



INTERNATIONAL RESERVES: COMPOSITION AND PERFORMANCE AS OF MARCH 2004

At the end of March 2004, the gross international reserves (GIR) amounted to USD 10 420 million, USD 91 millions lower than the level of the previous month. Its composition by asset class was as follows:

GROSS INTERNATIONAL RESERVES (millions of US\$)				
Asset	31.12.2003	30.01.2004	27.02.2004	31.03.2004
Deposits abroad	3502,9	3508,6	3465,4	3253,8
Securities	5883,9	6256,5	6248,0	6333,4
Gold	462,7	448,2	441,6	475,9
Others ^{1/}	356,5	355,0	355,9	357,0
TOTAL	10206,0	10568,3	10510,9	10420,1

^{1/} Includes subscriptions of capital to FLAR and credit balances from ALADI.

The book value of liquid international assets (see glossary) reached USD 9 827 million, showing the following composition in terms of currencies, term to maturity and credit risk:

Currencies	%	Term to maturity	%	Long term rating ^{2/}	%
US\$	94,3	0-3 months	44,6	AAA	60,0
Other currencies ^{1/}	3,2	3-12 months	20,5	AA+ / AA / AA-	40,0
Gold	2,4	1-5 years	34,9	A+ / A	0,1

^{1/} Euros, sterling pounds y canadian dollars.

^{2/} Average rating from Fitch, Standard & Poor's and Moody's. "A+ / A" considers the change of the rating of one issuer in November 2003.

The total return based on actual book entries (see glossary) was 1,93% for the period April 2003 – March 2004, and excluding gold holdings was 2,02%. The average duration of the portfolio was 0,71 years at the end of February.

ANNEX 1: GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Gross International Reserves (GIR).- Central Bank's GIR¹ are composed mainly of deposits in foreign banks, foreign securities and bonds, gold holdings and any other internationally recognized means of payments such as coins and bills. It also includes subscriptions to international organizations, and the credit balance from the financial agreement signed with other Latinoamerican central banks as part of the Asociación Latinoamericana de Integración, ALADI².

Liquid International Assets.- The international assets which are under management and can be rapidly converted into cash. They are the result of excluding from the GIR subscriptions of capital to international financial organizations, such as Fondo Latinoamericano de Reservas (FLAR), credit balances from ALADI, and holdings of gold in Central Bank of Peru's vaults.

Total return based on actual book entries.- It is calculated as a quotient, in which the numerator considers interest earnings and profit/loss from securities sales; and the denominator, the average daily balances of deposits, securities and gold (abroad and in vaults), excluding the valuation effect from changes in exchange rates and the prices of gold and securities.

¹ The concept used by the Central Bank is consistent with the paragraph 424 of the Manual of the Balance of Payments, IMF, 5th Edition.

² For historic series, see in this web page Home/Statistics/Charts/Weekly Report Charts/ 23 "Concepts of international liquidity of the Central Bank of Peru".