SCHWEIZERISCHE NATIONALBANK **BANQUE NATIONALE SUISSE** BANCA NAZIONALE SVIZZERA BANCA NAZIUNALA SVIZRA SWISS NATIONAL BANK ÷

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Communications

Zurich, 1 September 2010

Turnover in foreign exchange and derivatives markets

Background

In April and June 2010, a global survey on foreign exchange and derivatives market activity was conducted. The triennial survey is coordinated by the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) and covers over 50 countries. This snapshot examines the size and structure of the markets, the significance of the individual financial centres and currencies, and the types and maturities of the transactions. As in the last survey in 2007, data were gathered on both *traditional foreign exchange transactions*¹ and *over-the-counter* (OTC) derivatives².

The survey consisted of two parts, which covered different data and were conducted consecutively.

- The first part covered the *turnover of domestic bank offices* in the foreign exchange and derivatives markets in April 2010. This press release presents the results for banks operating in Switzerland. The figures on global turnover will be simultaneously published by the BIS (www.bis.org/triennial.htm).³
- In the second part of the survey, data on the *amounts outstanding* on derivatives products (contract volumes and replacement values) as at 30 June 2010 were

¹ Traditional foreign exchange transactions consist of spot and forward transactions in foreign exchange. Forward transactions are divided into outright forwards and swaps.

² OTC derivatives were divided into OTC foreign exchange derivatives and OTC interest rate derivatives. Foreign exchange derivatives include currency swaps and foreign exchange options. Interest rate derivatives are divided into forward rate agreements, swaps and options.

³ When the BIS publishes its Triennial Central Bank Survey, it will deviate from the breakdown by traditional foreign exchange markets and OTC derivatives markets for the first time. Instead, global results will be broken down by foreign exchange instruments and OTC interest rate derivatives. The Swiss National Bank, however, will continue to present national results using the original breakdown, so as to facilitate comparison with previously published data. The only difference between the national and global publications is how foreign exchange derivatives are allocated. By reallocating foreign exchange derivatives from OTC derivatives markets to traditional derivatives markets, one arrives at the comparable BIS aggregates, i.e. foreign exchange instruments and OTC interest rate derivatives.

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collected. This part covers only the transactions of internationally operating *banking* groups domiciled in Switzerland. The BIS will publish the global results at a later date.⁴

The Swiss National Bank has participated in the survey for the eighth time. Data was requested from 27 banks that operate in Switzerland and have a sizeable share in the domestic foreign exchange and derivatives markets (2007: 23 banks). The collected data on turnover were broken down by type of transaction, counterparty, currency and maturity.

Summary of results

In April 2010, the 27 reporting institutions recorded an average turnover of USD 241 billion per trading day (20 days in total) in traditional foreign exchange markets (2007: USD 242 billion) and USD 83 billion in OTC derivatives markets (2007: USD 73 billion). In the traditional foreign exchange markets, foreign exchange swaps, with a share of 72% of turnover and spot transactions with a share of 24% of turnover, remained the most important instruments by far. In the OTC derivatives markets, interest rate swaps (67%) and forward rate agreements (23%) were the principal instruments used.

The current survey shows that there has been virtually no change in the importance of individual currencies and currency pairs across all types of transactions. Next to the US dollar and the euro, the Swiss franc remained the third most important currency in the foreign exchange and derivatives business of domestic bank offices.

The maturity distribution of forward transactions was stable as well: transactions with maturities of seven days or less captured 67% of turnover, while contracts with maturities ranging from eight days to one year accounted for 32%.

Turnover in traditional foreign exchange transactions

Turnover in the traditional foreign exchange markets, as recorded by the 27 reporting institutions, totalled USD 4,828 billion in April 2010 (2007: USD 4,592 billion), averaging USD 241 billion per trading day (2007: USD 242 billion).

Instruments

Daily turnover amounted to USD 58 billion in spot transactions and USD 184 billion in forward transactions. With a turnover of USD 173 billion, foreign exchange swaps dominated the latter segment. By contrast, outright forwards (USD 11 billion) were less significant. Compared with the last survey, the proportion of forward transactions in traditional foreign exchange transactions increased to 76% (2007: 55%). This increase was primarily driven by higher turnover of foreign exchange swaps (+USD 56 billion) and was partly the result of shifting trading activities to Switzerland. Spot transactions

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registered a decline of USD 51 billion compared with 2007. Accounting for 24%, they were back at approximately their level of 2004.

Counterparties

Once again, the banks' main trading partners in the traditional foreign exchange markets were banks abroad, accounting for 83%, or USD 200 billion, of daily turnover. These were followed by domestic banks, accounting for 9%, or USD 22 billion. Non-financial customers in Switzerland and abroad accounted for a 4% share each.

