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**EMTA** 

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## For Immediate Release

# EMTA SURVEY: THIRD QUARTER EMERGING MARKETS DEBT TRADING AT US\$1.133 TRILLION

Volumes Down 20% on Year-on-Year Basis

**NEW YORK, December 21, 2020** — Emerging Markets debt trading volumes stood at US\$1.133 trillion in the third quarter of 2020, according to a report released today by EMTA, the trade association for the Emerging Markets trading and investment industry. This compares with US\$1.416 trillion reported for the third quarter of 2019, a 20% contraction, and 14% below the US\$1.311 trillion reported in the second quarter of 2020.

#### Local Markets Instruments at 59% of Volume

Turnover in local markets instruments stood at US\$672 billion in the third quarter of 2020, accounting for 59% of total reported volume. This compares to US\$804 billion in the third quarter of 2019, a 16% decrease, and to US\$768 billion in the second quarter of 2020, a 13% decrease.

Mexican instruments were the most frequently traded local markets debt in the third quarter of 2020, at US\$117 billion. Other frequently-traded local instruments were those from Brazil (US\$115 billion), India (US\$74 billion), China (US\$71 billion) and South Africa (US\$35 billion).

### Eurobond Volumes at US\$454 Billion

Eurobond trading stood at US\$454 billion in the third quarter of 2020, down 26% from the US\$610 billion reported in the third quarter of 2019, and a 15% decrease on the US\$537 billion reported in the second quarter of 2020.

60% of Eurobond activity involved sovereign debt issues in the third quarter, with Survey participants reporting US\$272 billion in sovereign Eurobond turnover. This compares to a 67% share of Eurobond activity in the previous quarter, when such volumes stood at US\$358 billion.

Corporate Eurobond trading stood at US\$173 billion in the third quarter of 2020, accounting for 38% of total Eurobond activity (vs. a 32% share in the prior quarter). Sovereign Eurobond activity accounted for 24% of overall Survey volumes, with corporate trading at 15% of total turnover.

The most frequently traded Eurobonds in the third quarter, according to Survey participants, were Brazil's 2030 bond, at US\$4.4 billion in turnover. Other frequently traded bonds include Argentina's USD-denominated Par bond (at US\$3.6 billion), Mexico's 2051 bond (US\$2.4 billion), Romania's 2051 bond (US\$2.3 billion) and Pemex's 2050 bond (at US\$2.2 billion in turnover and the most frequently-traded corporate debt instrument).

In addition to local markets bonds, and sovereign and corporate Eurobonds, the Survey also includes turnover in warrants, options and loans. Survey participants reported US\$5.9 billion in loan assignments and US\$405 million in warrant and option trades.

## Mexican, Brazilian and Chinese Instruments Most Frequently Traded Overall

Mexican instruments were the most frequently traded instruments overall, according to Survey participants, with US\$156 billion in turnover. This compared to US\$301 billion reported in the third quarter of 2019 (down 48%), and a 32% decline from vs. US\$229 billion reported in the second quarter. Mexican volumes represented 14% of overall volumes.

Brazilian instruments were the second most frequently traded instruments in the EMTA report, at US\$147 billion, according to Survey participants. This represents a 32% decline on third quarter 2019 volume of US\$216 billion, while a 23% increase compared to the US\$120 billion reported in the second quarter. Brazilian volumes accounted for 13% of total reported volumes.

Third were Chinese assets, whose volume stood at US\$116 billion. This compares to US\$86 billion in the third quarter of 2019 (up 35%) and US\$93 billion in the

second quarter (up 23%). Chinese instrument trading accounted for 10% of Survey volume.

Other frequently traded instruments were securities from India (US\$82 billion) and Colombia (US\$51 billion).

EMTA's Survey includes trading volumes in debt instruments from over 90 Emerging Market countries, as reported by 39 leading investment and commercial banks, asset management firms and hedge funds.

For a copy of EMTA's Third Quarter 2020 Emerging Markets Debt Trading Volume Survey, please contact Jonathan Murno at <a href="mailto:jmurno@emta.org">jmurno@emta.org</a>.

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#### **NOTE TO EDITORS:**

Founded in 1990, EMTA (aka 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 170 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.