# imf financial stability report

imf financial stability report serves as a critical resource for policymakers, investors, and financial institutions worldwide, providing an in-depth analysis of the global financial system's health and vulnerabilities. This report, published biannually by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), assesses risks, monitors financial market developments, and offers policy recommendations to enhance resilience. By examining systemic risks, macrofinancial linkages, and emerging threats, the IMF financial stability report helps in identifying potential disruptions that could impact economic growth and financial stability. The report's comprehensive coverage includes global financial trends, regional assessments, and sector-specific analyses, making it an essential tool for understanding the dynamics of international finance. This article explores the structure, content, and significance of the IMF financial stability report, outlining its role in maintaining global economic stability. The following sections will detail the report's key features, methodology, major findings, and its impact on financial regulation and policymaking.

- Overview of the IMF Financial Stability Report
- Key Components and Structure of the Report
- Methodology and Analytical Framework
- Major Findings and Risk Assessments
- Policy Recommendations and Implications
- Impact on Global Financial Stability and Regulation

# Overview of the IMF Financial Stability Report

The IMF financial stability report is designed to provide a thorough evaluation of the global financial system's robustness and vulnerabilities. Its primary aim is to identify risks that could potentially lead to financial crises and to recommend measures that can mitigate these risks. The report is published twice a year and reflects the IMF's ongoing surveillance of financial markets and institutions. It covers a wide array of topics, including systemic risk analysis, financial sector developments, and the interplay between financial markets and the real economy. By highlighting emerging threats and trends, the report plays a pivotal role in guiding international financial stability efforts.

#### **Purpose and Importance**

The main purpose of the IMF financial stability report is to enhance transparency and provide early warnings about financial system weaknesses. It assists policymakers in making informed decisions to safeguard financial stability and supports the global community in recognizing and addressing interconnected financial risks. Additionally, the report fosters dialogue among regulators, market participants, and international organizations by offering a shared understanding of potential challenges.

#### Frequency and Audience

Published biannually, the IMF financial stability report caters to a diverse audience that includes central banks, financial regulators, government officials, investors, and academics. The timing of the reports allows the IMF to incorporate the latest economic data and financial market developments to ensure timely and relevant analyses.

## Key Components and Structure of the Report

The IMF financial stability report is systematically structured to cover multiple dimensions of financial stability. It typically includes sections dedicated to global financial developments, regional outlooks, thematic issues, and assessments of financial sector resilience. This organization facilitates comprehensive coverage of both broad systemic concerns and specific vulnerabilities within various markets or regions.

#### **Global Financial Developments**

This section examines recent trends in global financial markets, including capital flows, asset prices, credit growth, and liquidity conditions. It analyzes how these factors contribute to or mitigate systemic risks, providing a snapshot of the current financial environment.

#### Regional and Country-Level Assessments

The report often features detailed assessments of financial stability risks in key regions or countries. These assessments consider local economic conditions, financial market structures, and regulatory environments, highlighting region-specific challenges and opportunities.

### Thematic Issues and Special Topics

Each edition of the IMF financial stability report may focus on specific

themes such as the impact of digital currencies, climate-related financial risks, or developments in nonbank financial institutions. These sections delve deeper into emerging risks and innovations influencing financial stability.

#### Financial Sector Resilience

This component evaluates the health and stability of banks, insurance companies, and other financial intermediaries. It includes stress testing results, capital adequacy analyses, and assessments of liquidity and solvency risks.

## Methodology and Analytical Framework

The IMF financial stability report employs a robust methodological framework that combines quantitative analysis, qualitative assessments, and expert judgment. This multifaceted approach ensures a comprehensive understanding of complex financial dynamics and systemic risks.

#### Risk Identification and Measurement

The report uses a variety of indicators to identify and measure risks, including credit growth rates, leverage ratios, market volatility indices, and interconnectedness metrics within the financial sector. These indicators help detect build-ups of vulnerabilities before they escalate into crises.

### Stress Testing and Scenario Analysis

Stress testing is a key tool in the report's methodology, simulating adverse economic or financial shocks to assess the resilience of financial institutions and markets. Scenario analysis also explores the potential impact of hypothetical events, helping policymakers prepare for unexpected developments.

### Macrofinancial Linkages

The analysis emphasizes the connections between the financial sector and the real economy, examining how shocks can propagate through credit channels, asset prices, and investment behavior. This holistic view enhances the report's predictive power regarding systemic risks.

