What is the Importance of a Country's Banking Market Structure for Financial Development?

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ABSTRACT

This paper analyzes the effect of the banking market structure on countries' financial development. For this purpose, we use a dynamic panel with annual data, from 2006 to 2015, comprising 89 countries - 28 developed and 61 emerging. The structure of the banking market is measured with concentration (total assets of the largest banks in relation to total assets) and competition (Lerner and Boone indexes) metrics. As *proxies* for measuring financial development, we use the index developed by Sahay *et al.* (2015) and Svirydzenka (2016), which covers depth, access and efficiency aspects of the financial system. Moreover, domestic credit provided by the financial sector as a percentage of gross domestic product, a long-stablished proxy for financial development, is used. The main results indicate that an increase in bank concentration leads to a reduction in the country's financial development, and that an increase in competition leads to an increase in financial development. In short, an improvement in banking market structure (a decrease in concentration or an increase in competition) is relevant to financial development. This result is also verified for emerging countries.

Key words: Banking Market Structure; Concentration; Competition; Financial Development.

RESUMO

Este artigo analisa o efeito da estrutura do mercado bancário no desenvolvimento financeiro dos países. Para isso, utilizamos um painel dinâmico com dados anuais, de 2006 a 2015, composto por 89 países - 28 desenvolvidos e 61 emergentes. A estrutura do mercado bancário é medida com base em indicadores de concentração (ativos totais dos maiores bancos em relação ao total de ativos) e competição (índices de Lerner e Boone). Como *proxies* para medir o desenvolvimento financeiro, usamos o índice desenvolvido por Sahay et al. (2015) e Svirydzenka (2016), que abrange aspectos de profundidade, acesso e eficiência do sistema financeiro. Além disso, é utilizado o crédito interno fornecido pelo setor financeiro como porcentagem do produto interno bruto, uma proxy estabelecida há muito tempo para o desenvolvimento financeiro. Os principais resultados indicam que um aumento na concentração dos bancos leva a uma redução no desenvolvimento financeiro do país e que um aumento na competição leva a um aumento no desenvolvimento financeiro. Em resumo, uma melhoria na estrutura do mercado bancário (uma diminuição na concentração ou um aumento na competição) é relevante para o desenvolvimento financeiro. Esse resultado também é verificado para países emergentes.

Palavras-chave: Estrutura de Mercado Bancário; Concentração; Competição;

Desenvolvimento Financeiro.

JEL Classification: E44, E58, L11

1. Introduction

This paper investigates the simultaneous effects of banking concentration and competition, herein denominated banking market structure, on countries' financial development. Using a dynamic panel of 89 countries - 28 developed and 61 emerging - with annual data over the period 2006-2015, our results suggest that banking market structure affects the level of countries' financial development. In particular, an increase in bank concentration leads to a reduction of financial development. On the other hand, an increase in competition amplifies financial development. Moreover, we identify that an improvement in banking market structure (a decrease in concentration or an increase in competition) is also relevant for the financial development of emerging economies.

The works that investigate the relevance of financial development, since Beck *et al.* (2000) and Levine (2003), find a positive relationship between financial development and economic growth. Recently, studies involving income distribution and financial development were embodied to the literature (Adu *et al.*, 2013; Herwartz and Walle, 2014; Beck *et al.*, 2014; Khoutem *et al.*, 2014; Law and Singh, 2016; Durusu-Ciftci *et al.*, 2016; and Azofra *et al.*, 2018). At present, a novel branch of the literature studies the relationship between financial development and bank behavior (Sahay *et al.*, 2015 and Svirydzenka, 2016). Therefore, understanding the relationship between banking market structure and financial development is fundamental to expand the knowledge about the determinants of financial development.

The main issue of banking market structure is about market power problems. However, literature presents mixed empirical evidence of the relationship between competition and stability. From the competition-fragility view, as Kasman and Kasman (2015) point out, decreases in market power and profit margins, encouraging additional risk-taking, pose a threat to financial stability. Conversely, the competition-stability view holds that less banking market power drives the cost of credit down, reducing loan default rates, which benefits banking stability (Fungácová, *et al.*, 2017).

From the effects of banking concentration standpoint, Fu et al. (2014) argue that greater concentration fosters financial fragility, considering cross-country data from Asia pacific countries. On the one hand, Ben Ali, Intissar and Zeitun (2015) argue that concentration has a positive impact on financial stability through the profitability channel. Regarding the effects of banking competition, Amidu and Wolfe (2013) assert that competition enhances financial stability in developing countries, as long as income generating activities increase, for it is identified as a channel through which competition affects banking insolvency risk. Consistent with this argument, Beck (2008) suggests that competition is not detrimental to banking system stability in a market-based financial system with the necessary supporting institutional framework and proper policies.

The controversy between concentration and competition can be also present in the way banking market structure affects financial service offers. Cetorelli and Gambera (2001) find evidence that banking concentration supports the growth of industrial sectors that need external financing, making it easier for young companies to access credit. Bara, *et al.* (2017) find that a reduction in banking concentration, as well as an increase in competition, stimulates growth.

Although a concentrated banking sector can reduce competition through barriers to new entrants (which could expand financial services offer), it is also true that a concentrated banking sector can be competitive (Vives, 2016). In order to avoid the controversy, our paper chooses to look into a comprehensive approach of the relationship between concentration and competition, which we refer as banking market structure, and financial development. Moreover, as the lack of financial development is a problem for emerging economies (Seven and Coskun,

2016), we provide a specific analysis of the effects of concentration and competition on developing countries' financial development.

The article is organized as follows. In section 2, we present the data and discuss our empirical methodology. Section 3 presents our main results and section 4 draws the conclusion.

2. Data and Methodology

The present work makes use of annual data from 2006 to 2015, according to data availability, in an unbalanced dynamic panel with 89 countries. The sample used to investigate the effect of banking market structure on financial development consists of 28 developed countries and 61 developing countries, which are reported in the appendix (table A1). All data were extracted from the International Monetary Fund and World Bank websites and the description of each variable associated with their respective source is detailed in table A2 in the appendix.

