

A Global Monetary Tsunami? Measuring the Spill-overs of US Quantitative Easing

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"This crisis started in the developed world, ... it will not be overcome through quantitative easing policies that have triggered ... a monetary tsunami, have led to a currency war and have introduced new and perverse forms of protectionism in the world."

Dilma Rousseff,
President of Brazil (2012)

What we do...

Is there evidence for global spill-overs of Fed QE policies?

Focus so far narrowly on effects on US

- Literature: QE I was fairly effective in the US

Goal of this study:

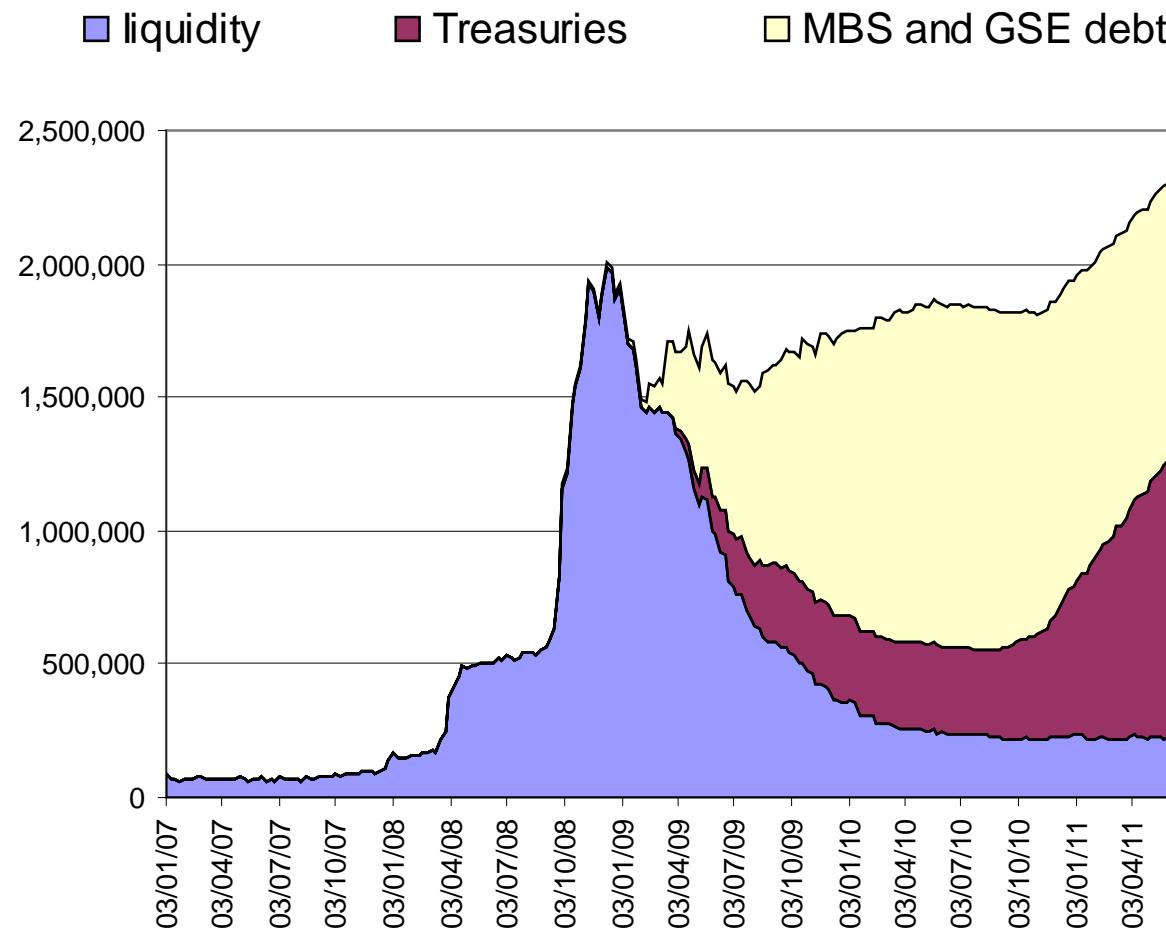
- to quantify the impact of US QE announcements and operations on portfolio flows and asset prices across regions
 - ✓ Global quantities/flows (mutual funds) vs prices vs. exchange rates, 65 countries

