



# RMB Tracker

April 2015

# RMB Tracker – What is it?

Monthly reporting and statistics on renminbi (RMB) progress towards becoming an international currency.

**Press release**

**20% countries crossing the RMB river**

*As volumes continue to rise, 21 countries now use the renminbi for at least 10% of their payments with China. Which are they, and where to focus your next business development effort?*

23 August 2012

The monthly SWIFT RMB Tracker continues to monitor the steady progress of the RMB as international payments currency and a safer asset class. These countries assisting – or not – the RMB for their payments with China and Hong Kong:

- in July 2012, the most noteworthy new position is and most asset payments currency with a market share of 4.4%, versus 0.4% in June 2012). As per old month's RMB Tracker, the renminbi has established the South African Rand, with a share of 0.4%, and also gains ground to the Canadian dollar at 0.4% with 0.4% market share.
- Of the 10 countries that paid payments with China and Hong Kong in July 2012, 20% of countries had at least 10% of their payments value in renminbi. On average, 4% of all payments clear with China and Hong Kong using the RMB. Strong positions are the G20 countries, Singapore and the UK, and also Canada and Germany who good track records, together with the US, Japan and Australia remains true.

**RMB moving up one position to #11**

The first graph shows the RMB's market share in July 2011 and July 2012 in customer and multilateral payments versus its immediate neighbours, the South African Rand (ZAR) and the Canadian dollar (CAD). RMB is now #11 with 0.4% market share compared to #10 and 0.30% one year ago. It has overtaken the ZAR remaining at 0.4%, market share and getting closer to the CAD with 0.2%.

**RMB moving up one position to #11**

The first graph shows the evolution of payment currencies from October 2010 to June 2012. The RMB has grown substantially more than by multilateral payments in its value grew by 17.4 times compared to an increase of 1.1 times for all currencies on average. The only other major currency with a significant increase was the Russian Ruble (RUB), which grew by 2.2 times in that same period.

**RMB payments spectacular growth by 17.4 times**

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To be part of the top 10 payments currencies, the RMB market share has to reach 1%. The EUR and USD remain the most frequent payment currencies with 6.7% and 31% respectively.

**SWIFT RMB Tracker, July 2012**

**RMB x 17**

*Value of RMB payments increased 17-fold since October 2010, the most spectacular growth of any major currency.*

23 Aug 2012

The monthly SWIFT RMB Tracker takes a look back at the growth of the renminbi for offshore payments since October 2010 when SWIFT began tracking the currency and the value of dollar messages. Compared to any other top 20 payments currency, RMB had the most spectacular growth and continues to maintain progress:

- Chinese RMB payments grew in value by 17.4 times from October 2010 to June 2012. No other currency had such a three-fold increase during the period except payments across currencies grew by 1.1 times. An Arab RMB jumped from position #12 in October 2010 to #11 in June 2012 as the #1 most used send payment currency, ready to overtake the South African Rand (ZAR) currently at #11.
- SWIFT also sees a 60% to 80% increase in the number of customer and multilateral processing RMB payments from June 2011 to June 2012. Top RMB payments banks increased the number of RMB relationships by 10% in that same period, from an average of 91 to 115 correspondents. Another good indicator for growing international adoption.

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**SWIFT RMB Tracker, June 2012**

**The yuan-yen tango**

*Ample opportunity for China and Japan to promote their domestic currencies for bilateral trade settlement*

23 Aug 2012

This month's SWIFT RMB Tracker takes a closer look at payments between China and Japan, following the start of direct trading between their currencies at the end of May. There is a plenty of opportunity for the world's second and third largest economies to promote their respective currencies, since, currently the majority of payments between them is done in a third currency, namely the USD.

- USD is the most used currency between China/Hong Kong and Japan with a share of 52.4% in customer initiated payments in May 2012. 27 currencies account with 43.2%, RMB is third with 1.8%, CNY is fourth with 1.3%, and EUR is the fifth currency with 0.8%.
- May 2012 was a good month for RMB payments overall, with a growth of 22.2% in value versus April 2012. Payments across all currencies grew by 12.5%, increasing its market share to 4.4% (0.3% in April 2012). RMB is still used payments currency #10.

