



SARON[®]

Swiss Average Rate Overnight

The new Swiss franc benchmark

SARON represents the overnight interest rate of the secured money market for Swiss franc (CHF). It is based on transactions and quotes posted in the Swiss repo market, a pivotal part of the Swiss Value Chain.

Internationally, there is a consensus that financial benchmarks need to be resilient and reliable. Repo markets, in their role as the backbone of the financial industry and central bank activity, are the obvious choice. They are liquid, highly regulated and of high integrity. The National Working Group on Swiss franc reference rate which leads efforts to reform benchmark interest rates, has recommended SARON as the alternative for CHF LIBOR.

Representative market

SARON is a reference rate reflecting both concluded transactions and binding quotes of the underlying Swiss repo market while its methodology ensures robustness and reliability. The market is under the surveillance of SIX Exchange Regulation and is regulated under the Swiss Financial Market Infrastructure Act (FMIA) as a multilateral trading facility. Between 2015 and 2017 the average daily trade and quote volume was around CHF 7.5 billion, about 42% of which were concluded repo transactions.

Advantages at a glance

- Representative reference rate of the Swiss money market.
- Based on data from the Swiss repo market
- Negligible counterparty and liquidity risks.
- Calculated on concluded transactions and binding quotes posted on a regulated trading platform.
- Use of a quote filter to minimize manipulation.
- Rule-based calculation in accordance with index regulations, which are open to the public.
- Index data can be obtained via all standard data vendors or directly from SIX. Historical data is available free of charge.
- Compliant with international benchmark standards.
- Swiss Reference Rates Index Commission is selected to represent a variety of viewpoints and acts as an advisory board.
- Clearing of SARON swaps is offered by major clearing houses.

Risk-neutral reference rate

Based on data from the secured money market, SARON can be used for different financial market instruments but it is particularly suitable for secured loans due to the negligible counterparty and liquidity risks. As a riskneutral benchmark, SARON shows considerably lower volatility to changes in bank confidence levels and during turbulent phases compared to a reference rate based on the unsecured money market. For the use of interest rate swaps, this is of course an essential advantage. Major clearing houses offer to clear swaps based on SARON.

Calculation and publication

SARON is based on concluded transactions and trade quotes posted on the SIX Repo trading platform, provided they lie within the parameters of the quote filter. The quote filter is parameterized in a way that limits the possibilities for manipulation. SARON is continually calculated in real time and published every ten minutes. In addition, a fixing is conducted three times a day at 12 pm, 4 pm and 6 pm. The 6 pm fixing serves as a reference reading for derivative financial products and the valuation of financial assets.

SARON Compound

SIX as the benchmark administrator of SARON will be calculating and publishing SARON Compound. SARON is an overnight rate and applies for the upcoming overnight period. Market participants are typically engaged

in longer term contracts like one, three or six months as a basis for loans and mortgages, deposits, bonds and floating rate notes, swaps and futures. To cover longer term contracts in Swiss francs, SARON Compound is relevant. SARON Compound is a standardised compound rate and is calculated by compounding the daily SARON rates for the relevant term.

Licensing

SARON is part of an index data package comprising all Swiss Reference Rates calculated by SIX. This data package can be obtained on the website of SIX and via Data Vendors (e.g. SIX Financial Information, Bloomberg, Thomson Reuters). Historical data does not require a license and is publicly available. Intraday data (e.g. Fixings) not older than 24 hours is subject to licensing from 1st April 2018.

Governance and regulation

In 2017, SIX established a special Index Commission for Swiss Reference Rates that advises in all matters related to them. SIX is committed to the IOSCO Principles for Financial Benchmarks and ensures that the administration of the Swiss Reference Rates is in compliance with the recommendations and in line with the principle of proportionality set forth in the IOSCO principles. This also ensures the continued use internationally of SIX benchmarks for customers and financial service providers.

Quick facts

SARON®	Swiss Average Rate Overnight		
ISIN	CH0049613687		
Bloomberg-/Refinitiv-Ticker	SSARON/SARON.S		
Definition	Volume-weighted average interest rate		
Dissemination calendar	On all CHF trading and settlement days		
Fixing-Time	12 pm	4 pm	6 pm
Fixings	SRFXON1	SRFXON2	SRFXON3
Futures	Eurex: FSO3 ICE: SA3		
Clearing	CME, EUREX, LCH		
Historical data since	30.06.1999		
Introduction	25.08.2009		
Publication start	Daily at 8:30 a.m.		
Publication interval	Every 10 minutes		

Please visit our website for further information: www.six-group.com/saron

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