# Major Findings and Risk Assessments

The IMF financial stability report regularly identifies evolving risks that threaten global financial stability. These findings provide valuable insights into the nature and sources of vulnerabilities affecting various markets and regions.

#### **Emerging Systemic Risks**

Recent reports have highlighted risks such as rising global debt levels, geopolitical tensions, inflationary pressures, and vulnerabilities in nonbank financial intermediaries. The increasing complexity of financial products and interconnectedness of markets also feature prominently in risk assessments.

## **Regional Vulnerabilities**

Specific regions often face unique challenges, including currency volatility, exposure to commodity price shocks, or structural weaknesses in banking systems. The IMF financial stability report identifies these regional risks and monitors their potential spillover effects on the global financial landscape.

#### Financial Market Developments

The report tracks developments such as shifts in investor sentiment, changes in interest rates, and fluctuations in equity and bond markets. These factors are analyzed for their implications on liquidity, credit availability, and overall market stability.

# **Policy Recommendations and Implications**

Based on its analyses, the IMF financial stability report offers actionable policy recommendations aimed at strengthening financial resilience and minimizing systemic risks. These recommendations are intended to guide regulators, central banks, and governments in their decision-making processes.

### **Strengthening Regulatory Frameworks**

The report often advocates for enhanced regulatory oversight, improved risk management practices, and tighter capital and liquidity requirements for financial institutions. It emphasizes the need for adaptive regulations that can respond to evolving financial innovations and risks.

#### **Enhancing Crisis Preparedness**

Recommendations include the development of effective crisis management frameworks, including resolution mechanisms for distressed financial institutions and improved coordination among regulatory authorities internationally.

#### **Promoting Financial Market Transparency**

The IMF financial stability report stresses the importance of transparency and disclosure in financial markets to reduce information asymmetries and improve market discipline. Enhanced data sharing and reporting standards are frequently encouraged.

#### Addressing Emerging Risks

Policy advice also covers emerging areas such as climate-related financial risks, cybersecurity threats, and the implications of digital assets, encouraging proactive approaches to these challenges.

# Impact on Global Financial Stability and Regulation

The IMF financial stability report significantly influences global financial stability efforts and regulatory policies. Its comprehensive assessments and recommendations help shape international standards and foster cooperation among financial authorities.

#### **Guiding International Financial Institutions**

The report supports coordination among global bodies such as the Financial Stability Board (FSB), Bank for International Settlements (BIS), and national regulators by providing a common analytical foundation and risk assessment framework.

#### **Informing Market Participants**

Investors and financial institutions utilize insights from the report to adjust risk management strategies, capital allocation, and investment decisions, contributing to more stable and efficient markets.

#### **Enhancing Policymaking and Surveillance**

Governments and central banks incorporate the report's findings into their surveillance and policy formulation processes, enabling timely interventions to address vulnerabilities and prevent crises.

#### Fostering Long-Term Financial Stability

By continuously monitoring risks and promoting sound regulatory practices, the IMF financial stability report plays a vital role in advancing the resilience and sustainability of the global financial system over the long term.

- Comprehensive risk identification
- Robust stress testing methodologies
- Targeted policy recommendations
- Support for international regulatory coordination
- Focus on emerging financial challenges

# Frequently Asked Questions

#### What is the IMF Financial Stability Report?

The IMF Financial Stability Report is a periodic publication by the International Monetary Fund that assesses global financial markets and emerging vulnerabilities to promote financial stability worldwide.

# How often is the IMF Financial Stability Report published?

The IMF Financial Stability Report is typically published twice a year, providing updates on financial stability risks and developments.

# What key areas does the IMF Financial Stability Report focus on?

The report focuses on risks to global financial stability, including banking sector health, market developments, emerging vulnerabilities, and policy recommendations to mitigate systemic risks.

# Why is the IMF Financial Stability Report important for policymakers?

It provides timely analysis and early warnings about financial system risks, helping policymakers implement measures to prevent financial crises and maintain economic stability.

# How does the IMF Financial Stability Report impact global markets?

The report influences investor sentiment and policy decisions by highlighting potential risks and vulnerabilities in the global financial system, which can affect market confidence and capital flows.

# Where can I access the latest IMF Financial Stability Report?

The latest IMF Financial Stability Report is available for free on the official IMF website under the publications section dedicated to financial stability.

