April 2021

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TRANSITION TO RFRs REVIEW: First Quarter of 2021

The Transition to Risk-free Rates (RFRs) Review analyzes the trading volumes of over-the-counter (OTC) and exchange-traded interest rate derivatives (IRD) that reference selected alternative RFRs, including the Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR), the Sterling Overnight Index Average (SONIA), the Swiss Average Rate Overnight (SARON), the Tokyo Overnight Average Rate (TONA), the Euro Short-Term Rate (€STR) and the Australian Overnight Index Average (AONIA).

Global data is collected from all major central counterparties (CCPs) that clear OTC and exchangetraded derivatives (ETD) in the six currencies, including the Australian Securities Exchange, CME Group, Eurex, Intercontinental Exchange (ICE), Japan Securities Clearing Corporation, LCH and the Tokyo Financial Exchange. Only cleared transactions are captured in this data.

US data is collected from the Depository Trust & Clearing Corporation (DTCC) swap data repository (SDR). It therefore only covers trades that are required to be disclosed under US regulations and includes cleared and non-cleared OTC IRD transactions.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2021

Global Trading Activity¹

The ISDA-Clarus RFR Adoption Indicator decreased to 9.8% in the first quarter of 2021 compared to 9.9% in the fourth quarter of 2020². The indicator tracks how much global trading activity (as measured by DV01) is conducted in cleared OTC and exchange-traded IRD that reference the identified RFRs in six major currencies³.

RFR-linked IRD traded notional accounted for 10.6% of total IRD traded notional in the first quarter of 2021 compared to 12.3% in the prior quarter.

Trading Activity in the US⁴

Traded notional of OTC IRD in the US referencing alternative RFRs increased by 41.1% to \$5.5 trillion in the first quarter of 2021 compared to \$3.9 trillion in the fourth quarter of 2020⁵. The increase was primarily driven by higher trading activity in SONIA-linked derivatives. However, RFR transactions accounted for 7.8% of total IRD traded notional in the first quarter of 2021 compared to 9.5% in the prior quarter.

IRD traded notional referencing SOFR increased to \$780.7 billion in the first quarter of 2021 from \$620.9 billion in the prior quarter. The proportion of IRD traded notional linked to SOFR remained small, accounting for only 1.1% of total IRD traded notional and 14.1% of IRD traded notional referencing RFRs.

¹ The global data is collected from all major central counterparties (CCPs) that clear over-the-counter (OTC) and exchange-traded derivatives (ETD) in the six currencies, including the Australian Securities Exchange, CME Group, Eurex, Intercontinental Exchange (ICE), Japan Securities Clearing Corporation, LCH and the Tokyo Financial Exchange. Only cleared transactions are captured in this data

² The RFR Adoption Indicator was 8.8% in March 2021. ISDA-Clarus RFR Adoption Indicator, March 2021: https://www.isda.org/a/lqFTE/ISDA-Clarus-RFR-Adoption-Indicator-March-2021.pdf

³ ISDA-Clarus RFR Adoption Indicator White Paper: https://www.isda.org/a/SImTE/ISDA-Clarus-RFR-Adoption-Indicator-Whitepaper.pdf

⁴ The US data is collected from the Depository Trust & Clearing Corporation (DTCC) swap data repository (SDR). It therefore only covers trades that are required to be disclosed under US regulations and includes cleared and non-cleared OTC IRD transactions

⁵ This data covers only transactions that are required to be disclosed under US regulations

TRANSITION TO RFRs REVIEW: First Quarter of 2021 Safe, Efficient Markets

- IRD traded notional referencing SONIA increased to \$4.6 trillion in the first quarter of 2021 compared to \$3.2 trillion in the fourth quarter of 2020. SONIA transactions accounted for 6.5% of total IRD traded notional and represented 83.2% of IRD traded notional referencing RFRs⁶.
- Traded notional of IRD referencing LIBOR denominated in US dollars, sterling, Swiss franc, yen and euro, as well as EURIBOR and TIBOR, increased to \$51.1 trillion compared to \$25.6 trillion in the fourth quarter of 2020. These interbank offered rates (IBORs) represented 71.7% of total IRD traded notional compared to 62.0% in the fourth quarter of 2020.

