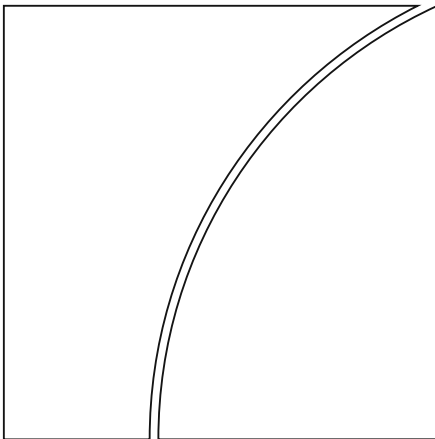




BANK FOR INTERNATIONAL SETTLEMENTS



Statistical release

OTC derivatives statistics at end-June 2015

Monetary and Economic Department

November 2015

Tools to access and download the OTC derivatives statistics:

- [BIS website](#) – tables in PDF of the BIS's most current data
- [BIS Statistics Explorer](#) – a browsing tool for pre-defined views of the BIS's most current data

Data behind the charts in this release can be downloaded from the BIS website (www.bis.org/statistics/otc_hy1511_charts.zip).

Questions about the OTC derivatives statistics may be addressed to statistics@bis.org.

This release is available on the BIS website (www.bis.org/publ/otc_hy.htm).

OTC derivatives statistics at end-June 2015

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Data are subject to change. Revised data will be released concurrently with the forthcoming *BIS Quarterly Review* on 6 December 2015. The OTC derivatives statistics at end-December 2015 will be released no later than 13 May 2016.

The term “country” as used in this release also covers territorial entities that are not states as understood by international law and practice but for which data are separately and independently maintained.

New publication tables

In September 2015, the BIS comprehensively revised the tables it publishes on derivatives statistics. The new tables consolidate in one set derivatives statistics that were previously presented in several different BIS publications. Table numbers in this release refer to the tables available on the [BIS website](#).

Data in the new tables are also available in a new interactive tool, the [BIS Statistics Explorer](#), where the OTC derivatives statistics can be downloaded in CSV format as well as plotted in charts. An example of a chart showing the notional amount outstanding of all OTC derivatives contacts is shown [here](#).

1. Highlights

Highlights from the latest BIS semiannual survey of over-the-counter (OTC) derivatives markets:

- Activity in global OTC derivatives markets fell in the first half of 2015. The notional amount of outstanding contracts declined from \$629 trillion at end-December 2014 to \$553 trillion at end-June 2015. Even after adjustment for the effect of exchange rate movements on positions denominated in currencies other than the US dollar, notional amounts were still down by about 10%. Trade compression to eliminate redundant contracts was the major driver of the decline.
- The gross market value of outstanding derivatives contracts – which provides a more meaningful measure of amounts at risk than notional amounts – declined even more sharply in the first half of 2015. Market values decreased from \$20.9 trillion to \$15.5 trillion between end-December 2014 and end-June 2015. The fall is likely to have been driven by the reduction in notional amounts outstanding as well as increases in long-term interest rates, which took yields back closer to those on outstanding swaps.
- Central clearing, a key element in global regulators' agenda for reforming OTC derivatives markets to reduce systemic risks, made further inroads. In credit default swap markets, the share of outstanding contracts cleared through central counterparties rose from 29% to 31% in the first half of 2015. In interest rate derivatives markets too, central clearing is becoming increasingly important.

2. Recent developments in OTC derivatives markets

The overall size of the over-the-counter derivatives market continued to contract in the first half of 2015. The notional amount of outstanding OTC derivatives contracts, which determines contractual payments and is one indicator of positions, fell by 12% between end-December 2014 and end-June 2015, from \$629 trillion to \$553 trillion (Graph 1, left-hand panel, in section 3 of this release and [Table D5 on the BIS website](#)). Over this period, exchange rate movements exaggerated the contraction of positions denominated in currencies other than the US dollar.¹ Yet, even after adjustment for this effect, notional amounts at end-June 2015 were still about 10% lower than at end-December 2014.

The gross market value of outstanding derivatives contracts – that is, the cost of replacing all outstanding contracts at market prices prevailing on the reporting date – sharply decreased in the first half of 2015 (Graph 1, centre panel).² The decline is likely to have been caused by a combination of falling notional amounts and narrowing gaps between interest rates on the reporting date and rates at contract inception. Following a one-off increase in the second half of 2014, the latest semiannual decline brought gross market values back onto the downward trajectory they had been on since end-2011. Market values decreased from \$20.9 trillion at end-December 2014 to \$15.5 trillion at end-June 2015, their lowest level since 2007 (Graph 1, centre panel).

¹ Positions are reported in US dollars, and thus changes between periods include the impact of exchange rate movements on positions denominated in currencies other than the US dollar. For example, the depreciation of the euro against the US dollar between end-December 2014 and end-June 2015 resulted in a decline in the reported US dollar value of positions denominated in euros.

² The gross market value is calculated as the sum of the absolute value of gross positive market values and gross negative market values. The gross positive market value is the gain to derivatives dealers – and the gross negative market value the loss – if the dealers were to sell their outstanding contracts at market prices prevailing on the reporting date.

Market participants can reduce their exposure to counterparty credit risk through netting agreements and collateral. Gross credit exposures account for that by adjusting gross market values for legally enforceable bilateral netting agreements (although they do not take account of collateral). Gross credit exposures equalled \$2.9 trillion at end-June 2015, down from \$3.4 trillion at end-December 2014 (Graph 1, right-hand panel). This measure of counterparty credit risk represented 18.5% of gross market values at end-June 2015, which was slightly above the average since 2008 (16.0%).

