

# Regulatory Annex<sup>1</sup>

This annex provides an overview of the regulations issued by the BCRA between May and October 2022, which implied changes on the regulatory framework of financial inclusion of individuals and companies.

## Infrastructure

- 1. Supplementary agencies of financial services (ACSFs)** | As from November 4, 2022, financial institutions (FIs) may only delegate to ACSFs the following services or transactions in pesos: deposits and cash withdrawals; payment and collection; payment of, and services related to, social security benefits (pensions, retirement pay, and social aid) along with services connected with the accounts into which these payments are made<sup>2</sup> (August 4, 2022).
- 2. Automated teller machines (ATMs) location and efficiency** | Decreased minimum cash requirements in pesos—especially non-remunerated reserve requirements—were in effect up to September 30, 2022. This reduction applied where improvements on the level of operation through ATMs and the extension of their network widened. As for the extension of the ATM network, the decreased cash requirement applies until December 31, 2022 (June 30, 2022).<sup>3 4</sup>

## Electronic Means of Payment

- 1. “Pull” transfers** | As from September 30, 2022, funds may be requested from a bank or payment account, upon the authorization of the requested client. Then funds are debited from their bank or payment account, and are immediately credited to the requesting client’s account.

Natural persons may give a single authorization where “pull” instant transfers involve accounts belonging to the same client. Single authorizations will not apply where “pull” transfers are used for the collection of loans.<sup>5</sup>

Also, as from September 30, 2022, instant transfers (other than payments by transfer) were also broken down as follows: (a) “push transfers” for sending funds, and (b) “pull transfers” for requesting funds<sup>6</sup> (May 19, 2022).

- 2. DEBIN** | The scope of instant debit (DEBIN) transactions was extended so that funds may be debited from a payment account and credited to a bank account or another payment account<sup>7</sup> (May 19, 2022).
- 3. Use of electronic means of payment (MPEs)** | Minimum cash requirements in pesos—specifically non-remunerated requirements—were reduced until September 30, 2022. Such

---

<sup>1</sup> See the relevant communications for a complete interpretation of the regulation mentioned in this annex.

<sup>2</sup> [Communication A 7566](#).

<sup>3</sup> The original regulation was explained in the [Regulatory Annex](#) of the IIF for the second half of 2020. The change in regulation is under [Communication A 7536](#), paragraph 3.

<sup>4</sup> [Communication A 7536](#), paragraph 2.

<sup>5</sup> [Communication A 7514](#), paragraph 2.

<sup>6</sup> [Communication A 7514](#), paragraph 4.

<sup>7</sup> [Communication A 7514](#), paragraph 5.

reduction sought to boost the use of MPEs. The incentive depended on the growth rate of the use of MPEs (TCUME rate), which was determined based on debits—except for cash withdrawals—to any sight account in pesos held by natural persons<sup>8</sup> (June 30, 2022).

## Savings and Investment Products

- 1. Time deposits in pesos** | The minimum rate on time deposits in domestic currency is the product of the monetary policy rate and such coefficient as established by the regulation.<sup>9</sup> Between May and October 2022, the monetary policy interest rate and the coefficient were changed five times, which led to an increase in the minimum rate on time deposits offered by FIs.<sup>10</sup>

### Minimum Interest Rate on Time Deposits in Pesos

Start date	End date	Monetary policy rate (% APR)	Weight TD NP up to 10 M	Weight TD NP > 10 M and LP	Minimum interest rate TD NP up to 10 M (% APR)	Minimum interest rate NP > 10 M and LP (% APR)
12-May-22	15-Jun-22	49	0.9796	0.9387	48.0	46.0
16-Jun-22	27-Jul-22	52	1.0192	0.9615	53.0	50.0
28-Jul-22	10-Aug-22	60	1.0167	0.9	61.0	54.0
11-Aug-22	14-Sep-22	69.5	1	0.8777	61.5	61.0
15-Sep-22	-	75	1	0.8867	75.0	65.5

Note | % APR = nominal annual percentage; M = million pesos; TD: time deposits; NP: natural persons; LP: legal persons.  
Source | BCRA.

- 2. Early-termination UVA time deposits** | The early-termination fixed interest rate is the product of the monetary policy rate on the day before the time deposit date and the coefficient set by the regulation.<sup>11</sup> These coefficients have been increased several times, as follows: 0.8776 (May 12, 2022); 0.9231 (June 16, 2022); 0.9333 (July 28, 2022); 0.9424 (August 11, 2022) and finally to 0.9467 (September 15, 2022).<sup>12</sup>

In particular, the coefficient on UVA-adjusted time deposits with an early termination option that were made from August 26, 2022 for less than 180 days and kept on deposit at least 120 days was set at 0.9712, equal to an nominal annual interest rate (NAR) of 67.5%<sup>13</sup> (August 25, 2022). Then, this coefficient was raised to 0.9733, equal to 73% NAR<sup>14</sup> (September 15, 2022).

## Credit to Natural Persons

**“Ahora 12” Program** | The NAR on goods and services paid in 3, 6 and 12 fixed installments, and in 18 and 24 fixed installments was raised. The new rates were set at 42% and 49%, respectively<sup>15</sup> (June 16, 2022).

<sup>8</sup> [Communication A 7536](#), paragraph 2.

