

Evolution of the Foreign Exchange Market and Exchange Balance

October 2019



BANCO CENTRAL
DE LA REPÚBLICA ARGENTINA

Transactions in the Foreign Exchange Market and the Foreign Exchange Balance

Overview

Foreign Exchange Transactions and Foreign Exchange Balance in October 2019

- ✓ *October turned out to be heterogeneous due to the regulatory changes implemented in the forex market. Until general elections, the private sector was a net purchaser of foreign currency, and the BCRA sold USD4,348 million to meet the demand. Upon the issuance of Communication "A" 6815, the private sector turned out to be a net seller in the forex market. The BCRA purchased USD1,925 million between October 28 and November 20.*
- ✓ *Companies in the real sector were net sellers of foreign currency for USD256 million in October.*
- ✓ *Within this group, the main sector to make net sales in historical terms ("Oilseeds and Grains") recorded net sales for USD1,560 million, up 24% y.o.y.*
- ✓ *Companies in the "Real Sector Non-Oilseeds and Grains" made net purchases for USD1,305 million, particularly to make net payments for goods and services and to repay domestic loans in foreign currency, which were partly offset by sales of foreign assets.*
- ✓ *Natural persons, who mainly demand foreign currency for saving and for traveling abroad, made net purchases for USD4,285 million (USD3,920 million just in exchange for banknotes, and USD365 million for their remaining transactions).*
- ✓ *"Institutional Investors and Others"—both residents and non-residents—made net sales for USD14 million over the month.*
- ✓ *In addition to purchases on the spot market, financial institutions licensed to trade in the forex market made forward net sales in foreign currency for USD151 million.*
- ✓ *The National Treasury made payments on account of two major reasons. On the one hand, for principal and interest of debt for USD1,788 million; particularly, USD942 million to international organizations and payments for LETES bills for USD846 million. On another note, it recorded financial inflows totaling USD167 million from international organizations.*
- ✓ *Gross international reserves amounted USD43,260 million by end October.*

I. Introduction

This report analyses information on foreign exchange transactions made in October 2019 as gathered by the Exchange Transaction Reporting System administered by the BCRA. Additionally, it relies on information on changes in BCRA's International Reserves due to transactions carried out by BCRA on its own account or on behalf of the National Government, and on changes in the balance of institutions' accounts.¹

Data collected from institutions include information on every transaction conducted in the forex market by natural or legal persons (including the sector to which they belong, which agrees with the main business activity reported to AFIP (Federal Administration of Public Revenue)), amounts traded, currency denomination, and the reason for the foreign exchange transaction (heading)—such as export or import of goods or services, saving, and financial liabilities, as defined in the Sixth Edition of the IMF's Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual (BPM6).

This report discusses the forex market performance by aggregated transactions in terms of the sector of the trader involved followed by a breakdown of their transactions by heading.²

The importance of Communication "A" 6770 (issued on September 01, 2019) is underscored once again because of the considerable impact it exerted on the developments under analysis. It is worth noting that the Communication gave rise to a set of measures related to forex market operations³

Regulatory changes continued along October, the most relevant of which involve a decrease in the monthly cap assigned to local citizens—from USD10,000 to USD200—where foreign currency is purchased to build up foreign assets; and from USD1,000 to USD100 for purchases by non-residents (Communication "A" 6815).⁴

The evolution of the historical series submitted together with this report should be analyzed in light of the different forex regulations in force for the period.

Section II deals with the changes in BCRA's international reserves and analyses the result of foreign exchange transactions for October; data are broken down by sector and by heading.

Additionally, it is worth noting that the Foreign Exchange Balance will still be presented in an analytical format based on data on the Balance of Payments broken down by component and by institutional sector; the remaining

¹ Communication "A" 3840, as amended.

² Communication "A" 6244. Sectors were grouped into: "Central Bank", "Institutions", "General Government", "Oilseeds and Grains", "Other Real Sectors", "Natural Persons", "Institutional Investors and Others".

For identification purposes, each sector is defined as follows: **"General Government"** stands for the so-called "Public Sector" and embraces transactions made by the National Treasury directly through its account in foreign currency held with the BCRA; **"Oilseeds and Grains"**; **"Real Sector Non-Oilseeds and Grains"** includes the following sectors: "Oil", "Food, Beverages and Tobacco", "Textile and Leather Industries", "Paper, Publishing and Printing Industry", "Chemical, Rubber and Plastic Industries", "Non-Metallic Mineral Products (Cement, Ceramics and Others)", "Manufacture of Common Metals", "Machinery and Equipment", "Automobile Industry", "Other Manufacturing Industries", "Electricity (Generation, Transport, Distribution)", "Gas (Extraction, Transport, Distribution)", "Water", "Commerce", "Transport", "Communications", "Mining", "Agriculture, Livestock and Other Primary Activities", "Construction", "Information Technology", "Gastronomy", "Entertainment" and "Tourism and Accommodation Services"; **"Financial and Foreign Exchange Institutions"** includes the sector's transactions; **"Natural Persons"** is a subsector of "Other Non-Financial Private Sectors"; and **"Institutional Investors and Others"** includes "Insurance" as well as the rest of the "Other Non-Financial Private Sectors".

³ To access Communication "A" 6770, [click here](#).

⁴ To access Communication "A" 6815, [click here](#).

information will also be available in online Annexes and in the statistical series related to the Foreign Exchange Market and the Foreign Exchange Balance.⁵

Section III through Section VIII are divided in sectors, each of which comes with a Foreign Exchange Balance which comprises transactions carried out by institutions with clients in the foreign exchange market and those carried out by the BCRA—either on its own account or on behalf of the National Government.

Finally, Section IX deals with information on the amount traded in the foreign exchange market. This amount stands for transactions made by institutions with their clients—both gross purchases and gross sales—transactions between institutions, and those carried out among institutions and the BCRA.

II. Result of the Foreign Exchange Market and Changes in BCRA International Reserves

October turned out to be a heterogeneous month due to the regulatory changes implemented in the forex market. Until October 25, the private sector was a net purchaser of foreign currency—especially, on the days prior to general elections—and the BCRA sold USD4,348 million to meet the demand. Upon the issuance of Communication “A” 6815, the private sector turned out to be a net seller in the forex market. The BCRA purchased USD1,925 million between October 28 and November 20, and sold USD4,077 million in the spot forex market in October (USD4,067 million were purchased by institutions’ clients, and USD9 million by institutions (see Table II.1)).