The financial development measure used in this study is the financial institutions index (FI) developed by Sahay *et al.* (2015) and Svirydzenka (2016), which reflects three dimensions of financial development: depth, access and efficiency. The second measure used in this study is the domestic credit provided by the financial sector as a percentage of GDP (CRED_GDP), a long-stablished proxy for financial development commonly used in the literature (Beck *et al.*, 2000; Beck and Levine 2004).

According to Seven and Coskun (2016), financial development presents complex institutional and political dimensions. Therefore, the influence of banking concentration, as well as competition, on financial development could be different depending on country characteristics. This reasoning provides the motivation for a second analysis, which highlights the effects of banking market structure on the financial development of developing countries. Accordingly, the average financial development (FI) in developed countries is higher than in developing ones, as the descriptive statistics across the samples analyzed shown in Table 1 reveal.

Table 1 – Financial Development Across Samples

	All	Developed	Developing
Mean	0.527	0.745	0.427
Median	0.508	0.767	0.434
Maximum	0.995	0.995	0.743
Minimum	0.127	0.484	0.127
Std. Dev.	0.210	0.143	0.152
Countries	89	28	61

As stated by Berger *et al.* (2004), the consolidation of banks around the world intensified the debate about the effects of concentration and competition on banks' performance. In accordance with this argument, this study used two variations of the largest banks' total assets as measures of banking concentration. Following Kasman and Kasman (2015), the first measure aggregates the assets of the five largest banks (Bank_5), while the second measure, derived from Fu *et al.* (2014), aggregates the assets of the three largest banks in relation to the total assets of commercial banks (Bank_3). Regarding competition measures, this study resorts to measures often used in the literature, such as the Lerner and Boone indexes. The Lerner index is a measure of "market power" (Demirgüç-Kunt and Martínez Pería, 2010). Hence, the greater

the "market power", the lower the competition. The Boone index measures the degree of banking competition from the elasticity of profits to marginal costs, as Kasman and Kasman (2015) point out. The reasoning that underpins the indicators is that higher profits are achieved by more efficient banks. Therefore, an increase in the Boone and Lerner indexes reflects a hindrance to financial intermediaries' competition.

In order to control the effect of banking concentration and competition on financial development, we used banking and macroeconomic variables. For that, we followed Kasman and Kasman (2015) and used the ratio of non-performing loans (NPLs) to capture the relation between credit risk and financial development. The capital adequacy ratio (CAR) is used to capture the trade-off between financial stability and financial development. CAR is an international standard that measures a bank's risk of insolvency from excessive losses and equals the equity divided by the risk-weighted assets (De Moraes, Antunes and Montes, 2016). From financial development literature, the following macroeconomic variables are used: real interest rate (INTR), Bara *et al.* (2017) use this variable as control in a model whose dependent variable is financial development; annual GDP growth rate (GDP) based on constant local currency (Raza *et al.*, 2014) and, concordantly with Chinn, Menzie and Ito (2006) the inflation rate (INFL). Descriptive statistics of variables used are reported below, in Table 2. Finally, to capture the effects of the subprime crisis on financial development, the dummy CRISIS assumes value 1 for years 2008 and 2009 and 0 elsewhere.

Table 2 - Summary Statistic (All Countries)

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	Observations	Mean	Median	Máximum	Minimum	dev.
Financial development						
FI	890	0.527	0.508	0.995	0.127	0.210
CRED_GDP	871	81.951	61.053	357.319	-18.441	65.451
Banking market structure						
Bank Concentration (BANK_5)	875	78.525	79.230	100.000	28.800	14.418
Bank Concentration (BANK_3)	887	63.086	62.490	100.000	20.480	15.958
Bank Competition (LERNER Index)	781	0.281	0.270	0.940	-0.630	0.150
Bank Competition (BOONE Index)	884	-0.075	-0.040	1.130	-3.200	0.227
Control						
NPL	830	6.129	3.720	47.750	0.200	6.565
CAR	837	16.445	15.800	43.400	1.750	4.647
INTR	852	5.630	4.898	54.680	-42.310	7.687
INFL	883	5.193	3.745	109.681	-35.837	6.875
GDP	889	3.595	3.617	34.500	-20.493	4.246

The use of the dynamic panel, in which the lagged dependent variable is used as an explanatory variable, allows to analyze the banking market structure effect on financial development controlled by the persistence effect (De Mendonça and De Moraes, 2018). This is possible because the lagged financial development possesses large part of the explanation of financial development. Therefore, the current degree of financial development is expected to be affected by past financial development as well as by lagged banking variables (NPL and CAR) and lagged macroeconomic variables (INTR, GDP and INFL). Hence, we estimate the following specification:

Financial development_{i,t} = β_0 + Financial development_{i,t-1} + Banking market structure_{i,t-1} + Controls_{i,t-1} + Crisis_{i,t} + $\varepsilon_{i,t}$ (1)

Where i = 1,2,3,...,89 are the countries and t = 1,2,3,...,9 is the period in years; Financial development is a vector of financial development proxies, such as FI (financial development index) and CRED_GDP (domestic credit provided by the financial sector as a percentage of GDP); Banking market structure is the set of interest variables associated with banking concentration (Bank_5 and Bank_3) and banking competition (Lerner and Boone indexes); Controls is the set of lagged banking and macroeconomic control variables: NPL, CAR, INTR, GDP and INFL; Crisis is the dummy variable to capture the subprime crisis and ε is the residual of the estimation.