⁶ This is expected as SONIA has been and is currently used as the reference rate for sterling overnight index swaps (OIS), while the effective federal funds rate (EFFR) is still widely used as the reference rate for US dollar OIS

GLOBAL RFR-LINKED OTC AND EXCHANGE-TRADED IRD

The ISDA-Clarus RFR Adoption Indicator decreased to 9.8% in the first quarter of 2021 compared to 9.9% in the fourth quarter of 2020⁷. RFR-linked IRD DV01 increased to \$9.9 billion in the first quarter of 2021 compared to \$7.5 billion in the prior quarter. Total IRD DV01 rose to \$101.0 billion from \$76.0 billion over the same period⁸ (see Chart 1).

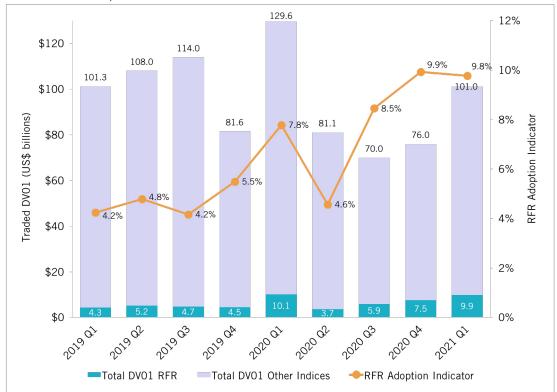


Chart 1: RFR Adoption Indicator: % of DV01 Transacted as RFR-linked IRD Products

Source: ISDA-Clarus RFR Adoption Indicator

RFR-linked IRD traded notional accounted for 10.6% of total IRD traded notional in the first quarter of 2021 versus 12.3% in the fourth quarter of 2020. IRD traded notional linked to RFRs increased to \$48.2 trillion in the first quarter of 2021 from \$37.8 trillion in the prior quarter. Total IRD traded notional increased to \$454.9 trillion from \$308.4 trillion over the same period (see Chart 2).

⁷ ISDA-Clarus RFR Adoption Indicator tracks how much global trading activity (as measured by DV01) is conducted in cleared OTC and exchange-traded derivatives that reference the identified RFRs in six major currencies, including the Australian dollar, euro, sterling, Swiss franc, US dollar and yen

⁸ To access interactive charts and download monthly data, visit https://rfr.clarusft.com

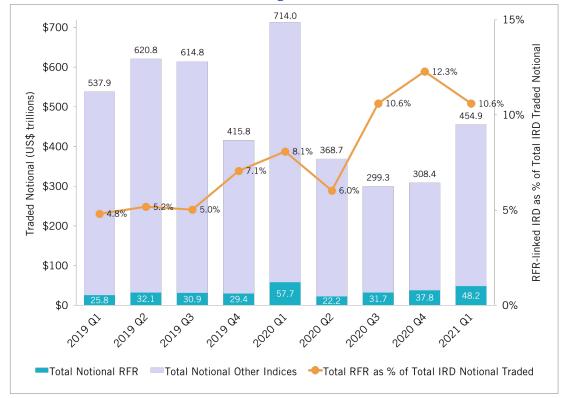


Chart 2: Global IRD Traded Notional (including OTC and ETD)

Source: ISDA-Clarus RFR Adoption Indicator

RFR-LINKED OTC IRD IN THE US

In the US, OTC IRD traded notional referencing alternative RFRs increased by 41.1% to \$5.5 trillion in the first quarter of 2021 compared to \$3.9 trillion in the fourth quarter of 2020⁹. The increase was primarily driven by higher trading activity in SONIA-linked derivatives.

RFR transactions accounted for 7.8% of total OTC IRD traded notional in the first quarter of 2021 versus 9.5% in the prior quarter. The number of trades referencing RFRs increased by 80.7% to 22,465 in the first quarter of 2021. RFR-linked trades accounted for 4.1% of total OTC IRD trade count in first quarter of 2021 compared to 3.6% in the first quarter of 2020.

