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Does deposit insurance increase banking system stability? An empirical investigation

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Abstract

Based on evidence for 61 countries in 1980–1997, this study finds that explicit deposit insurance tends to increase the likelihood of banking crises, the more so where bank interest rates are deregulated and the institutional environment is weak. Also, the adverse impact of deposit insurance on bank stability tends to be stronger the more extensive is the coverage offered to depositors, where the scheme is funded, and where it is run by the government rather than the private sector.



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† The findings, interpretations, and conclusions expressed in this paper are entirely those of the authors. They do not necessarily represent the views of the World Bank, IMF, their Executive Directors, or the countries they represent. We received very helpful comments from George Clark, Roberta Gatti, Alex Hoffmeister, Ed Kane, Francesca Recanatini, Marco Sorge, Colin Xu and an anonymous referee. We are greatly indebted to Anqing Shi, Tolga Sobaci and Paramjit Gill for excellent research assistance.

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