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Annual Update on SDR Trading Operations

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IMF POLICY PAPER

ANNUAL UPDATE ON SDR TRADING OPERATIONS

September 2024

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ANNUAL UPDATE ON SDR TRADING OPERATIONS

September 18, 2024

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This paper provides an update on the status of the SDR trading market and operations. For more than three decades, SDRs have exclusively been exchanged for freely usable currencies in transactions by agreement, primarily through the Voluntary Trading Arrangements (VTAs). A small fraction of transactions by agreement—sales or acquisitions of SDRs—has been arranged directly between parties. VTAs are bilateral arrangements between the Fund and SDR department participants or prescribed holders, in which the VTA participants agree to buy and sell SDRs within certain limits. The paper covers SDR trading operations during the period September 2023 to August 2024.

Since the last annual update, SDR trading has continued to be dominated by SDR sales, although SDR acquisitions have increased significantly. From September 2023 to August 2024, SDR 13.5 billion were sold through the VTA market, of which SDR 7.3 billion were exchanged by 25 participants into currencies and SDR 5.4 billion were sold by the Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust (PRGT) and the Resilience and Sustainability Trust (RST) for liquidity management and to facilitate the investment of SDR contributions. On the purchase side, the volume and number of transactions increased from the previous year as more participants needed to replenish their SDR holdings to cover charges to the IMF, reflecting the elevated SDR interest rate.

The VTAs continue to have ample capacities to meet the demand for exchange of SDRs into currencies. The SDR trading capacities consider the minimum and maximum SDR amounts that a VTA participant is willing to hold and the actual SDR holdings of each VTA participant. The number of VTA participants increased from 40 to 41 in the reporting period and as of August 31, 2024, the buying and selling capacities of these VTAs stood at about SDR 202 billion and SDR 172 billion, respectively (versus SDR 208 billion and SDR 165 billion for the prior year).

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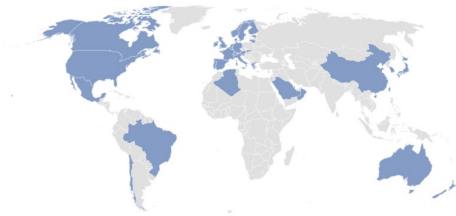
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INTRODUCTION

1. For more than three decades, SDR participants and prescribed holders have exclusively executed exchanges of SDRs for freely usable currencies through transactions by agreement, primarily using VTAs. A participant or a prescribed holder may use SDRs freely, without the requirement of representing a balance of payments need, to obtain an equivalent amount of currency in a transaction by agreement with another participant.¹ These transactions, which comprise both sales and purchases of SDRs, can be either arranged directly between parties or facilitated by the SDR Department through VTAs. The VTAs are bilateral arrangements between the Fund and currently 40 SDR participants and one prescribed holder, in which the VTAs agree to buy and sell SDRs within certain limits (Box 1). SDR trades can also be agreed directly (bilaterally) between participants and/or prescribed holders, and some SDR purchases needed to meet members' obligations to the IMF can be conducted through the General Resources Account (GRA) of the IMF in certain circumstances.² In the event that transactions by agreement cannot provide for an exchange of SDRs into currencies, the Articles of Agreement provide for a designation mechanism, which guarantees the liquidity of the SDR by ensuring that, in case of a balance of payment need, participants can use SDRs to obtain freely usable currencies. The IMF prepares a Designation Plan annually, which can be activated in such circumstances; however, these plans have not been activated and remained precautionary since 1987.

Box 1. Voluntary SDR Trading Arrangements



Africa: Mauritius¹

Asia and Pacific: Australia, China, Japan, Korea, Singapore¹, and New Zealand

Europe: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, ECB³, Estonia¹, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Lithuania¹, Luxembourg¹, Malta, The Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom

Middle East & Central Asia: Algeria¹, Oman¹, Qatar^{1,2} and Saudi Arabia

Western Hemisphere: Brazil¹, Canada, Chile, Mexico, and the United States

¹ New VTAs after the 2021 General SDR Allocation.

² VTA was signed during the reporting period.

³ Prescribed Holder.

¹ The IMF's Articles of Agreement authorize the Fund to prescribe as holders of SDRs (i) non-members, (ii) members that are not participants in the SDR Department, (iii) institutions that perform functions of a central bank for one or more IMF member countries, and (iv) other official entities. On February 8, 2023, the IMF prescribed five official institutions as new holders of SDRs, bringing the total number of prescribed holders to twenty. Please refer to Annex I for a list of current prescribed holders of SDRs.