In the first quarter of 2021:

- SOFR-linked OTC IRD traded notional increased by 25.7% compared with the fourth quarter of 2020 and totaled \$780.7 billion, including \$353.6 billion of basis swaps. Trade count grew by 4.1% to 5,583 over the same period, including 2,242 basis swaps¹⁰.
- SONIA-linked IRD traded notional increased by 43.7% to \$4.6 trillion, including \$62.8 billion of basis swaps. Trade count rose by 145.8% to 16,280, including 356 basis swaps.
- SARON-linked IRD traded notional increased to \$7.1 billion and trade count grew to 53.
- TONA-linked IRD traded notional grew to \$98.0 billion, including \$0.1 billion of basis swaps. Trade count increased to 220, including two basis swaps.
- €STR-linked IRD traded notional decreased by 7.7% to \$44.0 billion, including \$0.4 billion of basis swaps. Trade count grew to 329, including seven basis swaps¹¹.

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⁹ This data covers only transactions that are required to be disclosed under US regulations

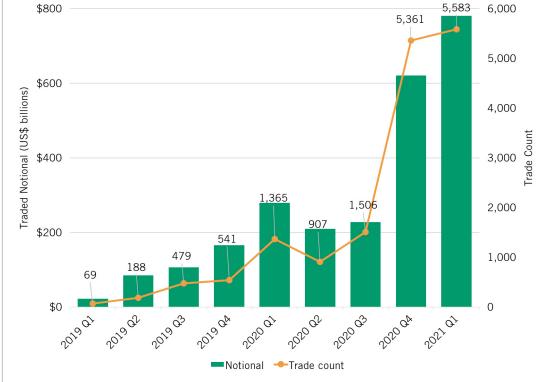
¹⁰ The RFR basis swap data covers all basis swaps with the relevant alternative RFR as one of the underlying assets. This includes alternative RFR/ interbank offered rate (IBOR) basis swaps. Basis swaps with the relevant alternative RFR as one of the underlying assets are tracked separately because market participants have specifically identified a robust basis swaps market as key to understanding the economic differences between the alternative RFRs and other rates, including IBORs. A robust and liquid basis swaps market for the alternative RFRs will also support hedging during the transition from IBORs to alternative RFRs

¹¹€STR swaps started trading in the fourth quarter of 2019

SOFR

Trading activity in SOFR-linked OTC IRD grew in the first quarter of 2021 compared to the prior quarter¹². Traded notional of IRD referencing SOFR increased by 25.7% to \$780.7 billion from \$620.9 billion in the fourth quarter of 2020. The number of SOFR-linked IRD transactions increased by 4.1% to 5,583 from 5,361 over the same period (see Chart 3).





Source: DTCC SDR

Before major central counterparties changed their price alignment interest/amount and discounting curves from the Effective Federal Funds Rate (EFFR) to SOFR in October 2020, most OTC IRD transactions referencing SOFR had a tenor up to one year¹³. After the change, the tenor of SOFR swaps was extended and more liquidity was created across the entire SOFR curve.

Of the \$780.7 billion of SOFR-linked IRD traded notional in the first quarter of 2021, \$319.7 billion (41.0%) had a tenor up to one year, \$321.6 billion (41.2%) was between one and five years and \$139.4 billion (17.9%) had a tenor over five years (see Chart 4).

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¹² SOFR swaps started trading in the third quarter of 2018

¹³ Tenor is calculated as the difference between the effective date and the maturity date

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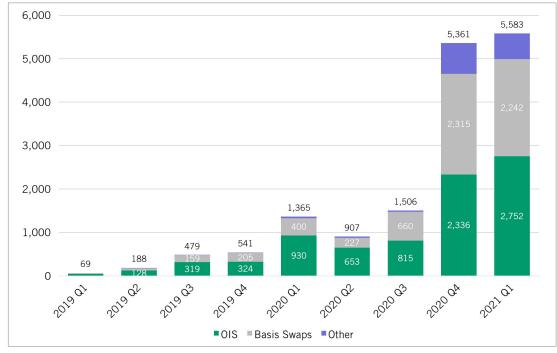
780.7 \$800 139.4 \$700 620.9 \$600 118.1 \$500 \$400 279.0 \$300 228.0 209.6 39.5 \$200 166.0 319.7 283.3 106.5 84.7 \$100 191.0 146.7 133.5 121.0 22.6 77.0 73.4 \$0 2020 03 2019.02 2012,03 2012,04 2020 02 202004 2021 01 201901 202001 Up to 1 year • Over 1 year and up to 5 years Over 5 years

Chart 4: SOFR Traded Notional by Tenor (US\$ billions)

Source: DTCC SDR

Of the 5,583 SOFR-based IRD contracts traded in the first quarter of 2021, 2,752 were overnight index swaps (OIS), 2,242 were basis swaps and 418 were other transactions, including fixed-for-floating interest rate swaps and cap/floor products (see Chart 5).