Conclusions

- I. US QE policies affected global asset prices, capital flows and exchange rates**
- 2. Important to look at both announcements and operations**
 - ✓ Portfolio rebalancing occurs mainly with operations
- 3. Different QE instruments have different impact on markets:**
 - ✓ **QE1:** Portfolio Rebalancing into the US
 - ✓ **QE2:** portfolio rebalancing across countries (into EMEs) and assets (from bonds to equity) - boost global equities
- 4. Overall, QE policies are not the main drivers of flows and prices (limited economic impact)**
- 5. QE increased pro-cyclicality of flows into EMEs**

Fed unconventional policy tools

Unconventional operations in the FED balance sheet (USD millions)



Data

- EPFR (Emerging Portfolio Fund Research) – portfolio allocation of mutual funds
- Cover 16,000 equity funds, 8,000 bond funds
- Mainly US investor perspective
- Aggregated at level of 65 countries of destination of the flows
 - correlated with BoP data
- Sample: daily data, January 2007 through December 2010

Methodology I

$$y_{i,t} = E_{i,t-1} [y_{i,t}] + (\beta + \gamma^{EME} D_i^{EME} + \gamma^{AE} D_i^{AE}) MP_t + \varepsilon_{i,t}$$

with $MP_t = [AN1_t, AN2_t, LQ_t, TR_t, MBS_t]'$

$y_{i,t}$ → portfolio flows, equity returns, bond yields, FX returns in country i on day t

AN_t → QE1 and QE2 announcement dummies (same as in Wright 2011)

LQ_t, TR_t, MBS_t → Liquidity support, Treasury and MBS purchases by Fed

$E_{t-1}[y_{i,t}]$ → controls variables (fixed effect, lags of VIX, US short term rate, equity returns in the US and in country i, previous days' trend)

Panel fixed-effect estimator

Methodology II

The size of operations, asset prices and portfolio flows might be affected by common factors (deterioration of expectations and mkt confidence, etc)

- LQ_t TR_t MBS_t consist of the residual of a regression where the size of the operation is explained with indicators that are related to market conditions (but are not affected by the operations)
 - i.e. we use the part of the operation that is unrelated to common factors
- Market conditions are measured by intraday returns and volatilities for asset prices and exchange rates in the morning session of European markets
 - 2h time window between 12PM and 2PM CET

Total Impact of QE instruments

(total impact = estimated coefficient x total size of the operations)

	Portfolio Equity Flows (flows in % of AUM)			Portfolio Bond Flows (flows in % of AUM)		
	US	EME	AE	US	EME	AE
<i>QE I Announcements (AN1)</i>	1.36 ***	0.16	0.57 ***	0.66 ***	-0.58 ***	0.33 ***
<i>QE II Announcements (AN2)</i>	0.00	0.34 ***	-0.04	0.07 ***	0.20 ***	0.04
<i>Liquidity (LQ)</i>	2.57 ***	-2.98 **	-0.13	2.14 ***	-3.11 ***	0.52
<i>Treasuries QE1 (TR1)</i>	2.31 ***	0.31	-0.69 ***	0.92 ***	-1.07 ***	-0.23
<i>Treasuries QE 2 (TR2)</i>	-2.91 ***	0.98	-3.59 ***	-5.68 ***	-11.32 ***	-4.16 ***
<i>MBS (MBS)</i>	-0.85 ***	1.06 **	-0.67 **	-0.65 ***	-2.96 ***	-2.47 ***
	Equity prices (Return in %)			Bond Yields (Change in p.p.)		
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<i>QE I Announcements (AN1)</i>	10.40 ***	5.53 ***	2.10 **	-0.58 ***	-0.77 *	-0.81 *
<i>QE II Announcements (AN2)</i>	3.33 ***	1.71 ***	1.25 ***	-0.03 ***	0.11 *	0.01
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<i>MBS (MBS)</i>	16.13 ***	9.81 ***	16.16 ***	-0.23 ***	-0.45	-0.19

Global spill-overs of US quantitative easing

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Portfolio rebalancing occurs mainly with operations

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Liquidity operations: rebalancing to the US

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QE I Announcements: rebalancing to the US and AEs

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QE I Treasury purchases : rebalancing to the US

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QE2 announcements: rebalancing into EMEs, boosting equity prices worldwide

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QE2 treasury purchases: relative rebalancing into EME equities, boosting equity prices worldwide

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Total impact of QE instruments on exchange rates