**USD is still the most used currency between China/Hong Kong and Japan**

Our first chart shows that the USD takes a lead as the most used currency between China/Hong Kong and Japan for customer initiated payments in May 2012, with a share of 52.4%. The second most used currency is the yen with 13.2%. From Japan's perspective, the yen is used in 34.2% of exports to China/Hong Kong payments received by Japan, and 25.2% for imports payments sent to Japan. Overall, RMB was only used in 1.7% of customer initiated payments between China/Hong Kong and Japan.

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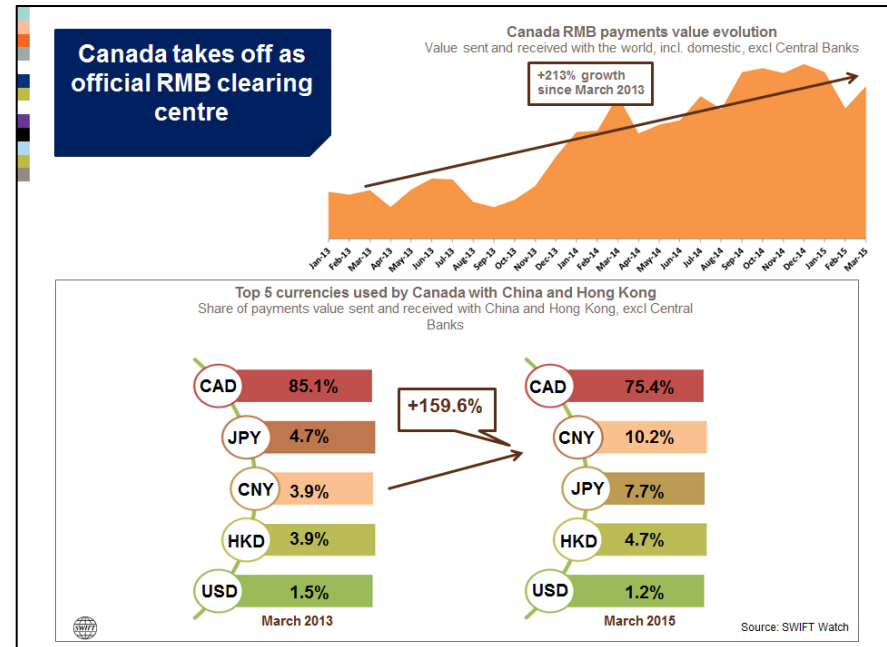
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Since SWIFT only tracks customer initiated payments and not bilateral trade flows, there is a need



# April RMB Tracker:

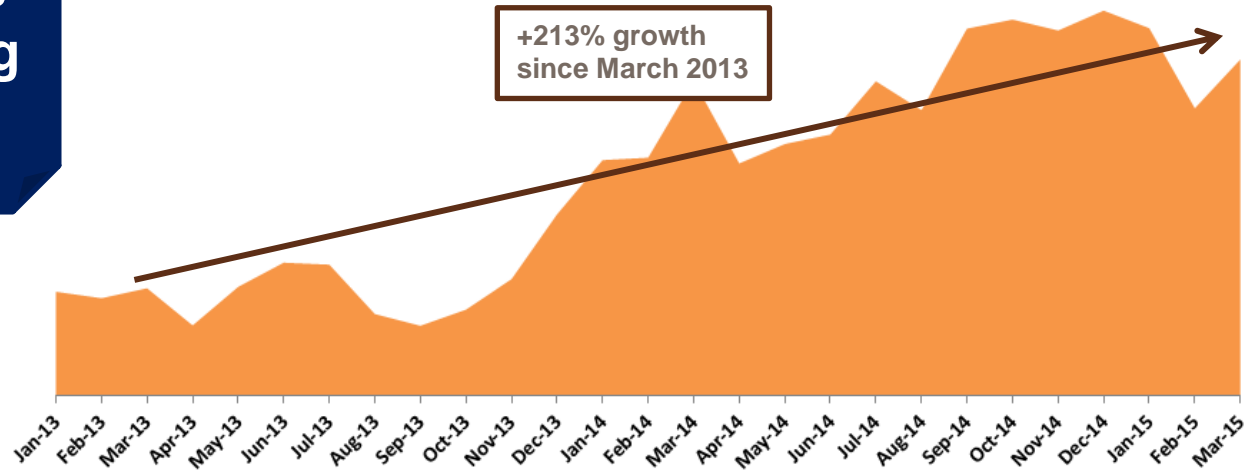
- SWIFT's RMB Tracker shows that Canada's RMB payments value increased by 213% between March 2013 and March 2015, making Canada number 15 in the world for RMB payments value, excluding China and Hong Kong.
- The RMB is the second most active currency used by Canada for payments with China and Hong Kong after the Canadian Dollar
- The appointment of the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) as the clearing bank in Toronto makes Canada the first RMB clearing centre and trading hub in the Americas. Canada's new status as a clearing hub in the Americas should help boost its rank among offshore RMB countries as more Canadian-based companies now have the opportunity to trade with China using the RMB.
- Overall, the RMB returns to its position as the fifth most active currency for global payments and accounted for 2.03% of payments worldwide. RMB payments increased in value by 33.5% in March 2015 compared to February 2015, while at a global level, all currencies increased in value by 18.9% during the same period.