**TABLE II.1 Foreign Exchange Market
Result of the sector**
Equivalent in million dollars

Sector	August 2019	September 2019	October 2019	October 1 through 27		October 28 through 31	
				Total (18 business days)	Daily average	Total (4 business days)	Daily average
BCRA	4.319	-281	4.077	4.348	242	-271	-68
To the National Treasury (directly)	2.250	-1.572	-	-	-	-	-
To Financial Institutions in the Foreign Exchange Market	2.069	1.291	4.077	4.348	242	-271	-68
National Treasury	-1.174	1.572	-	-	-	-	-
To the BCRA (directly)	-2.250	1.572	-	-	-	-	-
Auctions through the BCRA	1.076	-	-	-	-	-	-
Institutions	-620	-43	-9	35	2	-44	-11
Institutions' clients (1 +2 +3)	-2.525	-1.248	-4.067	-4.383	-243	315	79
1.Non-Financial Private Sector	-2.296	-1.249	-4.016	-4.326	-240	310	78
Oilseeds and Grains	2.185	1.784	1.560	1.224	68	337	84
Real Sector Non-Oilseeds and Grains	-1.708	-377	-1.305	-1.282	-71	-22	-6
Natural Persons	-1.873	-2.891	-4.285	-4.203	-234	-82	-21
Institutional Investors and Others	-900	235	14	-65	-4	78	20
2.General Government	92	51	20	30	2	-10	-2
3.Institutions (Own Transactions)	-321	-51	-72	-87	-5	15	4
Memorandum Items							
Change in private sector deposits	-5.523	-5.261	-2.278	-1.543	-86	-735	-184
Change in deposits for Swaps	-3.403	-1.036	-624	-554	-31	-70	-17

Note: (+) Net sales; (-) Net purchases

The BCRA’s international reserves fell by USD5,443 million over October. This is mainly explained not only by the sales carried out by the BCRA in the forex market but also the net payments of debt in foreign currency of the National Treasury for USD1,621 million (for further information, see Sections VII and VIII).

A drop in deposits in foreign currency held by financial institutions with the BCRA for USD757 million also impacted on the decrease in international reserves. On another note, private sector's deposit withdrawals amounted to USD2,278 million, and were partially offset by collections of domestic loans in foreign currency for around USD1,700 million.

⁵The Central Bank’s website (www.bcra.gob.ar) contains different statistical series of the Foreign Exchange Market (to access statistical series, [click here](#)), together with an annex broken down by sector and main headings (to access the statistical Annex of the foreign exchange balance [click here](#)). In addition, the “Main differences between the balance of payments and the foreign exchange balance” are available [here](#). The results in this section are broken down by the main sectors trading in the forex market in order to set net purchasers apart from net sellers.

The following table is intended to analyze clients' purchases and sales through institutions in the forex market; such transactions implied a net demand amounting to USD4,067 million. For readers' convenience, each sector's net foreign exchange result analyzed in this report is arranged in horizontal reading direction, and each heading's net result—as informed by the institutions to the BCRA—is displayed vertically. The result of forex transactions in pesos and in foreign currency may be set apart from the result of swap transactions (transfers of US dollars abroad in October).⁶

TABLE II.2 Foreign Exchange Market
Result of Institutions' Transactions with Clients October 2019
 Equivalent in billion dollars

Sector /Main headings	Goods	Travel and Passenger Transport, and Others with Cards	Remaining Services and Other Current Transfers	Foreign Assets - Banknotes	Foreign Assets - Foreign Currency	Net Swaps	Debt, FDI, Portfolio, and Other Transactions	Total
Non-Financial Private Sector	1,0	-0,5	-0,1	-3,7	-0,4	0,6	-0,7	-4,0
Oilseeds and Grains	1,7	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	-0,1	1,6
Real Sector Non-Oilseeds and Grains	-0,7	-0,2	-0,3	0,1	0,1	0,1	-0,4	-1,3
Natural Persons	0,0	-0,4	0,1	-3,9	-0,6	0,6	-0,1	-4,3
Institutional Investors and Others	-0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,0	-0,1	-0,1	0,0
General Government	0,0	0,0	-0,1	0,3	0,0	0,0	-0,2	0,0
Institutions (Own Transactions)	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	-0,1	-0,1
Institutions' Result with Clients	1,0	-0,5	-0,2	-3,4	-0,4	0,6	-1,0	-4,1
Results for forex transactions	1,2	-0,5	-0,2	-3,4	0,1	0,0	-1,1	-4,1
Results for swap transactions	-0,2	0,0	0,0	0,0	-0,5	0,6	0,1	-

Note: (+) Net sales; (-) Net purchases

This type of presentation allows underscoring different behaviors.

As shown in Chart III.1 of the following section, "Oilseeds and Grains" was the main net supplier of foreign currency in the forex market over October. This sector reported net inflows for USD1,560 million for virtually all concepts included in "Goods" (collections on exports net of payments for imports), which is reasonable enough as it proves to be the main exporting sector in the economy.

Companies in the "Real Sector Non-Oilseeds and Grains" made net purchases totaling USD1,305 million particularly to make net payments for goods and services and to repay domestic loans in foreign currency, which were partly offset by sales of foreign assets.

"Natural Persons" basically demanded foreign currency for saving purposes (USD3,920 million in October) and for expenses paid on cards for consumption abroad (USD400 million). Furthermore, they transferred USD556 million to their own accounts abroad, especially from domestic accounts in foreign currency; this triggered a reduction in domestic deposits in foreign currency albeit it produced a neutral result in the forex market.

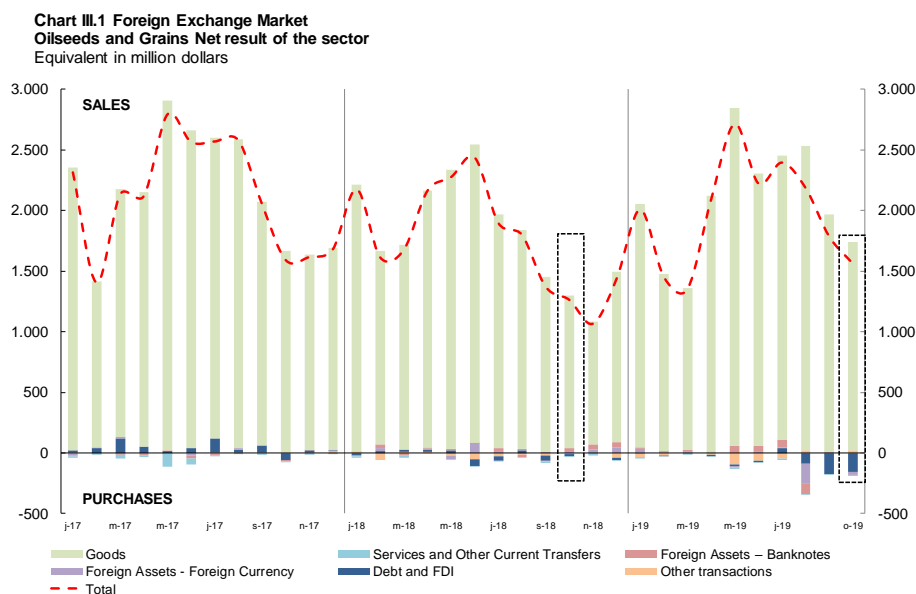
"Institutional Investors and Others" comprises investment funds, pensions funds, hedge funds, insurance companies, and other legal persons not included in the previous classifications—both residents and non-residents—whose most significant transactions involve changes in portfolio. In this regard, in view of the regulatory changes implemented since early September, the sector recorded net inflows for the second consecutive month, ending October with a total of USD14 million (net inflows for USD 235 million in September).⁷

⁶ Although swaps are not precisely forex transactions, they are recorded in forex statistics. They involve a transfer of foreign currency from abroad to a domestic account opened by a client in foreign currency and/or a debit of funds deposited locally for their transfer abroad. Inflows are recorded under the transfer heading (positive sign). In addition, there is a second record where the same amount is entered under a negative sign for the crediting of funds. Contrariwise, a payment abroad from a domestic account in foreign currency is entered under the payment heading with a negative sign, and the debit from the account, under a positive sign. Consequently, the total result of swap transactions in the forex market is neutral.

