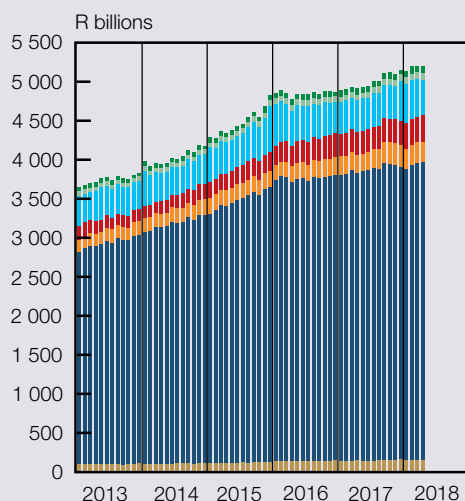


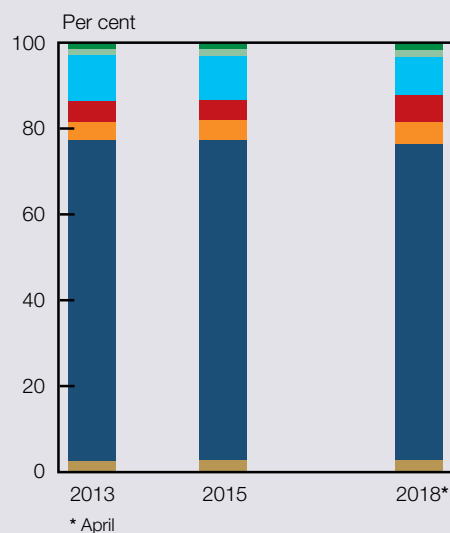
Box 4 Recent trends in the growth and composition of bank assets¹

Growth in total bank² assets was mostly driven by a similar increase in loans and advances which, on average, has contributed 75% to total assets from January 2013 to date. Growth in the holdings of government bonds increased significantly from mid-2014 and that of Treasury bills from mid-2016. Banks' combined holdings of these two financial assets increased by 82% from January 2013 to April 2018, and the aggregate value increased from R331 billion to R604 billion over the same period. Interestingly, the relative contribution of government bonds and Treasury bills together only increased from 9.1% to 11.6% over the period. Part of the increased holdings of government bonds and Treasury bills was probably offset by the cumulative growth in other financial investments³ that fell below that of total assets as from March 2016.

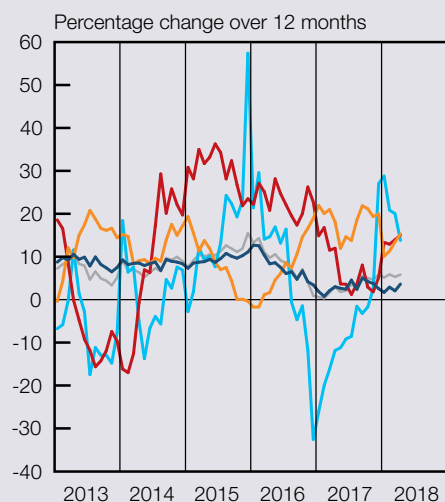
Composition of bank assets



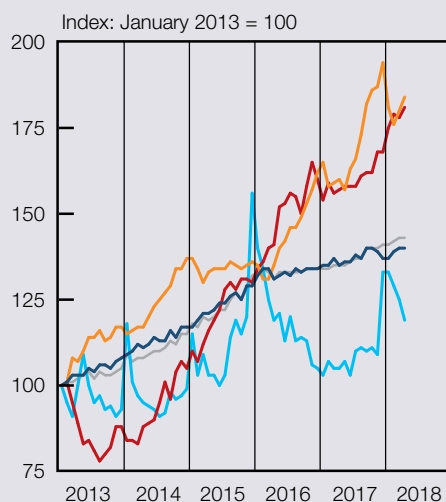
Contribution to bank assets



Growth in selected bank assets



Selected bank assets



— Central bank money and gold — Loans and advances — Treasury bills
— Government bonds — Other financial investments — Non-financial assets
— Other assets — Total assets

Source: SARB

¹ This discussion is based on the statistics presented in the tables on pages S-8 and S-9 of this *Quarterly Bulletin*.

² A bank is a public company (Limited) registered as a bank in terms of the Banks Act 94 of 1990. See also the SARB's Institutional Sector Classification Guide for South Africa published in March 2017.

³ Other financial investments include equities and interest-bearing securities such as bills (excluding Treasury bills), bonds (excluding government bonds), debentures, acceptances, commercial paper and promissory notes.