NEW YORK, March 13, 2015—Emerging Markets debt trading volumes stood at US$5.922 trillion in 2014, according to a report released today by EMTA, the trade association for the Emerging Markets debt trading industry. This represents a 6% increase from the US$5.571 trillion reported by EMTA Survey participants in 2013.

“After a poor start to 2014, with a sharp sell-off in EM currencies and rates, the situation improved toward Q2 as EM assets rebounded across the board. However, this reversed again during the summer as the outlook for global growth turned gloomy, commodity prices plunged and the USD rallied,” stated Christian Keller, Managing Director and Head of Global Economics Research at Barclays. “Geopolitical developments in countries such as Russia and Ukraine, news about positive reform momentum (in India and Indonesia) versus disappointment with domestic developments—often coupled with commodity-related terms of trade deterioration such as in Brazil and Venezuela—created a large variance in performance of individual credits and local markets in 2014,” he concluded.

EMTA also released its quarterly trading report, which revealed that, for the fourth quarter, debt trading volumes stood at US$1.210 trillion. This compares with US$1.320 trillion in the fourth quarter of 2013, an 8% decrease, and US$1.453 trillion in the third quarter, a 17% decrease.
Local Markets Instruments at 60% of Volume

Turnover in local markets instruments stood at US$3.558 trillion in 2014, accounting for 60% of total reported volume. This compares to US$3.654 trillion in 2013, a 3% decrease. On a quarterly basis, participants reported US$688 billion in local debt volumes in the fourth quarter, down 20% vs. US$857 billion in the fourth quarter of 2013 and down 19% compared to US$852 billion in the third quarter.

Mexican instruments were the most frequently traded local markets debt in 2014, at US$810 billion. Other frequently-traded local instruments were those from Brazil (US$432 billion), India (US$364 billion), South Africa (US$267 billion) and Singapore (US$198 billion).

Eurobond Volumes at US$2.344 Trillion

Eurobond trading stood at US$2.344 trillion in 2014, a 24% increase on 2013’s US$1.890 trillion. On a quarterly basis, Eurobond trading stood at US$519 billion in the fourth quarter, up 13% from US$458 billion in the fourth quarter of 2013, while down 13% from US$597 billion in the third quarter.

49% of Eurobond activity involved sovereign debt issues in 2014, with Survey participants reporting US$1.145 trillion in sovereign Eurobond turnover. This compares to a 56% share of Eurobond activity in the previous year, when such volumes stood at US$1.073 trillion.

Corporate Eurobond trading stood at US$1.104 trillion in 2014, accounting for 47% of total Eurobond activity (compared to 41% in 2013). Sovereign Eurobond activity accounted for just over 19% of overall Survey volumes, with corporate trading at just under 19% of total turnover.

The most frequently traded individual EM Eurobonds in 2014 included Russia’s 2030 bond (US$83 billion in annual turnover), Argentina’s US$ Discount bond (US$23 billion), and its US$ Par bond (US$19 billion), Brazil’s 2025 bond (US$17 billion) and Ukraine’s 2017 bond (US$12 billion).

In addition to local markets bonds, and sovereign and corporate Eurobonds, the Survey also includes turnover in warrants, options, loans and Brady bonds. Survey participants reported over US$17 billion in warrant and option trades during the year, US$1 billion in loan assignments and US$1 billion in Brady bond trades. These categories combined represented less than one percent of total volume.

Mexican, Brazilian and Russian Instruments Most Frequently Traded

Mexican instruments were the most frequently traded instruments overall according to Survey participants, with US$983 billion in turnover. This compares with US$749 billion in 2013 (a 31% increase). Mexican volumes accounted for 17% of total Survey trading, compared to 13% in the previous year.
Brazilian instruments were the second most frequently traded instruments in the EMTA report, at US$682 billion, according to Survey participants. This represents a 24% decrease on the US$902 billion reported in 2013. Brazilian volumes accounted for 12% of total reported volume (down from 16% in 2013).

Third were Russian assets, at US$452 billion in turnover. This compares to US$499 billion in 2013, a 9% decrease. Russian instrument trading accounted for 8% of Survey volume.

Other frequently traded instruments were securities from India (US$411 billion) and South Africa (US$326 billion).

EMTA’s Survey includes trading volumes in debt instruments from over 90 Emerging Market countries, as reported by approximately 50 leading investment and commercial banks, asset management firms and hedge funds.

EMTA recently reported that participants in a similar survey for the CDS markets (although limited in scope to 13 EMTA Board firms) had reported increases in trading. The CDS Survey’s participants reported US$1.56 trillion in EM CDS volumes in 2014. This compares to US$1.064 trillion in EM CDS contract volume in 2013 (representing a 46% increase).

For a copy of EMTA’s 2014 Annual or Fourth Quarter 2014 Debt Trading Volume Surveys, please contact Jonathan Murno at jmurno@emta.org or +1 646 289 5413.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:
Founded in 1990, EMTA (formerly the Emerging Markets Traders Association) is a not-for-profit corporation dedicated to promoting the orderly development of fair, efficient and transparent trading markets for Emerging Markets instruments, and the integration of the Emerging Markets into the global financial marketplace. EMTA, with over 180 member firms worldwide, has published its Annual Volume Surveys since 1992 and Quarterly Surveys since the first quarter of 1997.

Participants in the EMTA Survey are asked to report trades based on aggregate principal amount (face value), rather than the consideration paid, and no effort is made to adjust for duplicate volumes that may be reported by each side of a trade. In these respects, the Survey’s methodology has been the same since its inception.