² SDR acquisitions from the GRA can only be arranged to cover a shortfall in member's SDR holdings arising from upcoming charges payable to the IMF within 30 days.

2. Against the backdrop of the 2021 SDR General Allocation, the VTA market has continued to effectively support the liquidity of the SDR. During the reporting period, the VTA trading market operated smoothly and Qatar was successfully onboarded as a new VTA participant. This increased the number of new VTA participants since the 2021 allocation to nine—Algeria, Brazil, Estonia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mauritius, Oman, Qatar, and Singapore. In addition, VTAs have remained responsive to requests by staff for operational flexibilities when needed. Since the 2021 allocation, 40 VTAs have been used. Discussions with potential new entrants continue in the broader context of SDR channeling, which involves a strong expectation that contributors have VTAs.

3. This annual paper provides information on SDR trading operations.³ The first section of the paper provides data on SDR trading operations, while the second section offers an update on the voluntary trading arrangements, which handle nearly all SDR trading requests. The third and final section highlights publicly available information resources on SDR transactions. This paper is proposed to be published.

SDR TRADING OPERATIONS

4. This section summarizes SDR trading operations for the past 12 months and trends over the last five years (2019–2024).⁴ Specifically, it provides information on SDR sales through VTAs, SDR acquisitions through VTAs and the GRA, and other SDR operations.

A. SDR Sales Through VTAs

5. The number and volume of SDR sales through VTAs decreased in comparison with the prior 12-month period. From September 2023 to August 2024, there were 97 SDR sales transactions amounting to SDR 13.5 billion compared to 140 sales totaling SDR 17.9 billion during the previous 12 months. This reflects the following:

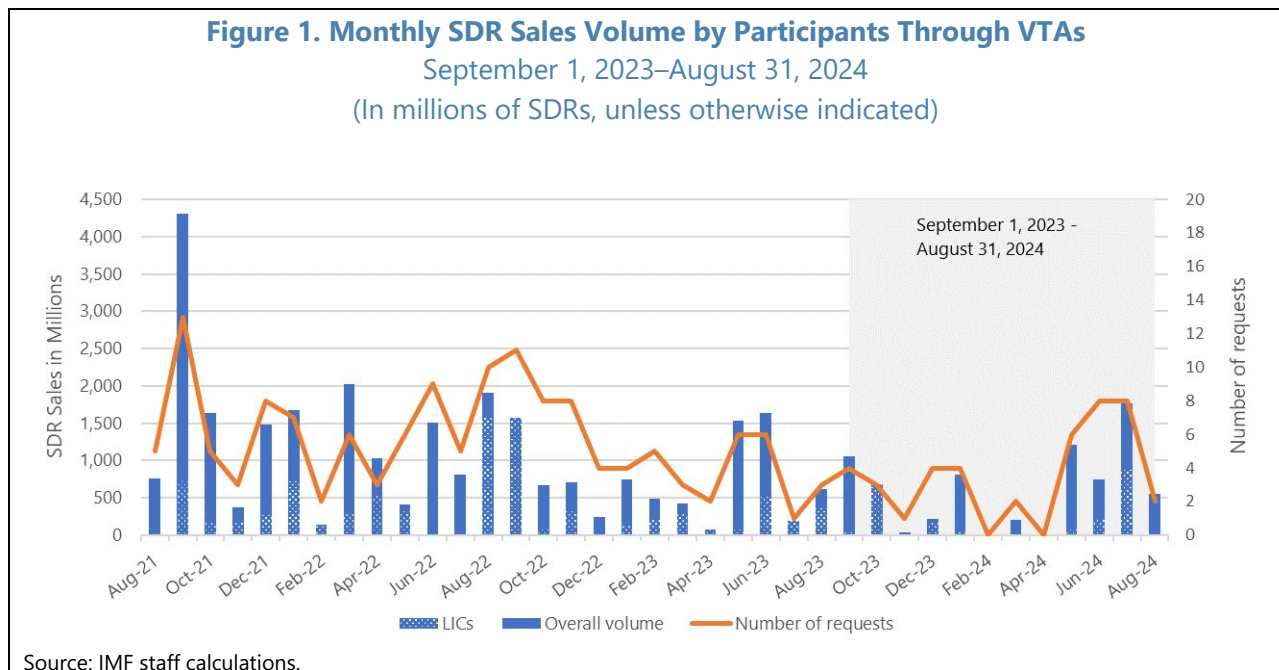
- A decrease in outright sales by participants from SDR 9.8 billion to SDR 4.7 billion reflecting the continued gradual decline in sales of SDRs after an initial surge following the 2021 SDR allocation.
- A decrease in SDR contributions to the PRGT/RST that needed to be converted into currencies for investment from SDR 8.0 billion to SDR 5.4 billion,
- The above were offset by an increase in the sales of SDRs by borrowing members who received SDRs in GRA purchases or PRGT/RST loans from SDR 0.1 billion to SDR 3.4 billion.