⁷ These records exclude inflows or outflows from subscribing securities in the primary market and outflows from the payment of principal or interest through accounts of the National Treasury, given that these transactions are not carried out through institutions in the forex market.

III. Oilseeds and Grains

The “Oilseeds and Grains” sector had a USD1,560 million surplus in October (see Chart III.1), up 24% y.o.y.



With respect to the “Goods” heading, the sector reported collections on exports for USD1,902 million (up 42% y.o.y.) and payments for imports for USD181 million. In turn, the estimated trade balance exceeded the net foreign exchange result for goods (USD1,720 million) totaling around USD2,100 million (exports estimated at USD2,250 million, and imports, at USD150 million). The surplus involved payments of debt for around USD400 million.

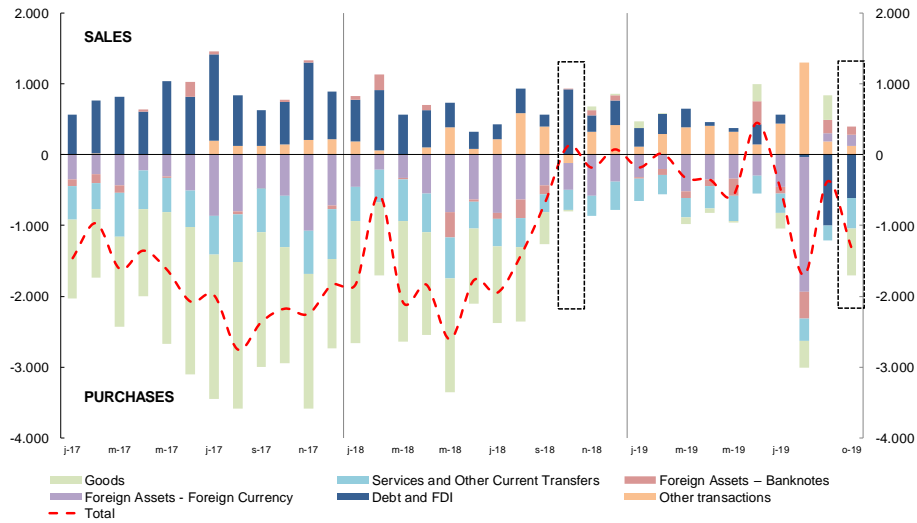
Regarding the domestic trade of commodities during the 2018/2019 harvest season, average purchases of soybean agreed with those recorded in the past 5 harvest seasons, while average purchases of corn increased by 16 million tons against the average of the past 5 harvest seasons, and posted higher production levels. In turn, corn and soybean for the 2019/20 harvest season recorded a faster trading pace. Soybean and corn purchases increased 147% and 172%, respectively, vis-à-vis the previous season.

IV. Real Sector Non-Oilseeds and Grains

Companies in the “Real Sector Non-Oilseeds and Grains” made net purchases totaling USD1,305 million, mainly to make net payments for “Goods” for USD666 million and to pay domestic loans in foreign currency for USD618 million, which were partly offset by net sales of foreign assets for USD270 million (see Chart IV.1).

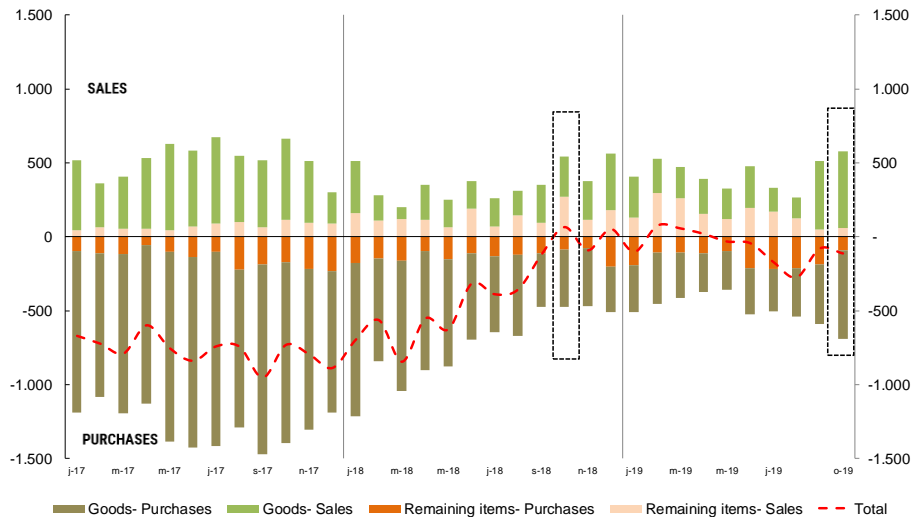
The sector’s result was reversed by USD1,429 million against net sales for USD125 million on a year-on year basis, but rose by USD928 million against September 2019.

Chart IV.1 Foreign Exchange Market
Real Sector Non-Oilseeds and Grains. Net result of the sector
 Equivalent in million dollars