Interest rate derivatives

The interest rate segment accounts for the majority of OTC derivatives activity. At end-June 2015, the notional amount of outstanding interest rate derivatives contracts totalled \$435 trillion, which represented 79% of the global OTC derivatives market (Table D5). At \$320 trillion, swaps account for by far the largest share of this market segment.

Notional amounts fell sharply in the first half of 2015, driven by a contraction in euro-denominated interest rate contracts (Graph 3, left-hand panel). The notional value of euro contracts declined from \$167 trillion to \$126 trillion between end-December 2014 and end-June 2015 (or, equivalently, from €138 trillion to €113 trillion). Trade compression to eliminate redundant contracts was the major driver of the decline. The overall volume of compressions continued to grow in the first half of 2015, mainly affecting interest rate swaps cleared through central counterparties (CCPs).³

The notional value of interest rate contracts in other currencies also declined in the first half of 2015. US dollar contracts decreased from \$173 trillion to \$160 trillion between end-December 2014 and end-June 2015. Yen, sterling and Swiss franc contracts also decreased, after adjustment for the impact of exchange rate movements on the reported US dollar positions of interest rate derivatives denominated in those currencies.

The gross market value of interest rate derivatives decreased from \$15.6 trillion at end-December 2014 to \$11.1 trillion at end-June 2015. This reflected the considerable decline in the notional amounts of outstanding contracts (discussed above) that took place during the same period. Increases in long-term yields also likely contributed to the decrease in market values by narrowing the gap between market interest rates on the reporting date and rates prevailing at contract inception.⁴ Decreases in market values were reported for interest rate derivatives denominated in all major currencies except the Swiss franc and the Canadian dollar. The declines were especially marked in euro, yen and sterling contracts (Table D5).

The overall decline in notional amounts was not accompanied by a significant change in the maturity distribution of interest rate derivatives. As a share of all maturities outstanding, short-term contracts (with maturities of under one year) rose slightly, from 40% to 42%, between end-December 2014 and end-June 2015, while the percentage of medium-term contracts (with maturities between one and five years) dropped marginally, from 37% to 35% (Graph 3, centre panel). In the meantime, the share of long-term contracts (with maturities of over five years) was unchanged, at 24%.

The distribution of interest rate derivatives by counterparty points to a continued shift in activity towards financial institutions other than dealers, including CCPs. The notional amount of interest rate contracts between derivatives dealers, which had been falling more or less steadily since reaching a peak of \$189 trillion at end-June 2008, declined further during the first half of 2015 – from \$70 trillion at

³ Compression is a process for tearing up trades that allows economically redundant derivative trades to be terminated early without changing each participant's net position. For statistics on multilateral compressions, see TriOptima, www.trioptima.com/resource-center/statistics/triReduce.html.

⁴ See "EME vulnerabilities take centre stage", *BIS Quarterly Review*, September 2015, pp 1–15, www.bis.org/publ/qtrpdf/r_qt1509a.htm.

end-December 2014 to \$61 trillion at end-June 2015 (Graph 3, right-hand panel). Contracts between dealers and other financial institutions, including CCPs, stood at \$360 trillion at end-June 2015, down from \$421 trillion at end-December 2014. One potential explanation for the large size of the latter decline is that trades were moved to CCPs, which facilitated the compression process. Notwithstanding this absolute decline in notional amounts, contracts with other financial institutions continued to account for the majority (83%) of interest rate derivatives contracts as of end-June 2015.

Turning to the concentration of derivatives activity among reporting dealers, as of end-June 2015 in many segments the concentration of dealers' positions had fallen to levels close to or below those reported prior to 2008 (Graph 7, centre panel, and [Table D7](#)). Herfindahl indices for the yen interest rate swap (IRS) market had fallen back to 2006 levels, and for the US dollar and euro markets to 2004 levels. However, in the sterling and Swiss franc IRS markets, concentration remained well above 2007 levels.

Foreign exchange derivatives

Foreign exchange derivatives make up the second largest segment of the global OTC derivatives market. At end-June 2015, the notional amount of outstanding foreign exchange derivatives contracts totalled \$75 trillion, which represented 13% of OTC derivatives activity ([Table D5](#)). Contracts against the US dollar represented 86% of the foreign exchange derivatives market.

After reaching its highest level for several years at end-December 2014, the gross market value of foreign exchange derivatives dropped during the first half of 2015 – to \$2.5 trillion at end-June 2015 from \$2.9 trillion at end-December 2014. The overall contraction was driven by contracts involving the US dollar and the yen. The former decreased from \$2.7 trillion at end-December 2014 to \$2.2 trillion at end-June 2015, while the latter fell from \$0.8 trillion to \$0.5 trillion between the same two points in time. In the meantime, the gross market value of euro-denominated foreign exchange derivatives remained virtually unchanged between end-December 2014 and end-June 2015.

The latest data show little change in the instrument composition of foreign exchange derivatives. Forwards and foreign exchange swaps jointly accounted for exactly half of the notional amount outstanding ([Table D5](#)). However, currency swaps – which typically have a longer maturity than other foreign exchange derivatives and thus are more sensitive to changes in market prices – accounted for the largest proportion (50%) of the gross market value.

In contrast to the interest rate derivatives market, in the foreign exchange derivatives market inter-dealer contracts continued to account for nearly as much activity as contracts with other financial institutions. The notional amount of outstanding foreign exchange contracts between reporting dealers totalled \$31 trillion at end-June 2015, and contracts with financial counterparties other than dealers \$33 trillion ([Table D5](#)). The inter-dealer share has averaged around 43% since 2011, up from less than 40% prior to 2011. Among instruments, inter-dealer activity accounts for a greater share of more complex contracts, such as currency swaps (52% of notional amounts) and options (47%).