	Exchange Rate (Return in %, + USD appreciation)		
	US	EME	AE
<i>QE I Announcements (AN1)</i>	-2.06 ***	-1.00 *	-6.06 ***
<i>QE II Announcements (AN2)</i>	-0.11 ***	-0.29 **	-0.76 ***
<i>Liquidity (LQ)</i>	3.74 ***	4.52 ***	7.10 ***
<i>Treasuries QE1 (TR1)</i>	0.56 ***	2.70 **	-0.25
<i>Treasuries QE 2 (TR2)</i>	-1.18 ***	-0.58	-1.33
<i>MBS (MBS)</i>	-1.46 **	-5.08 ***	-3.33 ***

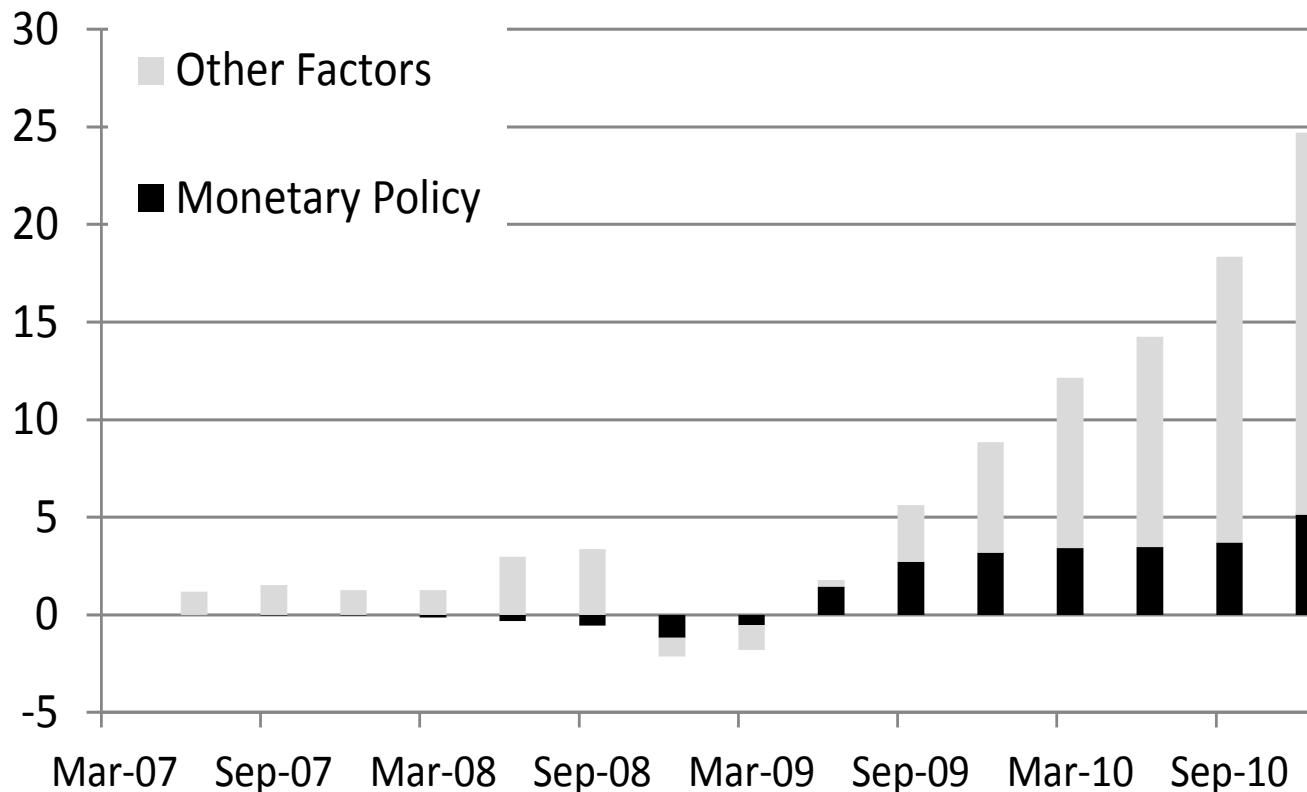