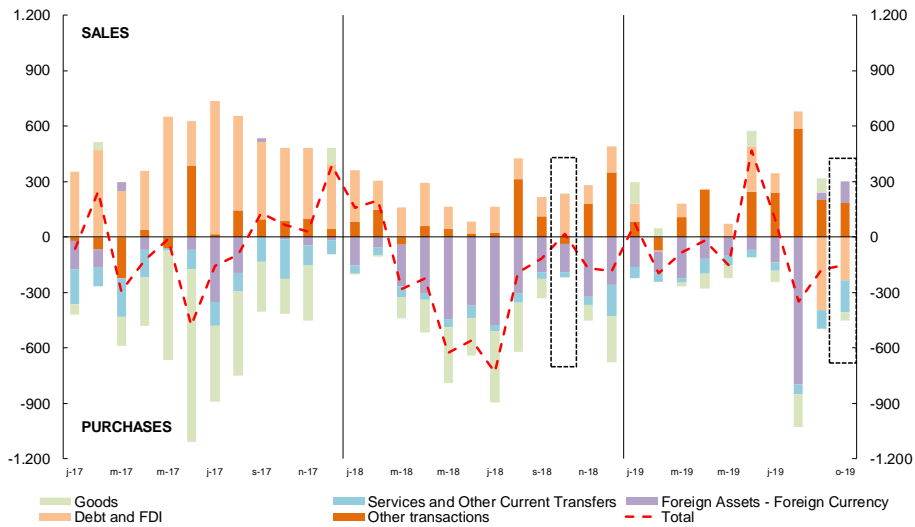
Companies in the “Automobile Industry” made net payments for USD113 million (collections on exports of goods for USD517 million and payments for imports of goods for USD601 million); additionally, a USD180 million reversal was observed y.o.y. (see Chart IV.2). Naturally, volumes traded increased for the second month in a row, given the obligation to enter and settle exports of goods and record the payments of imports. Prior to the regulatory changes, the sector regionally offset commercial liabilities and claims within the same group—thus making net foreign exchange transactions—, and made payments for imports of goods through accounts held abroad funded with collections on exports or by raising debts without settling the resulting foreign exchange in the local market.

Chart IV.2 Foreign Exchange Market
Automobile Industry. Result of the sector
 Equivalent in million dollars



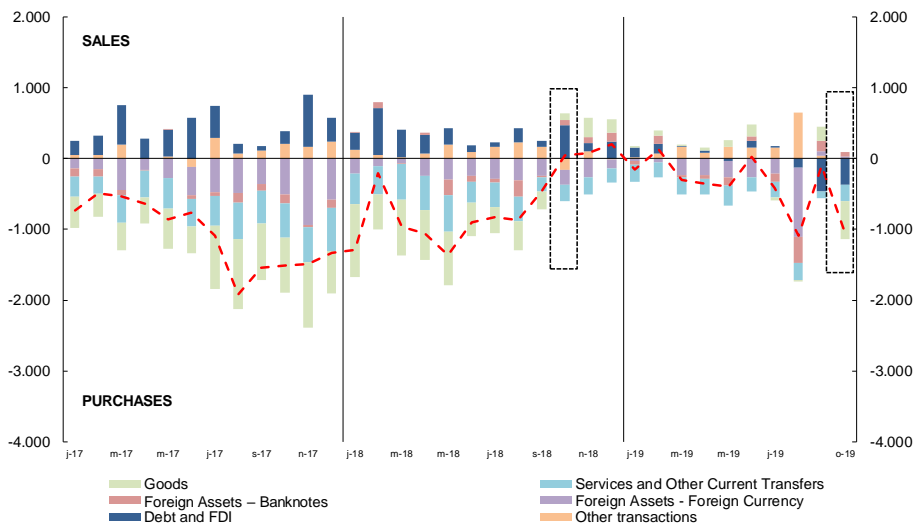
The companies belonging to the “Energy” sector recorded net purchases for USD152 million, and went from being net sellers to net purchasers in y.o.y. terms (see Chart IV.3). Like in September, October’s net outflow resulted mainly from net settlements of domestic debt in foreign currency and net payments for services.

Chart IV.3 Foreign Exchange Market
Energy Net result of the sector
 Equivalent in million dollars



Finally, the remaining companies in the “Real Sector Non-Oilseeds and Grains” made net purchases for USD1,040 million, which, compared to October 2018 (net inflows for USD42 million), evidenced a USD1,082 million reversal. This, in turn, was caused by a change in the result for goods and financial debt transactions at a domestic and foreign level.

Chart IV.4 Foreign Exchange Market
Real Sector Non-Oilseeds and Grains. Rest of the sector
 Equivalent in million dollars

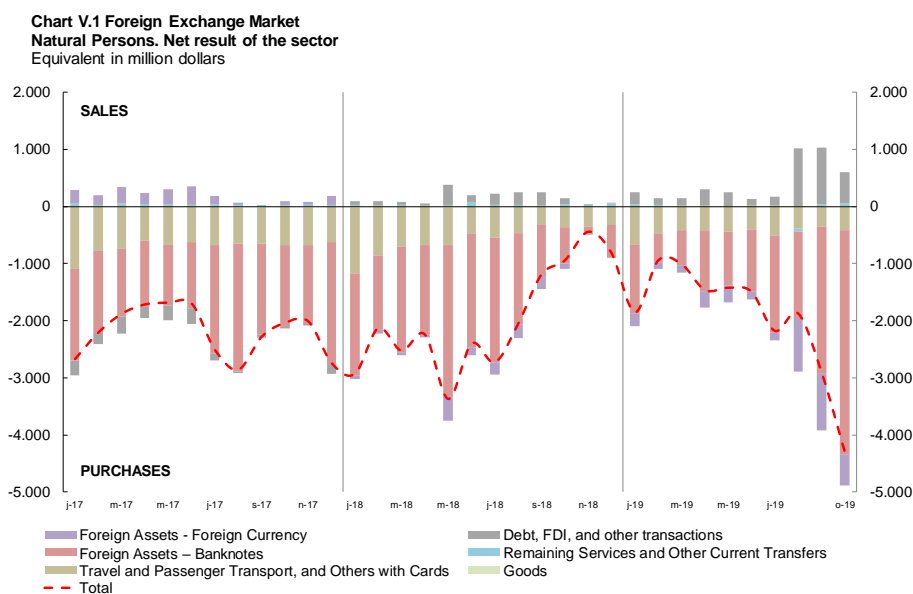


V. Natural Persons

During most of October, natural persons could purchase foreign currency up to USD10,000 for building up foreign assets, posting guarantees securing derivatives transactions, and for personal transfers. Over the month and as elections approached, the demand for dollars increased, going from a daily average of USD145 million in the first week to USD395 million from October 21 to 25. The limit was reduced to USD200 as from October 28

(Communication “A” 6815, as supplemented).⁸ Following this regulatory change, net purchases of banknotes in this group went from a daily average of USD215 million until October 25 to USD6 million on a daily basis in the last 4 business days of October.