Credit default swaps

The steady reduction in the size of the global credit derivatives market, which started in 2007, continued in the first half of 2015. The notional amount of outstanding credit derivatives contracts fell from \$16 trillion at end-December 2014 to \$15 trillion at end-June 2015, which represented only a quarter of its end-2007 peak of \$58 trillion (Graph 6, left-hand panel).

The market value of credit default swaps (CDS) also continued to decline, to \$453 billion at end-June 2015 in gross terms and \$120 billion in net terms (Graph 6, right-hand panel). The net measure

takes account of bilateral netting agreements covering CDS contracts but, unlike gross credit exposures, is not adjusted for cross-product netting.

Recent declines in overall CDS activity reflected mainly a contraction in inter-dealer activity. The notional amount for contracts between reporting dealers fell from \$7.7 trillion at end-December 2014 to \$6.5 trillion at end-June 2015 (Table D10.1). Notional amounts with banks and securities firms also decreased in the first half of 2015, from \$1.3 trillion to \$1.2 trillion.

Central clearing, which is a key element in global regulators' agenda for reforming OTC derivatives markets to reduce systemic risks, continued to make inroads. In line with the overall trend in OTC derivatives markets, notional amounts cleared through CCPs declined in absolute terms between end-December 2014 and end-June 2015, from \$4.8 trillion to \$4.5 trillion (Table D10.1). Nevertheless, the share of outstanding contracts cleared through CCPs rose from less than 10% in 2010 (when data for CCPs were first reported separately) to 26% at end-2013 and 31% at end-June 2015 (Graph 6, centre panel). The share of CCPs is highest for multi-name products, at 39%, and much lower for single-name products, at 24% (Table 10.1). One possible explanation is that contracts on CDS indices in the multi-name segment are more amenable to central clearing, as they tend to be more standardised than those in the single-name segment.

The latest data indicate that the trend towards netting may have stalled.⁵ Until recently, the post-crisis shift towards central clearing had contributed to an increased use of legally enforceable bilateral netting agreements. As a consequence, net market values as a percentage of gross market values had fallen from 26% at end-2011 to 21% at end-2013 (Graph 6, right-hand panel). Nevertheless, this trend has been reversed over the past couple of years, with the above ratio rising back to 26% by end-June 2015. The prevalence of netting is greatest for CDS contracts with other dealers and CCPs, where it reduced net market values as a percentage of gross values to 20% and 21%, respectively, at end-June 2015 (Table D10.1). Netting is least prevalent for contracts with insurance companies (79%) and non-financial customers (72%).

The distribution of underlying reference entities indicates that the relative presence of contracts referencing sovereigns has increased steadily since the global financial crisis. The share of such contracts in the total notional amount of credit derivatives outstanding rose from 4% at end-2008 to 16% at mid-2015. In absolute terms, the notional amount of sovereign CDS contracts grew from \$1.7 trillion at end-2008 to \$3.0 trillion at end-2011. Thereafter, it declined back to \$2.3 trillion as of mid-2015. Nevertheless, sovereign CDS contracts' share has continued to increase due to the fact that, as discussed above, the overall notional amount of credit derivatives outstanding has shrunk at an even faster pace (Table D10.4).

The distribution of outstanding CDS by location of the counterparty showed little change at end-June 2015. The CDS market continues to be very international. CDS with counterparties from the country in which the dealer is headquartered accounted for only 24% of outstanding contracts at end-June 2015, or \$3.5 trillion (Table D10.5). Most of the foreign counterparties were from Europe, followed by the United States.

Equity-linked and commodity derivatives

The notional amount of OTC derivatives linked to equities totalled \$7.5 trillion at end-June 2015, and the gross market value \$0.6 trillion (Table D5). The two largest geographical segments of the market appear to be headed in opposite directions. Derivatives linked to European equities, which had stabilised at

⁵ Netting enables market participants to reduce their counterparty exposure by offsetting contracts with negative market values against contracts with positive market values.

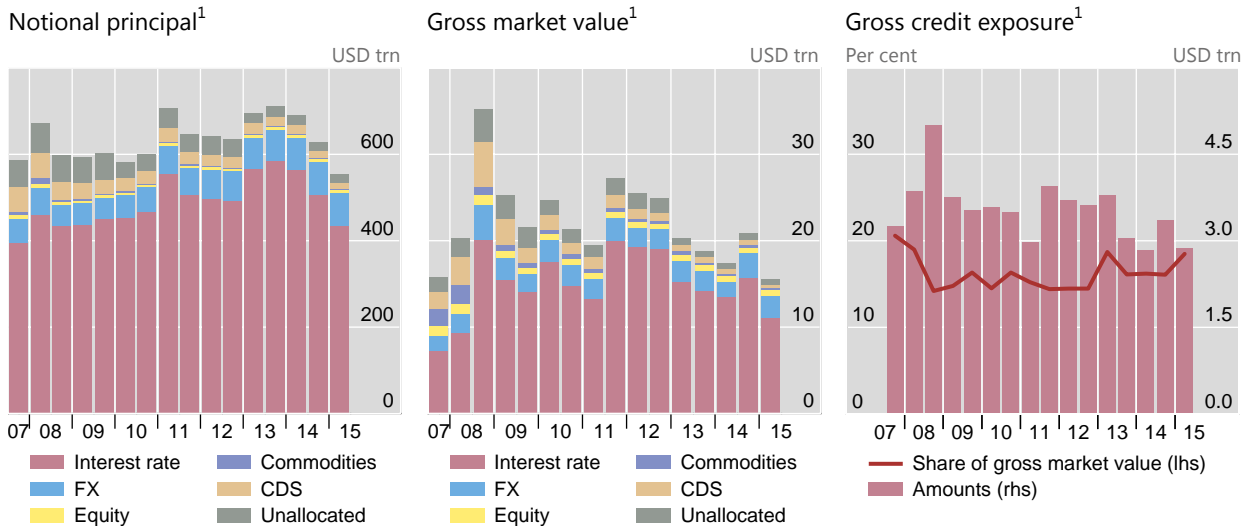
around \$3 trillion for a few years after the sharp reduction they saw during the 2007–09 crisis, are back on a downward trajectory. They recorded a sharp drop in the second half of 2014, which brought their outstanding notional amount down to \$2.4 trillion at end-December 2014. That was only partially offset by the latest semiannual increase, which took them to \$2.7 trillion at end-June 2015. By contrast, derivatives linked to US equities have grown steadily over the past few years and have doubled, from \$1.6 trillion at end-2010 to \$3.2 trillion at mid-2015 (Graph 4).