- Sizeable exchange rate movements

First set of conclusions

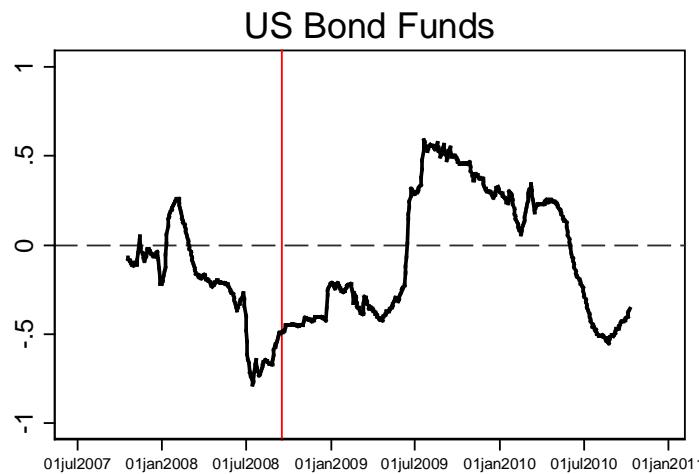
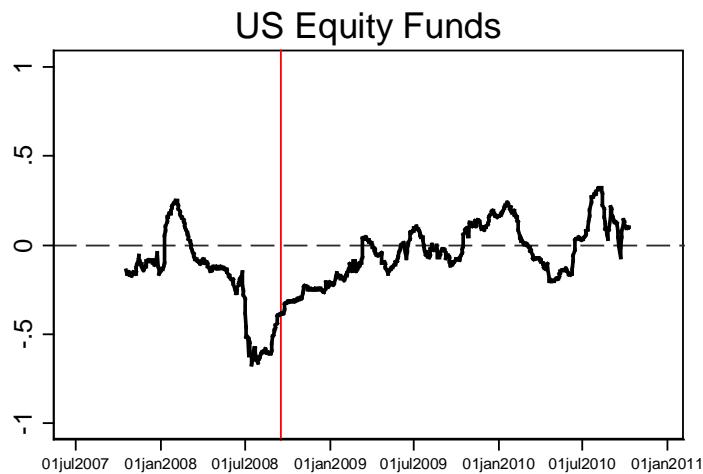
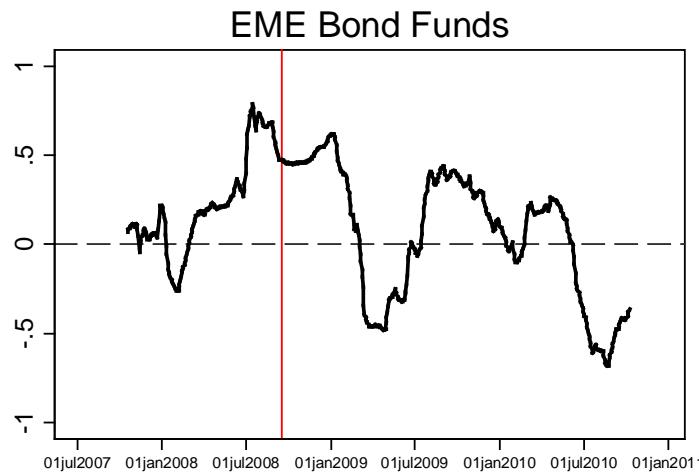
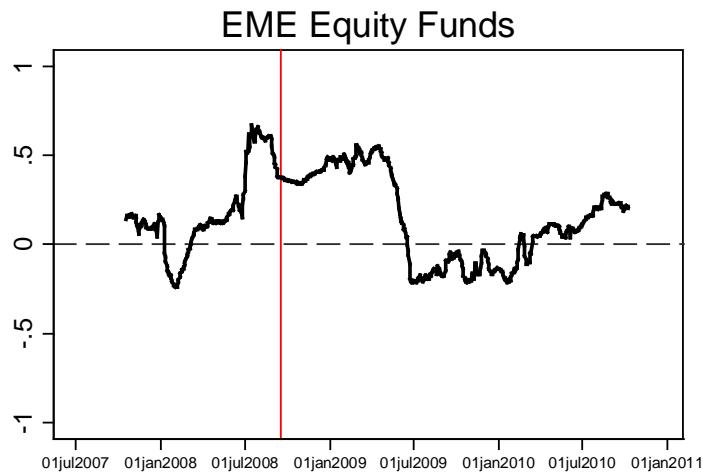
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Economic impact of QE policies on equity flows to EMEs

Cumulated impact of QE on EME equity flows (% AUM)



