

# NoRe

Norske Finansielle Referanser AS  
Norwegian Financial Reference Rates

## Nibor Transparency Statement

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### **Disclaimer**

The information in this statement is unaudited and provided for illustration purposes only. The information may not be regarded as part of the provisioning of the interest rate benchmark Nibor, and the information cannot for any purposes be used as a benchmark.

## Nibor Transparency Statement

Published 02.07.2021.

*The Nibor Transparency Statement has been introduced with the purpose to provide users of Nibor with information about the data the fixings of Nibor have been based on. The statement includes the Nibor Transparency model for the Nibor three months tenor, the tenor most widely used as interest rate reference in Norwegian kroner. The model illustrates how various individual factors have contributed to the observed development in Nibor.*

*The Nibor Transparency Statement was for the first time published in May 2021 and is to be updated about four times a year.*

### Nibor

Nibor is derived from “Norwegian Interbank Offered Rate” and is a collective term for Norwegian money market interest rates with maturities of one week, one month, two months, three months, and six months. Nibor is intended to reflect the interest rate level a bank requires for unsecured money market lending in Norwegian kroner (NOK) to another bank.

Nibor is based on contributions of input data from a panel of six banks. When determining its submissions, the individual bank shall follow the Nibor “waterfall methodology” priority of use of input data (see explanation in box below).

Norske Finansielle Referanser AS (NoRe) is the administrator for Nibor. Nibor is calculated and distributed by Global Rate Set Systems (GRSS), which also acts as licensing agent for Nibor.

#### **Brief introduction to the Nibor calculation methodology**

The Nibor Panel Banks must be active in the market in which the redistribution of NOK liquidity takes place – in the relevant maturities and throughout the market’s trading hours – and have been active for a period of at least three months. The panel banks are also required to quote committing sales prices on Certificates of Deposits (CDs) or Commercial Papers (CPs) denominated in NOK, for the maturities 1, 2, 3 and 6 months. Minimum sales commitment is NOK 100 million for all maturities.

When determining its submissions, the individual bank shall follow the Nibor “waterfall methodology” priority of use of input data, summarized as follows:

- a. The bank’s own interbank lending transactions concluded with leading banks in the Norwegian Money Market with a minimum value of NOK 100 million at the same day as the Fixing. If none;
- b. the bank’s own borrowing transactions concluded from sales of CDs or CPs denominated in NOK with a minimum value of NOK 100 million at the same day as the fixing. If none;
- c. the bank’s committed price quotes on CDs or CPs denominated in NOK and expert judgements based on the bank’s weighted funding costs in USD and EUR, preferable prices from actual transactions. With exception for the one-week tenor, committed price quotes on CDs and CPs shall be given at least 50 percent weight in the calculations.

A spread shall be added to calculated borrowing rates, so that the submissions reflects the interest rates that the bank would charge for unsecured lending.

Nibor is fixed/calculated as trimmed averages of the interest rates submitted by the panel banks, where the lowest and the highest rates submitted are omitted. For more information about Nibor please refer to the [Nibor Benchmark Statement](#) and the [Nibor Framework](#) published on [NoRe’s website](#).

### Background data for the banks' Nibor submissions

As support for NoRe's control activity the Nibor Panel banks provide NoRe with background information on their submissions. The information required depends on which level in the waterfall methodology the submissions have been based on. For transaction data submission (level a og b) information is to be provided about the relevant transactions, including whether or not interpolation or transactions with deviating maturity have been used. For non-transaction-based submissions (level c) the banks provide information about CD/CP quotes, foreign funding interest rates, foreign exchange spot and term rates and the weights applied for each component in the calculations. For level b and c submissions the banks also provide information on the spreads used for transforming borrowing rates into offered/lending rates.

### The underlying market

The Norwegian money market is characterised by liquidity, in terms of volume, being redistributed between the major market participants by using the currency swap market. This has been the situation all the time since the liberalisation of the credit markets in the 1980s. The use of currency swaps reflects the characteristics of the small open Norwegian economy, with relatively large international engagements connected to trade in raw materials and shipping. In later years, after the Financial Crisis, the use of unsecured interbank market lending in Norwegian kroner has contracted even more, in line with the developments observed internationally.

### Nibor input data

The lack of unsecured NOK-denominated interbank market transactions in the Norwegian interbank market implies that the submissions to Nibor with few exemptions are of type c. Table 1 below show statistics on the types of submissions received since the reporting of background data was introduced in April 2020.