³ For the review on the use of the 2021 SDR allocation and its economic implications two years after its implementation, see *2021 Special Drawing Rights Allocation – Ex-post Assessment report*.

⁴ The annual reporting period for SDR transactions for this paper is September 1, 2023, to August 31, 2024, while the cumulative period is from January 1, 2019, to August 31, 2024.

Cumulatively, since the SDR allocation, the VTA market has supported the conversion of SDR 50.5 billion into currencies (SDR 34.2 billion by 74 SDR department participants, SDR 13.7 billion by the Trusts and SDR 2.6 billion by prescribed holders).

6. All participant sales were made by Emerging Markets and Developing countries (EMDCs). In the current period, 25 participants sold SDR 7.3 billion through VTAs. Individual sale requests by participants ranged from SDR 1 million to SDR 822 million, and Low Income Countries (LICs) accounted for 29 percent of the total SDR sales volume.⁵ The number and volume of sales by participants through VTAs have continued to slow down since the SDR allocation with an average of SDR 606 million per month (Figure 1), compared to an average of SDR 740 million in the preceding 12-month period. Cumulatively, for the period since January 2019, SDR sales totaled SDR 57.4 billion (489 transactions with an average size of SDR 117.3 million), made by 79 SDR participants and 6 prescribed holders (Table 1 and Figure 2).



⁵ LICs are a subset of EMDC countries and are defined as PRGT-eligible countries.

Table 1. Summary of SDR Sales Through VTAs^{1,2,3}
January 1, 2019–August 31, 2024
(In millions of SDRs, unless otherwise indicated)

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Jan-Aug 2024	Total	Sep 2022- Aug 2023	Sep 2023- Aug 2024
Number of Sales Requests ⁴	45	33	53	93	65	39	328	85	56
Number of Transactions ⁴	49	34	83	144	107	72	489	140	97
<i>Of which:</i>									
in connection with GRA lending	19	1	1	-	5	-	26	-	5
in connection with PRGT lending	11	20	5	-	1	9	46	-	10
in connection with PRGT liquidity	12	6	5	3	2	-	28	2	-
in connection with PRGT contribution	-	-	-	10	12	28	50	21	29
in connection with RST lending	-	-	-	-	10	12	22	2	20
in connection with RST liquidity	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
in connection with RST contribution	-	-	-	10	19	-	29	28	1
others	7	7	72	121	58	23	288	87	32
Total amount of SDR sales	4,179	2,173	9,532	16,501	14,499	10,481	57,365	17,933	13,467
<i>Of which:</i>									
in connection with GRA lending	2,945	200	144	-	822	-	4,111	-	822
in connection with PRGT lending	633	1,701	164	-	117	899	3,514	-	1,017
in connection with PRGT liquidity	437	196	242	115	32	-	1,022	32	-
in connection with PRGT contribution	-	-	-	1,389	3,404	4,578	9,371	4,293	5,078
in connection with RST lending	-	-	-	-	523	1,084	1,607	88	1,518
in connection with RST liquidity	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
in connection with RST contribution	-	-	-	1,812	2,264	-	4,076	3,706	370
others	165	76	8,982	13,185	7,337	3,920	33,665	9,815	4,662

Source: IMF staff calculations.