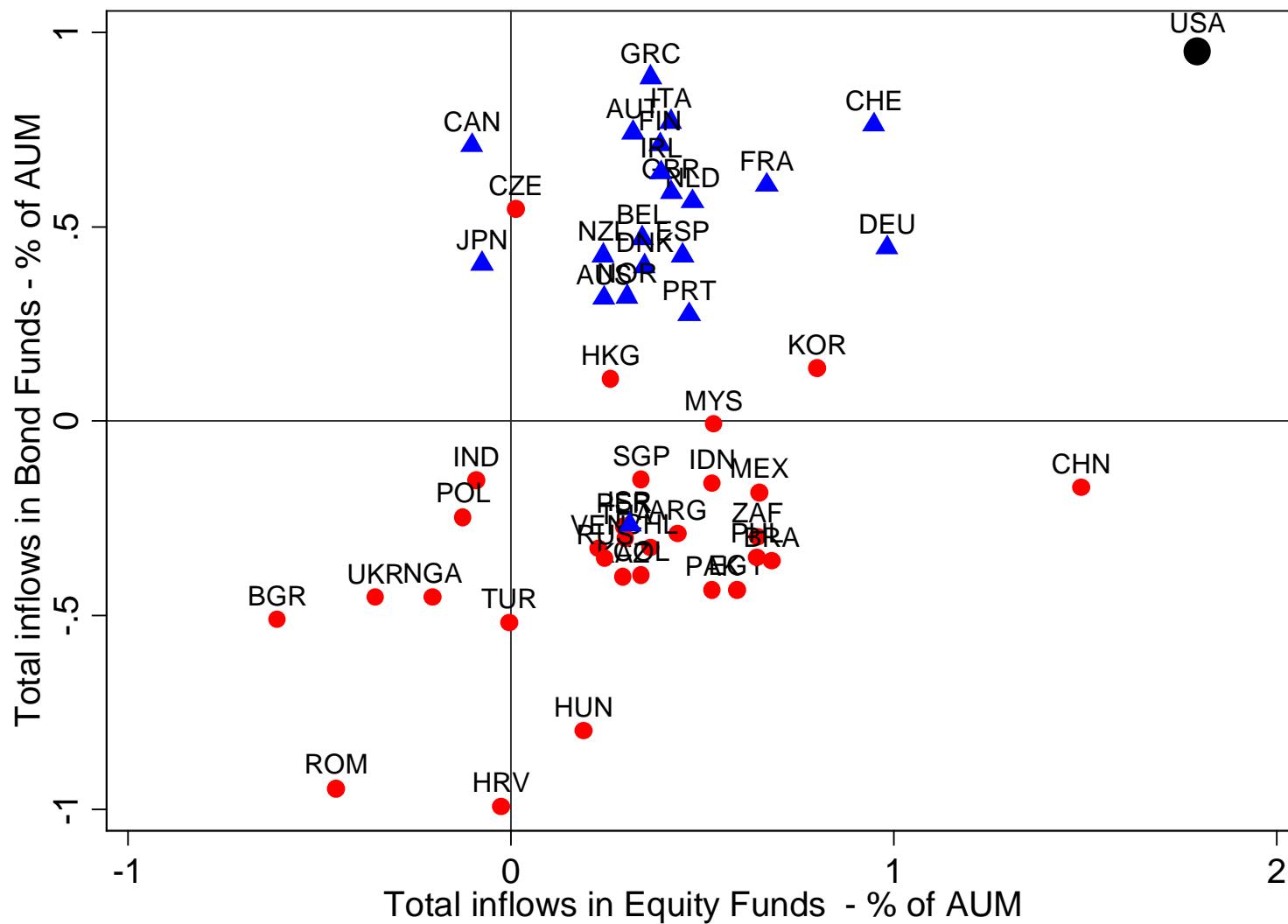
Pro-cyclical for EMEs – counter-cyclical for US



Second set of conclusions

4. **Overall, QE policies are not the main drivers of flows and prices (limited economic impact)**
 5. **QE increased pro-cyclicality of flows into EMEs**
- **Policy implications**
 - Presence of adverse externalities (though limited)
 - EME policy-makers' concerns not unfounded