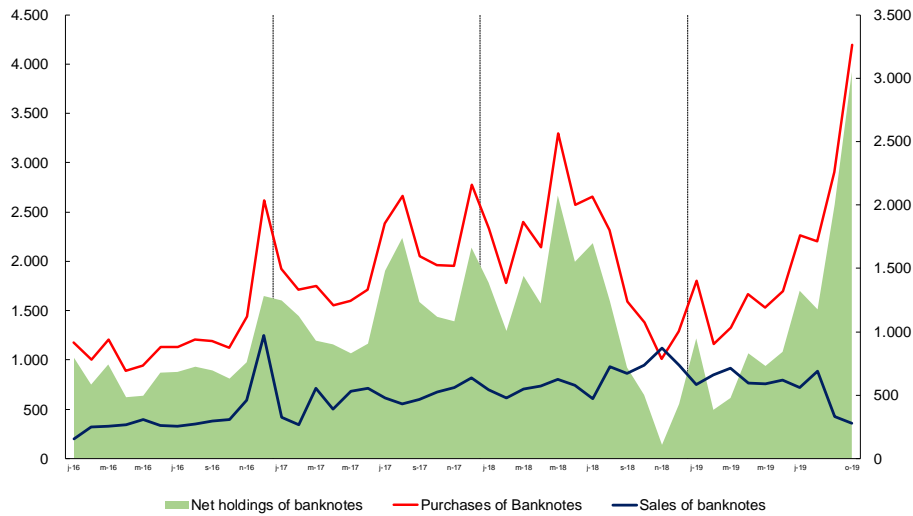
“Natural Persons” made total net purchases for USD4,285 million in October. The increase against September was explained by more net purchases of banknotes (see Chart V.1).



Net purchases of banknotes by natural persons totaled USD3,920 million in October (see Chart V.2). This result involves gross purchases for USD4,198 million (a rise of around USD2,800 million y.o.y.) and gross sales for USD278 million (a drop of USD474 million y.o.y) (see Chart V.2).

⁸ Communication “A” 6815 as supplemented.

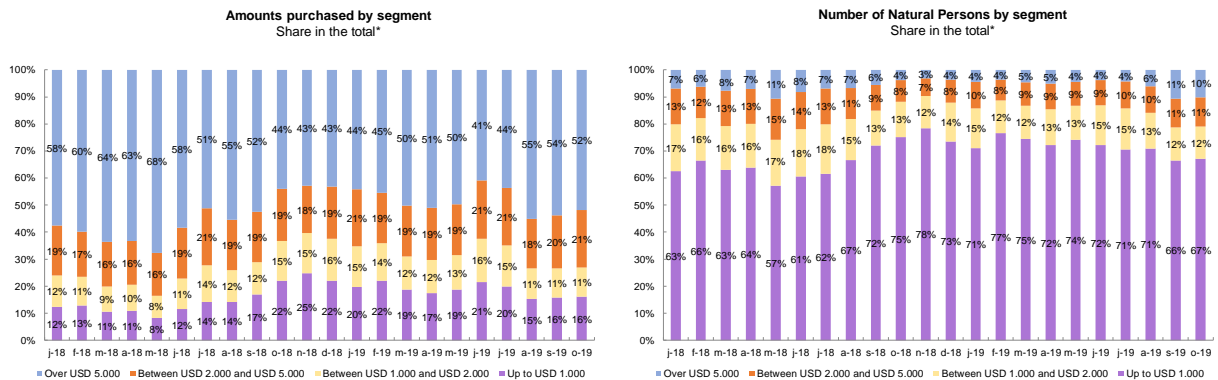
Chart V.2 Foreign Exchange Market
Natural Persons' holdings of banknotes in foreign currency
 Equivalent in million dollars



Like previous months, virtually half of banknote purchases corresponded to segments of up to USD5,000. A similar situation happened with the number of natural persons who purchased banknotes: almost 70% of purchases amounted up to USD1,000 in line with the records of previous periods (see Chart V.3).⁹

Per capita gross purchases totaled USD1,668.

Chart V.4 Foreign Exchange Market
Natural persons Purchases of banknotes

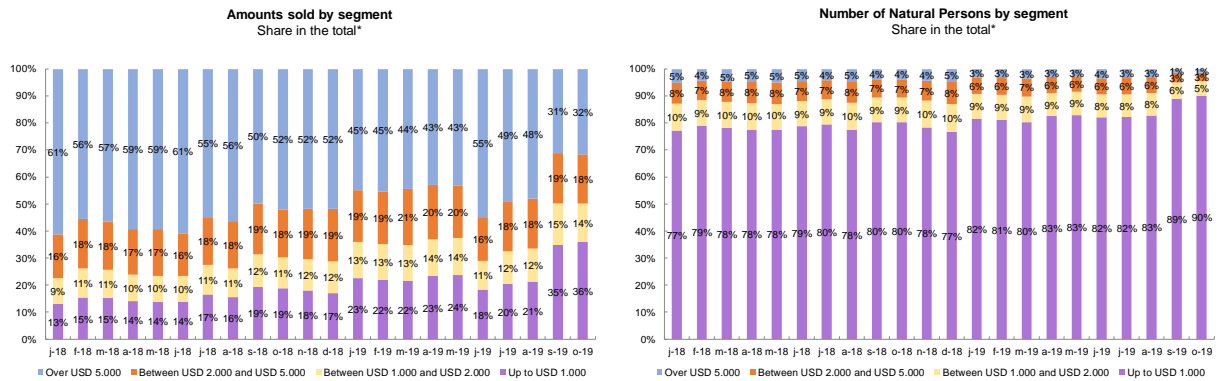


In turn, foreign currency sales were concentrated in transactions below USD5,000 accounting for almost 70% of the total traded (see Chart V.4).

The number of sellers of foreign currency, which decreased, evidenced a higher concentration in the segments of lower amounts against previous months. The number of natural persons selling up to USD1,000 in October had a share of 90% in the total. Thus, per capita gross sales amounted to USD541.

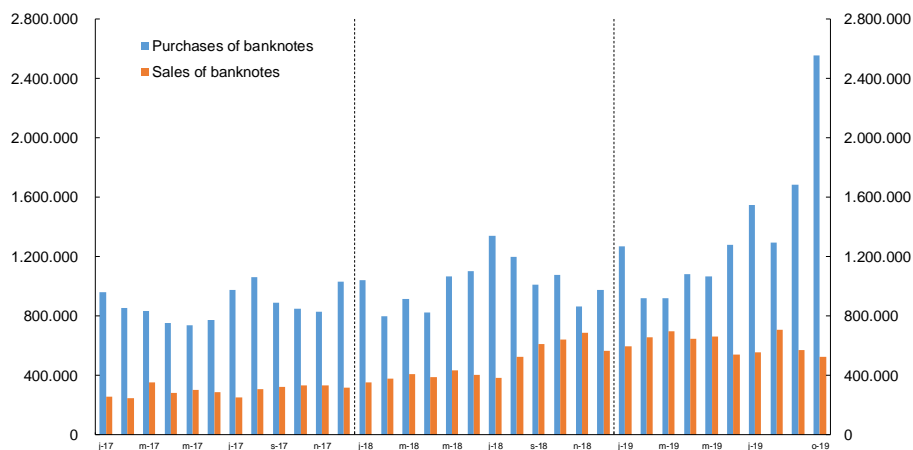
⁹ The analysis of the information on the number of natural persons and segments of operators is basically influenced by transactions carried out as of October 27, 2019 (date prior to the issuance of Communication "A" 6815), which accounted for 99% of total transaction of this group.