Currencies

The US dollar continued to be the most traded currency, followed by the euro and the Swiss franc. Euro/US dollar was again the most traded currency pair, capturing 29% of total turnover (2007: 31%), followed by US dollar/Swiss franc contracts with a 21% share (2007: 22%). Other major currency pairs were sterling/US dollar (9%), US dollar/yen (9%) and euro/Swiss franc (8%).

Maturities

Forward transactions continued to be concluded with mostly very short maturities. Contracts with maturities of seven days or less accounted for 67% of turnover (2007: 64%). Contracts with maturities between eight days and one year captured 32% of turnover (2007: 35%). Once again, hardly any maturities exceeding one year were observed. Maturities again differed considerably depending on the type of forward transaction. Whereas foreign exchange swaps were mostly concluded with maturities of up to seven days (69% share of turnover as against 70% in 2007), the maturities of outright forwards (70% of turnover compared with 76% in 2007) ranged primarily from eight days to one year.

Turnover in OTC derivatives markets

Daily turnover in OTD derivatives markets (USD 83 billion) exceeded average turnover in April 2007 by USD 10 billion. This growth was primarily attributable to forward rate agreements, whose turnover rose by USD 6 billion to USD 19 billion per trading day. Turnover of OTC foreign exchange derivatives, by contrast, decreased USD 8 billion per trading day (2007: USD 12 billion).

Instruments

Accounting for 90% or USD 75 billion, interest rate derivatives clearly remained the principal instruments used in OTC derivatives markets. Foreign exchange derivatives (share: 10%) were almost exclusively traded in the form of options. Currency swaps played only a marginal role, with a share of less than 1%. Among interest rate derivatives, swaps remained the major instrument, with a 74% share of turnover (2007: 90%), corresponding

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to USD 56 billion. These were followed by forward rate agreements, with an average daily turnover of USD 19 billion. Once again, options were hardly used at all in the area of interest rate derivatives.

Counterparties

As in the traditional foreign exchange markets, banks abroad were also the major counterparties in the OTC derivatives markets, attracting 93% of turnover, or USD 77 billion per trading day. Turnover with non-financial customers abroad was halved and was down to USD 2 billion, corresponding to 2% of total turnover in OTC derivatives markets. Domestic banks and non-financial customers, with a 3% or 1% share of turnover, continued to play a minor role.

Currencies

Interest rate derivatives turnover (USD 75 billion) involved the euro (61%), the pound sterling (14%) and the Swiss franc (12%). Accounting for 8%, the US dollar was of relatively minor importance. Forward rate agreements were mostly concluded in euros (40%), but also in Swiss francs (27%), sterling (16%) and US dollars (8%). The euro was even more dominant in the interest rate swap segment, with a 68% share of turnover. This was followed by sterling (13%), the US dollar (8%) and the Swiss franc (6%). In the case of foreign exchange derivatives, the most common currency pairs were US dollar/euro (30%), Swiss franc/euro (14%), sterling/US dollar (9%) and Swiss franc/dollar (8%). This breakdown was dominated by options, as was the entire market for foreign exchange derivatives.

Annex to the press release Turnover in foreign exchange and derivatives markets

SCHWEIZERISCHE NATIONALBANK BANQUE NATIONALE SUISSE BANCA NAZIONALE SVIZZERA BANCA NAZIUNALA SVIZRA SWISS NATIONAL BANK

> Statistics Zurich 2010

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Swiss National Bank Statistics Börsenstrasse 15 P.O. Box CH-8022 Zurich

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Conventions used in this publication

0	Rounded zero or value negligible.
_	Absolute zero.
	Data confidential, not available or not applicable.

Notes

Rounding differences

The figures in the tables are rounded. Where rounded figures are used in calculations (totals, balances, rates of change, shares), deviations from the exact values can result.

Further information

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Editorial deadline

The cut-off date for the tables was 26 August 2010.

Internet

OTC Derivatives Statistics (BIS)

These tables are available on the internet at www.snb.ch, *Publications, Foreign exchange and derivatives markets.* Data on the global survey are published on the website of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) at www.bis.org/triennial.htm.