Impact of QE: country heterogeneity



Role of policies

		Fx flexibility		CB activism		FP activism		Institutions	
		low	high	low	high	low	high	low	high
equity flows	<i>QE I Announcements (AN1)</i>	0.0459 **	0.1264 *** *	0.0711 *	0.0919 ***	0.1247 ***	0.0619 **	0.0590 *	0.1132 ***
	<i>QE II Announcements (AN2)</i>	0.0901 ***	0.0056 ***	0.0942 **	0.0441 ***	0.0474 ***	0.0636 **	0.1140 ***	-0.0024 ***
	<i>Liquidity (LQ)</i>	-0.0007 ***	-0.0002	-0.0019	-0.0005 ***	-0.0011	-0.0008 ***	-0.0016 **	-0.0002 *
	<i>QE1 Treasuries (TR1)</i>	0.0002	-0.0009	-0.0004	-0.0003	-0.0018	-0.0009	0.0010	-0.0018 **
	<i>QE2 Treasuries (TR2)</i>	-0.0002	-0.0045 *** *	0.0011	-0.0025 *	-0.0001	-0.0040 ***	0.0015	-0.0050 *** **
	<i>MBS (MBS)</i>	0.0000	0.0006	0.0010	0.0000	0.0003	0.0010 ***	0.0011 *	-0.0004 **
bond flows	<i>QE I Announcements (AN1)</i>	-0.0512 ***	-0.0068	-0.0963 ***	-0.0155 **	-0.0120	-0.0780 ***	-0.1079 ***	0.0332 ***
	<i>QE II Announcements (AN2)</i>	-0.0153	-0.0873 *** *	0.0071	-0.0548 ***	-0.0351	-0.0420	0.0144	-0.0939 *** ***
	<i>Liquidity (LQ)</i>	-0.0011 ***	-0.0006 **	-0.0013 ***	-0.0008 ***	-0.0007 ***	-0.0011 ***	-0.0017 ***	-0.0001 ***
	<i>QE1 Treasuries (TR1)</i>	-0.0030 ***	-0.0016 *	-0.0029 ***	-0.0025 ***	-0.0022 ***	-0.0027 ***	-0.0041 ***	-0.0008 ***
	<i>QE2 Treasuries (TR2)</i>	-0.0217 ***	-0.0201 ***	-0.0236 ***	-0.0199 *** ***	-0.0183 ***	-0.0206 ***	-0.0239 ***	-0.0170 *** ***
	<i>MBS (MBS)</i>	-0.0034 ***	-0.0025 ***	-0.0035 ***	-0.0031 ***	-0.0031 ***	-0.0034 ***	-0.0033 ***	-0.0032 ***
equity prices	<i>QE I Announcements (AN1)</i>	0.8999 ***	1.2013 ***	0.4706	1.2209 *** *	0.9863 ***	1.2286 ***	1.2322 ***	0.7568 ***
	<i>QE II Announcements (AN2)</i>	0.4005 ***	0.5209 ***	0.6453 ***	0.4349 ***	0.6046 ***	0.4177 ***	0.6146 ***	0.3743 ***
	<i>Liquidity (LQ)</i>	-0.0041 ***	-0.0037 **	-0.0041 **	-0.0036 ***	-0.0026 *	-0.0043 **	-0.0048 ***	-0.0026 **
	<i>QE1 Treasuries (TR1)</i>	0.0049	-0.0204 *** **	0.0165	-0.0081 *	0.0030	-0.0139	0.0021	-0.0051
	<i>QE2 Treasuries (TR2)</i>	0.0243 ***	0.0167 ***	0.0168 ***	0.0228 ***	0.0153 ***	0.0231 ***	0.0242 ***	0.0168 ***
	<i>MBS (MBS)</i>	0.0145 ***	0.0149 ***	0.0160 ***	0.0138 ***	0.0155 ***	0.0128 ***	0.0109 ***	0.0187 *** **
bond yields	<i>QE I Announcements (AN1)</i>	-0.2774 **	-0.0747 ***	-0.3423	-0.1528 **	-0.1939	-0.2173 *	-0.2472 **	-0.1594
	<i>QE II Announcements (AN2)</i>	0.0246	0.0136	0.0118	0.0239	0.0308 ***	-0.0128 ***	0.0382	0.0043
	<i>Liquidity (LQ)</i>	0.0001	-0.0002	-0.0001	0.0000	0.0001	-0.0002	-0.0003	0.0001
	<i>QE1 Treasuries (TR1)</i>	0.0087 *	0.0016 **	0.0118	0.0036 ***	0.0073	0.0049 **	0.0039 *	0.0070
	<i>QE2 Treasuries (TR2)</i>	0.0005	0.0008 **	0.0001	0.0008 ***	0.0006	0.0006 *	0.0006	0.0007 **
	<i>MBS (MBS)</i>	-0.0008	0.0002	-0.0014	0.0000	-0.0003	-0.0006	-0.0008	0.0000
FX	<i>QE I Announcements (AN1)</i>	-0.6564 ***	-1.0287 *** *	-0.4684 **	-0.9678 *** *	-1.0805 ***	-0.5428 *** **	-0.2915 *	-1.1365 *** ***
	<i>QE II Announcements (AN2)</i>	-0.1093 ***	-0.2795 *** *	-0.1824 **	-0.1664 ***	-0.1944 ***	-0.1604 ***	-0.1269 ***	-0.1912 ***
	<i>Liquidity (LQ)</i>	0.0033 ***	0.0024 **	0.0020 *	0.0034 ***	0.0037 ***	0.0021 **	0.0020 **	0.0036 ***
	<i>QE1 Treasuries (TR1)</i>	-0.0013	0.0155 ** **	0.0091	0.0023	0.0084	0.0021	0.0101 **	-0.0004 *
	<i>QE2 Treasuries (TR2)</i>	0.0028 **	-0.0094 *** ***	-0.0018	-0.0016	-0.0012	-0.0013	-0.0009	-0.0017
	<i>MBS (MBS)</i>	-0.0028 **	-0.0100 *** **	-0.0082 ***	-0.0032 ** *	-0.0066 ***	-0.0045 **	-0.0066 ***	-0.0040 ***

