

FINANCIAL STABILITY REPORT Autumn 2022

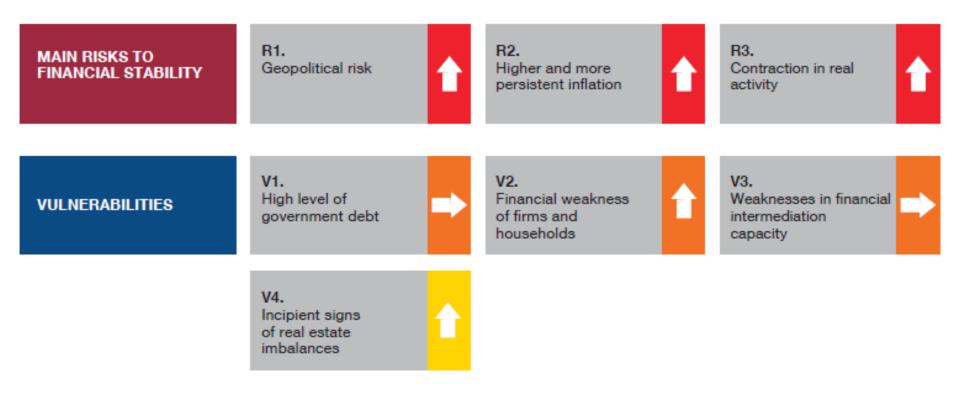
Ángel Estrada

Director General

Banco de España 11 November 2022



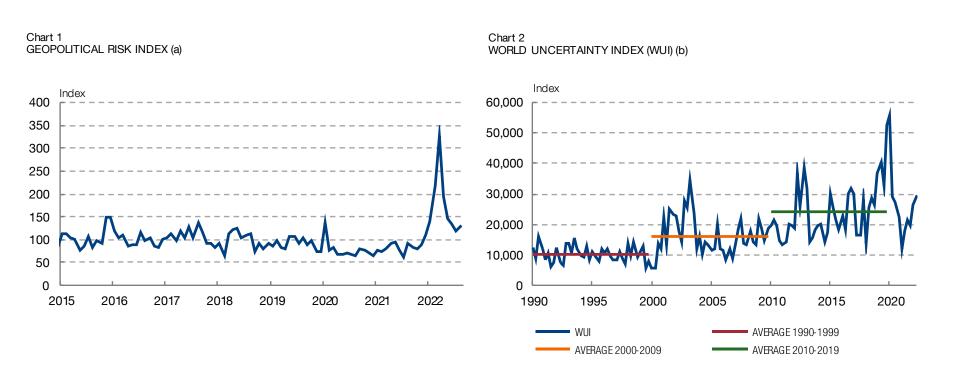
RISKS FOR THE FINANCIAL STABILITY HAVE INCREASED SINCE THE LAST REPORT



GEOPOLITICAL RISK, THE MAIN DRIVER OF THE CURRENT SITUATION, IS AT VERY HIGH LEVELS



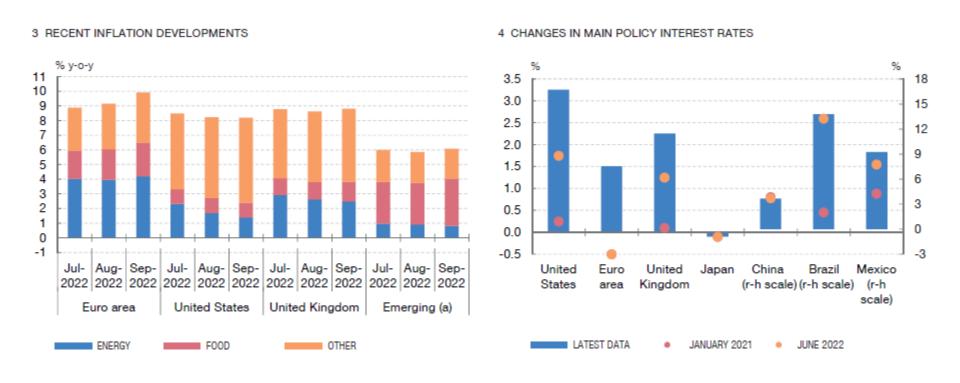
- The Russian invasion of Ukraine has pushed up energy and agricultural commodity prices and prompted much uncertainty
- But it has also led to a divided world order, which has been further fuelled by significant US-China trade disputes as well
- Box 1.1 contains a prospective analysis of Europe's exposure to this risk



THE RISK OF HIGHER AND MORE PERSISTENT INFLATION POSES A THREAT TO ACTIVITY AND FINANCIAL CONDITIONS

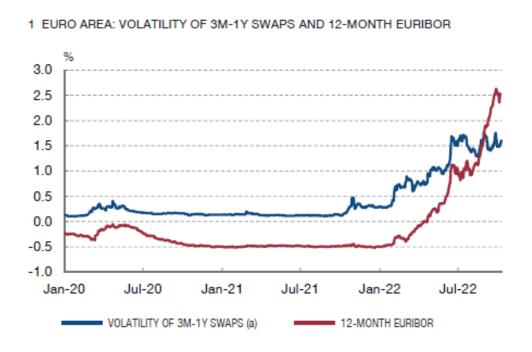


- Different supply and demand factors have contributed to this rise, with a notable role played by supply factors and, in particular, by the energy component and food prices in the euro area and Spain
- The ECB and other central banks are tightening monetary policy very sharply by historical standards

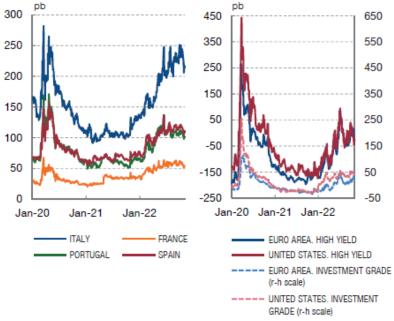


THE MARKET IMPACT HAS SO FAR BEEN CONTAINED, BUT VOLATILITY AND RISK PREMIA HAVE RISEN

- Interest rates in the money markets and in the sovereign and corporate debt markets have shifted in response to monetary policy and to the uncertainty
 - Widespread appreciation of the dollar
- Some liquidity problems have been detected at certain operators (energy firms and pension funds in the United Kingdom), but the indicators suggest lower liquidity in key markets such as the sovereign debt market



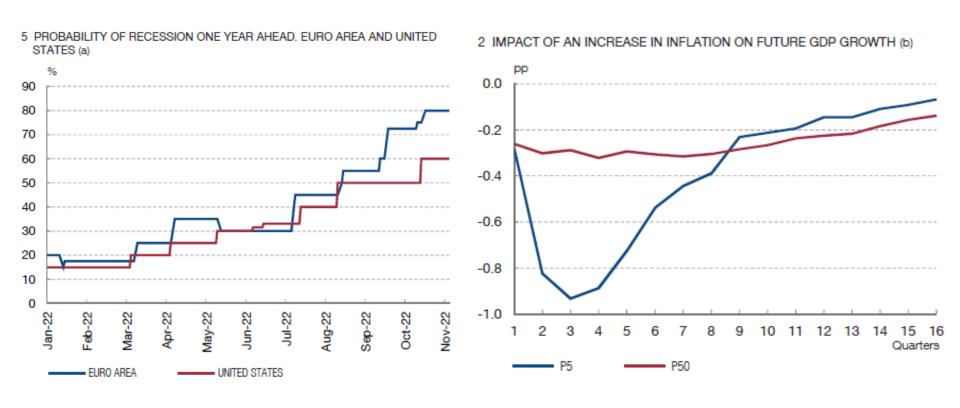
2 TEN-YEAR SOVEREIGN YIELD SPREAD AGAINST GERMANY (L-H PANEL) AND DEVIATIONS FROM THE HISTORICAL AVERAGE OF THE SPREADS OF NFCs' BONDS AGAINST THE SWAP CURVE (R-H PANEL) (b)



THE NEW RISK IDENTIFIED IN THIS REPORT RELATES TO A POSSIBLE CONTRACTION IN ACTIVITY



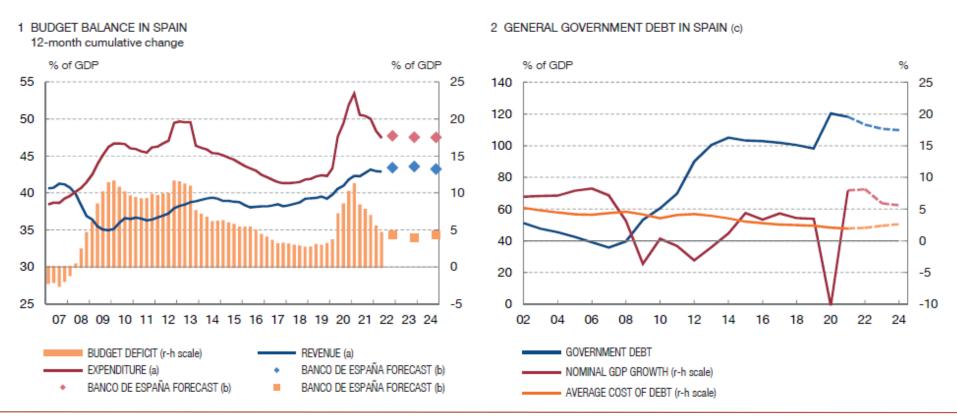
- Higher inflation and tightening financial conditions have increased the probability of recession in the main developed economies
- ➤ The Spanish economy is also showing signs of the economic impact of the war in Ukraine, with downward revisions to growth and the balance of risks to growth tilted to the downside



THE FIRST VULNERABILITY IDENTIFIED IS THE HIGH LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT DEBT



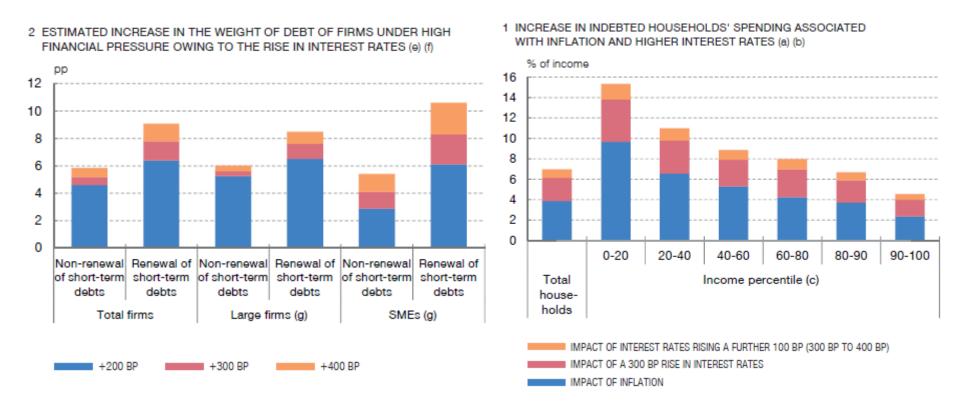
- ➤ The budget deficit fell to 4.6% of GDP in H1; however, in the absence of new measures, further improvements (also in public debt) will tend to taper off
 - Fiscal support, if needed, should be targeted and temporary
 - And it must be complemented with the start of a medium term fiscal consolidation plan that strengthens the sustainability of public finances



THE VULNERABILITY ASSOCIATED WITH THE FINANCIAL WEAKNESS OF FIRMS AND HOUSEHOLDS IS NOW MORE WIDESPREAD



- Inflation associated with an imported cost push shock and the interest rate rise have an adverse impact on the financial situation of firms and households
- The debt burden of the most vulnerable households and firms may increase significantly
 - The potential support measures need to be targeted and temporary



THE PASS-THROUGH OF POLICY RATE RISES TO THE PRICE OF CREDIT IS PROVING MODERATE FOR NOW (BOX 1.2)

- This moderation is more pronounced in the case of average rates on loans to non-financial corporations (20%, compared with 53% in the past) and...
 - ...has less of an impact in the case of average mortgage rates
- This is attributable to factors such as the pace of the interest rate rises, the scant pass-through to deposit rates, banks' high liquidity, the greater share of fixed-rate mortgages and ICO-backed loans



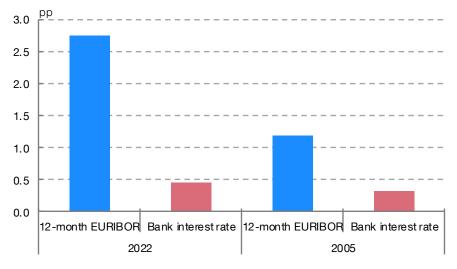
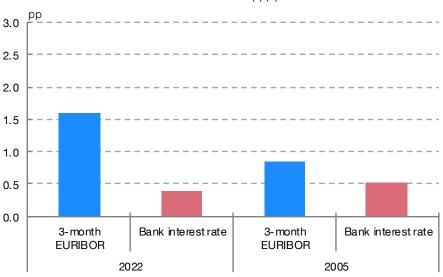


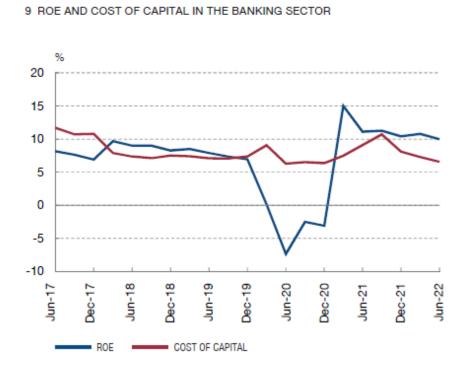
Chart 6
CUMULATIVE CHANGE IN THE COST OF THE OUTSTANDING STOCK OF LOANS
TO NFCs AND IN THE MARKET INTEREST RATE (a) (b)



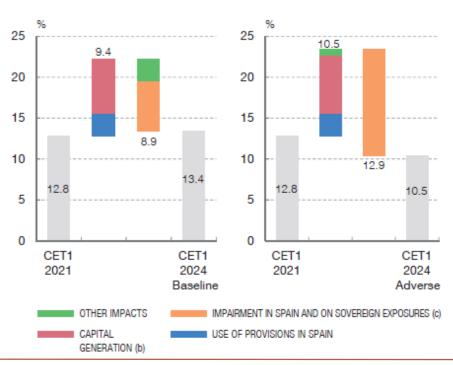
THE VULNERABILITY RELATING TO WEAKNESS IN FINANCIAL INTERMEDIATION CAPACITY HAS REMAINED UNCHANGED



- Banks' profits have improved significantly (disregarding the extraordinary earnings in 2021) and exceed the cost of capital
- The stress tests evidence the existence of aggregate shock-absorbing capacity, but capital charges would be significant and uneven
 - Banks should maintain a prudent provisioning policy and plan their capital according to the new macroeconomic context

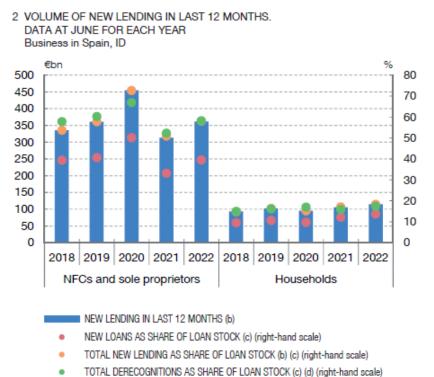


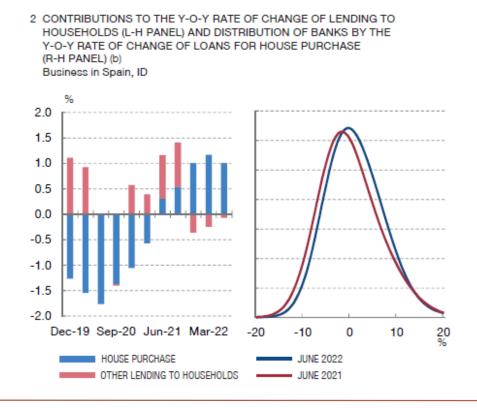
10 FLESB STRESS TESTS. IMPACT ON THE CET1 RATIO IN THE BASELINE SCENARIO (L-H CHART) AND ADVERSE SCENARIO (R-H CHART) (a)



LENDING WAS STABLE IN 2022 H1: DERECOGNITIONS OFFSET THE FLOW OF NEW LENDING

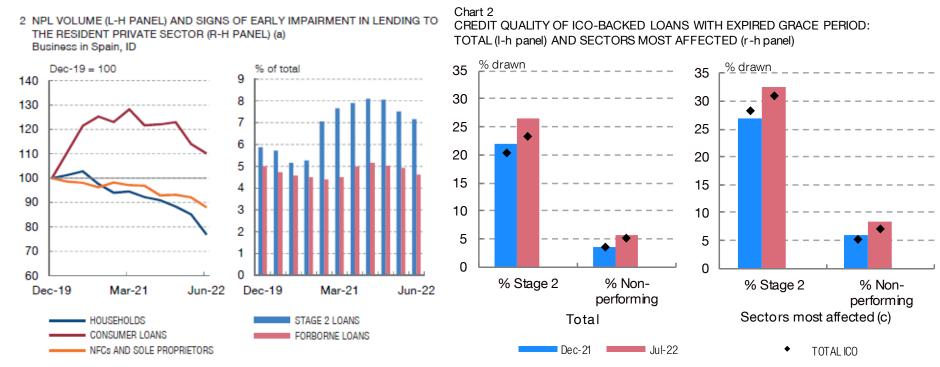
- Loans for house purchase continue to drive the performance of lending to households (which grew 0.9% year-on-year in June 2022)
 - Consumer credit is contracting
- Lending to firms rose in summer, helped by large firms' replacement of their market financing
 - This can be explained by the differential between market and bank rates





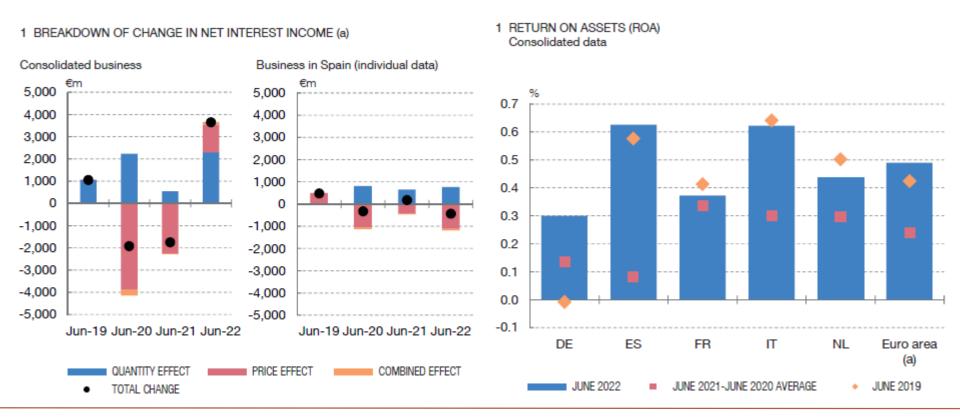
NON-PERFORMING LOANS FELL BY 12.4% YEAR-ON-YEAR AND STAGE 2 LOANS DECREASED BY 9.5%

- ➤ The NPL ratio fell below 4% for the first time since 2008 and the ratio of Stage 2 loans stood at 7.2% (still 1.3 pp above its 2019 level)
- The portfolio of ICO-backed loans deteriorated somewhat further, although the NPL ratio remains below that of the total corporate portfolio
 - For the time being, the loans whose grace periods have expired or whose maturity has been extended are not performing significantly worse than the others



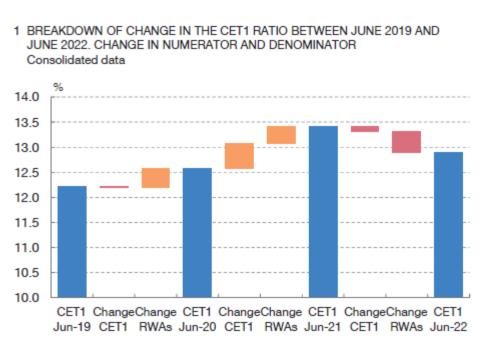
HIGHER NET INTEREST INCOME AND FEES AND COMMISSIONS ARE BEHIND THE IMPROVEMENT IN BANKS' PROFITABILITY

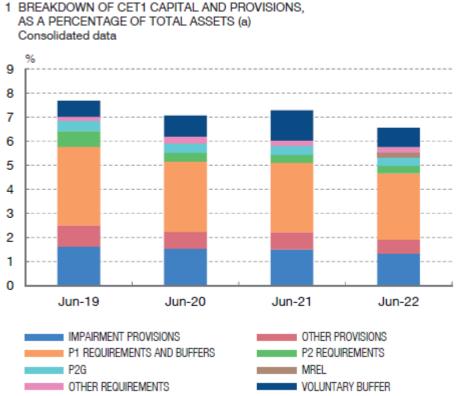
- The improvement in net interest income is due to a price effect and, above all, a quantity effect
 - This improvement is still not observed in business in Spain
 - At consolidated level, provisioning held steady and operating expenses grew
- The Spanish banking sector's ROA was among the highest in the euro area



BANKS' SOLVENCY LEVEL HAS FALLEN, BUT IT REMAINS ABOVE PRE-PANDEMIC LEVELS

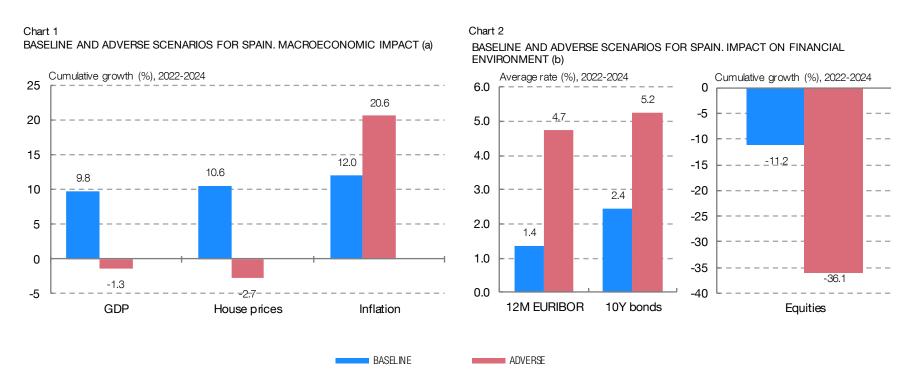
- The decline was mainly due to the increase in RWAs (3.3%), while CET1 fell slightly (-0.7%)
- In the last year, provisions and CET1 as a percentage of total assets have fallen
 - The voluntary buffer also decreased





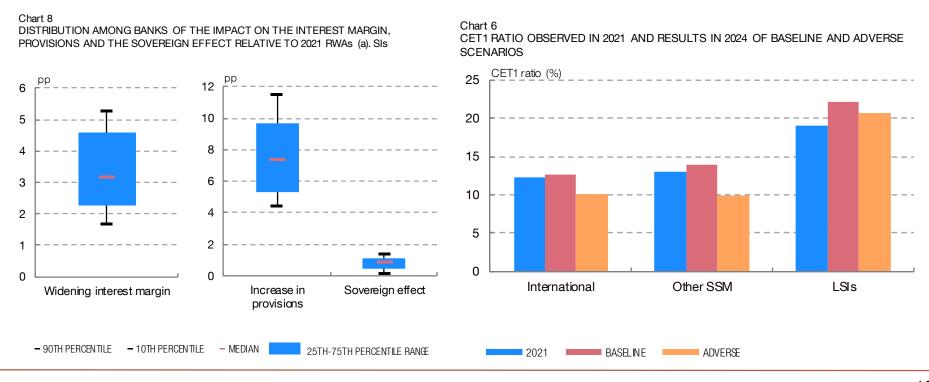
THE STRESS TEST'S ADVERSE MACROECONOMIC SCENARIO ASSUMES AN EXTREME MATERIALIZATION OF THE RISKS

- Specifically, the additional increase in energy prices would push inflation up further still, triggering more monetary policy action
 - Confidence would also be dented
- GDP would fall in cumulative terms and the stock market would record losses
 - House prices would fall relatively little, as the initial imbalance is small and it is assumed that house prices will be supported by the inflationary setting



THE RESULTS POINT TO A COUNTERBALANCING EFFECT OF HIGHER INTEREST RATES ON THE INCOME STATEMENT

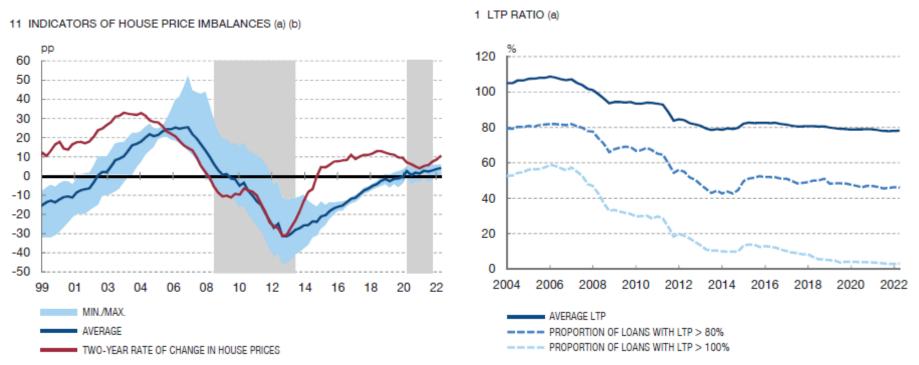
- Under the adverse scenario, higher net interest income is more than offset by the increase in provisions and impairment losses on sovereign exposures
- Capital consumption is lower at banks with significant international activity, whose profitability shows greater resilience
 - The solvency of LSIs increases under the adverse scenario, due to the characteristics of their business, which limit credit losses, but do not prevent them from capitalizing on higher interest rates



LOW LEVEL OF THE NEW VULNERABILITY (INCIPIENT SIGNS OF REAL ESTATE IMBALANCES)

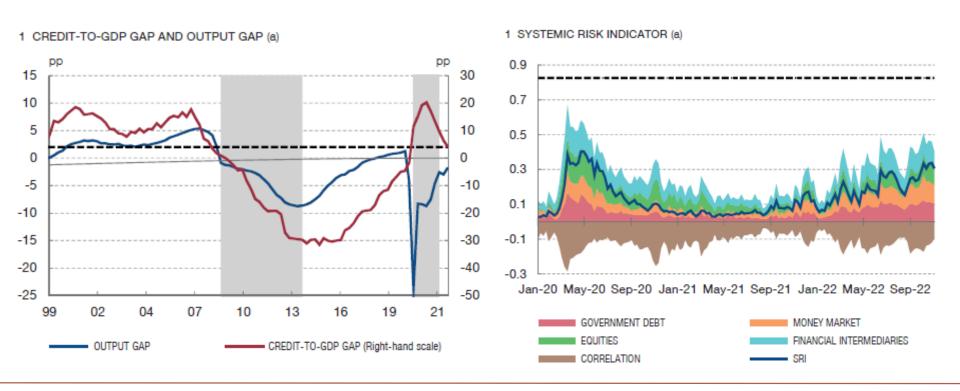


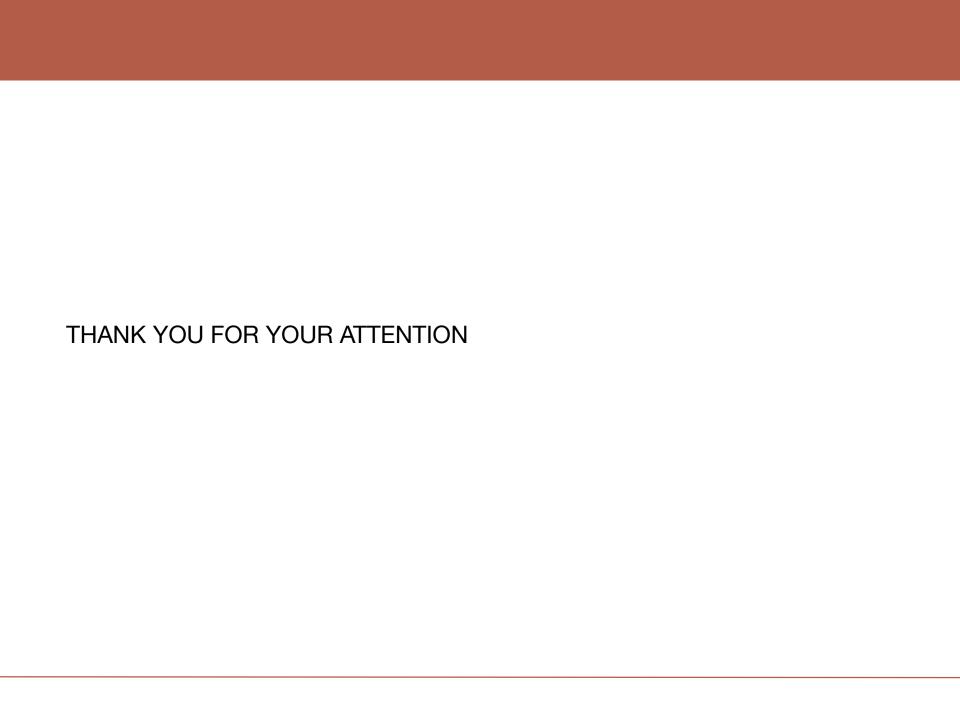
- Real estate market activity and prices continue growing, although there are signs of deceleration against a backdrop of higher interest rates and a deterioration in the economic outlook
- Now it is the probability of the risk materialising that is increasing
 - Both the low level of housing overvaluation and prudent credit standards for mortgage loans mean that the potential impact on banks' balance sheets is moderate



OTHER INDICATORS OF SYSTEMIC RISK ARE NOT SIGNALLING THE BUILD-UP OF RISKS EITHER

- The Basel gap continues to correct and it is now close to being below the recommended activation threshold
 - The output gap remains in negative territory
- Lastly, the systemic risk indicator has risen significantly
 - Consequently, the risk of acting procyclically advises against the activation of macroprudential tools

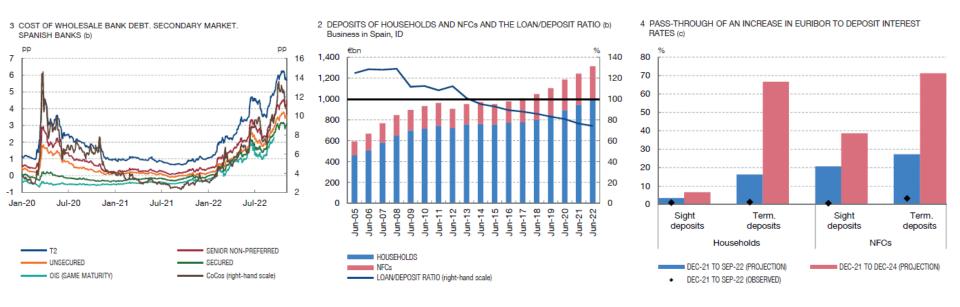




CHAPTER 2

Deposits and cost of financing

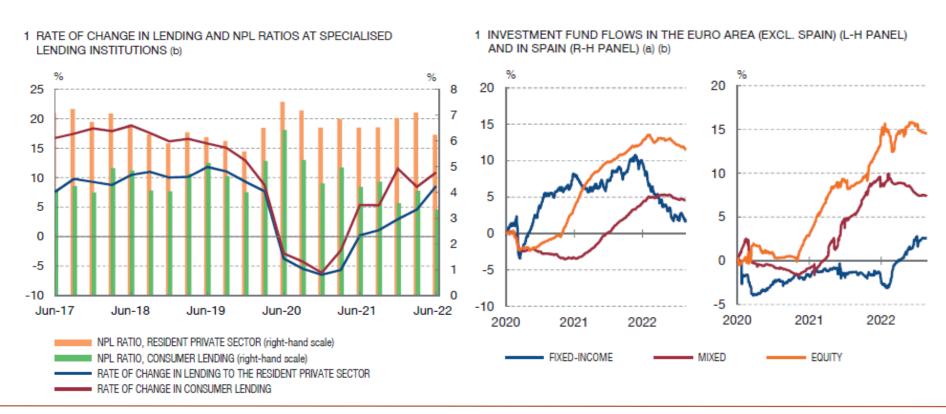
- Greater expectations for interest rates have led to higher wholesale bank funding costs, which have been passed through to the cost of different debt instruments
- Deposits have grown significantly in Spain in recent years, despite the low interest rate environment, which has prompted them to be concentrated in sight deposits rather than in time deposits
- ➤ The recent increase in reference interest rates has not yet been passed through to retail deposit rates, unlike in past episodes of interest rate rises



CHAPTER 2

Specialised lending institutions and investment funds

- Lending by specialised lending institutions increased over the last year, above all in the consumer credit segment, while NPL ratios fell
- Since early 2022, capital inflows into European equity funds have slowed, while there have been net outflows from fixed-income investment funds
- In Spain, the trends are similar for equity funds, although there were net capital inflows into fixed-income investment funds



CHAPTER 2

Collateralised loan obligations (CLOs) and crypto-assets

- The non-banking financial sector has a high degree of exposure to CLOs
- The market value of crypto-assets has been dented in 2022, with a high correlation between these instruments and equities