# Canada takes off as official RMB clearing centre

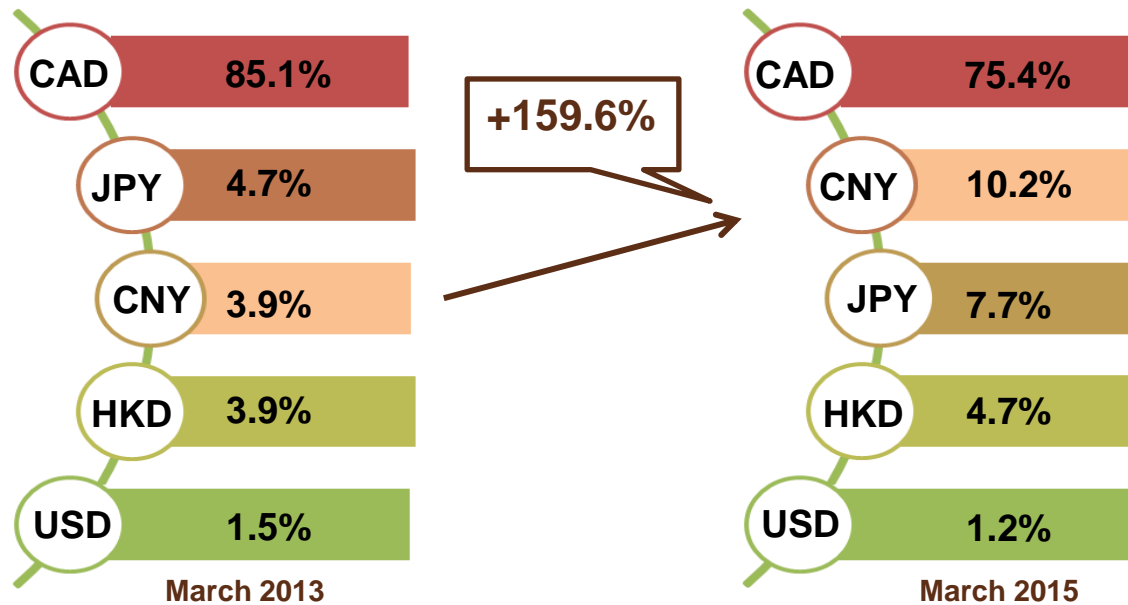
## Canada RMB payments value evolution

Value sent and received with the world, incl. domestic, excl Central Banks



## Top 5 currencies used by Canada with China and Hong Kong

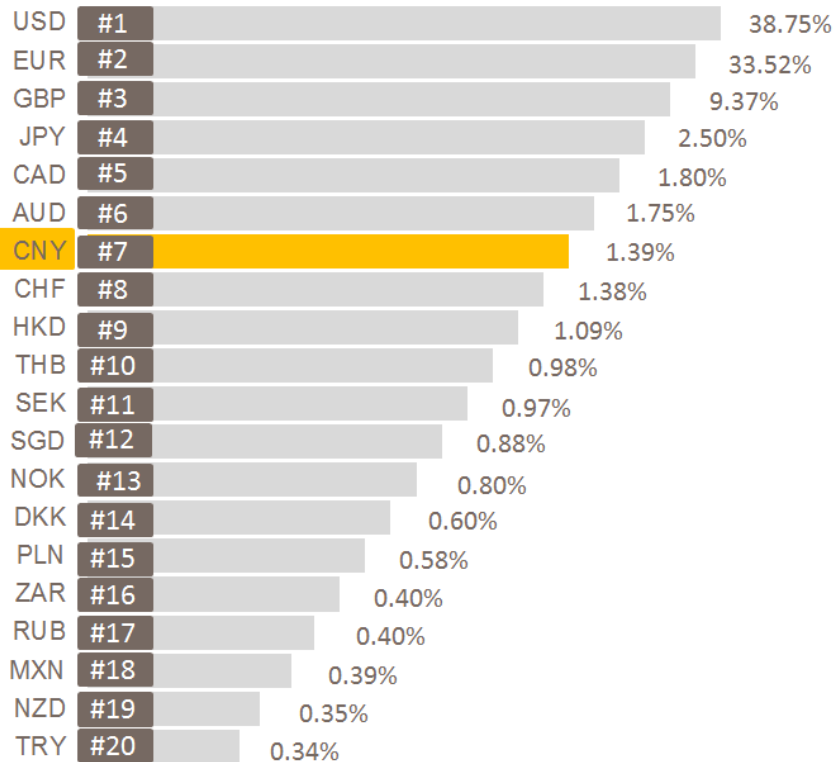