Despite this advantage, the use of the lagged dependent variable in the models generates bias and inconsistency. To avoid correlation issues between the explanatory variables and the error, resulting in biased and inconsistent estimates, the study makes use of the systemic GMM (S-GMM), which resorts to instrumental variables to address possible endogeneity issues (Arellano and Bover, 1995). With the purpose of avoiding excess of instruments in the regressions, harming the statistical power of the test, the amount of instruments used in the study is smaller than the number of cross-sections. To confirm the validity of the estimations reported, the test of over-identifying restrictions (J-test) is performed (Arellano, 2003). In addition, the first and second order serial auto-correlation tests (AR1 and AR2) are also performed.

3. Empirical Analysis

In this section, we analyze the effects of banking market structure on financial development. In particular, the analysis of the effect of concentration on financial development is presented on Tables 3, 4, 7 and 8, whereas the analysis of competition is displayed on Tables 5, 6, 9 and 10.

3.1. Financial Development (FI) and Banking Concentration

This section analyzes the effect of banking concentration on financial development (FI). Table 3 reports the results for the full sample, which comprises all the countries analyzed, and Table 4 presents the results for developing countries. In general, the indicators of banking concentration present negative signs and statistical significance in all models, providing evidence that an increase in banking concentration (BANK_5, BANK_3) leads to a reduction in financial development. These results suggest that countries with a large amount of assets concentrated in a few banks (three or five in our analysis) constrain financial development, i.e., diminish the relevance, accessibility and efficiency of the countries' financial systems.

The credit risk (NPL) presents negative signs and statistical significance in all models, implying that countries exposed to high credit risk may experiment low financial development. Since banking behavior is forward-looking (De Moraes, Antunes and Montes, 2016), the persistence of high levels of NPL may discourage banks to incur in additional risk-taking, leading to low financial development. As for the CAR, the negative signs in all models suggest the existence of a trade-off between capital regulation, measured by the capital adequacy ratio,

and financial development. Hence, the more solvent the banks are, the higher the CAR and the lower the financial development.

Regarding the macroeconomic variables, the signs and significance of the GDP coefficients reveal a negative relationship between economic growth and financial development (FI), both in the full sample and in the developing countries analysis. In terms of inflation (INFL) and the interest rate (INTR), the full sample analysis shows evidence that both variables curb financial development. Concerning the developing countries analysis, although INFL and INTR present negative signs in all the models, only the interest rate (INTR) is significant. These results are expected, for during periods of high interest rates financial development is curbed. Finally, the crisis dummy evidences that financial development is adversely affected by periods of crisis.

 $\label{thm:continuous} \begin{tabular}{ll} Table 3 - Financial development (FI) and Banking market structure \\ Regression results of the model - All Countries \\ \end{tabular}$

Regression result		ncentration (B	ANK_5)				Banking Concentration (BANK_3)					
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
FI (-1)	0.794***	0.829***	0.786***	0.792***	0.789***	0.697***	0.836***	0.897***	0.808***	0.763***	0.858***	0.844***
	(0.032)	(0.044)	(0.051)	(0.068)	(0.056)	(0.070)	(0.025)	(0.025)	(0.049)	(0.065)	(0.059)	(0.075)
BANK_5(-1)	-0.098***	-0.138*	-0.175***	-0.180**	-0.214**	-0.202*						
	(0.034)	(0.071)	(0.064)	(0.077)	(0.084)	(0.107)						
BANK_3(-1)							-0.025**	-0.047**	-0.098*	-0.069	-0.189***	-0.297***
							(0.011)	(0.022)	(0.051)	(0.059)	(0.065)	(0.087)
NPL (-1)		-0.154***	-0.055**	-0.097**	-0.097*	-0.132*		-0.032**	-0.043*	-0.080**	-0.065*	-0.197**
		(0.059)	(0.024)	(0.045)	(0.056)	(0.068)		(0.014)	(0.024)	(0.040)	(0.039)	(0.095)
CAR (-1)			-0.185**	-0.184**	-0.213***	-0.216*			-0.211**	-0.081	-0.141*	-0.123
			(0.085)	(0.090)	(0.075)	(0.115)			(0.097)	(0.050)	(0.075)	(0.096)
INTR (-1)				-0.002	-0.008	-0.280**				-0.013	-0.054	-0.186**
				(0.028)	(0.040)	(0.132)				(0.025)	(0.047)	(0.082)
INFL (-1)					-0.042	-0.259**					-0.155**	-0.234**
					(0.050)	(0.112)					(0.072)	(0.098)
GDP (-1)						-0.195**						-0.228***
						(0.079)						(0.075)
CRISIS	-0.222*	-0.481**	-0.497*	-0.641**	-0.593**	-0.228	-0.022	-0.067	-0.558*	-0.458**	0.354	0.572
	(0.121)	(0.232)	(0.287)	(0.263)	(0.292)	(0.333)	(0.110)	(0.152)	(0.333)	(0.208)	(0.329)	(0.472)
Observations	587	594	541	593	593	613	565	536	557	590	527	528
Countries	89	89	89	89	89	89	89	89	89	89	89	89
Inst/Cross Sec.	0.48	0.22	0.28	0.22	0.29	0.25	0.50	0.51	0.30	0.24	0.28	0.28
J-statistic	47.91	21.94	25.54	19.37	23.27	17.54	50.93	51.10	29.87	22.23	23.73	17.87
<i>p</i> -value	(0.16)	(0.11)	(0.14)	(0.11)	(0.18)	(0.23)	(0.14)	(0.11)	(0.12)	(0.10)	(0.13)	(0.33)
AR (1)	-0.47	-0.48	-0.40	-0.46	-0.45	-0.47	-0.44	-0.44	-0.40	-0.48	-0.42	-0.45
<i>p</i> -value	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)
AR (2)	0.02	0.00	-0.00	0.00	-0.00	0.00	-0.04	-0.04	-0.04	-0.00	-0.03	0.03
<i>p</i> -value	(0.73)	(0.96)	(0.96)	(0.92)	(0.96)	(0.93)	(0.47)	(0.42)	(0.40)	(0.99)	(0.59)	(0.54)