Chart V.5 Foreign Exchange Market
Natural persons Sales of banknotes



In October, 2,556,000 natural persons purchased banknotes, and 524,000 made sales in the forex market(see Chart V.5).

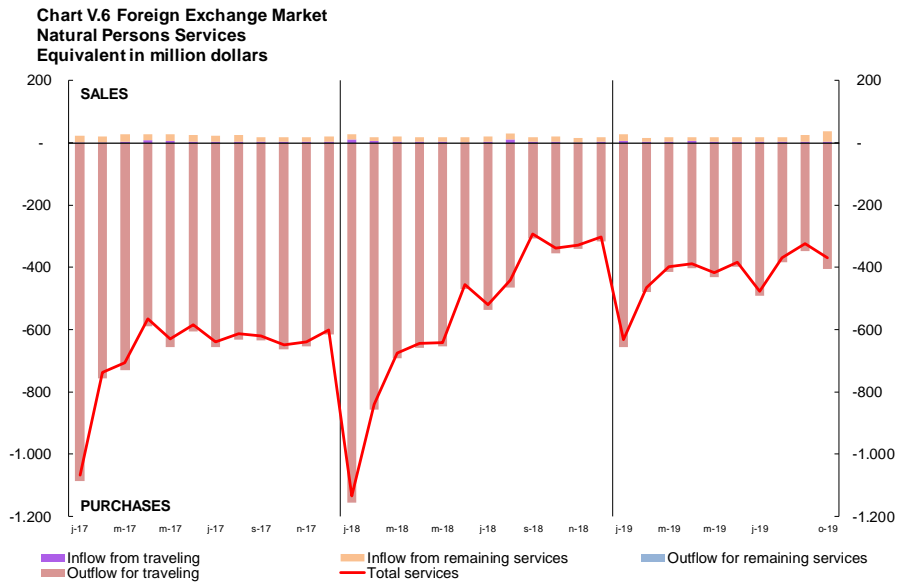
Chart V.3 Foreign Exchange Market
Natural Persons. Foreign Assets – Holdings of Banknotes
Number of People



In turn, natural persons' net outflows for payments of services totaled USD370 million, particularly of "Travel, and Other Expenses Paid with Cards", which amounted to USD400 million, up 14% y.o.y. (see Chart V.6).¹⁰¹¹

¹⁰ It is worth pointing out that the transfers made to international credit card issuers include purchases made by Argentine residents either during their stay abroad or on a remote basis. In turn, inflows of foreign exchange include non-resident remote purchases from Argentine suppliers.

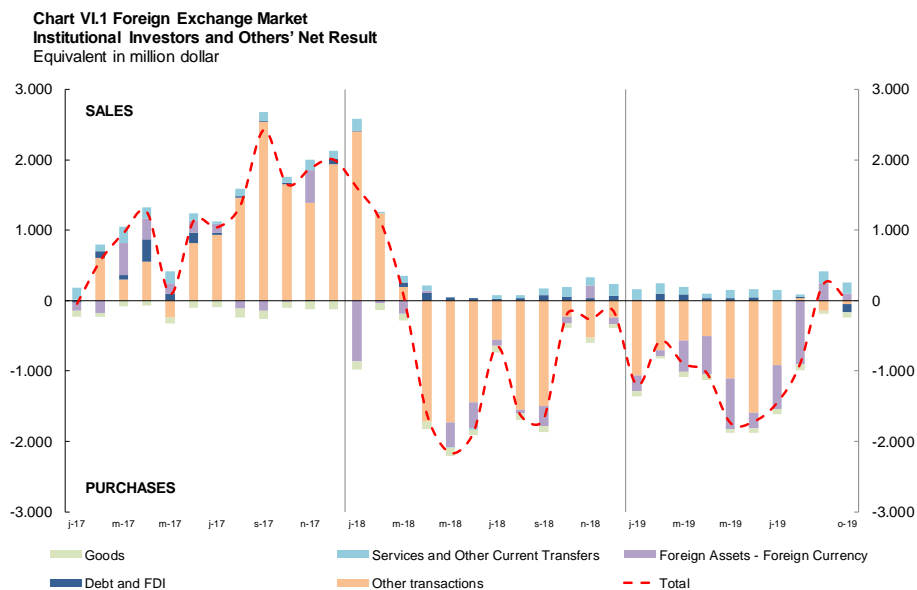
¹¹ To access the latest technical report on International Tourism Statistics [click here](#).



Finally, net inflows for primary and secondary income totaled USD23 million, basically related to current transfers.

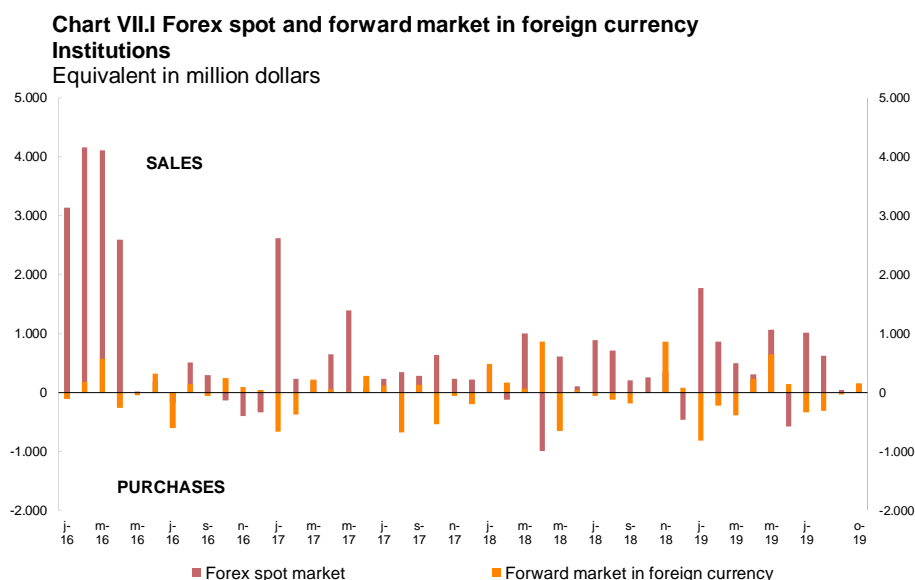
VI. Institutional Investors and Others

“Institutional Investors and Others”, who usually concentrate their transactions on the change of portfolio, recorded net inflows of USD14 million in October, the second month recording net inflows since the implementation of the regulatory changes in September. The latest regulations require residents to obtain the BCRA’s prior authorization to access the forex market for building up foreign assets, to pay debts before their maturity date, to transfer profits and dividends, and to make transfers abroad, among other transactions. Regarding non-residents, they were only allowed to purchase foreign currency up to USD1,000 monthly; this amount was further decreased to USD100 on October 28.