Role of policies

		Fx flexibility		CB activism		FP activism		Institutions	
		low	high	low	high	low	high	low	high
equity flows	<i>QE I Announcements (AN1)</i>	0.0459 **	0.1264 *** *	0.0711 *	0.0919 ***	0.1247 ***	0.0619 **	0.0590 *	0.1132 ***
	<i>QE II Announcements (AN2)</i>	0.0901 ***	0.0056	0.0942 **	0.0441 ***	0.0474 ***	0.0636 **	0.1140 ***	-0.0024
	<i>Liquidity (LQ)</i>	-0.0007 ***	-0.0002	-0.0019	-0.0005 ***	-0.0011	-0.0008 ***	-0.0016 **	-0.0002
	<i>QE1 Treasuries (TR1)</i>	0.0002	-0.0009	-0.0004	-0.0003	-0.0018	-0.0009	0.0010	-0.0018 **
	<i>QE2 Treasuries (TR2)</i>	-0.0002	-0.0045 *** *	0.0011	-0.0025 *	-0.0001	-0.0040 ***	0.0015	-0.0050 *** **
	<i>MBS (MBS)</i>	0.0000	0.0006	0.0010	0.0000	0.0003	0.0010 ***	0.0011 *	-0.0004
bond flows	<i>QE I Announcements (AN1)</i>	-0.0512 ***	-0.0068	-0.0963 ***	-0.0155 **	-0.0120	-0.0780 ***	-0.1079 ***	0.0332 ***
	<i>QE II Announcements (AN2)</i>	-0.0153	-0.0873 *** *	0.0071	-0.0548 ***	-0.0351	-0.0420	0.0144	-0.0939 *** ***
	<i>Liquidity (LQ)</i>	-0.0011 ***	-0.0006 **	-0.0013 ***	-0.0008 ***	-0.0007 ***	-0.0011 ***	-0.0017 ***	-0.0001 ***
	<i>QE1 Treasuries (TR1)</i>	-0.0030 ***	-0.0016 *	-0.0029 ***	-0.0025 ***	-0.0022 ***	-0.0027 ***	-0.0041 ***	-0.0008 ***
	<i>QE2 Treasuries (TR2)</i>	-0.0217 ***	-0.0201 ***	-0.0236 ***	-0.0199 *** ***	-0.0183 ***	-0.0206 ***	-0.0239 ***	-0.0170 *** ***
	<i>MBS (MBS)</i>	-0.0034 ***	-0.0025 ***	-0.0035 ***	-0.0031 ***	-0.0031 ***	-0.0034 ***	-0.0033 ***	-0.0032 ***
equity prices	<i>QE I Announcements (AN1)</i>	0.8999 ***	1.2013 ***	0.4706	1.2209 *** **	0.9863 ***	1.2286 ***	1.2322 ***	0.7568 ***
	<i>QE II Announcements (AN2)</i>	0.4005 ***	0.5209 ***	0.6453 ***	0.4349 ***	0.6046 ***	0.4177 ***	0.6146 ***	0.3743 ***
	<i>Liquidity (LQ)</i>	-0.0041 ***	-0.0037 **	-0.0041 **	-0.0036 ***	-0.0026 *	-0.0043 **	-0.0048 ***	-0.0026 **
	<i>QE1 Treasuries (TR1)</i>	0.0049	-0.0204 *** **	0.0165	-0.0081 *	0.0030	-0.0139	0.0021	-0.0051
	<i>QE2 Treasuries (TR2)</i>	0.0243 ***	0.0167 ***	0.0168 ***	0.0228 ***	0.0153 ***	0.0231 ***	0.0242 ***	0.0168 ***
	<i>MBS (MBS)</i>	0.0145 ***	0.0149 ***	0.0160 ***	0.0138 ***	0.0155 ***	0.0128 ***	0.0109 ***	0.0187 *** **