Table 4 - Financial development (FI) and Banking market structure Regression results of the model - Developing Countries

Regression results		ncentration (B					Banking Concentration (BANK_3)					
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
FI (-1)	0.804***	0.814***	0.843***	0.869***	0.858***	0.842***	0.856***	0.815***	0.864***	0.875***	0.876***	0.890***
	(0.023)	(0.023)	(0.036)	(0.033)	(0.027)	(0.027)	(0.022)	(0.033)	(0.021)	(0.025)	(0.026)	(0.032)
BANK_5(-1)	-0.046**	-0.049**	-0.055*	-0.060***	-0.074***	-0.077***						
	(0.022)	(0.025)	(0.033)	(0.023)	(0.020)	(0.022)						
BANK_3(-1)							-0.033***	-0.051*	-0.024**	-0.027*	-0.036**	-0.060***
							(0.007)	(0.029)	(0.011)	(0.015)	(0.014)	(0.020)
NPL (-1)		-0.058**	-0.107***	-0.062***	-0.055**	-0.070***		-0.053*	-0.057***	-0.083***	-0.080***	-0.101***
		(0.024)	(0.040)	(0.023)	(0.023)	(0.023)		(0.031)	(0.018)	(0.018)	(0.017)	(0.023)
CAR (-1)			-0.210	-0.230**	-0.199**	-0.187***			-0.152***	-0.228***	-0.238***	-0.313***
			(0.129)	(0.092)	(0.081)	(0.059)			(0.042)	(0.062)	(0.061)	(0.082)
INTR (-1)				-0.002	-0.008	-0.024				-0.020	-0.016	-0.044**
				(0.015)	(0.016)	(0.021)				(0.018)	(0.018)	(0.022)
INFL (-1)					-0.016	-0.017					-0.002	-0.032
					(0.027)	(0.021)					(0.033)	(0.035)
GDP (-1)						-0.028						-0.078**
						(0.032)						(0.038)
CRISIS	-0.245**	-0.276**	-0.499**	-0.326*	-0.323*	-0.401*	-0.323**	-0.410**	-0.338***	-0.509***	-0.489***	-0.158
	(0.114)	(0.130)	(0.195)	(0.190)	(0.173)	(0.227)	(0.138)	(0.177)	(0.120)	(0.156)	(0.178)	(0.286)
Observations	424	422	424	358	356	356	319	436	369	361	361	361
Countries	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61
Inst/Cross Sec.	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.66	0.66	0.69	0.68	0.39	0.68	0.68	0.66	0.64
J-statistic	39.03	39.63	35.79	32.03	33.16	34.34	44.06	25.03	43.28	36.02	35.52	35.38
<i>p</i> -value	(0.29)	(0.23)	(0.34)	(0.51)	(0.41)	(0.40)	(0.23)	(0.20)	(0.16)	(0.37)	(0.31)	(0.23)
AR (1)	-0.44	-0.46	-0.43	-0.40	-0.42	-0.42	-0.44	-0.49	-0.43	-0.43	-0.43	-0.42
<i>p</i> -value	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)
AR (2)	0.33	0.04	0.00	-0.03	-0.03	-0.01	-0.05	-0.00	-0.06	-0.05	-0.05	-0.02
<i>p</i> -value	(0.53)	(0.47)	(0.99)	(0.58)	(0.64)	(0.87)	(0.57)	(0.97)	(0.32)	(0.45)	(0.45)	(0.76)

3.2. Financial Development (FI) and Banking Competition

In this section we analyze the effect of banking competition (Lerner and Boone indexes) on financial development (FI). Table 5 reports the full sample results, where all countries are analyzed altogether, while Table 6 reports the results for the sample of developing countries.

In general, the coefficients of the Lerner index present negative signs and statistical significance. Concerning the Boone index, the estimations involving developing countries show the expected sign and statistical significance. The negative relationship between the degree of competition and financial development indicates that an economic environment of higher competitiveness leads to a higher financial development. Thus, there is evidence that financial development can be fostered if greater incentives for competitiveness are provided.

In most of the estimations, the NPL negative signs and statistical significance evidence that an increase in credit risk constrains financial development. It is also noteworthy that the negative sign and statistical significance of the CAR variable in the developing countries' analysis strengthens the existence of a trade-off between capital regulation and financial development. At last, the crisis dummy results corroborate the effect of crises' periods in financial development. These results corroborate the findings in the banking concentration analysis.

3.3. Credit, Concentration and Banking Competition

The results obtained in the previous subsections indicate that banking market structure can constrain financial development. An increase in the banking market power derived from high concentration or low competition can harm financial development. Therefore, to corroborate these findings, Tables 7 to 10 present the estimates for the domestic credit provided by the financial sector as a percentage of GDP (CRED_GDP), a measure long-stablished in the literature (Levine, 2003).

In particular, Tables 7 and 8 report the effect of banking concentration (Bank_5, Bank_3) on the CRED_GDP for the full sample and for the developing countries, respectively. The same goes for Tables 9 and 10, which report the effect of banking competition (Lerner, Boone indexes) on the CRED_GDP.

Table 5 - Financial development (FI) and Banking market structure Regression results of the model - All Countries

	Banking Co	mpetition (LE	CRNER Index)				Banking Competition (BOONE Index)					
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
FI (-1)	0.864***	0.889***	0.808***	0.842***	0.878***	0.828***	0.785***	0.799***	0.821***	0.842***	0.678***	0.911***
	(0.025)	(0.062)	(0.0314)	(0.026)	(0.032)	(0.034)	(0.059)	(0.067)	(0.093)	(0.110)	(0.230	(0.089)
LERNER (-1)	-0.060***	-0.049*	-0.046***	-0.044***	-0.068***	-0.053***						
	(0.015)	(0.026)	(0.014)	(0.013)	(0.017)	(0.019)						
BOONE (-1)							-0.163	-0.012	-0.007	-0.013	-0.046	-0.014
							(0.539)	(0.008)	(0.014)	(0.014)	(0.050)	(0.014)
NPL (-1)		-0.121**	-0.081***	-0.061**	-0.064***	-0.076**		-0.063***	-0.058*	-0.066*	-0.145*	-0.069*
		(0.050)	(0.028)	(0.031)	(0.021)	(0.032)		(0.023)	(0.031)	(0.039)	(0.083)	(0.040)
CAR (-1)			-0.056*	-0.035	-0.057	-0.113			-0.078	-0.047	-0.033	-0.008
			(0.033)	(0.043)	(0.061)	(0.069)			(0.072	(0.132)	(0.130)	(0.140)
INTR (-1)				-0.013	-0.014	-0.059				-0.020	-0.120	-0.127
				(0.018)	(0.028)	(0.043)				(0.042)	(0.127)	(0.095)
INFL (-1)					-0.071**	-0.107***					-0.025	-0.032
					(0.035)	(0.038)					(0.091)	(0.058)
GDP (-1)						-0.011						-0.093
						(0.038)						(0.066)
CRISIS	-0.428***	-0.490**	-0.845***	-0.561***	-0.616***	-0.627***	-0.277*	-0.565**	-0.537*	-0.518*	-1.031	-0.191
	(0.113)	(0.242)	(0.176)	(0.190)	(0.203)	(0.229)	(0.166)	(0.251)	(0.292)	(0.310)	(1.216)	(0.418)
Observations	516	540	522	539	472	552	506	506	510	520	504	504
Countries	89	89	89	89	89	89	89	89	89	89	89	89
Inst/Cross Sec.	0.45	0.23	0.50	0.48	0.48	0.45	0.29	0.20	0.17	0.16	0.10	0.26
J-statistic	46.30	22.17	46.39	44.02	37.16	40.08	30.13	17.87	13.86	13.29	1.02	19.77
<i>p</i> -value	(0.12)	(0.10)	(0.14)	(0.12)	(0.28)	(0.10)	(0.12)	(0.16)	(0.18)	(0.10)	(0.60)	(0.14)
AR (1)	-0.48	-0.48	-0.46	-0.46	-0.42	-0.44	-0.43	-0.43	-0.42	-0.43	-0.39	-0.46
<i>p</i> -value	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)
AR (2)	-0.01	0.02	0.01	0.02	-0.05	-0.02	-0.05	-0.07	-0.06	-0.08	-0.09	-0.02
<i>p</i> -value	(0.81)	(0.61)	(0.83)	(0.62)	(0.39)	(0.61)	(0.38)	(0.24)	(0.26)	(0.17)	(0.12)	(0.68)

Table 6 - Financial development (FI) and Banking market structure Regression results of the model - Developing Countries

	Banking Co	mpetition (LE	RNER Index)				Banking Competition (BOONE Index)					
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
FI (-1)	0.909***	0.870***	0.889***	0.892***	0.898***	0.904***	0.880***	0.842***	0.903***	0.898***	0.870***	0.915***
	(0.014)	(0.021)	(0.029)	(0.034)	(0.029)	(0.034)	(0.038)	(0.058)	(0.037)	(0.068)	(0.057)	(0.055)
LERNER (-1)	-0.029***	-0.039***	-0.040**	-0.042***	-0.038**	-0.040**						
	(0.011)	(0.013	(0.016)	(0.016)	(0.016)	(0.018)						
BOONE (-1)							-0.016	-0.012*	-0.011**	-0.026**	-0.016*	-0.013*
							(0.010)	(0.007)	(0.005)	(0.011)	(0.009)	(0.008)
NPL (-1)		-0.063***	-0.079***	-0.085***	-0.088***	-0.086***		-0.078***	-0.080***	-0.120**	-0.083**	-0.065*
		(0.019)	(0.027)	(0.026)	(0.025)	(0.028)		(0.025)	(0.017)	(0.055)	(0.036)	(0.037)
CAR (-1)			-0.355***	-0.401***	-0.368***	-0.381***			-0.092**	-0.041	-0.128*	-0.150*
			(0.125)	(0.092)	(0.090)	(0.111)			(0.035)	(0.096)	(0.077)	(0.087)
INTR (-1)				-0.003	-0.005	-0.010				-0.051*	-0.024	-0.016
				(0.017)	(0.016)	(0.026)				(0.031)	(0.028)	(0.021)
INFL (-1)					-0.024	-0.024					-0.026	-0.022
					(0.030)	(0.036)					(0.035)	(0.040)
GDP (-1)						-0.004						-0.041
						(0.030)						(0.029)
CRISIS	-0.218*	-0.464***	-0.665***	-0.554**	-0.463**	-0.456*	-0.416*	-0.564*	-0.327*	-0.749*	-0.604**	-0.593*
	(0.122)	(0.150)	(0.190)	(0.276)	(0.234)	(0.246)	(0.244)	(0.326)	(0.181)	(0.440)	(0.280)	(0.356)
Observations	329	328	328	334	329	329	312	358	357	308	350	306
Countries	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61
Inst/Cross Sec.	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.71	0.70	0.70	0.47	0.27	0.51	0.27	0.40	0.48
J-statistic	39.40	39.08	34.17	28.03	32.71	32.70	31.77	14.90	30.51	12.72	20.03	24.59
<i>p</i> -value	(0.32)	(0.29)	(0.46)	(0.75)	(0.43)	(0.38)	(0.13)	(0.25)	(0.21)	(0.24)	(0.22)	(0.22)
AR (1)	-0.41	-0.43	-0.37	-0.36	-0.37	-0.37	-0.41	-0.42	-0.42	-0.43	-0.41	-0.40
<i>p</i> -value	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)
AR (2)	-0.05	-0.04	-0.06	-0.06	-0.06	-0.06	-0.08	-0.11	-0.10	-0.08	-0.10	-0.13
<i>p</i> -value	(0.46)	(0.59)	(0.40)	(0.37)	(0.34)	(0.36)	(0.32)	(0.10)	(0.11)	(0.34)	(0.12)	(0.15)

The statistical significance and negative signs of banking concentration and competition coefficients (Tables 7 to 10) indicate that high banking concentration, as well as low banking competition, reduces the availability of credit in the countries' financial systems, measured by the CRED_GDP. These results suggest that an increase in banking market power can lead the financial systems to credit rationing, shedding light on the credit market behavior under a banking market structure perspective.