For OTC derivatives linked to commodity contracts, the latest data show no sign of a rebound from the sharp correction that occurred after the 2007–09 crisis. The notional amount of outstanding OTC commodity derivatives contracts declined from a peak of \$13 trillion at end-June 2008 to \$3 trillion at end-2009 and less than \$2 trillion at mid-2015 (Table D5). The gross market value of OTC commodity contracts stood at \$0.2 trillion at end-June 2015, down from the mid-2008 peak of \$2.2 trillion (Graph 5).

3. Charts

Global OTC derivatives markets

Graph 1



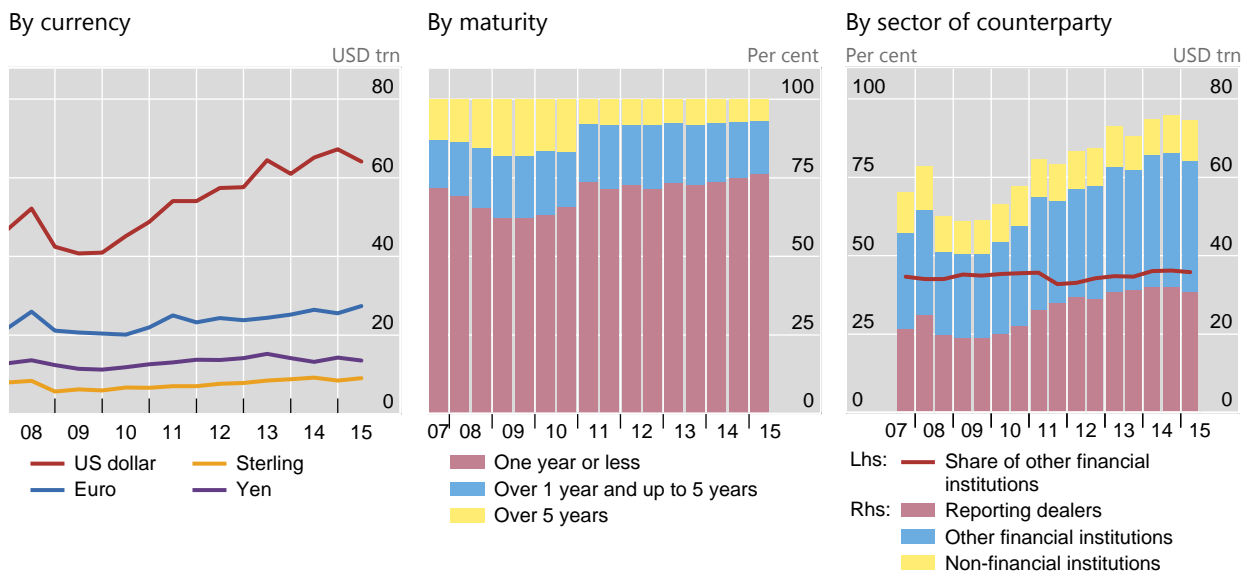
Further information on the BIS derivatives statistics is available at www.bis.org/statistics/derstats.htm.

¹ At half-year end (end-June and end-December). Amounts denominated in currencies other than the US dollar are converted to US dollars at the exchange rate prevailing on the reference date.

OTC foreign exchange derivatives

Notional principal¹

Graph 2



Further information on the BIS derivatives statistics is available at www.bis.org/statistics/derstats.htm.

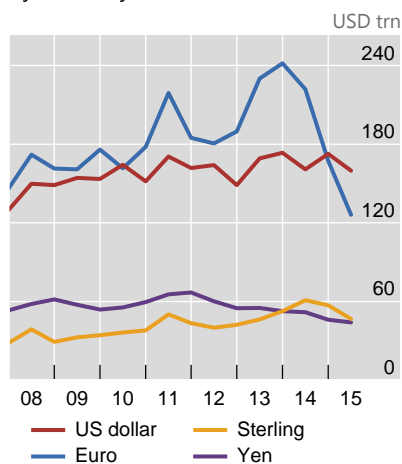
¹ At half-year end (end-June and end-December). Amounts denominated in currencies other than the US dollar are converted to US dollars at the exchange rate prevailing on the reference date.

OTC interest rate derivatives

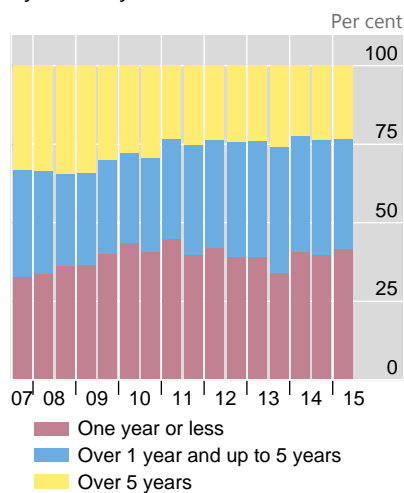
Notional principal¹

Graph 3

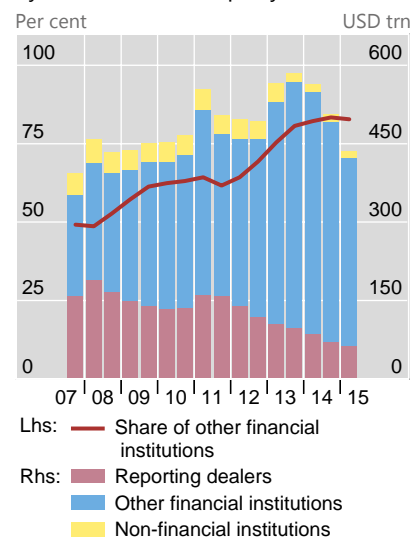
By currency



By maturity



By sector of counterparty



Further information on the BIS derivatives statistics is available at www.bis.org/statistics/derstats.htm.