Share of payments value sent and received with China and Hong Kong, excl Central Banks



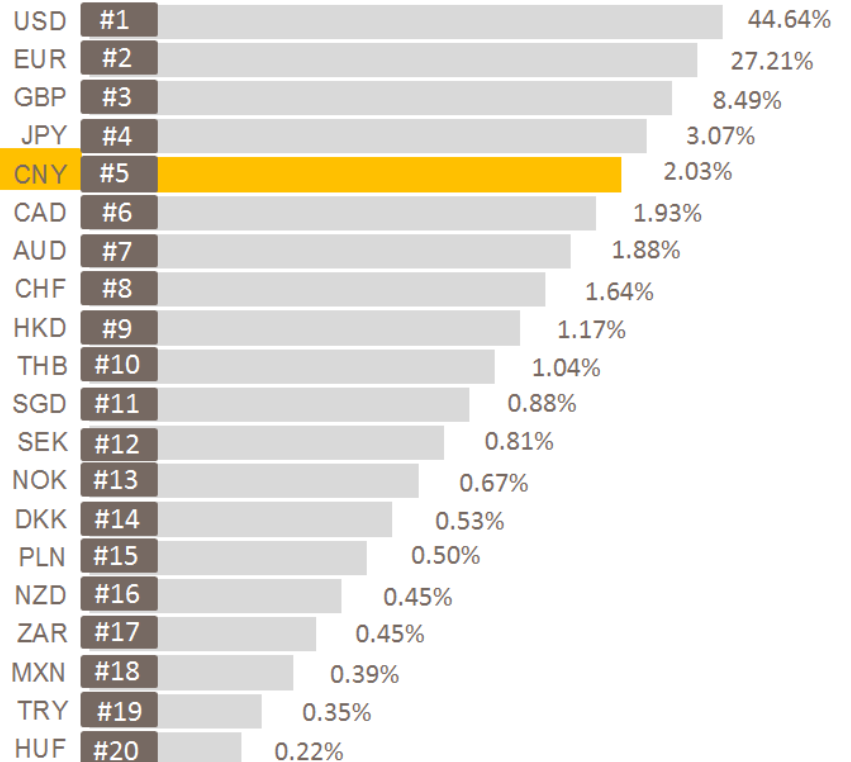
# RMB as world payments currency in value

Customer initiated and institutional payments. Inbound + Outbound traffic. Based on value.