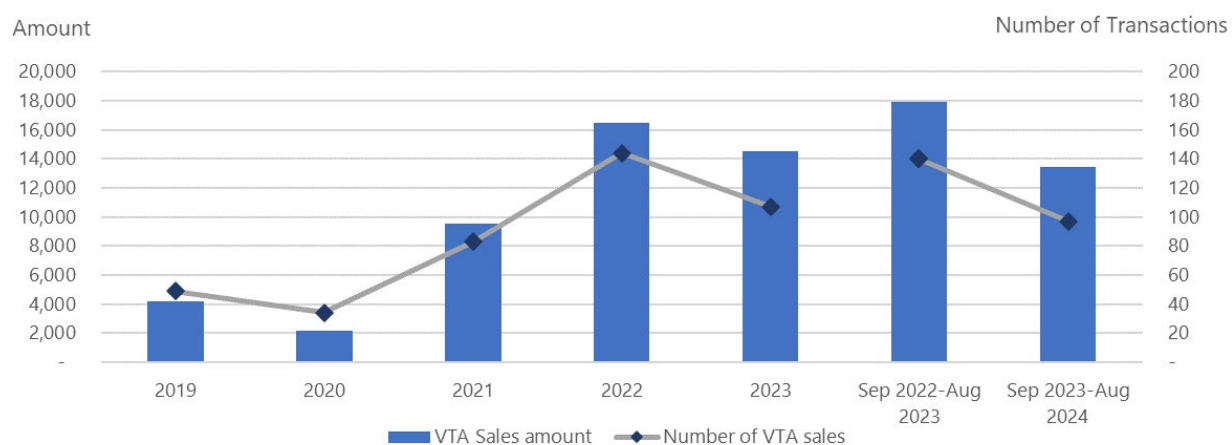
¹ Periods run from January to December unless indicated otherwise.

² Sales in connection with GRA, PRGT and RST lending relate to sales of SDRs which were received by borrowers in GRA purchases or PRGT/RST loans. Sales in connection with liquidity ensure that concessional financing vehicles have appropriate currencies to cover financial operations. Sales in connection with PRGT and RST contributions relate to sales of SDRs received by the Trusts in SDRs. Sales in connection with liquidity ensure that concessional financing vehicles have appropriate currencies to cover financial operations. Sales in the "others" category pertain to requests received directly from SDR participants or prescribed holders.

³ Table may include small differences due to rounding.

⁴ Number of transactions might be higher than number of sale requests since multiple counterparties and/or currencies might be needed to fulfill one sale request.

Figure 2. Annual SDR Sales Through VTAs¹
January 1, 2019–August 31, 2024
(In millions of SDRs and number of transactions)



Source: IMF staff calculations.

¹ Periods run from January to December, unless indicated otherwise.

7. The smooth functioning of the VTA market has enabled the conversion of channeled SDRs into currencies by the IMF-administered Trusts. In line with pledges following the 2021 SDR allocation, contributions in SDRs by IMF members with strong external positions to the IMF’s Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust (PRGT) and the Resilience and Sustainability Trust (RST) (collectively “the Trusts”) have remained substantial, albeit being lower than the prior 12-month period.⁶ In the current period, to primarily support the investment of the contributions received in SDRs, the Trusts have converted SDR 5.4 billion (about 40 percent of the total SDR sales volume) into currencies through the VTA market. This level of conversions by the Trusts (exchanges by the Trusts amounted to about 43 percent of the total sales volume) is expected to continue in the near term as members fulfill their commitments to increase resources to the PRGT and RST.

8. SDR trading by prescribed holders has remained limited. In the current period, prescribed holders exchanged a total of SDR 0.8 billion compared with SDR 1.0 billion in the previous reporting period and, as expected, SDR holdings by these official entities remain modest at SDR 2.1 billion (about 0.3 percent of total SDR holdings).

B. Acquisitions of SDRs Through VTAs and GRA

9. On the demand side, purchases of SDRs increased both in numbers and in volume relative to the previous reporting period. In the period September 2023 to August 2024, there were 243 acquisitions in the amount of SDR 6.9 billion, compared to 195 transactions for SDR 5.3 billion in the previous 12 months. The increase in the acquisitions was primarily due to two factors:

- Participant requests to replenish their SDR holdings to cover charges to the IMF remained high, reflecting the high SDR interest rate environment (the daily average the SDR interest rate was 4.082 percent, compared to the average of 3.234 percent in the preceding 12-month period). In total, acquisitions from the GRA to cover charges increased from SDR 2,051 million to SDR 2,131 million during the 12-month period.
- Contributions in currencies to the Administered Account for Ukraine needed to be subsequently converted into SDRs. Those transactions totaled about SDR 1.1 billion compared with SDR 1.7 billion in the prior reporting period.⁷

Since January 2019, the Fund assisted 80 participants and 2 prescribed holders in over 600 purchase transactions through VTAs amounting to SDR 12.8 billion, while a total of 216 purchase transactions (SDR 5.7 billion) were handled through the GRA (Table 2 and Figure 3).

⁶ See <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/Policy-Papers/Issues/2023/08/28/2021-Special-Drawing-Rights-Allocation-Ex-Post-Assessment-Report-538583>.