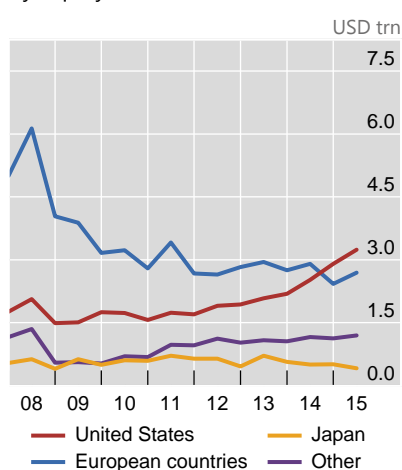
¹ At half-year end (end-June and end-December). Amounts denominated in currencies other than the US dollar are converted to US dollars at the exchange rate prevailing on the reference date.

OTC equity-linked derivatives

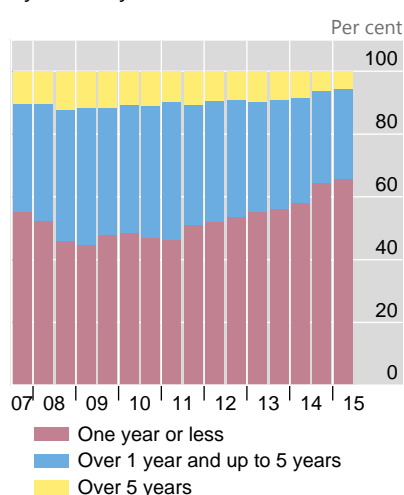
Notional principal¹

Graph 4

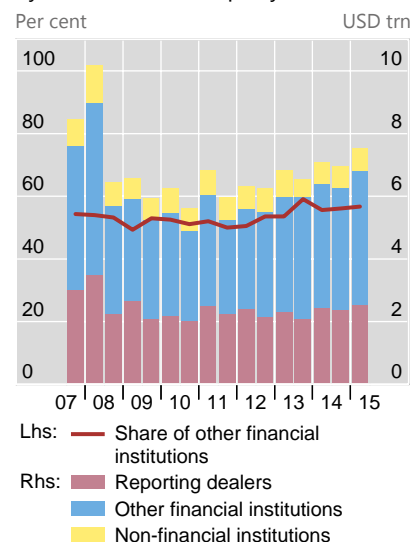
By equity market



By maturity



By sector of counterparty



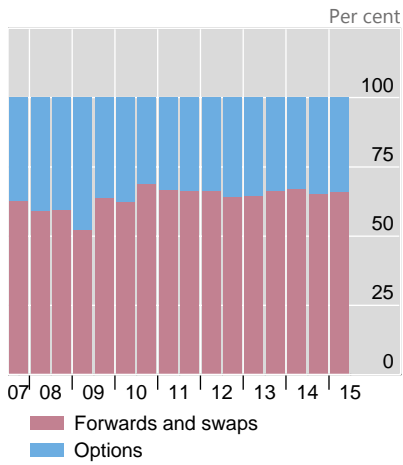
Further information on the BIS derivatives statistics is available at www.bis.org/statistics/derstats.htm.

¹ At half-year end (end-June and end-December). Amounts denominated in currencies other than the US dollar are converted to US dollars at the exchange rate prevailing on the reference date.

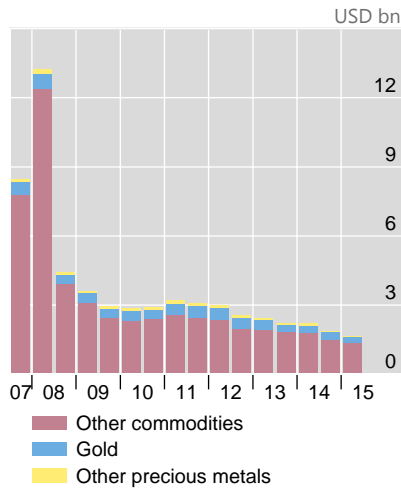
OTC commodity derivatives

Graph 5

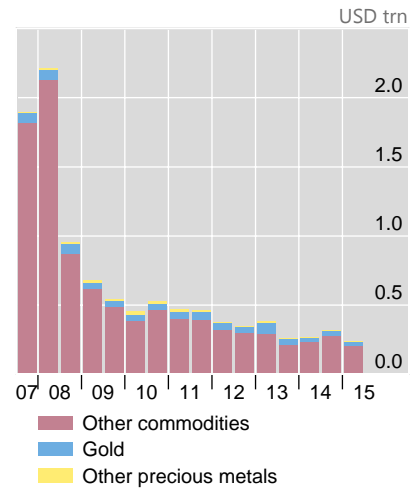
Notional principal, by instrument¹



Notional principal, by commodity¹



Gross market value, by commodity¹



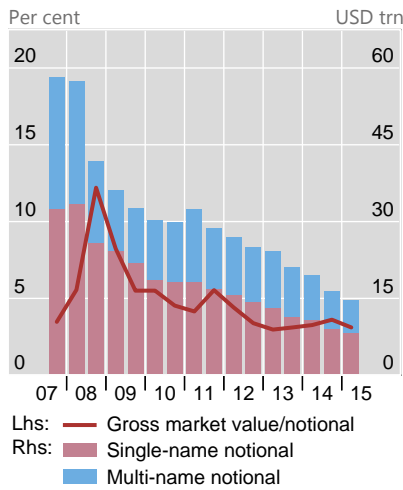
Further information on the BIS derivatives statistics is available at www.bis.org/statistics/derstats.htm.