Jan 2014

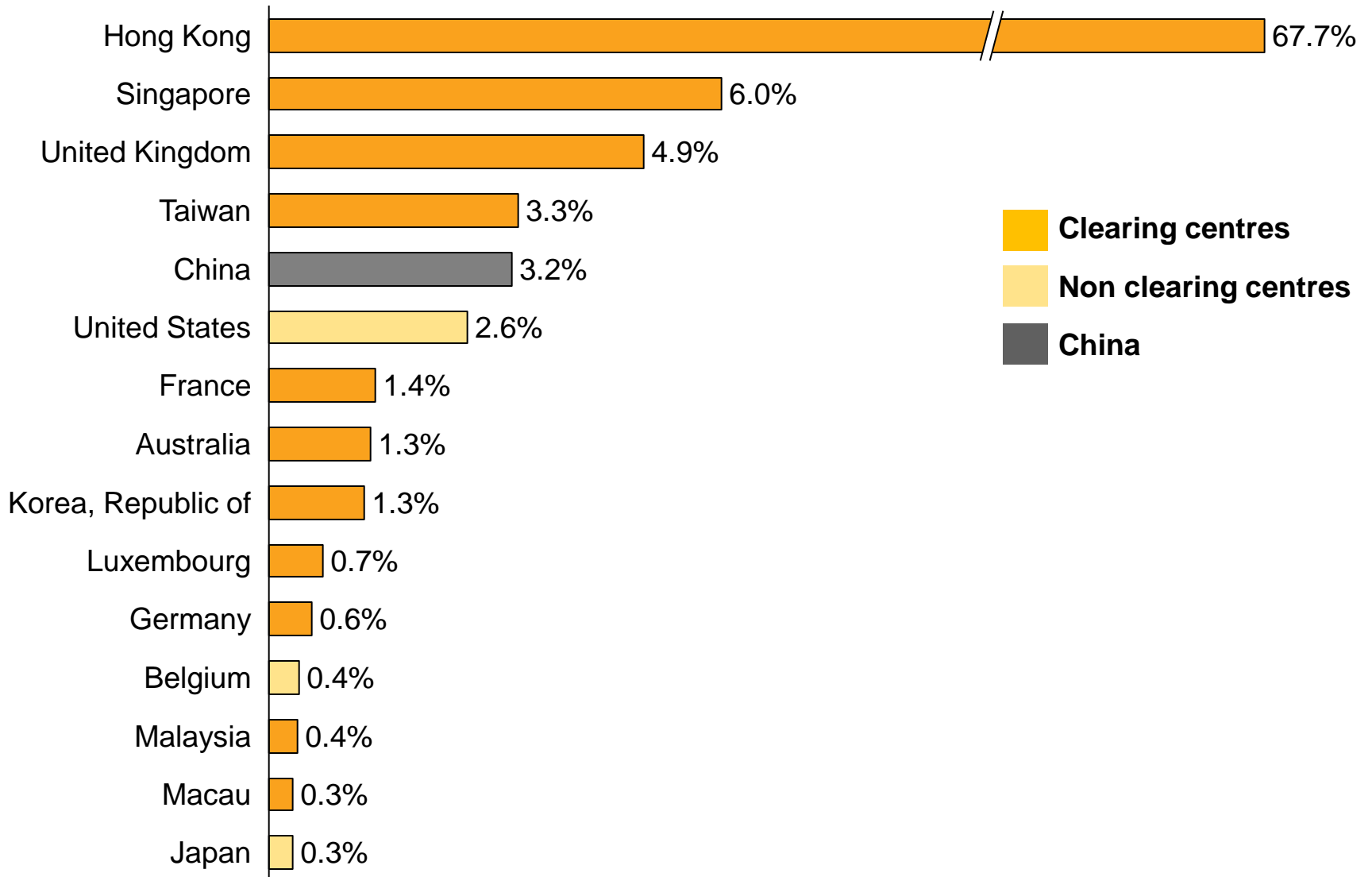


Mar 2015



# Top 15 RMB countries by weight – March 2015

Customer initiated and institutional payments. Inbound + Outbound traffic. Based on value.