Chart 5: SOFR Trade Count by Product



Source: DTCC SDR

SONIA

Traded notional of OTC IRD referencing SONIA increased by 43.7% to \$4.6 trillion in the first quarter of 2021 from \$3.2 trillion in the fourth quarter of 2020. Trade count jumped from 6,624 to 16,280 over the same period (see Chart 6).

16.280 \$15 15,000 Traded Notional (US\$ trillions) \$10 Trade Count 8,391 6,624 5,646 5,196 \$5 5,000 3.706 3,432 2.881 2,665 \$0 0 202001 202002 202003 2012,02 2012,03 2019,04 202004 202101 201901 —Notional 🛛 🔶 Trade count

Chart 6: SONIA Traded Notional and Trade Count

Source: DTCC SDR

Most transactions referencing SONIA had a tenor up to one year. Of the \$4.6 trillion of SONIA-linked IRD traded notional in the first quarter of 2021, \$3.7 trillion (79.4%) had a tenor up to one year, \$542.9 billion (11.8%) was between one and five years and \$405.6 billion (8.8%) had a tenor over five years (see Chart 7).

Chart 7: SONIA Traded Notional by Tenor (US\$ trillions)



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OIS accounted for the majority of SONIA-linked OTC IRD trade count. Of the 16,280 SONIA-based IRD contracts traded in the first quarter of 2021, 15,583 were OIS transactions, 356 were basis swaps and 341 were other products (see Chart 8).

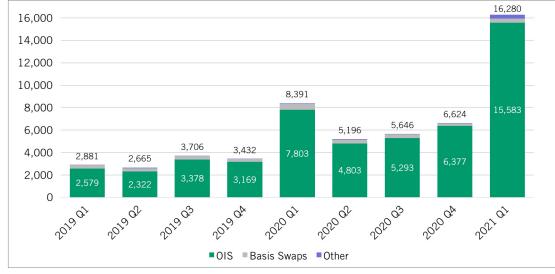


Chart 8: SONIA Trade Count by Product

Source: DTCC SDR

Table 1: US IRD Traded Notional and Trade Count

	Q1 2021		YTD Q	1 2021		
	Traded Notional (US\$ billions)	Trade Count	Traded Notional (US\$ billions)	Trade Count		
USD LIBOR	32,255.1	208,429	32,255.1	208,429		
SOFR	427.1	3,341	427.1	3,341		
Basis Swaps: SOFR	353.6	2,242	353.6	2,242		
GBP LIBOR	5,489.5	38,225	5,489.5	38,225		
SONIA	4,550.5	15,924	4,550.5	15,924		
Basis Swaps: SONIA	62.8	356	62.8	356		
CHF LIBOR	241.2	3,712	241.2	3,712		
SARON	7.1	53	7.1	53		
Basis Swaps: SARON	0.0	0	0.0	0		
JPY LIBOR	1,272.3	13,552	1,272.3	13,552		
TIBOR/Euroyen TIBOR	1.4	20	1.4	20		
TONA	98.0	218	98.0	218		
Basis Swaps: TONA	0.1	2	0.1	2		
EUR LIBOR	0.8	10	0.8	10		
EURIBOR	11,808.0	97,288	11,808.0	97,288		
€STR	44.0	322	44.0	322		
Basis Swaps: €STR	0.4	7	0.4	7		
Other*	14,585.7	165,943	14,585.7	165,943		
Total**	71,197.6	549,644	71,197.6	549,644		

*Other includes IRD with other reference rates, IBOR/non-RFR basis swaps and IBOR/IBOR basis swaps that reference different IBORs; IBOR/IBOR basis swaps that reference the same IBOR are included in a corresponding IBOR category **This data includes only the transactions required to be disclosed under U.S. regulations and does not include any exchange-traded derivatives (futures)