VII. Financial and Foreign Exchange Institutions

In October, licensed financial institutions purchased USD9 million in the spot forex market and sold USD151 million in the forward market (see Chart VII.1.). Like in September, volumes traded in both markets were lower than those recorded in previous months.¹²

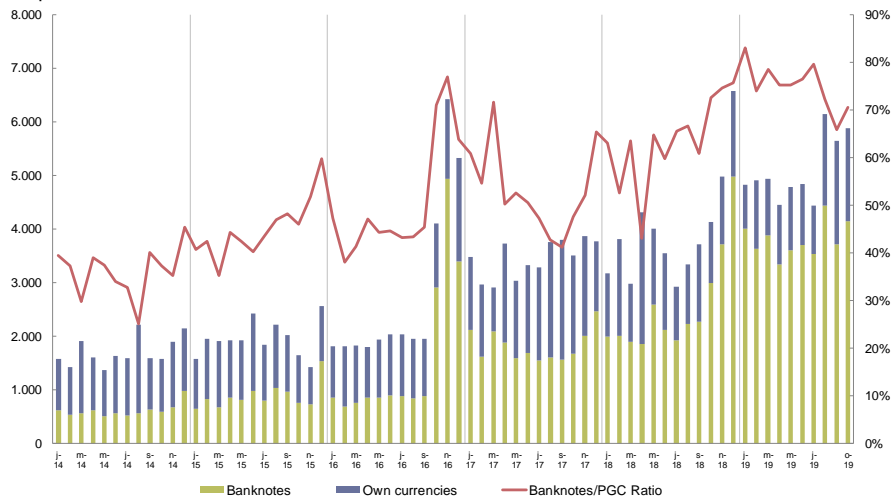


Additionally, financial institutions used their own funds for USD75 million, which were mainly used to pay financial debt—USD76 million—, among other transactions.

On the other hand, institutions ended October evidencing a General Exchange Position for USD5,877 million, out of which 71% corresponded to holdings of foreign currency banknotes (USD4,146 million). Despite a rise by USD426 million in the stock of banknotes, the General Exchange Position fell USD230 million over October (see Chart VII.2).

¹² In this regard, the BCRA issued Communication "A" 6754 on August 15, 2019, amending the regulation on the Net Global Position in Foreign Currency and setting a ceiling to the Spot Position for licensed institutions (which includes the net global position in foreign currency, but excludes the net position in forward transactions, spot transactions to be settled, futures, options, and other derivatives).

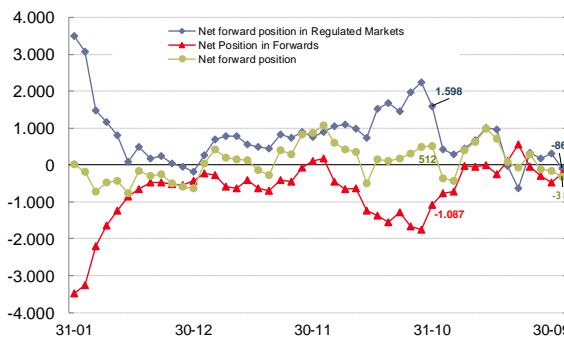
**Chart VII.2 Exchange Balance
Institutions' Exchange Position (PGC)**
Equivalent in million dollar



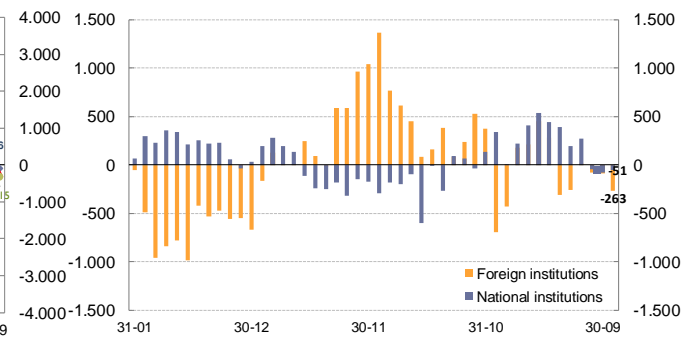
On another note, financial institutions ended October exhibiting a net forward short position in foreign currency of USD315 million. They sold USD400 million in regulated markets and purchased USD249 million from their clients directly (Forwards) over the month (see Charts VII.3).

In October, foreign institutions made net sales for USD174 million and national institutions made purchases for USD23 million (see Chart VII.4).

**Chart VII.3 Forward Market
Institutions' Forward Position**
Equivalent in million dollars



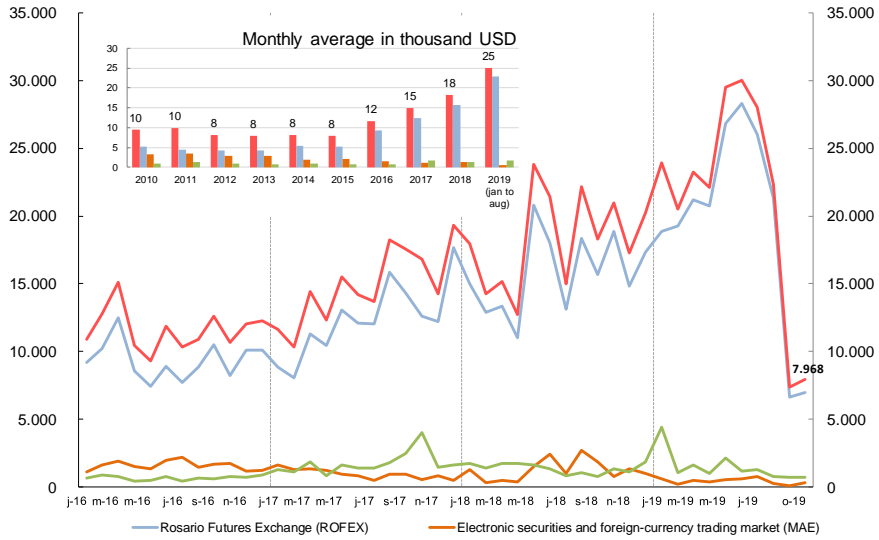
**Chart VII.4 Forward Market
Forward Position by Type of Institution**
Equivalent in million dollars



The volume traded in forward markets reached USD7,968 million in October, i.e.: USD362 million on a daily basis.¹³ The total traded was similar to that of September. Transactions carried out in the Mercado a Término de Rosario (ROFEX) accounted for 88% of the total volume (see Chart VII.5).

¹³The chart includes the total volume traded in the ROFEX, the transactions arranged by institutions in the Electronic Securities and Foreign Currency Trading Market (MAE), and with Forwards. This information comes from the Forward Transactions Reporting Scheme (Communication "A" 4196, as amended) and postings on the websites of MAE and ROFEX.

Chart VII.5 Forward Market
Total volume traded in the forward market
 Equivalent in million dollars



VIII. General Government and Central Bank

In October, the General Government recorded net sales in the forex market through licensed financial institutions for USD20 million (see Chart VIII.1).