Source: SWIFT Watch

# The RMB river – Countries having payments with China and Hong Kong

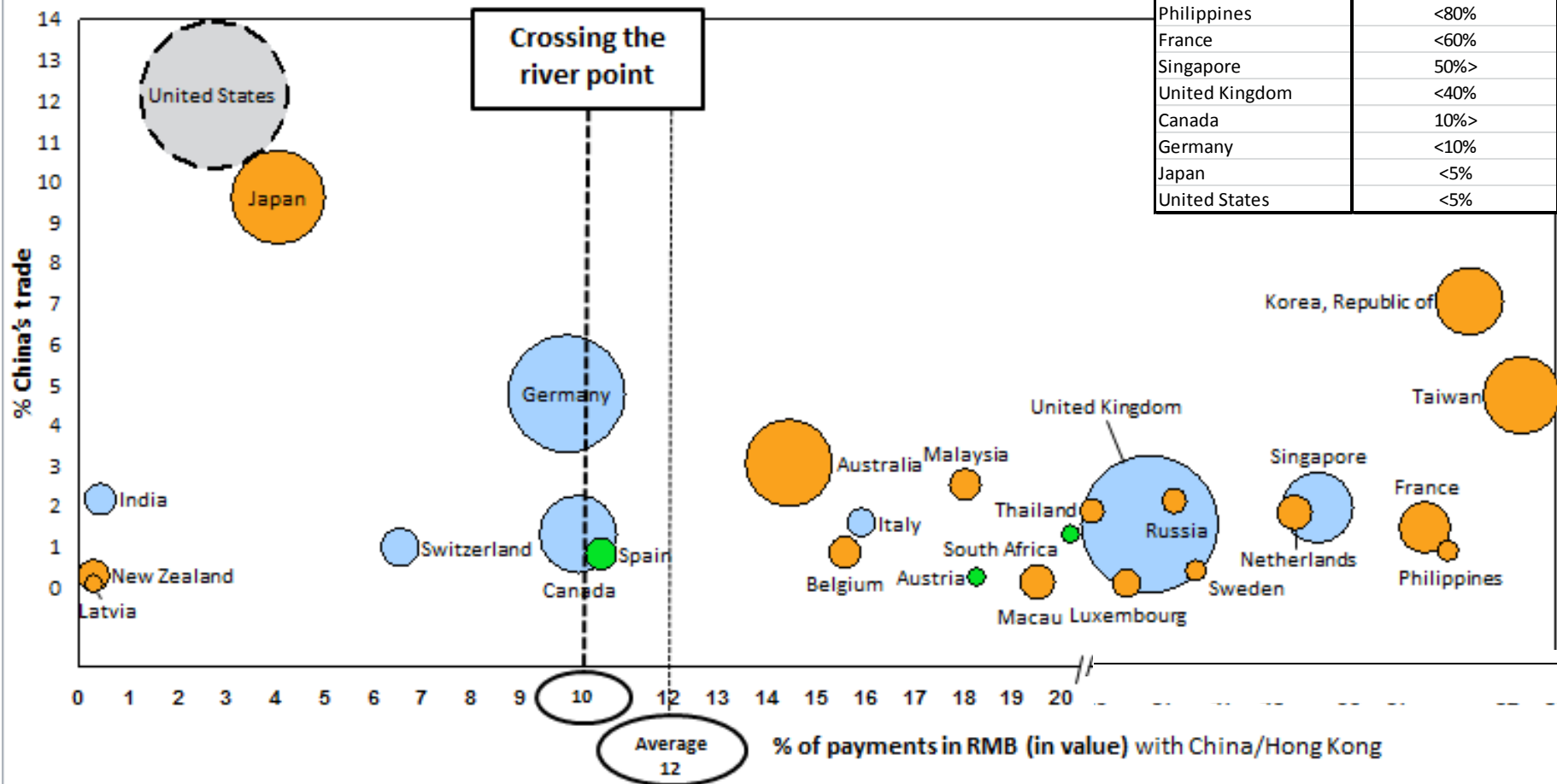
International payments flows sent and received **with** China and Hong Kong  
(Top countries >10,000 transactions in March 2015)

- Countries that have increased RMB weight since October 2014
- Countries that have crossed the river since October 2014
- Countries that have decreased RMB weight since October 2014
- Not according to scale - adjusted to 500,000 transactions

< 10%  
Countries March 2015: 106  
Countries October 2014: 111  
Countries April 2013: 113

> 10%  
Countries March 2015: 56  
Countries October 2014: 50  
Countries April 2013: 47