Regarding the banking variables, the NPL stands out both in the full sample and in the developing countries analysis. There is evidence that an increase in the NPL deprives the amount of credit in the countries. With respect to CAR, which is a proxy for financial stability, the results emphasize the trade-off with financial development, proxied by the CRED_GDP.

The conclusions concerning the effects of the macroeconomic variables on financial development (CRED_GDP) corroborate the conclusions previously obtained for FI. In this sense, the results indicate that increments of the interest rate may hinder financial development. The behavior of real interest rates is, to some extent, a reflection of monetary policy, which may affect the amount of credit in the economy. The coefficients of the variable INFL (inflation) also confirm the preceding results, suggesting that uncertainties generated by high inflation rates lag financial development.

It is expected a positive relationship between gdp growth and credit to gdp ratio. However, the negative effect of GDP on CRED_GDP, though not expected, can be explained by the reasoning that underpins the CRED_GDP. Therefore, an increase (reduction) in the gdp growth can lead to a reduction (increase) in the credit to gdp ratio. The CRISIS dummy, which captures the effects of the financial crisis in the period 2008/2009, holds the negative signs and statistical significance in most of the models, suggesting that financial development deteriorates during crises.

Thus, the estimates for banking concentration and banking competition in relation to the credit to gdp ratio (CRED_GDP) for the full sample, as well as for the developing countries, corroborate the results obtained in the main analysis involving financial development (FI). In short, banking market power is an issue, and improvement in banking market structure (a decrease in concentration or an increase in competition) is relevant to financial development.

Table 7 - Credit (CRED_GDP) and Banking market structure Regression results of the model - All Countries

	Banking	Concentration	(BANK_5)				Banking Concentration (BANK_3)					
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
CRED_GDP (-1)	0.351**	0.795***	0.852***	0.809***	0.712***	0.786***	0.748***	0.764***	0.715***	0.708***	0.732***	0.774***
	(0.155)	(0.092)	(0.074)	(0.047)	(0.065)	(0.054)	(0.101)	(0.077)	(0.075)	(0.079)	(0.109)	(0.049)
BANK_5(-1)	-0.192*	-0.068	-0.337*	-0.274**	-0.329*	-0.286*						
	(0.112)	(0.134)	(0.201)	(0.128)	(0.182)	(0.155)						
BANK_3(-1)							-0.923***	-0.380*	-0.452*	-0.468**	-0.072	-0.450***
							(0.294)	(0.205)	(0.234)	(0.236)	(0.280)	(0.172)
NPL (-1)		-0.736***	-0.667***	-0.684***	-0.629***	-0.757***		-0.521***	-0.506***	-0.692***	-0.689***	-0.588***
		(0.173)	(0.156)	(0.093)	(0.097)	(0.128)		(0.138)	(0.099)	(0.122)	(0.131)	(0.089)
CAR (-1)			-0.401*	-0.400**	-0.640**	-0.412**			-0.448**	-0.430	-0.298	-0.829***
			(0.207)	(0.157)	(0.259)	(0.189)			(0.215)	(0.289)	(0.512)	(0.241)
INTR (-1)				-0.015	-0.031	-0.225**				0.048	-0.108	-0.107*
				(0.063)	(0.076)	(0.108)				(0.108)	(0.0914)	(0.065)
INFL (-1)					-0.128	-0.343*					-0.012	-0.354**
					(0.257)	(0.181)					(0.250)	(0.171)
GDP (-1)						-0.193*						-0.310**
						(0.113)						(0.125)
CRISIS	-0.645	-0.142	-0.400	-0.372	-0.331	1.651	1.017	1.206	-0.416	-1.750	-0.367	2.623**
	(2.123)	(1.391)	(1.211)	(1.278)	(1.848)	(1.475)	(1.341)	(1.039)	(1.227)	(1.289)	(1.987)	1.184
Observations	469	548	506	418	422	403	528	449	507	512	489	423
Countries	89	89	89	89	89	89	89	89	89	89	89	89
Inst/Cross Sec.	0.11	0.19	0.31	0.37	0.30	0.39	0.30	0.26	0.33	0.31	0.31	0.49
J-statistic	8.15	14.69	18.04	22.76	22.30	22.10	25.38	17.91	20.92	27.03	16.73	31.06
<i>p</i> -value	(0.32)	(0.33)	(0.70)	(0.53)	(0.22)	(0.51)	(0.33)	(0.46)	(0.59)	(0.13)	(0.61)	(0.51)
AR (1)	-0.27	-0.43	-0.45	-0.39	-0.39	-0.42	-0.38	-0.39	-0.39	-0.39	-0.37	-0.40
<i>p</i> -value	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)
AR (2)	-0.05	-0.07	-0.01	-0.04	-0.05	-0.03	-0.04	-0.05	-0.06	-0.05	-0.07	-0.09
<i>p</i> -value	(0.50)	(0.19)	(0.82)	(0.59)	(0.45)	(0.69)	(0.44)	(0.44)	(0.26)	(0.32)	(0.19)	(0.20)

Table 8 - Credit (CRED_GDP) and Banking market structure Regression results of the model - Developing Countries