Source: DTCC SDR

Table 2: US IRD Traded Notional and Trade Count Q1 2021 vs. Q4 2020

	Q1 2021		Q4 2	2020	Q1 2021 vs. Q	
	Traded Notional (US\$ billions)	Trade Count	Traded Notional (US\$ billions)	Trade Count	Traded Notional	Trade Count
USD LIBOR	32,255.1	208,429	18,933.4	142,790	70.4%	46.0%
SOFR	780.7	5,583	620.9	5,361	25.7%	4.1%
GBP LIBOR	5,489.5	38,225	2,222.3	20,092	147.0%	90.2%
SONIA	4,613.3	16,280	3,211.2	6,624	43.7%	145.8%
CHF LIBOR	241.2	3,712	112.6	2,657	114.1%	39.7%
SARON	7.1	53	2.5	7	187.9%	657.1%
JPY LIBOR	1,272.3	13,552	556.5	7,205	128.6%	88.1%
TIBOR/Euroyen TIBOR	1.4	20	1.8	9	-20.3%	122.2%
TONA	98.0	220	45.0	117	117.9%	88.0%
EUR LIBOR	0.8	10	0.4	7	126.4%	42.9%
EURIBOR	11,808.0	97,288	3,765.5	44,939	213.6%	116.5%
€STR	44.4	329	48.1	325	-7.7%	1.2%
Other*	14,585.7	165,943	11,740.9	110,740	24.2%	49.8%
Total**	71,197.6	549,644	41,260.9	340,873	72.6%	61.2%

*Other includes IRD with other reference rates, IBOR/non-RFR basis swaps and IBOR/IBOR basis swaps that reference different IBORs; IBOR/IBOR basis swaps that reference the same IBOR are included in a corresponding IBOR category **This data includes only the transactions required to be disclosed under U.S. regulations and does not include any exchange-traded derivatives (futures)

Source: DTCC SDR

Table 3: US IRD Traded Notional and Trade Count Q1 2021 vs. Q1 2020

	Q1 2021		Q1 2020		Q1 2021 vs. Q1 2020	
	Traded Notional (US\$ billions)	Trade Count	Traded Notional (US\$ billions)	Trade Count	Traded Notional	Trade Count
USD LIBOR	32,255.1	208,429	37,068.5	216,588	87.0%	96.2%
SOFR	780.7	5,583	279.0	1,365	279.5%	409.0%
GBP LIBOR	5,489.5	38,225	4,367.1	32,172	125.7%	118.8%
SONIA	4,613.3	16,280	7,958.6	8,391	58.0%	194.0%
CHF LIBOR	241.2	3,712	158.8	2,923	147.8%	127.0%
SARON	7.1	53	7.5	17	82.6%	311.8%
JPY LIBOR	1,272.3	13,552	1,038.0	10,855	122.5%	124.8%
TIBOR/Euroyen TIBOR	1.4	20	1.1	17	49.6%	117.6%
TONA	98.0	220	110.9	252	88.0%	87.3%
EUR LIBOR	0.8	10	0.6	14	-52.6%	71.4%
EURIBOR	11,808.0	97,288	6,272.9	60,054	188.2%	162.0%
€STR	44.4	329	4.3	34	1030.7%	967.6%
Other*	14,585.7	165,943	29,924.0	149,422	48.7%	111.1%
Total**	71,197.6	549,644	87,191.2	482,104	81.7%	114.0%

*Other includes IRD with other reference rates, IBOR/non-RFR basis swaps and IBOR/IBOR basis swaps that reference different IBORs; IBOR/IBOR basis swaps that reference the same IBOR are included in a corresponding IBOR category **This data includes only the transactions required to be disclosed under U.S. regulations and does not include any exchange-traded derivatives (futures)

Source: DTCC SDR

Table 4: US RFR-linked IRD Traded Notional and Trade Count by Tenor

	Q1 2021		YTD Q	Q1 2021		
	Traded Notional (US\$ billions)	Trade Count	Traded Notional (US\$ billions)	Trade Count		
SOFR	780.7	5,583	780.7	5,583		
Up to 1 year	319.7	339	319.7	339		
Over 1 year and up to 5 years	321.6	2,762	321.6	2,762		
Over 5 years	139.4	2,482	139.4	2,482		
SONIA	4,613.3	16,280	4,613.3	16,280		
Up to 1 year	3,664.7	2,467	3,664.7	2,467		
Over 1 year and up to 5 years	542.9	4,421	542.9	4,421		
Over 5 years	405.6	9,392	405.6	9,392		
SARON	7.1	53	7.1	53		
Up to 1 year	4.2	12	4.2	12		
Over 1 year and up to 5 years	2.3	24	2.3	24		
Over 5 years	0.6	17	0.6	17		
TONA	98.0	220	98.0	220		
Up to 1 year	91.0	153	91.0	153		
Over 1 year and up to 5 years	6.0	39	6.0	39		
Over 5 years	1.0	28	1.0	28		
€STR	44.4	329	44.4	329		
Up to 1 year	26.5	44	26.5	44		
Over 1 year and up to 5 years	11.1	134	11.1	134		
Over 5 years	6.8	151	6.8	151		

