Foreign Exchange Committee Releases FX Volume Survey Results

New York, July 25, 2016 – The Foreign Exchange Committee today released the results of its twenty-fourth Survey of North American Foreign Exchange Volume. The April 2016 survey results are based on an expanded reporting form introduced during this reporting period. Key findings of the April 2016 survey 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 $893.2 billion in April 2016. The April 2016 survey was 10 percent higher than average daily volume during the October 2015 survey period and one percent higher than a year earlier.

- The increase in volume was primarily driven by swap turnover, which increased by 23 percent since the previous survey. Average daily turnover in spot, forwards, and options also increased by seven, eight, and three percent, respectively.

- Turnover reported with “other financial customers” increased by 32 percent and drove the overall increase in volume. Turnover with “reporting dealers” and “nonfinancial customers” declined by 11 percent and eight percent, respectively. Turnover reported with “other dealers” was unchanged.

- The largest increase in volume occurred in the USD/JPY currency pair where turnover increased by 35 percent. Turnover volumes in GBP/USD increased by 15 percent, while EUR/USD volumes decreased by four percent.
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Average Daily FX Volume by Instrument

Billions of USD

OTC Option
Forward
Swap
Spot

April-08 April-09 April-10 April-11 April-12 April-13 April-14 April-15 April-16

Percentage Share of FX Volume by Instrument

Percent

April-08 April-09 April-10 April-11 April-12 April-13 April-14 April-15 April-16

Option
Swap
Forward
Spot

Daily FX Volume by Counterparty

Billions of U.S. Dollars

Nonfinancial Customers
Other Financial Customers
Other Dealers
Reporting Dealers

April-08 April-09 April-10 April-11 April-12 April-13 April-14 April-15 April-16

FX Spot Market Share by Counterparty Type

Percent

April-08 April-09 April-10 April-11 April-12 April-13 April-14 April-15 April-16

Nonfinancial Customers
Other Financial Customers
Other Dealers
Reporting Dealers

FX Spot Market Share by Quintile*

Percent

April-08 April-09 April-10 April-11 April-12 April-13 April-14 April-15 April-16

Fifth quintile
Fourth quintile
Third quintile
Second quintile
First quintile

Average Daily Volume Composition by Currency Pair, April 2016

Total = $893.2 billion

- Other Euro pairs $69.1 billion 8%
- All other currencies $50.8 billion 6%
- EUR/USD $207.0 billion 23%
- Other USD pairs $228.5 billion 25%
- USD/JPY $157.9 billion 18%
- USD/BRL $17.5 billion 2%
- CAD/USD $74.0 billion 8%
- GBP/USD $90.4 billion 10%

* 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 April 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 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: