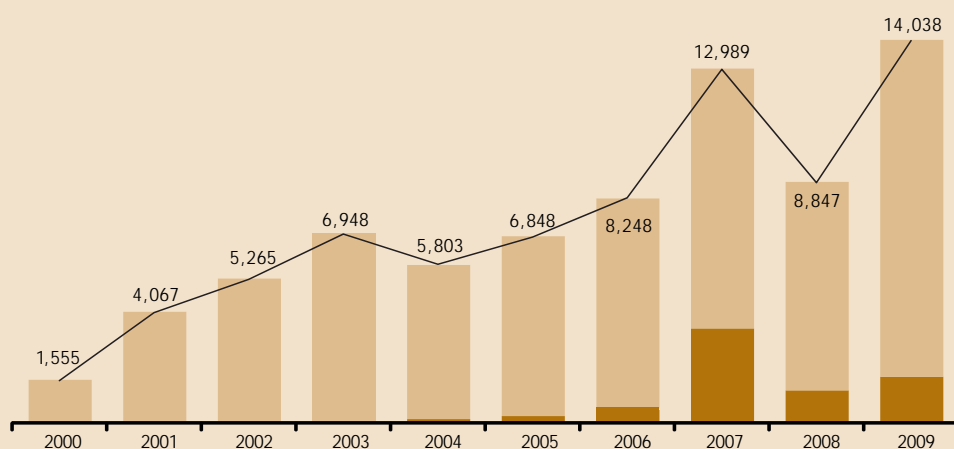
7.4 Mutual funds

Mutual investment funds, which were affected by the international crisis at end 2008, grew 58.7 percent in 2009, closing the year with an equity of S/. 14,038 million (3.7 percent of GDP). The number of participants increased 32.1 percent to 263 thousand, a lower number than the maximum of 292 thousand participants registered in July 2008 before the crisis unfolded. In spite of the recovery of the variable income market, the mutual funds that showed the highest growth were those specializing in fixed-income securities (60.8 percent).

As regards mutual funds' investment portfolio, the instruments that grew the most were the most liquid ones, such as the Public Treasury bonds (from 5.0 to 12.9 percent) and deposits in the financial system (from 39.5 to 45.6 percent). In contrast, the share of investments in corporate bonds declined from 24.9 to 15.3 percent.



GRAPH 89
EVOLUTION OF MUTUAL FUNDS
(Balance in millions of nuevos soles)



Source: Conasev

TABLE 65
COMPOSITION OF MUTUAL FUND INVESTMENT
(Percentages)

	2007	2008	2009
a. GOVERNMENT SECURITIES	29.8	15.8	21.3
Central government	5.0	1.3	3.7
Global and Brady bonds	7.3	3.7	9.2
Central Bank securities	17.6	10.8	8.4
b. FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS	24.3	52.3	53.9
Deposits in domestic currency	5.7	13.7	14.1
Deposits in foreign currency	9.2	25.8	31.5
Financial system bonds	8.9	13.1	8.0
Shares and other papers	0.5	-0.2	0.3
c. NON-FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS	34.7	29.3	20.2
Bonds and commercial papers	23.4	24.9	15.3
Common and investment shares	11.3	4.5	4.9
d. FOREIGN INVESTMENTS	6.5	1.9	4.5
e. OTHERS 1/	4.6	0.6	0.2
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0
Millions of nuevos soles	12,822	8,741	13,901
% of GDP	3.9	2.4	3.7

1/ Includes repos and agreements.

Source: CONASEV.

8. Expansion of the use of electronic payment systems

The Law on Payment and Security Settlement Systems in force since November 19, 2009 establishes the legal framework for systemically important payment and security settlement systems and complements the legal regime governing the credits granted by the BCRP. This law provides legal protection to the fund transfers accepted by the Systems and to the resources and guarantees involved in these operations. Additionally, it establishes that the Central Bank and CONASEV are the entities that govern the Payment System and the Security Settlement System, respectively. Thus, Law 29440 provides a sound legal structure that promotes the safety and efficiency of these systems, favoring the effectiveness of monetary policy, reinforcing stability in the financial system, and stimulating the use of electronic payment instruments.

Moreover, Law 29440 establishes the Real Time Gross Settlement System (RTGS), the Cámara de Compensación Electrónica (CCE), and the Multibank Security Settlement System as payment systems of systemic importance.

The appropriate operation of payment systems in 2009 was a factor of stability that offset the pressures originated in markets and economic activity as a result of the international financial crisis.

The expansion of these systems continued in 2009. The value of the payments made through these systems increased 17.5 percent compared to the previous year. The highest increase was observed in the payments made in DC (22.7 percent), mainly through the RTGS system. In GDP terms, the payment turnover increased from 4.6 times in 2008 to 5.3 times in 2009, reflecting that the use of payment system increased as a faster pace than economic activity. It is worth pointing out that the share of operations in DC –dedollarization– increased from 58.7 percent in 2008 to 61.3 percent in 2009.

8.1 RTGS system

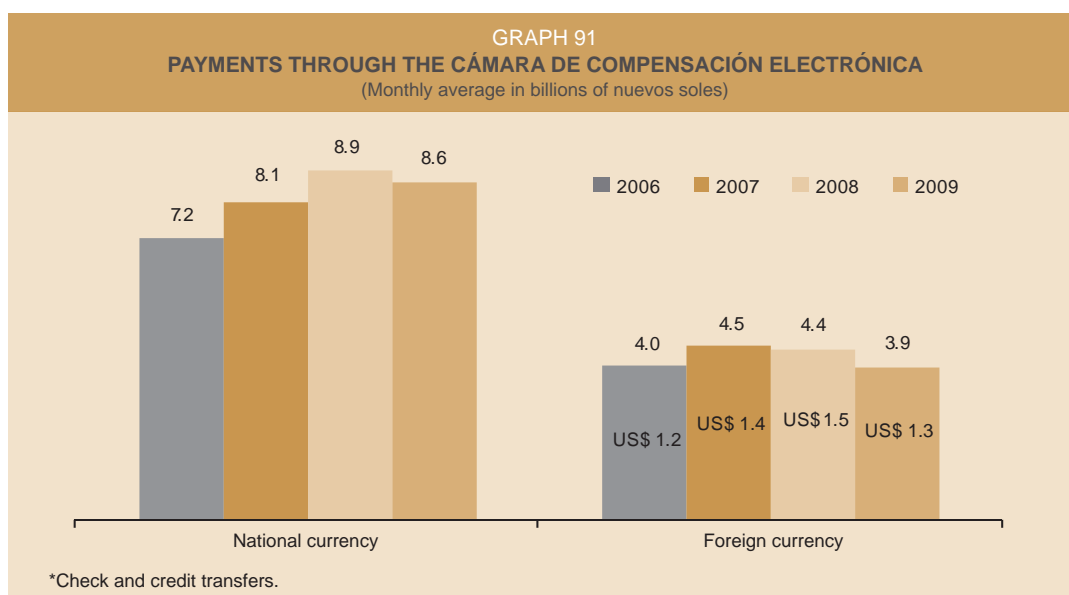
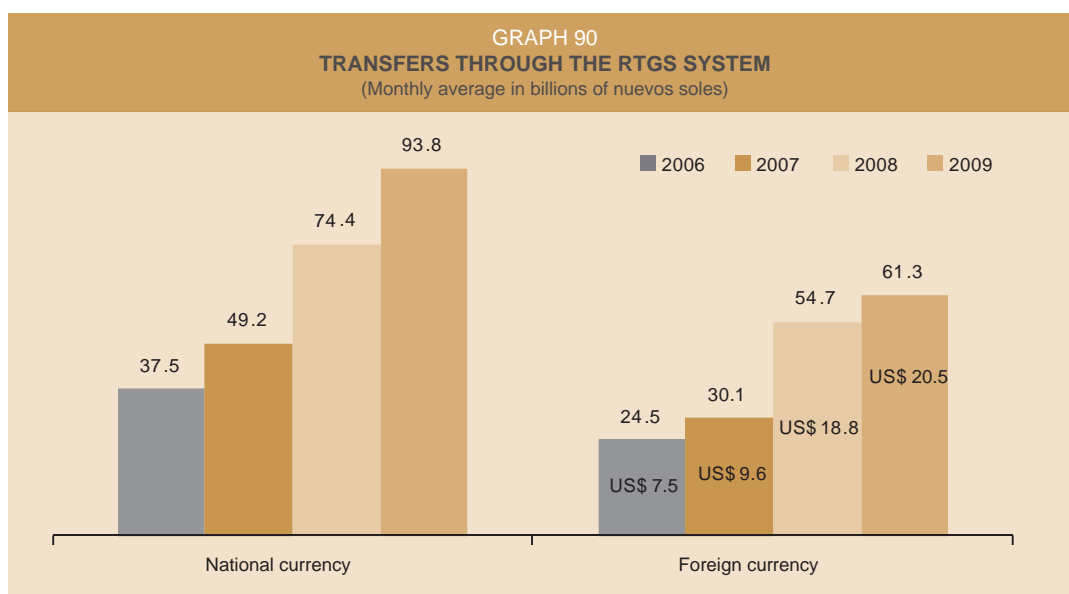
The value of fund transfers channeled through the RTGS system grew 20.1 percent in the year in spite of the effects of the international crisis. Payments in DC and FC increased 26.0 percent and 9.1 percent, respectively. In 2009, the value of transfers made through the RTGS system represented 91.6 percent of total transfers, but only 5.3 percent of the volume of operations made through payment systems.