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Source: DTCC SDR

	Q1 2	Q1 2021		YTD Q1 2021		
	Traded Notional (US\$ billions)	Trade Count	Traded Notional (US\$ billions)	Trade Count		
SOFR	780.7	5,583	780.7	5,583		
DIS	404.7	2,752	404.7	2,752		
Basis Swaps	353.6	2,242	353.6	2,242		
ixed-for-Floating IRS	2.7	48	2.7	48		
Cross Currency IRS	0.2	8	0.2	8		
nflation Swaps	0.0	0	0.0	0		
ixotics	4.9	132	4.9	132		
Options	5.8	31	5.8	31		
Cap Floor	8.9	370	8.9	370		
ONIA	4,613.3	16,280	4,613.3	16,280		
NS	4,501.5	15,583	4,501.5	15,583		
Basis Swaps	62.8	356	62.8	356		
ixed-for-Floating IRS	0.2	2	0.2	2		
Cross Currency IRS	0.5	6	0.5	6		
nflation Swaps	0.0	0	0.0	0		
ixotics	1.7	18	1.7	18		
Options	45.4	302	45.4	302		
Cap Floor	1.3	13	1.3	13		
ARON	7.1	53	7.1	53		
DIS	7.1	53	7.1	53		
Basis Swaps	0.0	0	0.0	0		
ixed-for-Floating IRS	0.0	0	0.0	0		
ross Currency IRS	0.0	0	0.0	0		
nflation Swaps	0.0	0	0.0	0		
ixotics	0.0	0	0.0	0		
Options	0.0	0	0.0	0		
ap Floor	0.0	0	0.0	0		
ONA	98.0	220	98.0	220		
DIS	97.9	217	97.9	217		
Basis Swaps	0.07	2	0.07	217		
ixed-for-Floating IRS	0.0	0	0.07	0		
Cross Currency IRS	0.0	0	0.0			
nflation Swaps				0		
	0.0	0	0.0	0		
ptions		0	0.0	0		
Cap Floor	0.0	1	0.0	1		
•	0.0	0	0.0	0		
ISTR DIS	44.4	329	44.4	329		
	44.0	322	44.0	322		
asis Swaps	0.4	7	0.4	7		
ixed-for-Floating IRS	0.0	0	0.0	0		
Cross Currency IRS	0.0	0	0.0	0		
nflation Swaps	0.0	0	0.0	0		
Exotics	0.0	0	0.0	0		
Options	0.0	0	0.0	0		
Cap Floor	0.0	0	0.0	0		

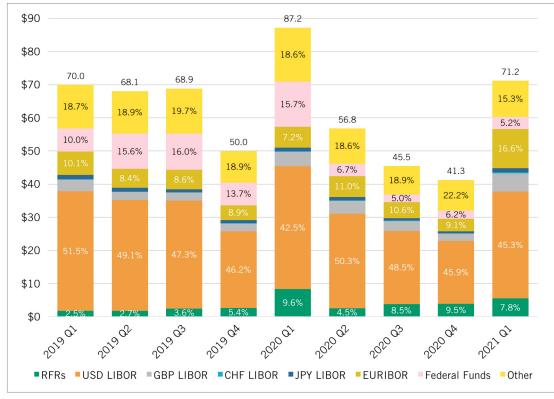
Source: DTCC SDR

IBOR-LINKED OTC IRD IN THE US

OTC IRD traded notional referencing LIBOR denominated in US dollars, sterling, Swiss franc, yen and euro, as well as EURIBOR and TIBOR, equaled \$51.1 trillion in the first quarter of 2021, representing 71.7% of total IRD traded notional¹⁴. The number of IRD trades referencing IBORs was 361,236, accounting for 65.7% of total IRD trade count.