#### Additional Resources

- 1. Global Financial Stability: Challenges and Policies
  This book explores the key challenges facing global financial stability in the 21st century, including the impact of economic shocks, regulatory changes, and geopolitical risks. It provides an in-depth analysis of policy responses by international financial institutions like the IMF to safeguard financial systems worldwide. Readers will gain insights into the mechanisms that underpin global financial stability and the evolving role of financial regulation.
- 2. The IMF and Financial Stability: A Comprehensive Overview
  Focusing on the International Monetary Fund's role in maintaining financial stability, this book offers a detailed examination of the IMF's financial stability reports and their implications for member countries. It discusses the methodologies used by the IMF to assess risks and vulnerabilities in the global financial system. The book also highlights case studies where IMF interventions have helped stabilize economies during crises.
- 3. Financial Stability and Crisis Management in Emerging Markets
  This volume investigates the unique financial stability challenges faced by
  emerging markets and developing economies. It analyzes how IMF financial
  stability assessments contribute to crisis prevention and resolution in these
  regions. The book also covers practical policy tools designed to enhance
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- 4. Systemic Risk and the Global Financial System

Examining the concept of systemic risk, this book delves into how interconnected financial institutions can pose threats to global financial stability. It reviews findings from the IMF's financial stability reports and discusses frameworks for monitoring and mitigating systemic risks. The book is essential for understanding the complexities of global financial networks.

- 5. Financial Stability Report Analysis: Insights and Applications
  This book provides a comprehensive guide to interpreting and utilizing
  financial stability reports published by the IMF and other institutions. It
  explains key indicators of financial health and risk, offering practical
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- 6. Monetary Policy and Financial Stability: Balancing Act
  Here, the relationship between monetary policy and financial stability is
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- 9. International Financial Institutions and Global Stability
  This book reviews the roles of key international financial institutions, including the IMF, World Bank, and BIS, in promoting global financial stability. It discusses collaborative efforts highlighted in financial stability reports to address cross-border financial risks. The text provides a broad perspective on the institutional architecture supporting a stable global financial environment.

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imf financial stability report: Global Financial Stability Report, October 2022
International Monetary, International Monetary Fund. Monetary and Capital Markets Department, 2022-10-11 Global financial stability risks have increased amid a series of cascading shocks. Chapter 1 analyzes the policy response of central banks to high inflation, the risks of a disorderly tightening of financial conditions, and debt distress among emerging and frontier markets. Markets have been extremely volatile, and a deterioration in market liquidity appears to have amplified price moves. In Europe, the energy crisis is contributing to a worsening outlook. In China, the property sector remains a key source of vulnerability. Chapter 2 examines how to narrow the climate financing gap in emerging market and developing economies. Climate policies, including carbon pricing, climate disclosures, and transition taxonomies, are crucial for enabling private climate finance. Innovative

financial instruments can help to scale up private climate finance, but the public sector—including multilateral development banks—will have to play a key supporting role. Chapter 3 analyzes the contributions of open-end investment funds to fragilities in asset markets. Open-end investment funds play a key role in financial markets, but those offering daily redemptions while holding illiquid assets can amplify the effects of adverse shocks by raising the likelihood of investor runs and asset fire sales. This contributes to volatility in asset markets and potentially threatens financial stability.

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International Monetary Fund. Monetary and Capital Markets Department, 2002-09-12 This
September 2002 issue of the Global Financial Stability Report highlights that during the second quarter of 2002, a sharp erosion of investor confidence heightened risk aversion and growing concerns about the strength and durability of the global recovery. The pace and quality of corporate earnings had repercussions in all of the major equity, credit, and foreign exchange markets. Market adjustments occurred against the background of the bursting of the telecom, media, and technology bubble, which exposed a culture of irrational exuberance, and sometimes greed, among many buyers, sellers, and intermediaries.