8.2 Cámara de Compensación Electrónica

The value of the fund transfers processed through the Cámara de Compensación Electrónica (CCE) (checks and credit transfers) fell 5.5 percent, reflecting the decline of the use of checks (8.8 percent), which represent 90.1 percent of the total value of transactions made through the CCE.

On the other hand, it is worth pointing out the favorable evolution showed by credit transfers, which increased significantly in the year (39.5 percent), evidencing the growing trend of the use of electronic payment systems by both individuals and legal entities.





The volume of transactions processed through the CCE declined 2.0 percent compared to the previous year, mainly as a result of the lower use of checks (down 6.3 percent). The share of the latter in terms of the total operations made through the CCE was 82.3 percent in 2009. The number of credit transfers increased 24.6 percent in the year. It is worth highlighting that the transactions made through the CCE in 2009 represented 7.4 percent of the total value of transfers in payment systems, while the number of operations represented 91.7 percent.

8.3 Multibank Security Settlement System (MSSS)

Transactions processed through the MSS System include the payments for securities traded at the Lima Stock Exchange (80 percent of the total) and payments for government securities traded in the



secondary market. Even though the value of transactions showed a slight increase of 0.6 percent, their volume declined by 6.0 percent due mainly to the decline of the operations made at the Lima Stock Exchange.

8.4 Change in regulations

The most important change in terms of regulations in 2009 was the one made in the Regulation on CCE of Credit Transfers (Circular No. 022-2009-BCRP), which established a special process to confirm credit entries. The recipient bank is required to confirm the originating bank that the credit transfer to the beneficiary client has been entered. The purpose of this process is to reduce risks in the settlement process, thus favoring a greater use of this electronic payment instrument.

8.5 Transfer fees calculator

Since November 2008 the Central Bank has made available to the public the use of the Calculator of Fees for Electronic Transfers via the RTGS or CCE systems as a reference of the commissions that clients have to pay to each originating bank and destination bank for the different types of operations made and channels used, according to whether the client is an individual or a legal entity. In this way, the Central Bank fosters transparency and contributes to inform users about market prices. Greater transparency is expected to promote competition and propitiate a reduction in the fees charged by banks.

8.6 Promotion of electronic payments

An advertising campaign to promote the benefits of credit transfers compared to other payment instruments was launched by the CCE in 2009. The campaign was disseminated through oral and written media, as well as on the Internet (videos).

Moreover, talks about credit transfers are regularly offered to the general public and information on various topics is disseminated through the Bank's institutional website.