⁷ IMF Press Release on Establishment of a Multi-Donor Administered Account for Ukraine. <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2022/04/08/pr22111-imf-executive-board-approves-establishment-of-a-multi-donor-administered-account-for-ukraine>

Table 2. Summary of SDR Acquisitions Through VTAs and GRA^{1,2}
January 1, 2019–August 31, 2024
(In millions of SDRs)

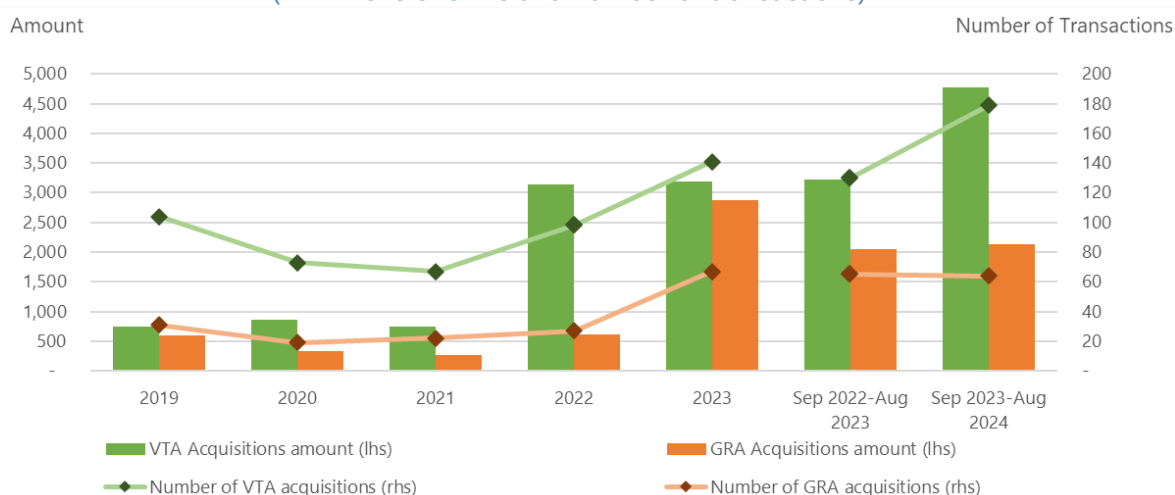
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Jan-Aug 2024	Total	Sep 2022- Aug 2023	Sep 2023- Aug 2024
Number of Requests through VTAs	104	73	66	91	135	124	593	123	171
Number of Transactions through VTAs	104	73	67	98	141	132	615	130	179
Amount of acquisitions through VTAs	740	863	740	3,136	3,183	4,101	12,763	3,223	4,776
Number of Requests through GRA	27	19	22	27	67	44	206	65	58
Number of Transactions through GRA	31	19	22	27	67	50	216	65	64
Amount of acquisitions through GRA	599	335	263	621	2,880	1,016	5,714	2,051	2,131
Total Number of Transactions	135	92	89	125	208	182	831	195	243
Total Amount	1,339	1,198	1,004	3,757	6,064	5,118	18,480	5,274	6,907

Source: IMF staff calculations.

¹ Periods run from January to December unless indicated otherwise.

² Table may include small differences due to rounding.

Figure 3. Annual SDR Acquisitions Through VTAs and GRA¹
January 1, 2019–August 31, 2024
(In millions of SDRs and number of transactions)



Source: IMF staff calculations.

¹ Periods run from January to December, unless indicated otherwise.

10. The number of SDR participants that have largely drawn down their SDR holdings continued to increase. There are currently 40 participants with SDR holdings of less than five percent of their cumulative allocation, compared to 33 participants at end-August 2023. Participants are strongly encouraged to proactively manage their SDR balances to ensure they have sufficient SDRs to meet upcoming obligations to the IMF payable in SDRs.⁸ This is particularly important in a high interest rate environment where the charges on SDR denominated obligations are expected to increase over time (Figure 4). Staff will continue to monitor SDR balances and prompt participants to ensure timely acquisition of SDRs.

⁸ GRA, net SDR charges and interest on RST loans are settled by members in SDRs. They may also decide to cover other obligations such as repurchases in the GRA or principal repayments in PRGT and RST in SDRs.

Figure 4. SDR Participants with Low SDR Holdings (below 5 percent of SDR allocations) and Average SDR Interest Rate¹

January 1, 2019–August 31, 2024
(In number of members and percent)



Source: IMF staff calculations.

¹ Periods run from January to December, unless indicated otherwise.