IRD traded notional based on US dollar LIBOR equaled \$32.3 trillion, accounting for 45.3% of total IRD traded notional in the first quarter of 2021 (see Chart 9). EURIBOR and sterling LIBOR IRD traded notional was \$11.8 trillion and \$5.5 trillion, respectively. IRD traded notional referencing the EFFR totaled \$3.7 trillion and accounted for 5.2% of IRD traded notional.

In comparison, IRD traded notional referencing LIBOR denominated in US dollar, sterling, Swiss franc, yen and euro, as well as EURIBOR and TIBOR, equaled \$25.6 trillion and represented 62.0% of total IRD traded notional in the fourth quarter of 2020¹⁵.





Source: DTCC SDR

¹⁴ This data covers only transactions that are required to be disclosed under US regulations

¹⁵ These numbers are marginally different from the ones published in the prior quarter report due to reclassification of IBOR/IBOR basis swaps that reference the same IBOR from Other to a corresponding IBOR category. Other includes IRD with non-RFR reference rates, IBOR/non-RFR basis swaps and IBOR/IBOR basis swaps that reference different IBORs

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Chart 10: US dollar LIBOR IRD Traded Notional by Maturity (US\$ trillions)

Source: DTCC SDR

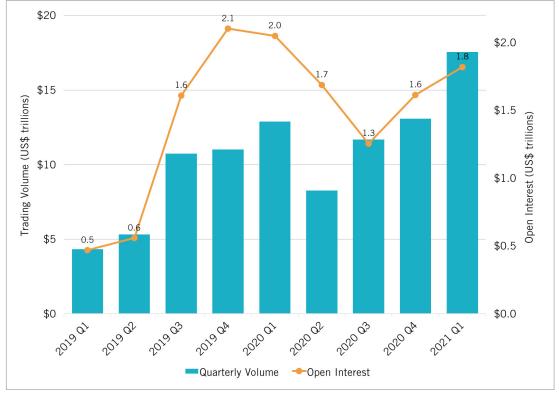
TRANSITION TO RFRs REVIEW: First Quarter of 2021

SOFR AND SONIA FUTURES

Trading volume in SOFR futures increased by 34.1% to \$17.5 trillion in the first quarter of 2021 from \$13.1 trillion in the fourth quarter of 2020 (see Chart 11).

Open interest in SOFR futures increased to 1.8 trillion at the end of March 2021 compared to 1.6 trillion at the end of December 2020^{16} .

Chart 11: SOFR Futures Quarterly Trading Volume and Open Interest (Implied Notional in OTC Equivalent)



Source: CME and ICE

Trading volume in SONIA futures increased to \$11.6 trillion in the first quarter of 2021 from \$5.8 trillion in the previous quarter (see Chart 12).

Open interest increased to \$360.6 billion at the end of March 2021 compared to \$261.3 billion at the end of December 2020.

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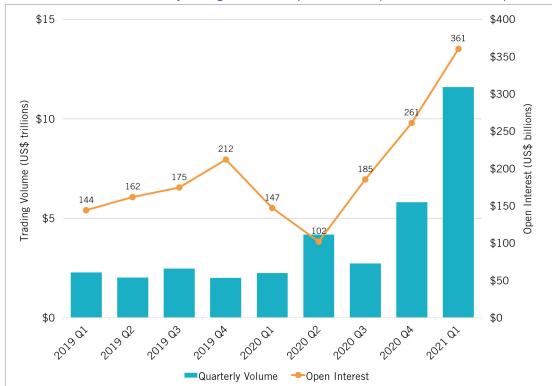


Chart 12: SONIA Futures Quarterly Trading Volume and Open Interest (Implied Notional in OTC Equivalent)

Source: CME, ICE and LCH

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ISDA has published other recent research papers:

- Adoption of RFRs: Major Developments in 2021, April 2021 https://www.isda.org/a/MzFTE/Adoption-of-RFRs-Major-Developments-in-2021.pdf
- ISDA-Clarus RFR Adoption Indicator: March 2021, April 2021 https://www.isda.org/a/lqFTE/ISDA-Clarus-RFR-Adoption-Indicator-March-2021.pdf
- Transition to RFRs Review: Full Year 2020 and the Fourth Quarter of 2020, January 2021

https://www.isda.org/a/ZqCTE/Transition-to-RFRs-Review-Full-Year-2020-and-Q4-of-2020.pdf

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ABOUT ISDA

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