Record Nr. UNINA9910816119103321

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Titolo Riding Global Financial Waves : : The Economic Impact of Global

Financial Shocks on Emerging Market Economies // Gustavo Adler,

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Pubbl/distr/stampa Washington, D.C.:,: International Monetary Fund,, 2012

ISBN 1-4755-7006-6

1-4755-7400-2

Edizione [1st ed.]

Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (27 p.)

Collana IMF Working Papers

IMF working paper; ; WP/12/188

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Disciplina 330.9378

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Investments, Foreign

Debts, External Greece Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese

Monografia

**Formato** Materiale a stampa

Livello bibliografico

Description based upon print version of record.

Nota di bibliografia

Includes bibliographical references.

Nota di contenuto

Note generali

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Sommario/riassunto

Over the past two decades, most emerging market economies witnessed two key developments. A marked process of financial integration with the rest of the world, arguably turning these economies more vulnerable to global financial shocks; and an improvement of macroeconomic fundamentals, helping to increase their resiliency to these shocks. Against a backdrop of these opposing forces, are these economies more vulnerable to global financial shocks today than in the past? Have better fundamentals offset increasing financial integration? If so, what fundamentals matter most? We address these questions by examining the role of these two forces over the past two decades in amplifying or buffering the economic impact of these shocks. Our findings show that EMEs, with the exception of Emerging Europe, have become less vulnerable. Exchange rate flexibility and external sustainability are key determinants of the impact of these shocks, while the extent to which deeper financial integration is a source of vulnerability depends on the exchange rate regime.