<sup>9</sup> This applies to time deposits in pesos and in units of purchasing power (UVAs) with an early termination option. Formula: minimum rate on time deposits = coefficient x monetary policy rate, [Consolidated Text on Term Deposits and Investments](#), paragraph 1.11.1.1.

<sup>10</sup> [Communication A 7512](#), paragraph 1; [Communication A 7527](#), paragraph 1; [Communication A 7561](#), paragraph 1. [Communication A 7577](#), paragraph 1, and [Communication A 7605](#), paragraph 1.

<sup>11</sup> [Communication A 7432](#) / Consolidated Text on [Term Deposits and Investments](#).

<sup>12</sup> [Communication A 7512](#), paragraph 2, [Communication A 7527](#), paragraph 2, [Communication A 7561](#), paragraph 2. [Communication A 7577](#), paragraph 2, and [Communication A 7605](#), paragraph 2.

<sup>13</sup> [Communication A 7585](#).

<sup>14</sup> [Communication A 7605](#), paragraph 2.

<sup>15</sup> [Resolution 490/2022](#).

The national government included a 30-installment plan within the “*Ahora 12*” program for the purchase of domestically-manufactured white appliances (air conditioners, washing machines and refrigerators), TV sets and 4G mobile phones. Such plan, which has been in place since October 21, 2022, will be effective until December 22, 2022 or until the volume of transactions reaches 100 billion pesos, whichever occurs earlier. The NAR on purchases up to ARS200,000 is 48%<sup>16</sup> (October 20, 2022).

### **Credit to MSMEs**

- 1. Extension of the Credit Line for Productive Investment (LFIP) of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs)** | The LFIP was first extended up to September 30, 2022<sup>17</sup> and then to March 31, 2023.<sup>18</sup> This line is aimed to credit at MSMEs activities. FIs must allocate a portion of deposits from the non-financial private sector in pesos subject to reserve requirements to the LFIP (September 22, 2022).
- 2. Incentives for the Credit Line for Productive Investment (LFIP) for MSMEs** | Regulations increased the percentage to be deducted from minimum cash requirements in pesos. Deductible funds are those allocated by FIs to finance investment projects under paragraph 4.1 of the LFIP. The percentage went up from 34% to 40%<sup>19</sup> (July 28, 2022).
- 3. ECHEQs and electronic credit invoices (FCEs)** | Reductions in minimum cash requirements in pesos—especially non-remunerated reserve requirements—were in place up to September 30, 2022<sup>20</sup> (June 30, 2022). This measure sought to boost the use of electronic checks and FCEs issued by MSMEs.
- 4. Credit lines for MSMEs during the COVID-19 pandemic** | Minimum cash requirements in pesos were reduced until September 30, 2022 for those FIs that provided the following credit lines<sup>21</sup> (June 30, 2022):
  - Financing in pesos for MSMEs at a fixed interest rate of up to 40% NAR;
  - Financing granted during the health emergency established by Executive Order 260/2020;
  - “Zero Interest Rate Credit Line”, “Subsidized Credit Line for Companies” and “Zero Interest Rate Credit Line for Culture” granted under Executive Order 332/2020;
  - Financing in pesos for MSMEs at up to 24% NAR, provided that MSMEs were not reported in the CENDEU; and
  - “2021 Zero Interest Rate Credit Line” granted under Executive Order 512/21.

### **Financial Services Consumer Protection (PUSF)**

- 1. People with disabilities** | FIs' online and mobile banking platforms must provide text-to-voice applications so that visually-impaired clients may learn about the notices or ads posted there. FIs must also train their staff providing in-person services in sign language, and offer sign

<sup>16</sup> [Resolution R56/2022](#) and [Resolution R57/2022. Consolidated Text on Minimum Cash Requirements](#), paragraph 1.5.2.

<sup>17</sup> [Communication A 7475](#).

<sup>18</sup> [Communication A 7612](#).

<sup>19</sup> [Communication A 7561](#), paragraph 5.

<sup>20</sup> [Communication A 7536](#), paragraph 2.

<sup>21</sup> [Communication A 7536](#), paragraph 3.

language interpreting services through video calls to ensure fair treatment for people with hearing impairment and/or speaking disability<sup>22</sup> (May 26, 2022).

- 2. Payment service providers (PSPs)** | PSPs offering payment accounts and those fulfilling initiation functions and providing digital wallet services must also comply with PUSF regulations<sup>23</sup> (September 1, 2022).

Based on PUSF regulations, users are entitled to (i) get their security and economic interests protected; (ii) receive accurate, true, sufficient, transparent and visible information about the products and/or services they wish to hire as well as a copy of the documents they may sign; (iii) enjoy freedom of choice; and (iv) receive equal and fair treatment.

- 3. Balances of PSPs** | As from September 22, 2022, FIs may use National Treasury Bonds in pesos falling due on May 23, 2027 to comply with minimum reserve cash requirements in pesos for account deposits of PSPs that offer payment accounts to their customers. This mechanism may be used to meet up to 45 percentage points of the applicable requirement<sup>24</sup> (currently 100%).

---

<sup>22</sup> [Communication A 7517](#).

<sup>23</sup> [Communication A 7593](#), paragraphs 1.1.2.6. and 1.1.2.7.

<sup>24</sup> [Communication A 7611](#).