1 Traditional foreign exchange markets: overview

	1995		1998		2001		2004		2007		2010	
		1		2		3		4		5		6
Total turnover	I	I		I		I				I		
In USD billions	4.550						4 505					
	1 556		1 634		1 346		1 585		4 592		4 828	
Turnover per trading day (sh In USD millions	nare of total tu	rnover in	brackets)									
Total turnover	86 462		81 719		70 823		79 239		241 692		241 416	
Instruments												
Spot transactions	44 186	(51%)	34 464	(42%)	23 388	(33%)	23 168	(29%)	108 449	(45%)	57 860	(24%)
Forward transactions	42 276	(49%)	47 255	(58%)	47 435	(67%)	56 071	(71%)	133 242	(55%)	183 556	(76%)
Outright forwards	8351	(10%)	5 465	(7%)	6331	(9%)	6 653	(9%)	16824	(33 %)	10 676	(4%)
Foreign exchange swaps	33 925	(39%)	41 790	(51%)	41 104	(58%)	49 418	(62%)	116 418	(48%)	172 880	(72%)
Counterparties												
Banks	73 594	(85%)	68 581	(84%)	57 677	(81%)	63 841	(81%)	203 107	(84%)	221 753	(92%)
Local	73 594 12 584	(85%)	11 146		9220	(13%)	8 040	(10%)	16791	(04 %)	21 542	(92 %)
				(14%)								
Cross-border	61 010	(71%)	57 435	(70%)	48 457	(68%)	55 801	(70%)	186316	(77%)	200 211	(83%)
Customers	12867	(15%)	13 139	(16%)	13 147	(19%)	15398	(19%)	38 585	(16%)	19663	(8%)
Local	5 630	(7%)	6 332	(8%)	7 694	(11%)	9547	(12%)	19175	(8%)	10 559	(4%)
Cross-border	7 237	(8%)	6 807	(8%)	5 453	(8%)	5851	(7%)	19409	(8%)	9103	(4%)
Currency pairs												
USD/CHF	22 876	(26%)	23 811	(29%)	18 664	(26%)	17 851	(23%)	52676	(22%)	51 269	(21%)
USD/EUR					24 595	(35%)	25977	(33%)	74009	(31%)	69 806	(29%)
USD/DEM	20 23 1	(23%)	17 349	(21%)								
USD/JPY	6326	(7%)	8 895	(11%)	8 458	(12%)	6 256	(8%)	20679	(9%)	21 361	(9%)
USD/GBP	1 935	(2%)	3 842	(5%)	4 560	(6%)	9 937	(13%)	28647	(12%)	21 058	(9%)
EUR/CHF	1 303	(2 /0)	0.042	(0 /0)	4 4 4 6	(6%)	6675	(13%)	13 680	(6%)	18 184	(8%)
DEM/CHF	9 830	(11%)	5 574	(7%)	4 440	(0 /0)		(0 /0)		(0 /0)	. 10 104	(0 /0)
Average exchange rates in A	April											
USD in	•											
CHF	1.134		1.505		1.712		1.297		1.212		1.069	
EUR					1.120		0.834		0.740		0.745	
DEM	1.378		1.814									
JPY	83.61		132.03		123.73		107.58		118.91		93.58	
GBP	0.617		0.598		0.697		0.555		0.503		0.653	
Number of banks	114		63		42		22		23		27	
Number of trading days	18		20		19		20		19		20	

2 Traditional foreign exchange markets: breakdown by currency

Turnover per trading day

In USD millions

	Total												
		of which											
		CHF against			USD	against			EUR	against			
		USD E	UR JPY	GBP	CHF	EUR	JPY	GBP	CHF	USD	JPY	GBP	>
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Spot transactions	57 860	3 993	5 195	132	303	3 993	21758	4714	6 282	5 195	21758	2 057	1774
Banks	52 1 1 5	3 572	4 489	112	261	3 572	19 437	4 3 9 5	5823	4 489	19437	1 839	1 658
Customers	5 745	421	706	20	42	421	2 321	319	459	706	2 321	218	116
Forward transactions	183 556	47 624	13 290	508	1 158	47 624	49 638	16859	15 056	13 290	49 638	1 485	3217
Outright forwards	10676	1 653	1 526	113	162	1 653	5 256	673	952	1 526	5256	308	228
Banks	5370	1 066	980	64	113	1 066	2 995	398	587	980	2 995	109	109
Customers	5 307	587	546	49	49	587	2 261	275	365	546	2 261	198	119
Foreign exchange swaps	172 880	45971	11 764	395	995	45971	44 382	16186	14 104	11 764	44 382	1 177	2 989
Banks	164 269	44 572	10 931	361	915	44 572	41 384	15895	13619	10931	41 384	1 1 1 2	2 608
Customers	8611	1 398	833	34	80	1 398	2 998	291	485	833	2 998	66	381
Total	241 416	51617	18 485	639	1461	51617	71 396	21573	21 339	18 458	71 396	3 542	4 99 1

