

Path: www.erstegroup.com -> About us -> Erste Group

Erste Group was founded in 1819 as the first Austrian savings bank ("Erste oesterreichische Spar-Casse"). In 1997, Erste Group went public with a strategy to expand its retail business into Central and Eastern Europe.

Erste Group's customer base has grown through numerous acquisitions and organic growth from 600,000 to 17.3 million, of which 16.2 million clients are citizens of the European Union and benefit from the stable EU regulatory framework. These countries benefit from the stable EU regulatory framework. More than 52,000 employees are serving clients in over 3,000 branches in 8 countries (Austria, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Ukraine).

Having always focussed on retail and SME business, today Erste Group is one of the largest financial services providers in Central and Eastern Europe in terms of clients and total assets.

Key figures	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
Total assets	EUR 201,441 m	EUR 200,519 m	EUR 181,703 m	EUR 152,681 m	EUR 139,812 m
Net profit after minorities	EUR 859.6 m	EUR 1,174.7 m	EUR 932.2 m	EUR 716.7 m	EUR 520.8 m
ROE	10.1%	14.6%	13.8%	19.5%	17.0%
Cost-Income/Ratio	57.2%	59.2%	59.9%	61.7%	64.1%
Number of employees	52,648	52,442	50,164	36,150	35,862
Number of branches	3,159	2,908	2,721	2,283	2,242

[Erste Group Factsheet \[pdf; 753,3 KB\]](#)

[Erste Group Key Financials \[xls; 246,5 KB\]](#)