¹ At half-year end (end-June and end-December). Amounts denominated in currencies other than the US dollar are converted to US dollars at the exchange rate prevailing on the reference date.

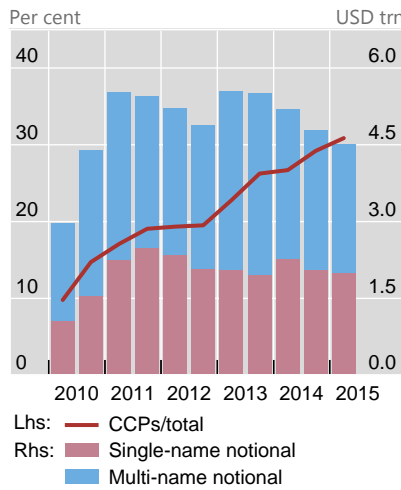
Credit default swaps¹

Graph 6

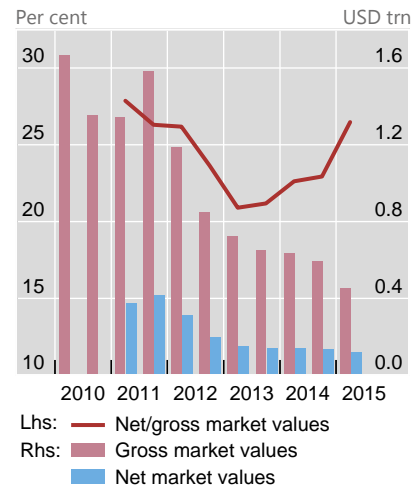
Notional principal



Notional principal with central counterparties (CCPs)



Impact of netting



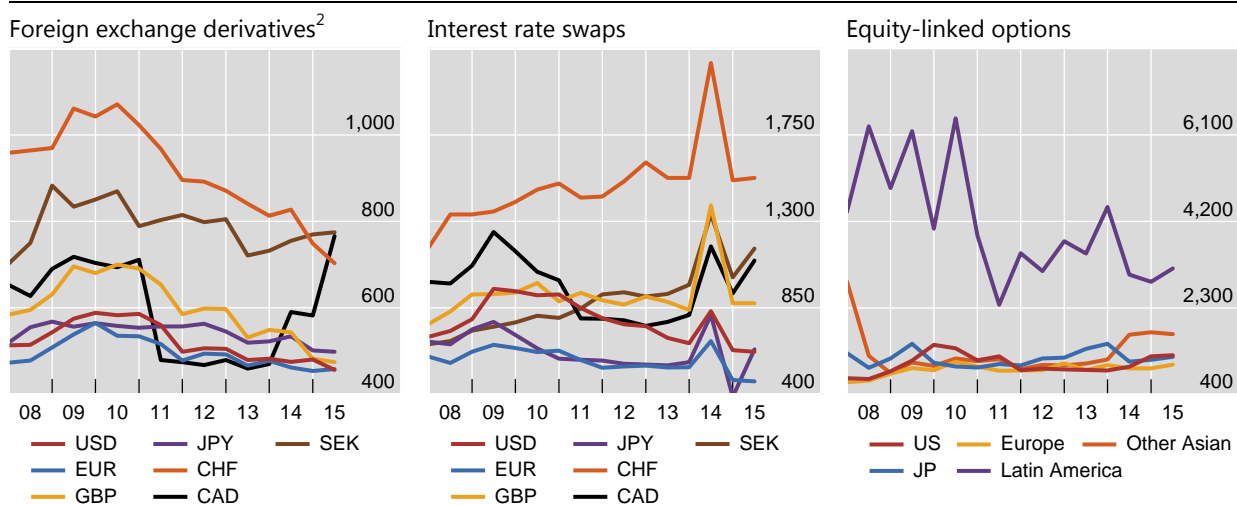
Further information on the BIS derivatives statistics is available at www.bis.org/statistics/derstats.htm.

¹ At half-year end (end-June and end-December). Amounts denominated in currencies other than the US dollar are converted to US dollars at the exchange rate prevailing on the reference date.

Concentration in global OTC derivatives markets

Herfindahl index¹

Graph 7



Further information on the BIS derivatives statistics is available at www.bis.org/statistics/derstats.htm.

CAD = Canadian dollar; CHF = Swiss franc; EUR = euro; GBP = pound sterling; JPY = Japanese yen; SEK = Swedish krona; USD = US dollar. JP = Japan; US = United States.

¹ The index ranges from 0 to 10,000, where a lower number indicates that there are many dealers with similar market shares (as measured by notional principal) and a higher number indicates that the market is dominated by a few reporting dealers. ² Foreign exchange forwards, foreign exchange swaps and currency swaps.

Annexes

A Explanatory notes

Reporting countries

The OTC derivatives statistics are reported to the BIS at an aggregate (country) level rather than individual institution level. A central bank or another national authority collects data from major derivatives dealers in its jurisdiction, compiles national aggregates and then sends them to the BIS to calculate global aggregates.