3 Traditional foreign exchange markets: further details

	1995	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Currencies traded Share of total turnover						
USD	72%	83%	86%	85%	85%	84%
EUR			45%	46%	43%	42%
DEM	47%	35%				
CHF	41%	39%	34%	33%	29%	30%
Other	39%	43%	35%	36%	42%	43%
Total	200%	200%	200%	200%	200%	200%
Currency pairs Share of total turnover						
USD/EUR			35%	33%	31%	29%
USD/DEM	23%	21%				
USD/CHF	26%	29%	26%	23%	22%	21%
USD/GBP	2%	5%	6%	13%	12%	9%
USD/JPY	7%	11%	12%	8%	9%	9%
CHF/EUR			6%	8%	6%	8%
CHF/DEM	11%	7%				
CHF/GBP	0.3%	0.6%	0.8%	1.0%	0.4%	0.6%
CHF/JPY	0.7%	0.4%	0.6%	0.7%	0.5%	0.3%
EUR/GBP			1%	2%	2%	2%
DEM/GBP	2%	2%				
EUR/JPY			2%	2%	3%	1%
DEM/JPY	1%	2%				
Other	27%	22%	10%	10%	16%	20%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Maturities and instruments						
Share of turnover of instrument ca	tegory					
Outright forwards Up to 7 days	45%	33%	19%	26%	23%	29%
> 7 days	43 <i>%</i> 54%	64%	70%	73%	76%	29 % 70%
> 1 year	1%	3%	11%	1%	1%	2%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Foreign exchange swaps						
Up to 7 days	89%	83%	66%	64%	70%	69%
> 7 days	10%	26%	34%	36%	30%	30%
> 1 year	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
All forward contracts						
Up to 7 days	80%	75%	60%	58%	64%	67%
> 7 days	19%	23%	39%	41%	35%	32%
> 1 year	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

4 OTC derivatives markets: overview

	1995	1	1998	2	2001	3	2004	4	2007	5	2010	6
Total turnover In USD billions												
	79		316		288		365		1 379		1 658	
Turnover per trading day (sł In USD millions	nare of total tu	rnover in	brackets)									
Total turnover	4411		15 783		15131		18 245		72 602		82 898	
Instruments												
Foreign exchange derivatives	1 969	(45%)	9 900	(63%)	5516	(36%)	6 196	(34%)	11 948	(16%)	8 0 3 7	(10%)
Currency swaps	23	(1%)	250	(2%)	62	(0%)	32	(0%)	77	(0%)	22	(0%)
Options	1 946	(44%)	9650	(61%)	5 4 5 3	(36%)	6 164	(34%)	11 871	(16%)	8015	(10%)
Interest rate derivatives	2 4 4 2	(55%)	5883	(37%)	9615	(64%)	12 049	(66%)	60 654	(84%)	74 861	(90%)
Forward rate agreements	1 623	(37%)	1 922	(12%)	7846	(52%)	1 578	(9%)	6270	(9%)	19 058	(23%)
Swaps	483	(11%)	3 908	(25%)	1 729	(11%)	10 435	(57%)	54 319	(75%)	55 752	(67%)
Options	336	(8%)	53	(0%)	40	(0%)	36	(0%)	66	(0%)	51	(0%)
Counterparties												
Banks	3139	(71%)	12 485	(79%)	13713	(91%)	14 831	(81%)	66 425	(91%)	80 110	(97%)
Local	602	(14%)	2 1 3 0	(13%)	898	(6%)	1 061	(6%)	1715	(2%)	2 765	(3%)
Cross-border	2 537	(58%)	10355	(66%)	12815	(85%)	13 770	(75%)	64 710	(89%)	77 344	(93%)
Customers	1 2 7 1	(29%)	3 298	(21%)	1417	(9%)	3 4 1 4	(19%)	6177	(9%)	2 880	(3%)
Local	835	(19%)	739	(5%)	871	(6%)	954	(5%)	1 754	(2%)	917	(1%)
Cross-border	437	(10%)	2 559	(16%)	546	(4%)	2 460	(13%)	4 4 2 2	(6%)	1 963	(2%)

OTC derivatives markets: breakdown by currency 5

Turnover per trading day In USD millions

	Total													
		of w	hich											
		CHF	against			USD	against			EUR	against			
		USD	EUR	JPY	GBP	CHF	EUR	JPY	GBP	CHF	USD	JPY	GB	P
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Foreign exchange derivatives		8 037	646	1 093	22	68	646	2 391	539	697	1 093	2 391	351	346
Currency swaps		22	-	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	-	-	-
Options		8015	646	1 079	22	68	646	2 391	539	697	1 079	2 391	351	346
	EUR	GBP	CHF	USD	SEK	CAD	AUD	NOK	JPY	DKK		Other	Tot	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Interest rate derivatives		45 563	10 301	8 650	6217	1 568	1 185	318	251	120	95	7	266	74861
Forward rate agreements		7 609	2 967	5 1 4 0	1 553	1 1 4 1	156	-	251	38	-	-	163	19 058
Swaps		37 953	7 334	3 460	4664	428	1 029	318	-	82	95	7	103	55 752
Options		1	-	50	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	51