

4th floor Ropemaker Place 25 Ropemaker Street London EC2Y 9LY United Kingdom tel +44 20 7260 2000 fax +44 20 7260 2001 www.markit.com

**Markit Commentary** 

January 5th 2016

# Following the ETF flows

Crossing \$3trn in global AUM at the close of 2015, ETFs continue to garner the support of investors however volatility in emerging markets and specifically China have seen sustained fund outflows occur in 2015.

- Fourth quarter of 2015 sees the third largest inflow into ETFs on record, dominated by US
- US attracts strong inflows in second half of the year after single outflow in five years in Q2

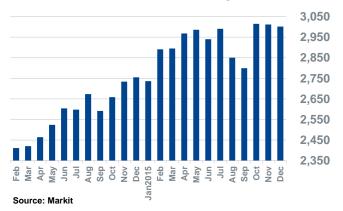
Source: Markit

— Chinese and overseas listed European ETFs see withdrawals in final quarters of 2015

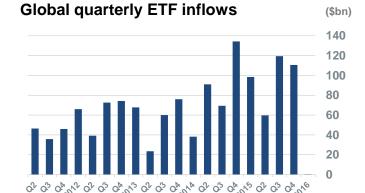
## ETF AUM jumps back above \$3trn

Despite an emerging market sell off triggered by plummeting Chinese equity markets during the second half of 2015, ETF AUM once again **breached** the \$3trn dollar mark towards the end of the year.



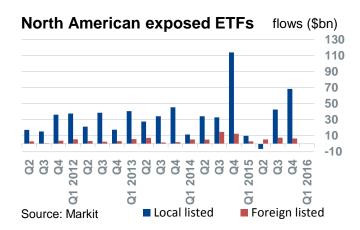


ETF AUM growth has largely been due to the continued increase in strong net inflows despite general lacklustre market performances and volatility. The asset class continues to attract investors and in the last quarter of 2015, ETF flows were the third highest on record, only superseded by the third quarter of 2015 and the final quarter of 2014.



# Strong ETF currents in North America

A large proportion of total global inflows of the final months in 2015 were recorded in the US (the largest ETF market) with ETFs exposed to the region globally recording the second largest quarterly inflow ever of \$75bn in the fourth quarter, only beaten by the fourth quarter inflow in 2014 of \$126bn.



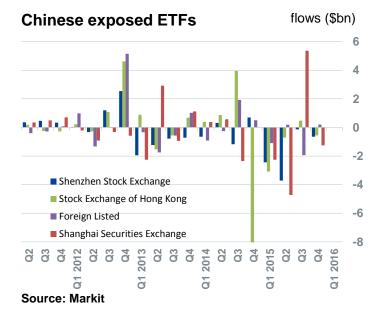


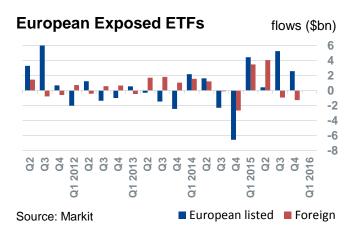
The only quarterly outflow recorded over the past five years of funds exposed to North America, occurred in the Q2 2015 when domestic listed ETFs recorded quarterly outflows of \$6.4bn.

#### Movements in Asia

With reports of the Chinese state once again **intervening** in falling markets this week, ETF flows during 2015 indicate that local and foreign investors have been pulling funds out of ETFs in the region.

Removing the effects of fixed income ETF products (which had significant sporadic inflows during 2015) reveals a strong sell off in local and foreign listed equity funds with a strong spike in inflows during the third quarter (also possibly due to previous market interventions by the state).





In Europe however, strong inflows during 2015 of almost \$13bn into local funds contrast with third and fourth quarter outflows of foreign listed European funds, surpassing \$2bn as investors continue to position for the ECB's quantitative easing.

\*To receive more information on Securities Finance, Research Signals, Exchange Traded Products, Dividend Forecasting or our Short Squeeze model please contact us

To read this article on our commentary website please click **here**.

## **Relte Stephen Schutte**

Analyst Markit

Tel: +44 207 064 6447

Email: relte.schutte@markit.com

For further information, please visit www.markit.com

The intellectual property rights to this report provided herein is owned by Markit Group limited. Any unauthorised use, including but not limited to copying, distributing, transmitting or otherwise of any data appearing is not permitted without Markit's prior consent. Markit shall not have any liability, duty or obligation for or relating to the content or information ("data") contained herein, any errors, inaccuracies, omission or delays in the data, or for any actions taken in reliance thereon. In no event shall Markit be liable for any special, incidental, consequential damages, arising out of the use of the data. Markit is a trademark owned by the Markit group.

This report does not constitute nor shall it be construed as an offer by Markit to buy or sell any particular security, financial instrument or financial service. The analysis provided in this report is of a general and impersonal nature. This report shall not be construed as providing investment advice that is adapted to or appropriate for any particular investment strategy or portfolio. This report does not and shall not be construed as providing any recommendations as to whether it is appropriate for any person or entity to "buy", "sell" or "hold" a particular investment.