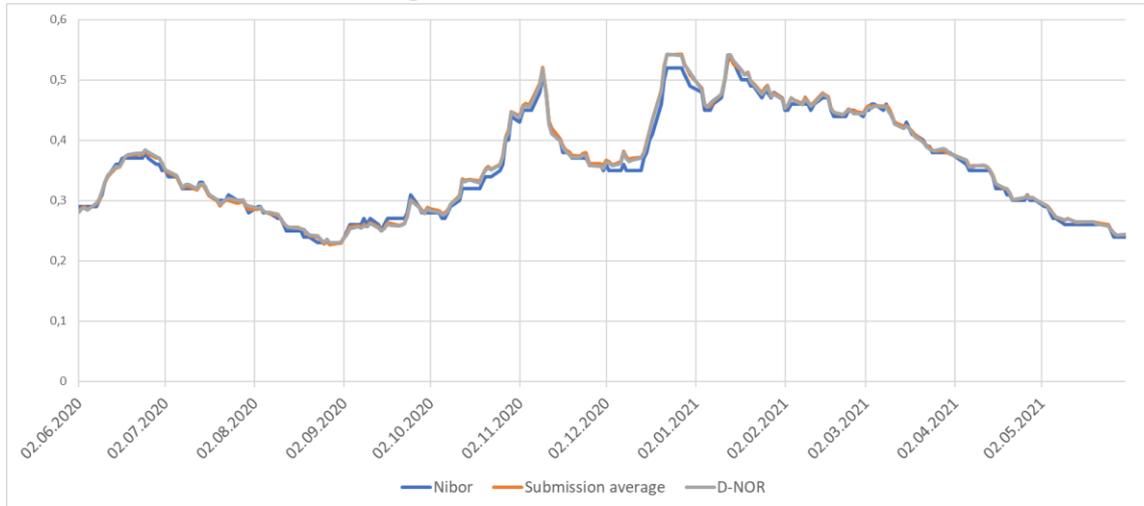
Period	Number of business days	Number of fixings	Number of submissions			
			Total	Level a	Level b	Level c
01.04.-30.06.20	59	295	1770	0	0	1770
01.07.-30.09.20	66	330	1980	0	0	1980
01.10.-31.12.20	64	320	1920	0	1	1919
01.01.-31.03.21	63	315	1890	0	1	1889
01.04.-31.05.21	37	185	1110	0	0	1110

### The Nibor Transparency model

Since Nibor, with few exemptions, are based on level c submissions, the different underlying input data received from the banks on their input data to level c submissions may be used to illustrate how separate factors have contributed in the calculation of Nibor. The Nibor Transparency model calculates a Norwegian Krone Offered Rate applying the same methodology as the Nibor Panel Banks use to calculate their submissions of level c on averages of the data and weights reported by the banks. This illustrative derived rate is called "D-NOR". For more explanation see separate box.

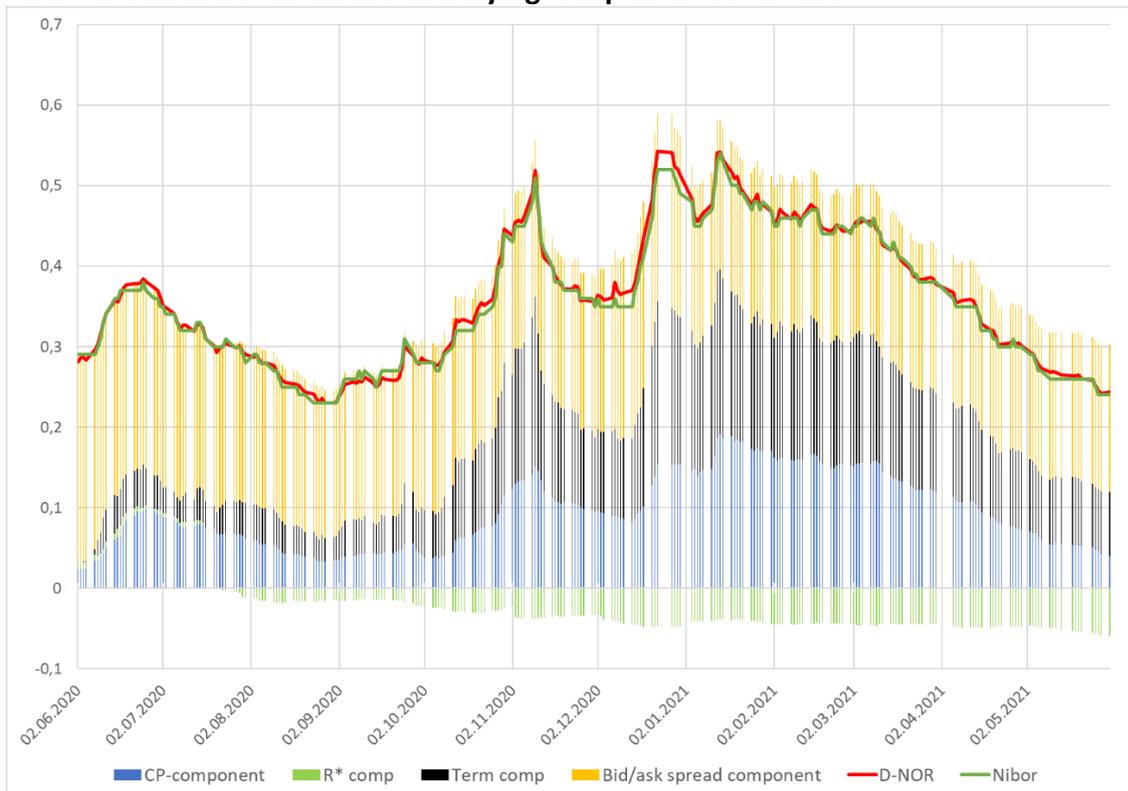
Nibor is calculated as a mean of Nibor submissions omitting the lowest and highest submission. This trimmed mean is normally not very different from a simple average of all contributions. Nibor, average of submissions and D-NOR is shown for the Nibor 3-month tenor in Chart 1 on the next page.