bond yields	<i>QE I Announcements (AN1)</i>	-0.2774 **	-0.0747 ***	-0.3423	-0.1528 **	-0.1939	-0.2173 *	-0.2472 **	-0.1594
	<i>QE II Announcements (AN2)</i>	0.0246	0.0136	0.0118	0.0239	0.0308 ***	-0.0128 ***	0.0382	0.0043
	<i>Liquidity (LQ)</i>	0.0001	-0.0002	-0.0001	0.0000	0.0001	-0.0002	-0.0003	0.0001
	<i>QE1 Treasuries (TR1)</i>	0.0087 *	0.0016 **	0.0118	0.0036 ***	0.0073	0.0049 **	0.0039 *	0.0070
	<i>QE2 Treasuries (TR2)</i>	0.0005	0.0008 **	0.0001	0.0008 ***	0.0006	0.0006 *	0.0006	0.0007 **
	<i>MBS (MBS)</i>	-0.0008	0.0002	-0.0014	0.0000	-0.0003	-0.0006	-0.0008	0.0000
FX	<i>QE I Announcements (AN1)</i>	-0.6564 ***	-1.0287 *** *	-0.4684 **	-0.9678 *** *	-1.0805 ***	-0.5428 *** **	-0.2915 *	-1.1365 *** ***
	<i>QE II Announcements (AN2)</i>	-0.1093 ***	-0.2795 *** *	-0.1824 **	-0.1664 ***	-0.1944 ***	-0.1604 ***	-0.1269 ***	-0.1912 ***
	<i>Liquidity (LQ)</i>	0.0033 ***	0.0024 **	0.0020 *	0.0034 ***	0.0037 ***	0.0021 **	0.0020 **	0.0036 ***
	<i>QE1 Treasuries (TR1)</i>	-0.0013	0.0155 ** **	0.0091	0.0023	0.0084	0.0021	0.0101 **	-0.0004
	<i>QE2 Treasuries (TR2)</i>	0.0028 **	-0.0094 *** ***	-0.0018	-0.0016	-0.0012	-0.0013	-0.0009	-0.0017
	<i>MBS (MBS)</i>	-0.0028 **	-0.0100 *** **	-0.0082 ***	-0.0032 ** *	-0.0066 ***	-0.0045 **	-0.0066 ***	-0.0040 ***

Third set of conclusions

Policy implications

- Domestic policy mix could mitigate/exacerbate spillovers
- Low exchange rate flexibility / bad institutions magnify the pro-cyclicality of the impact of QE on flows

List of QE announcements

	Date	Event	Gagnon	Wright
QE I	(1) Tuesday 25/11/2008	FOMC statement	-22	0.75
QE I	(2) Monday 01/12/2008	Bernanke's Speech	-19	0.84
QE I	(3) Tuesday 16/12/2008	FOMC statement	-26	2.22
QE I	(4) Wednesday 28/01/2009	FOMC statement	14	-0.23
QE I	(5) Wednesday 18/03/2009	FOMC statement	-47	3.41
QE I	(6) Wednesday 12/08/2009	FOMC statement	5	0.15
QE I	(7) Wednesday 23/09/2009	FOMC statement	-3	0.85
QE I	(8) Wednesday 04/11/2009	FOMC statement	6	0.12
QE II	(9) Tuesday 10/08/2010	FOMC statement	NA	0.57
QE II	(10) Friday 27/08/2010	Bernanke's Speech	NA	-0.83
QE II	(11) Friday 15/10/2010	Bernanke's Speech	NA	-0.21
QE II	(12) Wednesday 03/11/2010	FOMC Statement	NA	-0.05