

ALÁEZ ALLER, Ricardo, BILBAO UBILLOS, Javier, CAMINO BELDARRAIN, Vicente y LONGÁS GARCÍA, Juan Carlos

Reflections on the Spanish automobile industry: crisis and prospects

Abstract: The Spanish automobile industry has reached a considerable size, in terms of its weight in both the global industry and the domestic economy. The economic crisis has had a particularly heavy impact on the sector, in light of the nature of the product and the fact that a large percentage of buyers depend on outside financing for their purchases. But the uncertainties induced by the crisis are compounded by others stemming from the industry itself. The latter, which include spatial distribution of the demand for automobiles, changes in the nature of inter-company relations and technological development, may radically alter the advantages and appeal of countries and regions.

Key words: automobile industry, economic crisis, relocating.

JEL Classification: F23, L16, L62.

ANDRÉS SÁNCHEZ, Jorge de

Integration of government bond prices in the European Monetary Union

Abstract: The article analyzes the long-term balance in the prices of government bonds issued by four euro area majors: France, Germany, Italy and Spain. Their inter-relationships have relevant implications for managing the portfolios that invest in euro area Member State government bonds. The study reviews the standardization and harmonization of issuing procedures, types of instruments traded, and so on, that appeared on sovereign debt markets with the advent of the euro, and analyzes whether or not they have contributed to the integration of bond list prices.

Key words: sovereign debt markets, international financial analysts' sovereign debt ratings, market integration, co-integration.

JEL Classification: G11, G15.

BERNARDOS DOMÍNGUEZ, Gonzalo

Growth and bursting of the property bubble in Spain

Abstract: The present article analyzes the main causes underlying the formation of Spain's property bubble from 1998 to 2005, the primary reasons why it burst and the

consequences of that explosion. This is followed by a proposal for a series of measures to reduce the duration of the property crisis, bolster financial institution solvency, stimulate lending by banks and savings banks and contribute to the country's speedier recovery from the present recession.

Key words: property bubble, housing, lending.

JEL Classification: E31, G21, R21.

BORRELL VIDAL, Máximo

Reflections on the present crisis, ethics and quantitative specialism

Abstract: Drawing from the precedents of the present crisis, this article attempts to show how certain grounds for political action generated an ethical lapse that affected economic and financial circles and brought about substantial qualitative changes in the socio-economic system. It also analyzes the possible effect of quantitative modelling on this process, in light of its weaknesses. More specifically, it discusses the role of a statistical instrument, the copula and the Li formula, and a financial instrument, CDOs. A professed follower of Dewey's principles, the author proposes that economic discourse should be built on five areas of analysis, the most relevant of which is ethics. From this vantage he reviews certain pertinent economic principles in connection with the crisis and by way of conclusion suggests a series of guidelines for charting the course of future capitalism.

Key words: economic policy, ethical lapse, Dewey's principles, quantitative models, areas of analysis, copulas and Li formula, CDOs, CDS.

JEL Classification: E44, E58, E61, G18.

GRANELL TRÍAS, Francesc

Measures to combat the crisis, problems and intergenerational impact

Abstract: The author analyzes the national and international actions taken to overcome the crisis that has affected the world economy. This includes a review of the monetary and fiscal measures taken by governments to restore confidence in the banking system and generate conditions for a new type of growth. After addressing the immediate problems and the budget deficits inherent in the solutions adopted, he concludes that the increase in debt in the years to come may stimulate inflation and entail high costs for subsequent generations.

Key words: G-20, European Union, dollar, euro, Federal Reserve, European Central Bank, interest rates, automatic fiscal stabilizers, toxic assets, anti-crisis measures, public deficits, sovereign debt, population ageing.

JEL Classification: E62, F34, F42.

HOMS Y FERRET, Oriol and OBESO ABALDE, Carlos

Impact of the crisis on labour relations in Spain

Abstract: In response to the crisis, labour market actors are adopting strategies for short-term survival. Consequently, this article is limited to the visible effects of the early stages of the crisis. But the analysis reveals a trend to profound change, such as the (slow) shift in the productive model to activities with higher added value, the development of a more highly skilled labour market, the consolidation of women's presence at the workplace, the specialization of migration flows in low added value industries and the ambiguous status of the present model of pseudo-accords between employers and trade unions that has maintained labour disputes under control to date.

Key words: economic crisis, labour relations, labour market, employment, migrations, social dialogue, productive model.

JEL Classification: J61, J64.

IBÁÑEZ HERNÁNDEZ, Patxi, PEÑA CERREZO, Miguel Ángel and ARAUJO DE LA MATA, Andrés

The impact of bank lending policies on *ex post* results: an approach to the lending cycle from the vantage of economic theory

Abstract: This study analyzes the relationship between financial institutions' lending policies and their *ex-post* performance. It reviews the theory that explains that credit markets can be subject, under certain circumstances, to a larger endogenous component than ordinarily believed. The working hypothesis is that a relationship exists between the intensity of banks' loan portfolio growth in expansive periods and their *ex-post* performance. The preliminary results confirm the hypothesis that institutions whose lending growth deviates most from nominal GDP growth are subject to poorer subsequent performance in terms of earnings, profitability and bad debts.

Key words: credit risk, lending policies, bank profitability, pro-cyclicality.

JEL Classification: E32, E44, G21.

MELGUIZO GARDE, Marta

Fiscal planning in gratuitous conveyance from parents to children

Abstract: This article aims to formulate a fiscal planning model for Spain in connection with gifts made by very elderly parents to their mature children on the grounds of the provisions in place in other countries. This involves a review of both financial issues and the interaction between the inheritance/donation tax on the one hand and the income tax on the other, taking regional regulations into consideration. The model describes the situations in which *inter vivos* donation is preferable to inheritance of standard types of wealth and vice-versa, establishing the determining factors involved in the choice and how they influence the outcome.

Key words: fiscal planning, gratuitous conveyance *causa mortis* and *inter vivos*, tax liability.

JEL Classification: H24, H31.

MILLET SOLER, Montserrat and GARCÍA-DURÁN HUET, Patricia

Is protectionism making a comeback?

Abstract: The present economic crisis has raised fears over a return to commercial protectionism, much as occurred in similar episodes in the past. Despite G-20 commitments not to resort to protectionist measures, since November 2008 17 of its members have established such rules. While this tendency is still admittedly moderate, the latent risk of protectionism is high because the tariffs applied by developing countries and the farm subsidies in place in developed countries are much lower than the levels committed to in the World Trade Organization. The Doha Round must be concluded, and without delay, if these risks are to be countered and the commitments undertaken honoured.

Key words: trade, protectionism, WTO, Doha Round.

JEL Classification: F13, F53, F59.

SAYERAS MASPERA, Josep

Capitalism is dead, long live capitalism!

Abstract: The present economic and financial crisis has re-launched the debate about which economic system is best. Should it be capitalism? Or on the contrary, should a

new system be found? The author reviews this debate from the outset to attempt to define its most essential elements. Noting that «capitalism» is a term freely used of late, both colloquially and scientifically, he asks whether anyone can say, with absolute certainty, what capitalism is. Is there only one capitalist system? He subsequently analyzes the elements defined to determine if they are outdate or able to survive the present assault.

Key words: history of thought, macroeconomics and monetary economics, capitalist system.

JEL Classification: B30, B31, E00, P1.