	Banking C	oncentration (BANK_5)				Banking Concentration (BANK_3)					
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
CRED_GDP (-1)	0.902***	0.922***	0.924***	0.940***	0.916***	0.921***	0.793***	0.939***	0.880***	0.989***	0.982***	0.966***
	(0.044)	(0.017)	(0.017)	(0.027)	(0.028)	(0.057)	(0.057)	(0.029)	(0.030)	(0.035)	(0.055)	(0.055)
BANK_5(-1)	-0.099**	-0.048**	-0.063**	-0.087**	-0.099***	-0.488***						
	(0.050)	(0.023)	(0.026)	(0.036)	(0.030)	(0.051)						
BANK_3(-1)							-0.424***	-0.130***	-0.252***	-0.211***	-0.194***	-0.204***
							(0.138)	(0.037)	(0.028)	(0.029)	(0.054)	(0.055)
NPL (-1)		-0.676***	-0.643***	-0.711	-0.681***	-0.666**		-0.915***	-0.616***	-0.905***	-0.752***	-0.709***
		(0.035)	(0.0378)	(0.060)	(0.044)	(0.295)		(0.057)	(0.057)	(0.077)	(0.187)	(0.211)
CAR (-1)			-0.146*	-0.234*	-0.156*	-1.108***			-0.266***	-0.377***	-0.966***	-0.951***
			(0.088)	(0.132)	(0.082)	(0.267)			(0.078)	(0.086)	(0.211)	(0.243)
INTR (-1)				-0.132***	-0.100***	-0.209***				-0.054**	-0.078**	-0.132***
				(0.021)	(0.020)	(0.059)				(0.023)	(0.036)	(0.047)
INFL (-1)					-0.086*	-0.006					-0.038	-0.073
					(0.045)	(0.107)					(0.103)	(0.101)
GDP (-1)						-0.225**						-0.152*
						(0.088)						(0.087)
CRISIS	-0.377	-0.972***	-1.046***	-0.823*	-0.124	-0.411	-0.135	-0.995***	-0.700*	-0.929**	-0.573	-0.164
	(0.980)	(0.280)	(0.328)	(0.494)	(0.505)	(0.865)	(0.917)	(0.290)	(0.379)	(0.449)	(0.656)	(0.737)
Observations	344	359	359	343	342	409	365	377	362	356	417	417
Countries	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61
Inst/Cross Sec.	0.36	0.68	0.68	0.69	0.72	0.61	0.43	0.68	0.68	0.71	0.61	0.61
J-statistic	25.57	38.65	36.99	37.26	40.40	29.37	24.03	37.93	41.09	39.41	29.97	29.64
<i>p</i> -value	(0.11)	(0.40)	(0.42)	(0.32)	(0.21)	(0.39)	(0.40)	(0.38)	(0.25)	(0.32)	(0.42)	(0.38)
AR (1)	-0.42	-0.42	-0.43	-0.38	-0.40	-0.42	-0.42	-0.43	-0.43	-0.40	-0.47	-0.46
<i>p</i> -value	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)
AR (2)	-0.03	-0.05	-0.05	-0.09	-0.07	-0.04	-0.02	-0.03	-0.03	-0.06	0.00	-0.01
<i>p</i> -value	(0.55)	(0.31)	(0.33)	(0.11)	(0.24)	(0.44)	(0.66)	(0.49)	(0.51)	(0.25)	(0.99)	(0.87)

Table 9 - Credit (CRED_GDP) and Banking market structure Regression results of the model - All Countries

	Banking Co	mpetition (LE	RNER Index)				Banking Competition (BOONE Index)					
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
CRED_GDP (-1)	0.697***	0.690***	0.801***	0.817***	0.689***	0.706***	0.730***	1.122***	0.818***	0.901***	0.809***	0.907***
	(0.053)	(0.045)	(0.052)	(0.096)	(0.044)	(0.036)	(0.043)	(0.072)	(0.044)	(0.044)	(0.120)	(0.045)
LERNER (-1)	-0.137***	-0.057*	-0.078*	-0.174**	-0.137***	-0.125***						
	(0.040)	(0.034)	(0.043)	(0.085)	(0.041)	(0.040)						
BOONE (-1)							-0.014	-0.098**	-0.047**	-0.054**	-0.105	-0.075***
							(0.035)	(0.047)	(0.020)	(0.023)	(0.130)	(0.027)
NPL (-1)		-0.410***	-0.671***	-0.874***	-0.560***	-0.642***		-0.492***	-0.526***	-0.585***	-0.968***	-0.740***
		(0.050)	(0.122)	(0.191)	(0.086)	(0.076)		(0.066)	(0.130)	(0.070)	(0.190)	(0.138)
CAR (-1)			-0.254**	-0.314	-0.269**	-0.236**			-1.239***	-0.597***	-0.038	-0.568***
			(0.103)	(0.228)	(0.142)	(0.100)			(0.306)	(0.188)	(0.426)	(0.168)
INTR (-1)				-0.163*	-0.109*	-0.090*				-0.027	-0.420**	-0.204*
				(0.088)	(0.059)	(0.054)				(0.065)	(0.193)	(0.111)
INFL (-1)					-0.222***	-0.165**					-0.038	-0.517**
					(0.082)	(0.076)					(0.266)	(0.225)
GDP (-1)						-0.143*						-0.173*
						(0.080)						(0.104)
CRISIS	-1.307*	-1.491**	-1.628*	-2.581	-0.530	-1.232	1.795*	2.979***	-0.059	1.967**	-0.754	3.975***
	(0.710)	(0.724)	(0.941)	(1.616)	(0.939)	(1.020)	(0.968)	(0.928)	(0.943)	(0.779)	(1.895)	(1.311)
Observations	440	440	435	445	361	357	429	516	419	418	492	425
Countries	89	89	89	89	89	89	89	89	89	89	89	89
Inst/Cross Sec.	0.49	0.52	0.50	0.31	0.53	0.58	0.30	0.45	0.48	0.49	0.25	0.49
J-statistic	45.27	37.68	38.10	22.50	39.46	42.23	29.47	41.58	33.09	29.96	13.82	32.39
<i>p</i> -value	(0.17)	(0.53)	(0.37)	(0.31)	(0.24)	(0.26)	(0.13)	(0.21)	(0.51)	(0.67)	(0.46)	(0.45)
AR (1)	-0.41	-0.44	-0.46	-0.44	-0.46	-0.45	-0.38	-0.50	-039	-0.43	-0.38	-0.43
<i>p</i> -value	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)
AR (2)	-0.02	0.01	0.02	-0.02	0.07	0.07	-0.05	0.06	-0.02	0.03	-0.08	-0.04
<i>p</i> -value	(0.74)	(0.93)	(0.81)	(0.79)	(0.35)	(0.36)	(0.41)	(0.29)	(0.81)	(0.60)	(0.15)	(0.50)