imf financial stability report: Global Financial Stability Report, April 2021 International Monetary Fund, 2021-04-06 Extraordinary policy measures have eased financial conditions and supported the economy, helping to contain financial stability risks. Chapter 1 warns that there is a pressing need to act to avoid a legacy of vulnerabilities while avoiding a broad tightening of financial conditions. Actions taken during the pandemic may have unintended consequences such as stretched valuations and rising financial vulnerabilities. The recovery is also expected to be asynchronous and divergent between advanced and emerging market economies. Given large external financing needs, several emerging markets face challenges, especially if a persistent rise in US rates brings about a repricing of risk and tighter financial conditions. The corporate sector in many countries is emerging from the pandemic overindebted, with notable differences depending on firm size and sector. Concerns about the credit quality of hard-hit borrowers and profitability are likely to weigh on the risk appetite of banks. Chapter 2 studies leverage in the nonfinancial private sector before and during the COVID-19 crisis, pointing out that policymakers face a trade-off between boosting growth in the short term by facilitating an easing of financial conditions and containing future downside risks. This trade-off may be amplified by the existing high and rapidly building leverage, increasing downside risks to future growth. The appropriate timing for deployment of macroprudential tools should be country-specific, depending on the pace of recovery, vulnerabilities, and policy tools available. Chapter 3 turns to the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the commercial real estate sector. While there is little evidence of large price misalignments at the onset of the pandemic, signs of overvaluation have now emerged in some economies. Misalignments in commercial real estate prices, especially if they interact with other vulnerabilities, increase downside risks to future growth due to the possibility of sharp price corrections.

imf financial stability report: Global Financial Stability Report, April 2018 International Monetary Fund. Monetary and Capital Markets Department, 2018-04-18 The April 2018 Global Financial Stability Report (GFSR) finds that short-term risks to financial stability have increased somewhat since the previous GFSR. Medium-term risks are still elevated as financial vulnerabilities, which have built up during the years of accommodative policies, could mean a bumpy road ahead and put growth at risk. This GFSR also examines the short- and medium-term implications for downside risks to growth and financial stability of the riskiness of corporate credit allocation. It documents the cyclical nature of the riskiness of corporate credit allocation at the global and country levels and its sensitivity to financial conditions, lending standards, and policy and institutional settings. Another chapter analyzes whether and how house prices move in tandem across countries and major cities around the world—that is, global house price synchronicity.

imf financial stability report: Global Financial Stability Report, April 2015 International Monetary Fund. Monetary and Capital Markets Department, 2015-04-15 The current report finds that, despite an improvement in economic prospects in some key advanced economies, new

challenges to global financial stability have arisen. The global financial system is being buffeted by a series of changes, including lower oil prices and, in some cases, diverging growth patterns and monetary policies. Expectations for rising U.S. policy rates sparked a significant appreciation of the U.S. dollar, while long term bond yields in many advanced economies have decreased—and have turned negative for almost a third of euro area sovereign bonds—on disinflation concerns and the prospect of continued monetary accommodation. Emerging markets are caught in these global cross currents, with some oil exporters and other facing new stability challenges, while others have gained more policy space as a result of lower fuel prices and reduced inflationary pressures. The report also examines changes in international banking since the global financial crisis and finds that these changes are likely to promote more stable bank lending in host countries. Finally, the report finds that the asset management industry needs to strengthen its oversight framework to address financial stability risks from incentive problems between end-investors and portfolio managers and the risk of runs due to liquidity mismatches.

imf financial stability report: Global Financial Stability Report, April 2020 International Monetary Fund. Monetary and Capital Markets Department, 2020-04-14 The April 2020 Global Financial Stability Report (GFSR) assesses the financial stability challenges posed by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Chapter 1 describes how financial conditions tightened abrubtly with the onset of the pandemic, with risk asset prices dropping sharply as investors rushed to safety and liquidity. It finds that a further tightening of financial conditions may expose vulnerabilities, including among nonbank financial institutions, and that bank resilience may be tested if economic and financial market stresses rise. Vulnerabilities in global risky corporate credit markets, including weakened credit quality of borrowers, looser underwriting standards, liquidity risks at investment funds, and increased interconnectedness, could generate losses at nonbank financial institutions in a severe adverse scenario, as discussed in Chapter 2. The pandemic led to an unprecedented and sharp reversal of portfolio flows, highlighting the challenges of managing flows in emerging and frontier markets. Chapter 3 shows that global financial conditions tend to influence portfolio flows more during surges than in normal times, that stronger domestic fundamentals can help mitigate outflows, and that greater foreign participation in local currency bond markets may increase price volatility where domestic markets lack depth. Beyond the immediate challenges of COVID-19, Chapter 4 explores the profitability pressures that banks are likely to face over the medium term in an environment where low interest rates are expected to persist. Chapter 5 takes a broader perspective on physical risks associated with climate change. It finds that these risks do not appear to be reflected in global equity valuations and that stress testing and better disclosure of exposures to climatic hazards are essential to better assess physical risk.

