

SURVEY ON THE HOLDINGS OF CURRENCIES IN OFFICIAL FOREIGN CURRENCY ASSETS 2015

The IMF has conducted an ad-hoc survey of member countries on their holdings of currencies in Official Foreign Currency Assets. The survey asked for a by-currency breakdown for a selected set of currencies. Official Foreign Currency Assets include Monetary Authorities' holdings of both Official Reserve Assets and other foreign currency assets (both claims on non residents and residents) not included in official reserve assets. The ad-hoc survey was conducted during April-May, 2015, and requested end-position data for 2013–2014.

Monetary Authorities encompass the central bank and certain operations usually attributed to the central bank but sometimes carried out by other government institutions or commercial banks. In cases where monetary authorities include institutions other than the central bank, the survey was sent to both the central bank and the agency managing reserves. The broader definition of official foreign currency assets allowed members to report the currency composition of all assets denominated in foreign currencies.

The ad-hoc survey targeted the full membership of the IMF, and it was reported on a voluntary and confidential basis. Following the guidelines of the quarterly survey of the Currency Composition of Official Foreign Exchange Reserves (COFER), the ad-hoc survey information was treated as strictly confidential, as only four staff at the IMF had access to individual country data. The information on individual members is not disseminated or published.

The results of the ad-hoc survey provided a crucial insight into the evolution of official foreign currency asset holdings included in monetary authorities' balance sheets. A total of 130 countries/jurisdictions responded. Results for 2013 and 2014 data were summarized in three tables that included:

Table 1: Number of Countries/Jurisdictions Reporting Assets by Currency.

Table 2: Total Official Foreign Currency Assets (percentages and values). This table includes monetary gold, SDR, and IMF reserve position.

Table 3: Official Foreign Currency Assets by Currency (percentages and values). This table includes only assets denominated in a currency.

Please address all questions on this survey to StatisticsQuery@imf.org

Survey on the Holdings of Currencies in Official Foreign Currency Assets ^{1/}

Table 1: Number of Countries/Jurisdictions Reporting Assets by Currency

	2013	2014
Total Currency Holdings	130	130
U.S. dollar	127	127
Pound sterling	108	109
Euro	109	108
Japanese yen	87	88
Canadian dollar	84	85
Australian dollar	79	78
Swiss franc	73	69
Swedish krona	45	48
Norwegian krone	45	40
Chinese renminbi	27	38
New Zealand dollar	27	29
Singapore dollar	16	18
South African rand	11	12
Russian ruble	5	8
Indian rupee	4	6
Brazilian real	5	5
Other currencies	81	80

^{1/} One country provided partial data.

Survey on the Holdings of Currencies in Official Foreign Currency Assets ^{1/}

Table 2: Total Official Foreign Currency Assets
Millions of U.S. Dollars - End of Period

	2013		2014	
	Amount	Percent of Total	Amount	Percent of Total
Total Official Foreign Currency Assets	7,897,817.42	100.00	7,832,731.17	100.00
Total Holdings in Currencies	6,779,830.42	85.84	6,738,534.06	86.03
SDR Basket Currencies	6,276,718.91	79.47	6,214,838.24	79.34
U.S. dollar	4,158,921.34	52.66	4,290,575.54	54.78
Euro	1,603,466.98	20.30	1,417,328.09	18.09
Pound sterling	287,966.45	3.65	274,564.80	3.51
Japanese yen	226,364.14	2.87	232,369.81	2.97
Non-SDR Basket Currencies	503,111.51	6.37	523,695.81	6.69
Australian dollar	151,026.62	1.91	142,451.37	1.82
Canadian dollar	133,863.09	1.69	133,869.60	1.71
Chinese renminbi	45,358.87	0.57	74,611.87	0.95
Swiss franc	16,077.82	0.20	15,365.62	0.20
New Zealand dollar	16,805.46	0.21	15,213.97	0.19
Swedish krona	13,819.59	0.17	13,224.57	0.17
Norwegian krone	13,956.93	0.18	12,050.16	0.15
Singapore dollar	4,388.19	0.06	3,912.38	0.05
Brazilian real	3,416.08	0.04	3,335.65	0.04
South African rand	2,687.69	0.03	3,140.54	0.04
Indian rupee	459.23	0.01	1,000.11	0.01
Russian ruble	360.81	0.00	355.97	0.00
Other currencies	100,891.13	1.28	105,164.00	1.34
Other Assets	1,117,987.00	14.16	1,094,197.11	13.97
Monetary gold	720,135.84	9.12	727,181.42	9.28
SDR Holdings	261,099.94	3.31	254,117.58	3.24
IMF reserve position	136,751.22	1.73	112,898.11	1.44

^{1/} One country provided partial data.

Survey on the Holdings of Currencies in Official Foreign Currency Assets ^{1/}

Table 3: Official Foreign Currency Assets by Currency
Millions of U.S. Dollars - End of Period

	2013		2014	
	Amount	Percent of Total	Amount	Percent of Total
Total Holdings in Currencies	6,779,830.42	100.00	6,738,534.06	100.00
SDR Basket Currencies	6,276,718.91	92.58	6,214,838.24	92.23
U.S. dollar	4,158,921.34	61.34	4,290,575.54	63.67
Euro	1,603,466.98	23.65	1,417,328.09	21.03
Pound sterling	287,966.45	4.25	274,564.80	4.07
Japanese yen	226,364.14	3.34	232,369.81	3.45
Non-SDR Basket Currencies	503,111.51	7.42	523,695.81	7.77
Australian dollar	151,026.62	2.23	142,451.37	2.11
Canadian dollar	133,863.09	1.97	133,869.60	1.99
Chinese renminbi	45,358.87	0.67	74,611.87	1.11
Swiss franc	16,077.82	0.24	15,365.62	0.23
New Zealand dollar	16,805.46	0.25	15,213.97	0.23
Swedish krona	13,819.59	0.20	13,224.57	0.20
Norwegian krone	13,956.93	0.21	12,050.16	0.18
Singapore dollar	4,388.19	0.06	3,912.38	0.06
Brazilian real	3,416.08	0.05	3,335.65	0.05
South African rand	2,687.69	0.04	3,140.54	0.05
Indian rupee	459.23	0.01	1,000.11	0.01
Russian ruble	360.81	0.01	355.97	0.01
Other currencies	100,891.13	1.49	105,164.00	1.56

^{1/} One country provided partial data.