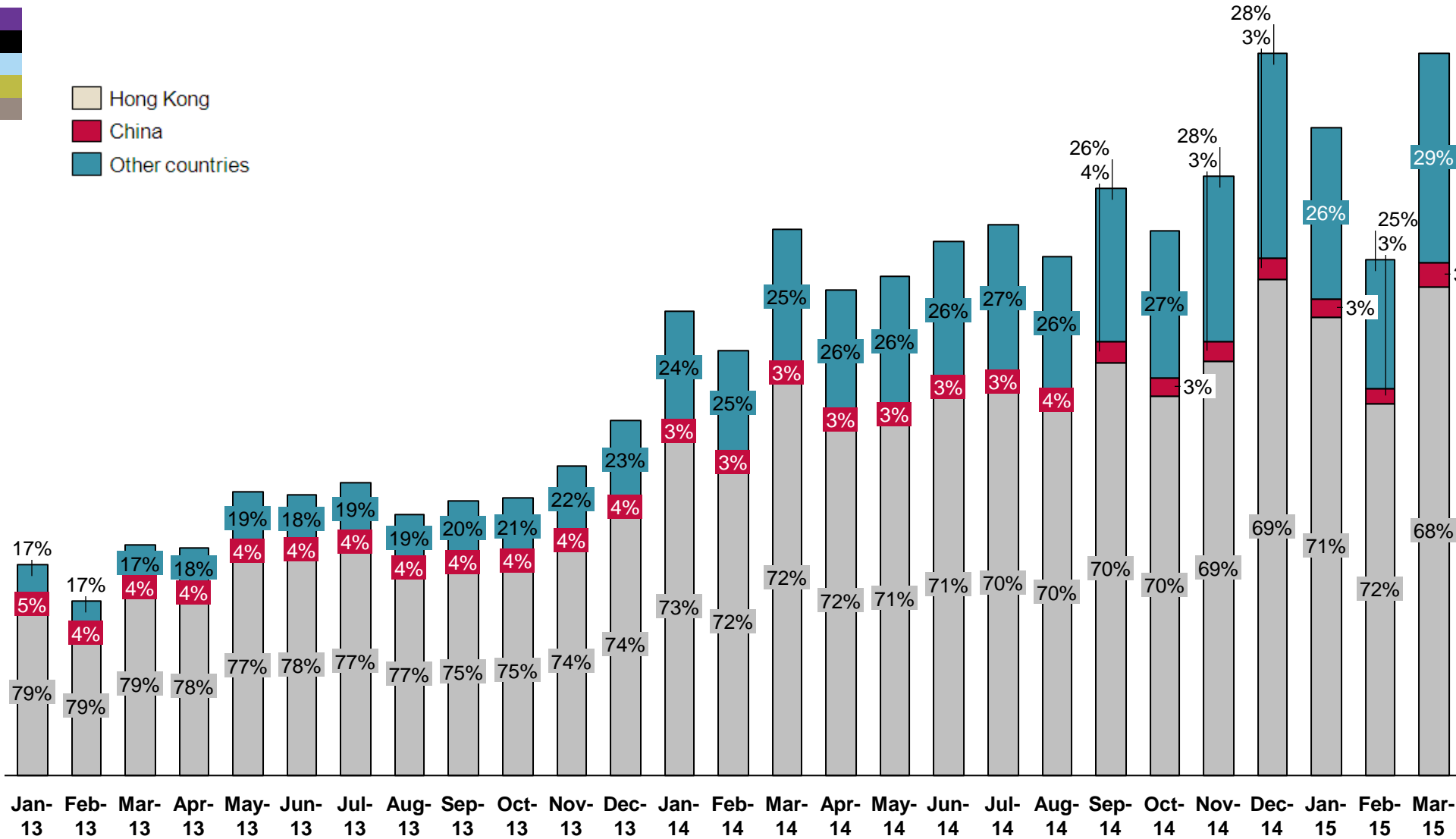
Country	Weight of CNY in value
Taiwan	80%>
Korea, Republic of	80%>
Philippines	<80%
France	<60%
Singapore	50%>
United Kingdom	<40%
Canada	10%>
Germany	<10%
Japan	<5%
United States	<5%



# RMB payments evolution

Customer initiated and institutional payments. Inbound + Outbound traffic. Based on value.

- Hong Kong
- China
- Other countries



Source: SWIFT Watch



# Want to know more?

SWIFT enables **YOU** to gain **unique insights** at any time on the RMB progresses in becoming an international currency:

- Market intelligence
- Your financial institution activity
- Your activity share and/or peer benchmark

## Key resources for more information:

- [RMB Package](#)
- [Business Intelligence solutions](#)

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