Chart VIII.1 Foreign Exchange Market
General Government's Net Result
 Equivalent in million dollars



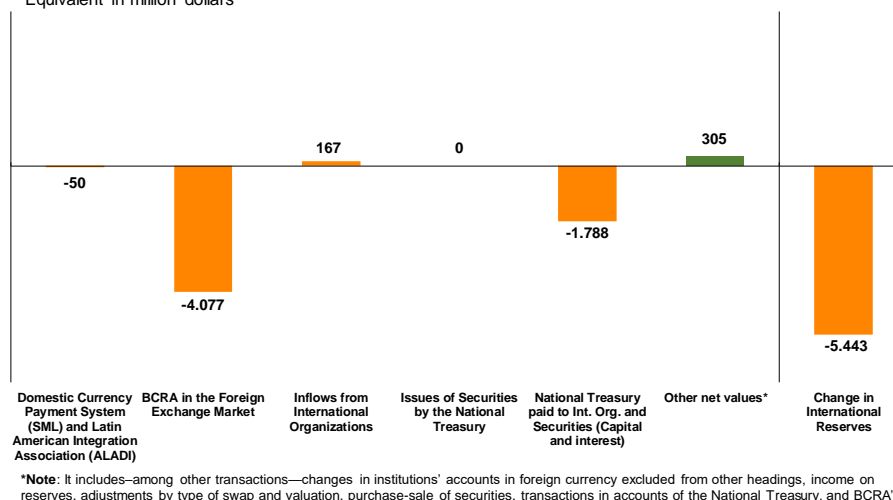
As mentioned in Section II, the BCRA made net sales to institutions in the forex spot market for USD4,077 million.

The BCRA made payments for forex transactions arranged through the Domestic Currency Payment System (SML) in force with Brazil and Uruguay and through ALADI (Latin American Integration Association) for USD50 million.

The National Treasury made payments on account of two major reasons. On the one hand, for principal and interest of debt for USD1,788 million; particularly, USD942 million to international organizations and payments for LETES bills for USD846 million. On another note, it recorded financial inflows totaling USD167 million from international organizations.

As a result of the transactions described above, gross international reserves stood at USD43,260 million by the end of October.

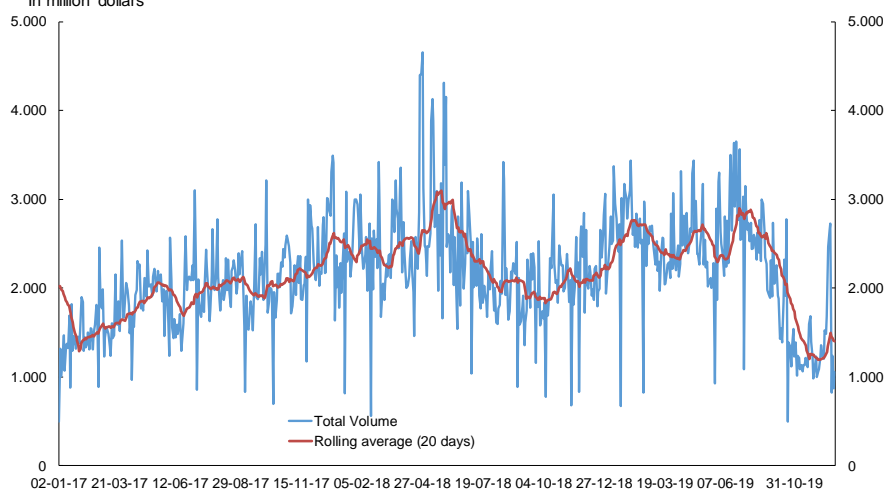
Chart VIII.2 Change in BCRA's International Reserves – October 2019
Equivalent in million dollars



IX. Volumes Traded in the Foreign Exchange Market

Against the backdrop of a forex market with tighter regulations and controls, the volume traded in October totaled USD31,004 million, down 30% y.o.y. This total involved a daily volume of around USD1,400 million (see Chart IX.1).¹⁴ The y.o.y. decline in the volume was mainly explained by a fall in transactions between licensed institutions and their clients (43% fall) and by transactions carried out between financial and exchange Institutions (33% fall).

Chart IX 1. Forex Market
Volume traded daily evolution
In million dollars



¹⁴ In the BCRA's website there is a quarterly ranking of volumes traded with clients in the forex market broken down by institution (to access the Ranking, [click here](#)).

Transactions between institutions and their clients accounted for 62% of the total volume traded, while transactions between institutions—mainly through the Electronic Trading System (SIOPEL)—represented 23%; in turn, transactions between institutions and the BCRA stood for the remaining 15% (see Chart IX.2).¹⁵

As usual, most of the volume traded between licensed institutions and their clients was concentrated in a few number of institutions (out of 282 institutions, the first ten accounted for 81% of such volume) and in the foreign currency used; USD-denominated transactions had a 95.4% share in the total traded with clients (see Chart IX.3), followed by Euros, which accounted for 4.1% of the total.

Chart IX.2 Foreign Exchange Market
Total volume and share. October 2019

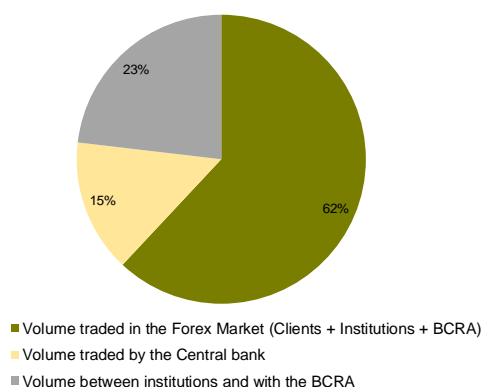
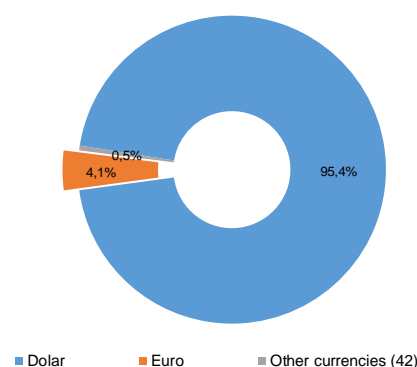


Chart IX.3 Foreign Exchange Market
Volume with clients by currency. October 2019



Finally, 81.3% of foreign exchange transactions were conducted between private-sector financial institutions and foreign exchange institutions. Public banks and foreign exchange institutions accounted for the remaining 18,7% (15% and 3,7%, respectively).

¹⁵ The volume traded between licensed institutions and their clients excludes the following items: clients' underwriting of LEBAC Bills, swap transactions with foreign parties (around USD1,382 million in October 2019), and purchases of foreign exchange to pay card bills for expenses incurred abroad (around USD150 million for the month under study).