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Market Activity Analysis – Single Name

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As an extension to the Market Activity Analysis previously conducted by Depository Trust and Clearing Corporation (DTCC) on behalf of dealers, buy-side institutions and industry associations, DTCC has produced an additional quarterly transparency study on the most active (top 1,000 traded) single-name credit default swaps (CDS). This is intended to support the continued commitment by industry participants to improve market infrastructure and is aimed to provide market participants and global supervisors with a view of trading concentrations that will assist in the continued expansion of products eligible for clearing services.

DTCC has previously made several versions of this data publicly available and will continue to produce this information on a quarterly basis. As such, the output of the most recent analysis, including aggregated transaction data by reference entity, has been made available on the Deriv/SERV public website for previous quarter.

Scope of transactions:

The transactions covered in this analysis include only transactions where market participants were engaging in market risk transfer activity. Risk transfer activity is defined as transactions that change the risk position between two parties. These transaction types include new trades between two parties, a termination of an existing transaction, or the assignment of an existing transaction to a third party.

It was specifically designed to exclude transactions which did not result in a change in the market risk position of the market participants, and are not market activity. For example, central counterparty clearing of existing bilateral trades and portfolio compression both terminate existing transactions and re-book new transactions or amend existing transactions.   These transactions still maintain the same risk profile and consequently are not included as "market risk transfer activity" transactions.   This analysis also excluded transactions such as backloads (trades uploaded post trade date, and not as part of the original confirmation process for that trade but as a subsequent process) and amendments as well as intra-family transactions (transactions between participants within the same legal hierarchy). Additionally, the analysis included steps designed to identify prime brokerage transactions and count these only once to properly reflect the actual level of market risk transfer activity.

This analysis included single-name CDS transactions, including CDS on Loans. It did not include Markit Index or Markit Index Tranche transactions or transactions on asset-back securities such as CMBS or RMBS. The figures represent transactions and not “sides”, therefore two submitted sides equal one transaction.

Detailed Output:

This analysis was intended to help inform market participants and regulators as to the structure of the market, and particularly traded volumes, for use in the context of better understanding the potential for clearing. To do this, DTCC provides more detail for the top 1,000 reference entities outstanding in the TIW and publishes each week (www.dtcc.com) in Section I, Table 6. Of the 1,000 reference entities, only those that were observed to have market activity during the three month observation period were further analyzed.

For this data set, the following attributes are included in the analysis, based on the definitions below:

- Region
- Index Constituent
- Total Number of Clearing Dealers
- Average Monthly Clearing Dealers
- Average Daily Notional
- Average Number of Trades per Day
- Restructuring %

Attribute definitions:

Region:

The second column identifies the region associated with the predominant trading style associated with each reference entity name, based on the documentation type of the underlying trades. For example, transactions traded as StandardNorthAmericanCorporate would be associated with the Americas Region. Where more than 25% of the transactions are associated with a region, that region has been included; in some cases therefore this attribute shows two or more regions. The regions used are consistent with those for which there are Determinations Committees within the International Swaps and Derivatives Association, Inc. (ISDA).

If the reference entity is a sovereign or governmental entity, it is identified as a “sovereign”, regardless of whether the entity is a country, state, or city.

Index Constituent:

If the reference entity name is included in one of the broad market indices traded in the credit derivative marketplace, the third column will be marked as “Yes”. For purposes of this analysis, the indices that were considered were the latest Series for CDX Investment Grade and High Yield indices, the latest Series for iTraxx Europe, the CDX EM and EM Diversified indices as well as the iTraxx SovX CEEMA and Western Europe. These indices are administered by Markit.

Total Number of Clearing Dealers:

This analysis was meant to assist with the clearing function. Therefore, as part of the analysis, the TIW considered clearing dealers to include the 17 dealer families which were involved in an active clearinghouse as of this analysis. The 17 families are:

- Bank of America Merrill Lynch
- Barclays
- BNP Paribas
- Calyon
- Citibank
- Credit Suisse
- Deutsche Bank
- Goldman Sachs
- HSBC
- JPMorgan
- Morgan Stanley
- Natixis
- Nomura
- Royal Bank of Scotland
- Societe Generale
- UBS
- UniCredit

The fourth column shows the total number of the 17 dealer families that executed at least one transaction during the period.

Average Monthly Clearing Dealers:

The fifth column indicates the average monthly number of clearing dealers, out of the 17, that executed transactions on that reference entity on a monthly basis. A clearing dealer will be included for each month as long as they executed at least one transaction during each month. For purposes of this analysis, a month was considered to be from the 20th of each month through and including the 19th of the following month (adjusted for Business Days). This figure is shown rounded to one decimal place.

Average Daily Notional (USD equivalent)

The seventh column represents the average daily notional of transactions executed on each reference entity name. This notional represents the amount executed across the entire maturity spectrum for each of the reference entity. **It does NOT represent the average amount traded at each maturity point or the amount traded at the five year point. Note that for the most liquid of the reference entities, there can be 40 or more maturity dates with activity, with forty representing quarterly buckets for ten years, and trading volume at each individual maturity point is therefore lower, potentially significantly lower, than the total.**

All trading has been converted to its USD equivalent using FX rates from the end of the observation period. The average daily notional amounts have been rounded up to the nearest 2.5MM for average daily amounts less than 25MM and rounded up to the nearest 25MM for all amounts over 25MM.

Average number of trades per day:

This represents the average number of transactions on each reference entity executed on a given day. This is the rounded number of transactions and not sides.

Restructuring %:

This column shows the percentage, in notional terms, of transactions in each reference entity that were executed with restructuring clauses applying. For purposes of this analysis, restructuring includes Old R, Mod R, and ModMod R. The results were bucketed into 5 different percentage bands; < 5%, 5-25%, 25-75%, 75-95% and >95%.

The default trading style in North America moved from trading with restructuring to trading without restructuring in 2010 along with the introduction of the Big Bang Protocol and “Standard” trading. Because the market activity analysis included “new transactions” as well as termination and assignment of older transactions which had restructuring applicable, the restructuring percentage is derived using only the “new transaction” portion of the activity and not all of the activity, as including termination and assignments would have resulted in higher restructuring % levels which might be misleading on an ongoing basis.