Foreign Exchange Committee Releases FX Volume Survey Results

New York, July 28, 2008 – The Foreign Exchange Committee today released the results of its eighth Survey of North American Foreign Exchange Volume. For the April 2008 reporting period, key findings include:

- average daily volume in over-the-counter foreign exchange instruments (including spot transactions, outright forwards, foreign exchange swaps, and options) totaled $715 billion;
- average daily volume of transactions across all instruments increased by 15.7 percent overall compared with the April 2007 reporting period, driven by a 43.5% or $119 billion increase in spot volume and partially offset by a 36.1% or $19 billion decrease in option volume;
- over-the-counter option volume ($34.4 billion) recorded its lowest level since the Foreign Exchange Committee’s first volume survey conducted in October 2004;
- volumes for foreign exchange swaps and outright forwards remained flat and slightly declined, respectively.

“Our latest survey shows a large increase in overall foreign exchange volume since our last survey, the bulk of which has been driven by an increase in spot trades,” said Richard Mahoney, Chair of the Foreign Exchange Committee. “This survey continues to provide a valuable service to market participants by breaking down the composition of trading volume by trade type, execution type, counterparty type, and currency pair.”
### Average Daily Volume by Instrument

**April 2007**
- Total = $618 billion
- Swap: $189 bl (31%)
- Forward: $101 bl (16%)
- Spot: $274 bl (44%)
- OTC Option: $54 bl (9%)

**April 2008**
- Total = $715 billion
- Swap: $194 bl (27%)
- Forward: $93 bl (13%)
- Spot: $393 bl (55%)
- OTC Option: $34 bl (5%)

### Spot Transactions

**Average Daily Volume by Counterparty**

- Reporting Dealers
- Other Dealers
- Other Financial Customers
- Nonfinancial Customers

### OTC Option Transactions

**Average Daily Volume by Counterparty**

- Reporting Dealers
- Other Dealers
- Other Financial Customers
- Nonfinancial Customers
Average Daily Volume by Dealing Channel
April 2007
Total = $716* billion

- Voice Broker: $130 bl (18%)
- Inter-Dealer Direct: $58 bl (8%)
- Customer Direct: $218 bl (31%)
- Electronic Brokering Systems: $152 bl (21%)
- Electronic Trading Systems: $158 bl (22%)

Average Daily Volume by Dealing Channel
April 2008
Total = $830* billion

- Voice Broker: $161 bl (19%)
- Inter-Dealer Direct: $70 bl (8%)
- Customer Direct: $232 bl (29%)
- Electronic Brokering Systems: $161 bl (22%)
- Electronic Trading Systems: $164 bl (22%)

* Volume figures include spot, forwards, swaps, and options. The data are unadjusted for double-counting among reporting 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 thirty leading financial institutions active in the North American foreign exchange market to contribute data on the level of turnover during the month of April 2008. 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 (AFXG), which conducted similar surveys for the U.K., Singaporean, Japanese, Canadian, and Australian markets, respectively, over the same time period. The FXJSC, the SFEMC, the CFEC, and AFXC are releasing their survey results today. The TFEMC released its results on July 22.

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 method categories 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 includes representatives of major domestic and foreign commercial and investment banks engaged in foreign exchange transactions in the United States, as well as foreign exchange brokers. 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 online at <www.newyorkfed.org/fxc/volumesurvey>. The results of the Foreign Exchange Joint Standing Committee’s survey for the U.K. market can be found at <http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/markets/forex/fxjsc/index.htm>. The results of the Singapore Foreign Exchange Market Committee’s survey for the Singaporean market can be found at <http://www.sfemc.org/statistics.asp>. The results of the Tokyo Foreign Exchange Market Committee’s survey for the Japanese market can be found at <http://www.fxcomtky.com/index_e.html>. The results of the Canadian Foreign Exchange Committee’s survey for the Canadian market can be found at <http://www.cfec.ca/fx_volume.html>. The results of the Australian Foreign Exchange Committee’s survey for the Australian market can be found at <http://www.rba.gov.au/AFXC/Statistics/FXTurnoverReports/2008/Apr_2008/index.html>. 