**imf financial stability report:** Global Financial Stability Report, April 2008 International Monetary Fund. Monetary and Capital Markets Department, 2008-04-08 The events of the past six months have demonstrated the fragility of the global financial system and raised fundamental questions about the effectiveness of the response by private and public sector institutions. The report assesses the vulnerabilities that the system is facing and offers tentative conclusions and policy lessons. The report reflects information available up to March 21, 2008.

imf financial stability report: Global Financial Stability Report, October 2019
International Monetary Fund. Monetary and Capital Markets Department, 2019-10-16 The October 2019 Global Financial Stability Report (GFSR) identifies the current key vulnerabilities in the global financial system as the rise in corporate debt burdens, increasing holdings of riskier and more illiquid assets by institutional investors, and growing reliance on external borrowing by emerging and frontier market economies. The report proposes that policymakers mitigate these risks through stricter supervisory and macroprudential oversight of firms, strengthened oversight and disclosure for institutional investors, and the implementation of prudent sovereign debt management practices and frameworks for emerging and frontier market economies.

imf financial stability report: Global Financial Stability Report, October 2021 International Monetary Fund, 2021-10-12 Financial stability risks have been contained so far, reflecting ongoing policy support and a rebound in the global economy earlier this year. Chapter 1 explains that financial conditions have eased further in net in advanced economies but changed little in emerging markets. However, the optimism that propelled markets earlier in the year has faded on growing concerns about the strength of the global recovery, and ongoing supply chain disruptions intensified inflation concerns. Signs of stretched asset valuations in some market segments persist, and pockets of vulnerabilities remain in the nonbank financial sector; recovery is uneven in the corporate sector. Chapter 2 discusses the opportunities and challenges of the crypto ecosystem. Crypto asset providers' lack of operational or cyber resilience poses risks, and significant data gaps imperil financial integrity. Crypto assets in emerging markets may accelerate dollarization risks. Chapter 3 shows that sustainable funds can support the global transition to a green economy but must be scaled up to have a major impact. It also discusses how a disorderly transition could disrupt the broader investment fund sector in the future.

imf financial stability report: Global Financial Stability Report, April 2005 International Monetary Fund. Monetary and Capital Markets Department, 2005-04-05 The Global Financial Stability Report (GFSR) provides expert and up-to-date analysis of global capital flows that play a critical role in world economic growth and Financial stability. The report focuses on current conditions in global Financial markets, analyzing Financial imbalances and structural issues that could pose risks to stability and sustained market access by emerging market borrowers. Along with the IMF's semiannual World Economic Outlook, the GFSR is a key vehicle for communicating the IMF's multilateral surveillance. The GFSR also draws out the Financial ramifications of economic imbalances highlighted by the WEO, making it an indispensable companion publication.

imf financial stability report: Global Financial Stability Report, April 2019 International Monetary Fund. Monetary and Financial Systems Dept., 2019-04-10 The April 2019 Global Financial Stability Report (GFSR) finds that despite significant variability over the past two quarters, financial conditions remain accommodative. As a result, financial vulnerabilities have continued to build in the sovereign, corporate, and nonbank financial sectors in several systemically important countries, leading to elevated medium-term risks. The report attempts to provide a comprehensive assessment of these vulnerabilities while focusing specifically on corporate sector debt in advanced economies, the sovereign-financial sector nexus in the euro area, China's financial imbalances, volatile portfolio flows to emerging markets, and downside risks to the housing market. These vulnerabilities require action by policymakers, including through the clear communication of any changes in their monetary policy outlook, the deployment and expansion of macroprudential tools, the stepping up of measures to repair public and private sector balance sheets, and the strengthening of emerging market resilience to foreign portfolio outflows. This GFSR also takes an in depth look at house prices at risk, a measure of downside risks to future house price growth—using theory, insights from past analyses, and new statistical techniques applied to 32 advanced and emerging market economies and major cities. The chapter finds that lower house price momentum, overvaluation, excessive credit growth, and tighter financial conditions predict heightened downside risks to house prices up to three years ahead. The measure of house prices at risk helps forecast downside risks to GDP growth and adds to early-warning models for financial crises. Policymakers can use estimates of house prices at risk to complement other surveillance indicators of housing market vulnerabilities and guide macroprudential policy actions aimed at building buffers and reducing vulnerabilities. Downside risks to house prices could also be relevant for monetary policymakers when forming their views on the downside risks to the economic and inflation outlook. Authorities considering measures to manage capital flows might also find such information useful when a surge in capital inflows increases downside risks to house prices and when other policy options are limited.