**Chart 1. 3-month Nibor, average of submissions and D-NOR. Percent**



The Transparency Model calculations are presented for the Nibor 3-month tenor in Chart 2. D-NOR and the corresponding Nibor fixing values are shown as lines. The underlying components are shown as stacked columns.

**Chart 2. 3-month D-NOR and underlying components. Percent.**



R\*: Foreign lending costs, Term: Term premia from the foreign exchange marked

As the chart show, the fall in the 3-month Nibor level since the start of 2021 can be explained by falling funding costs. There has been a reduction in the NOK term premia component (black area) and somewhat lower foreign interest rates (green area). The CP-component (blue area) show the same development. The average bid/ask spread (yellow area) has remained stable, somewhat below 20 bp. The different factor weights have also been stable so far in 2021.

## The Nibor Transparency Model explained

The Nibor Transparency model calculates a Norwegian Krone Offered Rate based on background input data from the Nibor Panel Banks and the formula the banks use to determine their Nibor submissions of type c. This illustrative derived rate is called “D-NOR”.

The Nibor contributions of type c is the result of calculations using the following formula:

$$R_{PB} = r_{PBcp} * W_{PBcp} + (r_{PBeur} + t_{PBeur}) * W_{PBeur} + (r_{PBUSD} + t_{PBUSD}) * W_{PBUSD} + \text{margin}_{PB}$$

where

- “ $R_{PB}$ ” is the Nibor submission of type c from the panel bank (“PB”),
- “ $w$ ” is the weight used on each component, in sum equal to 1,
- “ $r$ ” is interest rates from different markets,
- “ $t$ ” is the term premia from the foreign exchange market expressed as an interest rate
- “margin” is the lending-borrowing margin
- “cp”, “eur” and “usd” is short for CP/CD, euro and US dollars respectively.

The transparency model isolates the individual components into sub-submissions representing the mean of received data for each individual factor.

- CP/CD-prices (expressed as interest rates):  $r_{cp}$
- Foreign funding costs:  $r_{eur}$  and  $r_{usd}$
- Foreign Exchange Term premia (expressed as interest rates):  $t_{eur}$  and  $t_{usd}$
- Lending-borrowing margin/Spread: **margin**

Thereafter the offered rate (D-NOR) is calculated as a weighted average of these mean-sub-submissions using the averages of the banks’ calculation weights for each factor and the following formula:

$$D-NOR = r_{cp} * W_{cp} + (r_{eur} * W_{eur} + r_{usd} * W_{usd}) + (t_{eur} * W_{eur} + t_{usd} * W_{usd}) + \text{margin}$$

The results of the calculations are presented graphically, where

$$\text{CP component} = r_{cp} * W_{cp}$$

$$R^* \text{ comp} = r_{eur} * W_{eur} + r_{usd} * W_{usd}$$

$$\text{Term comp} = t_{eur} * W_{eur} + t_{usd} * W_{usd}$$

$$\text{Bid/ask spread component} = \text{margin}$$

The explanatory power of the model is somewhat limited when it comes to the part of Nibor movements being explained by changes in CD quotes. CD quotes are required to be given at least 50 percent weight in the Nibor submissions. However, the data indicates a clear historical correlation between the prices on CDs and NOK borrowing costs calculated from foreign funding costs and foreign exchange term premia (the sum of the Term and  $R^*$  components), which reflects that both data sources indicates similar NOK funding cost developments.

The model uses information connected to level c-submissions only. As long as the majority of submissions continues to be based on level c, the model will illustrate the factors behind the movements in Nibor. However, if submissions of type a and by b become frequent, the model’s explanatory power will be reduced.