Foreign Exchange Committee Releases FX Volume Survey Results

New York, January 28, 2014 – The Foreign Exchange Committee today released the results of its nineteenth Survey of North American Foreign Exchange Volume. For the October 2013 reporting period, key findings are featured below.

- Average daily volume in total over-the-counter (OTC) foreign exchange instruments (including spot, outright forward, foreign exchange swap, and option transactions) was $816 billion in October 2013. The October total was 19 percent lower than average daily volume during the April 2013 survey period, and 3 percent higher than a year earlier.

- Average daily volume decreased across all instrument types since the last survey. The most significant declines in turnover on a percentage basis were in OTC options and spot, which decreased 40 percent and 26 percent, respectively.

- The decline in turnover occurred across most participant types but was particularly pronounced for “other financial customers”, which accounted for over half the decrease in total average daily volume.
Average Daily FX Volume by Instrument

Billions of U.S. Dollars

OTC Option
Forward
Swap
Spot


Percentage Share of FX Volume by Instrument

Percent

Option
Swap
Forward
Spot


Daily FX Volume by Counterparty

Billions of U.S. Dollars

Nonfinancial Customers
Other Financial Customers
Other Dealers
Reporting Dealers


FX Spot Market Share by Counterparty Type

Percent

Nonfinancial Customers
Other Financial Customers
Other Dealers
Reporting Dealers


Survey-over-Survey Changes in Daily FX Volume by U.S. Dollar versus Other Currencies

Billions of U.S. Dollars

Euro
Japanese Yen
British Pound
Canadian Dollar
Brazilian Real
All Other Currencies


Average Daily Volume Composition by Currency Pair, October 2013

Total = $816 billion

EUR/USD $224.0 27%
Other Euro pairs $38.3 5%
All other currencies $50.9 6%
USD/JPY $122.1 15%
USD/BRL $17.5 2%
CAD/USD $63.6 8%
GBP/USD $88.5 11%
Other USD pairs $211.3 26%
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 2013. 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 (AFXCE), 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 Singapore Foreign Exchange Market Committee’s survey for the Singaporean market:
<http://www.sfemc.org/statistics.asp>

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>

The Australian Foreign Exchange Committee’s survey for the Australian market: