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Stress test of banks' lending to nonfinancial firms



Authors: Ted Aranki and Carl Barkfeldt *

Summary

Non-financial firms constitute a significant portion of banks' loan portfolios. Finansinspektionen's (FI) stress test shows that, following a strong macroeconomic shock, vulnerabilities at these firms could lead to significant credit losses at the banks. Even if commercial real estate firms contribute the most to the losses in the stress test, the other sectors together account for an almost equally large share. This underlines that the credit risks are not restricted to a single sector.

In this FI Analysis, we describe a stress test method to analyse how vulnerabilities at non-financial firms are linked to banks' credit losses. This method is based on simulations of the firms' profit and loss statements, balance sheets, and cash flows.

We estimate the banks' credit losses by first calculating how a change in GDP, inflation, the interest rate and asset prices affects the firms' financial position. We then estimate how the change in financial position affects the classification of the firms' bank loans in accordance with the accounting standard IFRS 9. Finally, we calculate how the changed creditworthiness and stage classification affect the size of the banks' credit loss provisions and thus credit losses. We then use the results from the stress test to assess the banks' resilience in the event of a macroeconomic shock.

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