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default swaps markets are good indicators of sovereign credit risk. Chapter 3 examines unconventional monetary policy in some depth, including the policies pursued by the Federal Reserve, the Bank of England, the Bank of Japan, the European Central Bank, and the U.S. Federal Reserve.

imf financial stability report: Global Financial Stability Report, April 2004 International Monetary Fund. Monetary and Capital Markets Department, 2004-04-06 The Global Financial Stability Report (GSFR), published twice a year by the IMF, provides timely analysis of developments in mature and emerging market countries and seeks to identify potential fault lines in the global financial system that could lead to crisis. The GFSR aims to deepen its readers' understanding of global capital flows, which play a critical role as an engine of world economic growth. Along with the IMF's semiannual World Economic Outlook, the GFSR is a key vehicle for the IMF's multilateral surveillance. The Global Financial Stability Report was created to provide a more frequent assessment of global financial markets and to address emerging market financing in a global context. The report focuses on current conditions in global financial markets, highlighting issues of financial imbalances, and of a structural nature, that could pose risks to financial market stability and sustained market access by emerging market borrowers. The GFSR focuses on relevant contemporary issues, not attempting to be a comprehensive survey of all potential risks. It also draws out the financial ramifications of economic imbalances highlighted by the IMF's World Economic Outlook. It regularly contains, as a special feature, articles on structural or systemic issues relevant to international financial stability.

imf financial stability report: Global Financial Stability Report, April 2016 International Monetary Fund. Monetary and Capital Markets Department, 2016-04-11 The current Global Financial Stability Report (April 2016) finds that global financial stability risks have risen since the last report in October 2015. The new report finds that the outlook has deteriorated in advanced economies because of heightened uncertainty and setbacks to growth and confidence, while declines in oil and commodity prices and slower growth have kept risks elevated in emerging markets. These developments have tightened financial conditions, reduced risk appetite, raised credit risks, and stymied balance sheet repair. A broad-based policy response is needed to secure financial stability. Advanced economies must deal with crisis legacy issues, emerging markets need to bolster their resilience to global headwinds, and the resilience of market liquidity should be enhanced. The report also examines financial spillovers from emerging market economies and finds that they have risen substantially. This implies that when assessing macro-financial conditions, policymakers may need to increasingly take into account economic developments in emerging market economies. Finally, the report assesses changes in the systemic importance of insurers, finding that across advanced economies the contribution of life insurers to systemic risk has increased in recent years. The results suggest that supervisors and regulators should take a more macroprudential approach to the sector.

imf financial stability report: Global Financial Stability Report, October 2014 International Monetary Fund. Monetary and Capital Markets Department, 2014-10-08 The October 2014 issue finds that six years after the start of the crisis, the global economic recovery continues to rely heavily on accommodative monetary policies in advanced economies. Monetary accommodation remains critical in supporting economies by encouraging economic risk taking in the form of increased real spending by households and greater willingness to invest and hire by businesses. However, prolonged monetary ease may also encourage excessive financial risk taking. Analytical chapters examine (1) the growth of shadow banking around the globe, assessing risks and discussing regulatory responses, and calling for a more encompassing (macroprudential) approach to regulation and for enhanced data provision; and (2) how conflicts of interest among bank managers, shareholders, and debt holders can lead to excessive bank risk taking from society's point of view, finding no clear relation between bank risk and the level of executive compensation, but that a better alignment of bankers' pay with long-term outcomes is associated with less risk.

imf financial stability report: International Monetary Fund Annual Report 2002 International Monetary Fund, 2002-10-21 This 2002 Annual Report describes world economic and financial

developments in FY2002. During FY2002, the IMF faced important new challenges in an unusually unsettled world environment. After a period of strong expansion, the global economy experienced a widespread slowdown during the 2001 calendar year. By early 2002, however, thanks in large part to actions taken by key central banks to lower interest rates, there were encouraging signs that growth was recovering, although serious concerns remained in a number of countries.

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