Authorities in the following 13 countries participate in the semiannual survey:

| Country | Reporting authority | Country | Reporting authority |
|-----------|---------------------------|----------------|--|
| Australia | Reserve Bank of Australia | Netherlands | Netherlands Bank |
| Belgium | National Bank of Belgium | Spain | Bank of Spain |
| Canada | Bank of Canada | Sweden | Sveriges Riksbank |
| France | Bank of France | | Statistics Sweden |
| Germany | Deutsche Bundesbank | Switzerland | Swiss National Bank |
| Italy | Bank of Italy | United Kingdom | Bank of England |
| Japan | Bank of Japan | United States | Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System |

Every three years, authorities from an additional 34 countries participate in the Triennial Central Bank Survey. The market share of dealers that participate in the semiannual survey varies across risk categories. It is highest in the credit, equity and interest rate segments (almost 100%, 98% and 97%, respectively, at end-June 2013) and lowest in the commodity and foreign exchange segments (both 90%). Overall, the results of the Triennial Survey indicate that the semiannual survey captures about 96% of global OTC derivatives activity. The next Triennial Survey of outstanding positions will be conducted in June 2016.

Reporting basis

The OTC derivatives statistics are reported on a consolidated basis. Data from branches and (majority-owned) subsidiaries worldwide of a given institution are aggregated and reported by the parent institution to the authority in the country where the parent institution is headquartered. Intragroup positions, between affiliates of the same institution, are excluded.

Data are reported to the BIS in US dollars, with positions in other currencies being converted into US dollars at the exchange rate prevailing at the end of the reference period. Comparisons of amounts outstanding between periods are affected by movements in exchange rates.

Revisions and breaks

Data are subject to revision and are impacted by breaks – or changes in compilation – over time. Breaks may arise from: changes in the population of reporting institutions, including the addition of new reporting countries; changes in reporting practices; or methodological improvements.

The statistics at end-June 2015 are not impacted by any significant revisions or breaks.

B Glossary of terms

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z |
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| | | |
|------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| A | | back to index |
| algo | See "algorithmic trading". | |
| algorithmic trading | Automated transactions where a computer algorithm decides the order of submission and execution with little or no human intervention. | |
| amount outstanding | Value of an asset or liability at a point in time. | |
| B | | back to index |
| banks and securities firms | Commercial banks, investment banks, securities dealers and securities brokers. Sectoral classification used in the OTC derivatives statistics that refers collectively to banks and securities firms that are not reporting dealers. See also "reporting dealer". | |
| bilateral netting agreement | See "master netting agreement". | |
| C | | back to index |
| central counterparty (CCP) | Entity that interposes itself between the two sides of a transaction, becoming the buyer to every seller and the seller to every buyer. | |
| commodity forward | Contract between two parties to buy or sell a commodity or commodity index at an agreed price on a future date. | |
| commodity option | Contract that bestows the holder the right (but not the obligation) to buy or sell a commodity or commodity index at an agreed price during a specified period. | |
| commodity swap | Agreement between two parties to exchange sequences of payments during a specified period, where at least one sequence of payments is tied to a commodity price or commodity index. | |
| counterparty | Entity that takes the opposite side of a financial contract or transaction – for example, the borrower in a loan contract, or the buyer in a sales transaction. | |
| counterparty country | Country where the counterparty resides. | |
| credit default swap (CDS) | Agreement whereby the seller commits to repay an obligation (eg bond) underlying the contract at par in the event of a default. To produce this guarantee, a regular premium is paid by the buyer during a specified period. | |
| credit derivative | Derivative whose redemption value is linked to specified credit-related events, such as bankruptcy, credit downgrade, non-payment or default of a borrower. For example, a lender might use a credit derivative to hedge the risk that a borrower might default. Common credit derivatives include credit default swaps (CDS), total return swaps and credit spread options. | |
| currency option | Contract that bestows the holder the right (but not the obligation) to buy or sell a currency at an agreed exchange rate during a specified period. | |
| currency swap | Agreement between two parties to exchange sequences of payments during a specified period, where each sequence is tied to a different currency. At the end of the swap, principal amounts in the different currencies are usually exchanged. | |
| D | | back to index |
| derivative | Instrument whose value depends on some underlying financial asset, commodity or predefined variable. | |
| derivative claim | Derivative contract with a positive market value. | |

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| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| entity | Corporation, organisation or person that exists as a separately identifiable unit. "Separately identifiable" may be demonstrated by legal existence or the existence of a complete set of financial accounts, or by the ability to compile a meaningful and complete set of accounts if they were to be required. |
| equity forward | Contract to exchange an equity or equity basket at a set price at a future date. |
| equity option | Contract that bestows the holder the right (but not the obligation) to buy or sell an equity security or basket of equities at an agreed price during a specified period. |
| equity swap | Agreement between two parties to exchange sequences of payments during a specified period, where at least one sequence is tied to an equity price or an equity index. |

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|-------------------------------------|--|
| financial corporation | Entity that is principally engaged in providing financial services, such as financial intermediation, financial risk management or liquidity transformation. Financial corporations include the following entities: central banks, banks and non-bank financial corporations. |
| financial institution | See "financial corporation". |
| fixed interest rate | Interest rate that is fixed for the life of the debt instrument or for a certain number of years. At the date of inception, the timing and value of coupon payments and principal repayments are known. |
| foreign exchange swap | Transaction involving the actual exchange of two currencies (principal amount only) on a specific date at a rate agreed at the time of the conclusion of the contract (the short leg), and a reverse exchange of the same two currencies at a date further in the future at a rate (generally different from the rate applied to the short leg) agreed at the time of the contract (the long leg). |
| forward contract | Contract between two parties for the delayed delivery of financial instruments or commodities in which the buyer agrees to purchase and the seller agrees to deliver, on an agreed future date, a specified instrument or commodity at an agreed price or yield. Forward contracts are generally not traded on organised exchanges, and their contractual terms are not standardised. |
| forward rate agreement (FRA) | Interest rate forward contract in which the rate to be paid or received on a specific obligation for a set period of time, beginning at some time in the future, is determined at contract initiation. |