C. Other SDR Transactions

11. While most transactions are channeled through VTAs, SDR transactions can also be conducted bilaterally between participants and/or prescribed holders. Overall, bilateral transactions have not been significant. In the current period, there were 34 bilateral transactions in the amount of SDR 0.8 billion, with an average annual amount over the last five years of only SDR 0.5 billion. These transactions primarily relate to the settlement of financial obligations between counterparties or between participants and their regional central banks. The volume increase in 2023 was mainly due to the extension of an SDR loan between participants, which was fully settled in SDRs within the same period. Cumulatively since 2019, 204 bilateral transactions have been conducted in the amount of SDR 3.5 billion (Table 3).

Table 3. SDR Bilateral Transactions¹
January 1, 2019–August 31, 2024²
(In millions of SDRs)

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Jan-Aug 2024	Total	Sep 2022-Aug 2023	Sep 2023-Aug 2024
Number of Transactions	30	32	36	36	45	25	204	45	34
Amount	26	41	376	463	1,794	779	3,480	1,804	794

Source: IMF staff calculations.

¹ Excludes intra-day SDR bridge loans.

² Periods run from January to December unless indicated otherwise.

12. On May 10, 2024, the IMF’s Executive Board authorized the use of SDRs by IMF members for the acquisition of hybrid capital instruments issued by prescribed holders.⁹ The new use of SDRs, which adds to seven already authorized prescribed SDR operations, is subject to a cumulative limit of SDR 15 billion and a strong expectation that participants channeling SDRs to prescribed holders under such capital contributions have VTAs in place to ensure sufficient liquidity and equitable distribution of potential SDR exchanges into currencies in the VTA market.¹⁰ In the current period, there have been no requests by participants to use SDRs to acquire hybrid capital instruments from prescribed holders.

VOLUNTARY TRADING ARRANGEMENTS (VTAs)

13. The VTAs continue to have ample capacities to support the liquidity of the SDR. The SDR trading capacities are determined by considering the minimum and maximum SDR holding amounts established in a VTA, which is called the trading range, and the actual SDR holdings of each VTA. The aggregate purchasing and selling capacities at end-August 2024 remained large at about SDR 202 billion and SDR 172 billion, respectively (Table 4). Specifically, these capacities reflected updated trading ranges of VTAs, the cumulative effect of the absorption of SDR sales by VTAs, and the effect of additional capacity provided by new VTAs joining the market. The robust trading capacities, together with the broad regional representation of the VTAs (Figure 5), is expected to support the continued smooth functioning of the SDR market.

Table 4. VTAs: Trading Ranges Including Average Purchasing and Selling Capacity as of August 31, 2024
(In millions of SDRs, unless otherwise indicated)

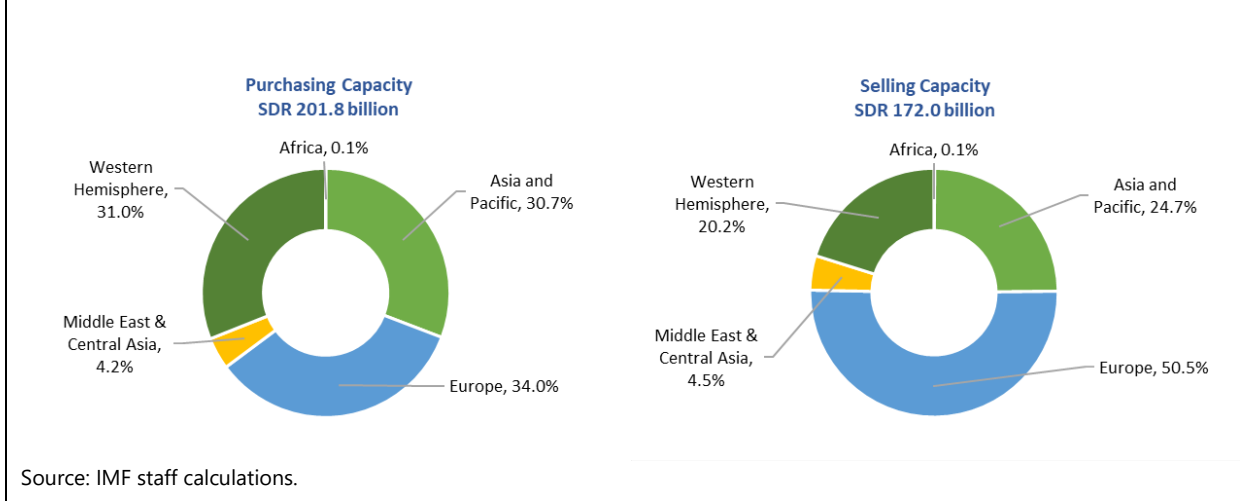
Arrangements	Trading Range (In percent of Net Cumulative Allocations)	Number	Purchasing Capacity	Average Purchasing Capacity	Selling Capacity	Average Selling Capacity
Standard	50 – 150	14	56,747	4,053	70,039	5,003
Eurosystem ¹	65 – 135	19	60,837	3,202	66,198	3,484
Other various ranges	25 – 200	8	84,205	10,526	35,812	4,477
Total		41	201,790	4,922	172,050	4,196

