

First IMF Statistical Forum Statistics for Global Economic and Financial Stability

Comments on «Mapping the Shadow Banking System through a Global Flow of Funds Analysis»

Benjamin H. Cohen
Bank for International Settlements

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Disclaimer

Views are my own.



What did the crisis teach us about information needs on financial stocks and cross-border flows?

- Gross flows are just as important as net flows or, when it comes to financial stability, more important.
- Especially when "offsetting" flows come from different sectors, have different maturity or currency compositions, or different credit exposures
- Balance sheets (stocks) are crucial background as to the relevance of flows



Some examples

- Japan in the 1980s had a current account surplus and an unsustainable domestic credit boom. Other countries have had external deficits and domestic booms.
- Europe (much more than Asia) was a major source of credit to the US housing boom before the crisis – but the EU as a whole was in external balance
- Some European surplus countries (Germany, Switzerland) faced financial system instability even though domestic credit conditions were stable, because of bank exposures
- Turbulence in emerging market asset prices in mid-2013 (mentioned in the paper) are better explained by shifts in gross flows than by net imbalances, which have been relatively small.



What is it that we're concerned about?

- Rapid growth in credit, while not a sufficient condition, should be the first sign that things are going wrong. AKA:
 - "The financial cycle"
 - "Global liquidity"
 - "Financial imbalances"
- Especially worrying if accompanied by:
 - Noncore liabilities
 - Cross-border lending
 - Shadow banking (ie outside the regulated sector)
 - ... as demonstrated nicely in the paper.
- Rapid growth in a subcategory (housing credit, ABCP ...) should at least call for a closer look



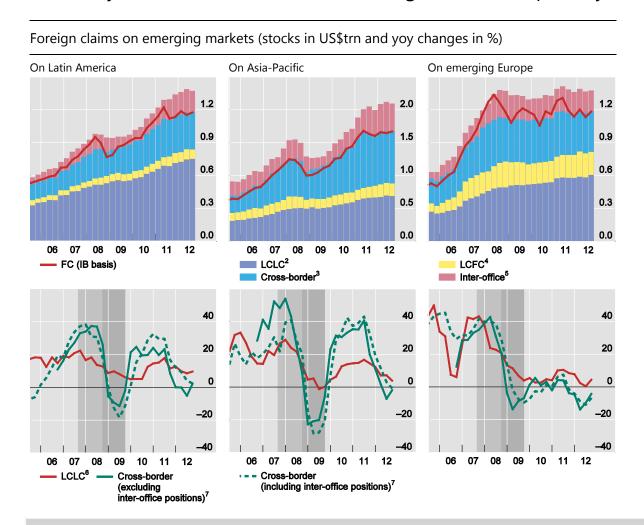
Information needs include, but are not limited to ...

- Gross flows, not just net flows
- Stocks, not just flows
 - Balance-sheet recessions
- Consolidated exposures, not just by location
- Institutional characteristics of lenders and borrowers
 - Regulated vs unregulated.
 - Quality of supervision
 - Access to safety net
 - Leverage-targeters (Adrian-Shin)
- Instrument types
 - Secured? And by what?
 - Mismatches: maturity, liquidity, currency
- Business models: multinational or international?



Business models matter:

Local currency claims were more stable during the crisis, especially in EMEs





Guideposts

- Given limited resources, and reporting burden, we'll never have a full breakdown by sector, instrument, maturity, currency, and counterparty country for every country. Need to set priorities.
- Often it's a case of better using the data sources we have.
- It would be especially useful to know more about (several of these are in the paper):
 - Consolidated bank exposures alongside residence-based
 - Credit risk transfer (derivatives and guarantees)
 - Offshore data a useful additional part of the picture in order to better capture consolidated exposures
 - Deposit vs non-deposit funding
 - Bank vs bond-market funding across sectors
 - Currency and maturity mismatches across sectors



Recent enhancements to the BIS banking statistics

Stage 1

- Add local positions in local currencies to the locational statistics.
- Add data on counterparty locations to the locational-by-nationality statistics

Stage 2

- Add home-country exposures to consolidated statistics.
- Add better counterparty breakdown (banks, NBFIs, non-financial private, public) to the locational and consolidated statistics
- Add liability (funding) data to the consolidated statistics
- Address reporting gaps, confidentiality issues



International banking data hub

- Phase 1: from March 2013
 - Inst ←→ Inst (I-I) data on credit exposures
 - Sharing: supervisory agencies
- Phase 2: draft template published
 - I-I and Inst ←→ Aggregate (I-A) data on funding
 - Sharing: supervisors & home-country macro-prudential authorities
- Phase 3: work underway
 - I-A granular, harmonised, consolidated balance sheet data
 - Sharing: supervisors, MPAs, IFIs, host authorities?