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| gross credit exposure | Gross market value minus amounts netted with the same counterparty across all risk categories under legally enforceable bilateral netting agreements. Gross credit exposure provides a measure of exposure to counterparty credit risk (before collateral). |
| gross market value | Sum of the absolute values of all outstanding derivatives contracts with either positive or negative replacement values evaluated at market prices prevailing on the reporting date. Thus, the gross positive market value of a dealer's outstanding contracts is the sum of the replacement values of all contracts that are in a current gain position to the reporter at current market prices (and therefore, if they were settled immediately, would represent claims on counterparties). The gross negative market value is the sum of the values of all contracts that have a negative value on the reporting date (ie those that are in a current loss position and therefore, if they were settled immediately, would represent liabilities of the dealer to its counterparties). The term "gross" indicates that contracts with positive and negative replacement values with the same counterparty are not netted. Nor are the sums of positive and negative contract values within a market risk category such as foreign exchange contracts, interest rate contracts, equities and commodities set off against one another. Gross market values supply information about the potential scale of market risk in derivatives transactions and of the associated financial risk transfer taking place. Furthermore, gross market value at current market prices provides a measure of economic significance that is readily comparable across markets and products. |

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| hedge fund | Unregulated investment fund and various types of money managers, including commodity trading advisers (CTAs), which share (a combination of) the following characteristics: they often follow a relatively broad range of investment strategies that are not subject to borrowing and leverage restrictions, with many of them using high levels of leverage; they often have a different regulatory mandate than "institutional investors" and typically cater to sophisticated investors such as high net worth individuals or institutions; and they often hold long and short positions in various markets, asset classes and instruments, with frequent use of derivatives for speculative purposes. |
| Herfindahl index | Measure of market concentration, defined as the sum of the squared market shares of each individual entity. The index ranges from 0 to 10,000. If only one entity dominates the market, the measure will have the (maximum) value of 10,000. |
| high-frequency trading (HFT) | An algorithmic trading strategy that profits from incremental price movements, with frequent, small trades executed in milliseconds for very short investment horizons. HFT is a subset of algorithmic trading. See also " algorithmic trading ". (BIS lexicon) |

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| index product | Multi-name CDS contract with constituent reference credits and a fixed coupon that is determined by an administrator such as Markit (which administers the CDX and iTraxx indices). Index products include tranches of CDS indices. |
| institutional investor | "Real money" investor such as a mutual fund, pension fund, insurance and reinsurance company, and endowment. |
| interest rate option | Contract that bestows the holder the right (but not the obligation) to pay or receive an agreed interest rate on a predetermined principal during a specified period. |
| interest rate swap | Agreement to exchange periodic payments related to interest rates on a single currency; can be fixed for floating, or floating for floating based on different indices. This group includes those swaps whose notional principal is amortised according to a fixed schedule independent of interest rates. |
| inter-office | See " intragroup ". |
| intragroup | Business between affiliates of the same corporate group. See also " own office ". |

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| long-term | Having a maturity greater than one year. |
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| master netting agreement | An agreement that permits netting of amounts owed under transactions governed by different agreements, often including one or more ISDA Master Agreements. Master netting agreements take different forms and may permit netting of payments to be made under a variety of master or other trading agreements between the same parties and often between their affiliates that may have master or other trading agreements in place between one another. |
| multi-name CDS | CDS contract that references more than one name – for example, portfolio or basket CDS, or CDS index. |

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| net market value | Similar to gross credit exposure, with the difference that netting is restricted to one type of derivative product instead of across all products. In the OTC derivatives statistics, net market values are reported for CDS only. |
| netting agreement | See " master netting agreement ". |
| non-financial customer | See " non-financial sector ". |
| non-financial sector | Sectoral classification that refers collectively to non-financial corporations, general government and households. |

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| notional amount outstanding | Gross nominal or notional value of all derivatives contracts concluded and not yet settled on the reporting date. |
| novation | Process in which a bilateral derivatives contract between two market participants is replaced by two bilateral contracts between each of the market participants and a CCP. |
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| official financial institutions | Sectoral classification that refers collectively to central banks, sovereign wealth funds, international organisations, development banks and other public financial agencies. |
| original maturity | Period from issue until the final contractually scheduled payment. |
| outright forward | See "forward contract". |
| own office | Entity owned or otherwise controlled by a banking group, including head office, branch office or subsidiary. |
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| position | Asset or liability. |
| proprietary trading | When a financial institution trades for direct gain instead of commission. Essentially, the institution has decided to profit from the market rather than from commissions from processing trades. |
| proprietary trading firm (PTF) | Entity that engages mainly in proprietary trading. PTFs include high-frequency trading firms. |
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| remaining maturity | Period from the reference date until the final contractually scheduled payment. |
| reporting country | See "BIS reporting country". |
| reporting dealer | Financial institution that participates in the compilation of the OTC derivatives statistics or the Triennial Central Bank Survey. See also "BIS reporting institution". |
| retail-driven transactions | Transactions with financial institutions that cater to retail investors – for example, electronic retail trading platforms and retail margin brokerage firms. Retail-driven transactions also include reporting dealers' direct transactions with "non-wholesale" investors (ie private individuals) executed online or by other means (eg phone). |
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| single-name CDS | Credit derivative where the reference entity is a single name. |
| special purpose entity (SPE) | Entity established for the sole purpose of carrying out a single transaction, such as in the context of asset securitisation through the issuance of asset-backed and mortgage-backed securities. Also referred to as a special purpose corporation (SPC) or special purpose vehicle (SPV). |
| spot transaction | Outright transaction involving the exchange of two currencies at a rate agreed on the date of the contract for value or delivery (cash settlement) in two business days or less. |
| stock | See "amount outstanding". |
| swap | Financial derivative in which two parties agree to exchange payment streams based on a specified notional amount for a specified period. |