Source: IMF staff calculations.

¹ Two non-euro system participants have adopted this range. Includes the nominal trading range for the ECB, a prescribed holder of SDRs, that adds to the euro area trading capacity.

⁹ See <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/Policy-Papers/Issues/2024/05/15/Use-of-SDRs-in-the-Acquisition-of-Hybrid-Capital-Instruments-of-the-Prescribed-Holders-549003>.

¹⁰ Between 1978–1980, the Executive Board adopted decisions allowing SDR Department participants and prescribed holders to use SDRs for seven operations: (i) the settlement of obligations; (ii) loans; (iii) pledges; (iv) transfers as a security for performance of financial obligations; (v) swaps; (vi) forward operations; and (vii) donations.

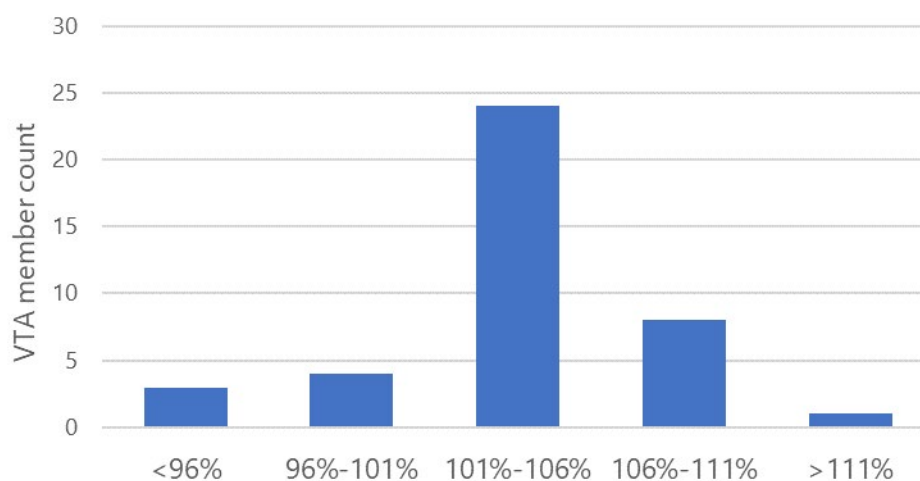
Figure 5. Purchasing and Selling Capacity of VTAs by Region as of August 31, 2024

14. In distributing sale and purchase requests across VTAs, staff carefully considers a range of criteria that aim at ensuring equitable use over time. Specifically, they include:

- **The relative dispersion of SDR holdings across VTAs.** This criterion is based on the ratio of SDR holdings-to-allocation of individual VTAs; for example, a VTA with relatively low SDR holdings-to-allocation ratio would be more likely to be called to purchase SDRs.
- **The scope of VTAs to absorb a given transaction.** The deviation of SDR holdings from the mid-point VTA trading range determines how far each individual VTA is from its minimum and maximum trading ranges, usually set as a percentage of allocation. This criterion is designed to take into account the variety of trading ranges across the VTAs.
- **Other considerations.** These include the relative use of each VTA as a share of allocation of total VTAs, individual transaction and counterparty limits, currency preferences, notification periods and holidays, and the need to split large requests among multiple VTAs.

15. The outlined modalities have been successful in spreading SDR transactions across VTAs. In the reporting period, 40 (out of 41) VTAs were utilized and each VTA participated on average in 7 SDR trades (Table 5).¹¹ SDR holdings of VTA participants are clustered tightly around the median holdings-to-allocation ratio of 104.0 percent (Figure 6). Reflecting the commitment of VTA participants to facilitate increased sales of SDRs after the 2021 SDR allocation, the SDR holdings-to-allocation ratio of VTA participants increased on average by about 0.6 percentage points during the reporting period (and cumulative by 4.9 percentage points since the SDR allocation). Higher frequency information on the participation of VTAs in SDR trading operations can be found in the IMF's quarterly financial report (see also the section on SDR reporting below).

