Foreign Exchange Committee Releases FX Volume Survey Results


- Average daily volume in total over-the-counter (OTC) foreign exchange instruments (including spot, outright forward, foreign exchange swap, and option transactions) was $881.3 billion in October 2016. The average daily volume during the October 2016 survey period was 1.3 percent lower than average the April 2016 survey period and 8.9 percent higher than a year earlier.

- The decrease in volume was primarily driven by spot turnover, which decreased by 6.0 percent since the previous survey. Average daily turnover in options decreased by 6.6 percent while turnover in forwards and swaps increased by 1.3 and 4.7 percent respectively.

- Turnover reported with “other dealers” and “nonfinancial customers” decreased by 8.6 and 7.2 percent respectively, driving the overall decrease in volume. Turnover with “reporting dealers” increased by 8.9 percent, offsetting the overall decrease. Turnover with “other financial customers” was relatively unchanged since the prior survey.

- The largest decrease in volume occurred in the USD/JPY currency pair where turnover decreased by $11.3 billion. The largest increase in volume occurred in the GBP/USD and USD/MXN currency pairs, where turnover increased by $3.6 billion and $3.1 billion respectively.
Each quintile contains about five to six dealers.
The survey was developed in order to provide the market with frequent information on the size and structure of foreign exchange activity in North America. To achieve a representative survey, the Committee invited twenty-five leading financial institutions active in the North American foreign exchange market to contribute data on the level of turnover during the month of October 2016. The Committee also collaborated with the United Kingdom’s Foreign Exchange Joint Standing Committee (FXJSC), the Singapore Foreign Exchange Market Committee (SFEMC), the Tokyo Foreign Exchange Market Committee (TFEMC), the Canadian Foreign Exchange Committee (CFEC), and the Australian Foreign Exchange Committee (AFXC), which conducted similar surveys for the U.K., Singaporean, Japanese, Canadian, and Australian markets, respectively, over the same period. The FXJSC, SFEMC, CFEC, and AFXC are releasing their survey results today. The TFEMC released its results late yesterday.

For the purposes of the survey, turnover is defined as the gross value of all new deals entered into during the reporting period and is measured in terms of the notional amount of the contracts. Survey data are broken out by four foreign exchange instruments, thirteen currency pairs, four counterparty types, and five execution methods and are reported both in terms of daily average and total monthly volume. The reporting basis for the survey is the location of the price-setting dealer. While similar in nature, the survey is not comparable to the Bank for International Settlements’ Triennial Central Bank Survey of Foreign Exchange and Derivatives Market Activity, given the differences in the reporting methodologies.

The Foreign Exchange Committee is composed of individuals from institutions that participate actively in the foreign exchange markets as well as other financial markets worldwide. The Committee’s objectives include 1) serving as a forum for the discussion of best practices and technical issues in the foreign exchange market, 2) fostering improvements in risk management in the foreign exchange market by offering recommendations and guidelines, and 3) enhancing the legal certainty of foreign exchange contracts through the development of standard documentation. The Committee was formed in 1978 under the sponsorship of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.
The results of this survey, together with the list of reporting dealers and explanatory notes, are available at <http://www.newyorkfed.org/fxc/volumesurvey>

The results of the other surveys are also available as follows:

The Foreign Exchange Joint Standing Committee’s survey for the U.K. market: <http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/markets/forex/fxjsc/index.htm>


The Tokyo Foreign Exchange Market Committee’s survey for the Japanese market: <http://www.fxcomtky.com/index_e.html>

The Canadian Foreign Exchange Committee’s survey for the Canadian market: <http://www.cfec.ca/fx_volume.html>