¹¹ Staff has been assisting a newly joined VTA participant to put its VTA transaction into operation.

Figure 6. Distribution of VTA Participants' SDR Holdings in Percent of SDR Allocation

Source: IMF staff calculations.

Table 5. SDR Sales and Acquisitions VTA Participation Including Purchasing and Selling Capacity by Region¹
September 1, 2023–August 31, 2024

Region	Sales of SDRs					
	Number of VTAs Available	Number of VTAs Used	Number of Sales	Amount of SDR Sales (millions)	Percent of Sales	Percent by Purchasing Capacity ²
Africa	1	1	2	14	0	0
Asia and Pacific	6	6	26	4,790	36	31
Europe	25	16	37	4,184	31	34
Middle East & Central Asia	4	2	9	115	1	4
Western Hemisphere	5	5	23	4,364	32	31
<i>Total</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>97</i>	<i>13,467</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>

Region	Acquisitions of SDRs					
	Number of VTAs Available	Number of VTAs Used	Number of Acquisitions	Amount of SDR Acquisitions (millions)	Percent of Acquisitions	Percent by Selling Capacity ²
Africa	1	1	6	8	0	0
Asia and Pacific	6	4	33	726	15	25
Europe	25	21	95	2,730	57	51
Middle East & Central Asia	4	3	15	75	2	4
Western Hemisphere	5	4	30	1,237	26	20
<i>Total</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>179</i>	<i>4,776</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>

Source: IMF staff calculations.

¹ VTA participants (if any) with terminated VTA during the reported period are not included in the Table. No VTAs were terminated in the current period.² Data as of August 31, 2024.

SDR REPORTING

16. The Fund continues to publish a wide range of information about the SDR and its uses.

The IMF's annual and quarterly financial reports include holdings and allocations by participants and holdings by prescribed holders and aggregate data about SDR flows.¹² The quarterly financial reports that include individual participant's SDR holdings also provide net changes in those holdings split in two broad categories: (i) those related to IMF operations; and (ii) SDR trading and other uses.¹³ Separately, the IMF Finances webpage publishes monthly information on SDR holdings and allocations of participants.¹⁴ The periodic IMF Financial Operations publication also provides extensive information on the functioning of the voluntary SDR trading market and includes details on the operating modalities, capacity, trading by region, and aggregate transaction volumes. Finally, the information on SDR channeling pledges and delivery of these pledges is now published on the IMF SDR webpage.^{15,16}

17. In the prior reporting period, the Fund issued a comprehensive ex-post assessment report on the 2021 SDR allocation. In line with commitments made at the time of the allocation, staff prepared a report two years after the allocation covering the impact of the allocation for the global economy, members' use of the allocation, economic implications at the country level, and voluntary channeling of SDRs from economically strong members to the most vulnerable ones.¹⁷

¹² See <https://www.imf.org/data/imf-finances>

¹³ See <https://www.imf.org/en/Data/IMF-Finances/Quarterly-Financial-Statements>.

¹⁴ See <https://www.imf.org/external/np/fin/tad/query.aspx>.

¹⁵ See <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/PRGT>.

¹⁶ See <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/Resilience-and-Sustainability-Trust>.

¹⁷ See <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/Policy-Papers/Issues/2023/08/28/2021-Special-Drawing-Rights-Allocation-Ex-Post-Assessment-Report-538583>.

Annex I. Prescribed Holders of SDRs

Prescribed holders may exchange SDRs for currency, and use SDRs in certain operations, including loans, settlement of financial obligations, swaps, pledges, transfer as security for the performance of financial obligations, forwards, donations, and with the recent authorization for the acquisition of hybrid capital instruments issued by prescribed holders.

Currently, there are twenty prescribed holders of SDRs. These are:

African Development Bank (AFDB)
African Development Fund (AFDF)
Arab Monetary Fund (AMF)
Asian Development Bank (ADB)
Bank for International Settlements (BIS)
Bank of Central African States (BEAC)
Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)
Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO)
Development Bank of Latin America (Corporacion Andina de Fomento or CAF)
Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB)
European Central Bank (ECB)
European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)
European Investment Bank (EIB)
Inter-American Development Bank (IADB)
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)
International Development Association (IDA)
International Fund for Agricultural Development
Islamic Development Bank
Latin American Reserve Fund (FLAR) - Former Andean Reserve Fund
Nordic Investment Bank