Table 10 - Credit (CRED_GDP) and Banking market structure Regression results of the model - Developing Countries

	Banking Co	mpetition (LE	RNER Index)				Banking Competition (BOONE Index)					
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
CRED_GDP (-1)	0.758***	0.994***	0.834***	0.900***	0.948***	0.919***	0.758***	0.966***	0.976***	1.003***	0.991***	0.990***
	(0.012)	(0.035)	(0.028)	(0.047)	(0.023)	(0.029)	(0.055)	(0.022)	(0.023)	(0.025)	(0.040)	(0.041)
LERNER (-1)	-0.037***	-0.043*	-0.064***	-0.077***	-0.054**	-0.055**						
	(0.012)	(0.022)	(0.023)	(0.026)	(0.024)	(0.025)						
BOONE (-1)							0.120***	-0.015*	-0.004	-0.012*	-0.006	-0.010
							(0.023)	(0.009)	(0.006)	(0.006)	(0.023)	(0.029)
NPL (-1)		-0.908***	-0.576***	-0.765***	-0.732***	-0.709***		-0.906***	-0.933***	-0.918***	-0.880***	-0.901***
		(0.096)	(0.071)	(0.109)	(0.055)	(0.078)		(0.075)	(0.067)	(0.073)	(0.157)	(0.159)
CAR (-1)			-0.243***	-0.316**	-0.572***	-0.664***			-0.375***	-0.357***	-0.953***	-0.929***
			(0.088)	(0.146)	(0.137)	(0.166)			(0.118)	(0.115)	(0.237)	(0.253)
INTR (-1)				-0.081***	-0.136***	-0.085*				-0.106***	-0.094**	-0.088*
				(0.028)	(0.028)	(0.049)				(0.023)	(0.040)	(0.045)
INFL (-1)					-0.121**	-0.150*					-0.040	-0.040
					(0.058)	(0.077)					(0.115)	(0.116)
GDP (-1)						0.135						0.026
						(0.095)						(0.103)
CRISIS	-0.316**	-1.362***	-1.435***	-1.349**	-0.923**	-1.087*	-0.633*	-0.914**	-1.318***	-1.406***	-1.227**	-1.173**
	(0.157)	(0.347)	(0.410)	(0.624)	(0.453)	(0.584)	(0.355)	(0.450)	(0.305)	(0.367)	(0.582)	(0.584)
Observations	321	396	328	329	316	316	359	384	363	367	417	417
Countries	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61
Inst/Cross Sec.	0.76	0.62	0.70	0.68	0.76	0.78	0.41	0.64	0.71	0.69	0.61	0.61
J-statistic	40.59	33.76	39.22	30.66	37.78	36.18	26.56	36.10	38.51	37.75	31.73	31.31
<i>p</i> -value	(0.40)	(0.38)	(0.29)	(0.53)	(0.30)	(0.37)	(0.23)	(0.42)	(0.40)	(0.34)	(0.33)	(0.30)
AR (1)	-0.41	-0.52	-0.44	-0.41	-0.39	-0.40	-0.41	-0.43	-0.42	-0.40	-0.45	-0.46
<i>p</i> -value	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)
AR (2)	-0.06	0.01	-0.06	-0.08	-0.10	-0.09	-0.04	-0.04	-0.06	-0.07	-0.03	-0.02
<i>p</i> -value	(0.30)	(0.84)	(0.34)	(0.21)	(0.10)	0.13	(0.49)	(0.44)	(0.28)	(0.19)	(0.61)	(0.67)

4. Conclusion

This paper analyzes, through a panel with 89 countries from 2006 to 2015, how financial development reacts to banking market structure (banking concentration and banking competition). The main results are that a greater degree of banking concentration or less competitive banking sector reduce countries' financial development and the amount of credit supply. This is also true for emerging countries. These results suggest that the way the banking sector is structured is important for the financial service offer in different kind of countries. Therefore, the result of this study sheds light on a new issue of banking market power: a financial system concentrated or uncompetitive constrains financial development.

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Appendix

Table A1 - List of countries used in the work

Developing countries			Developed countries
Albania	Kuwait	Uganda	Australia
Algeria	Repub. of Kyrgyzstan	Ukraine	Austria
Argentina	Lebanon	Uruguay	Belgium
Armenia	Macedonia	Venezuela, RB	Canada
Azerbaijan	Malaysia	Zambia	Cyprus
Bahrain	Mauritania		Czech Republic
Bangladesh	Mauritius		Estonia
Belarus	Mexico		France
Bolivia	Moldavia		Germany
Botswana	Mozambique		Greece
Brazil	Nigeria		Hong Kong SAR, China
Bulgaria	Oman		Ireland
Cameroon	Panama		Israel
Chile	Paraguay		Italy
China	Peru		Japan
Colombia	Philippines		Korea, Rep.
Costa Rica	Poland		Lithuania
Croatia	Romania		Latvia
Dominican Republic	Russian Federation		Malta
Ecuador	Rwanda		Netherlands
Egypt, Arab Rep.	Senegal		New Zealand
Georgia	Serbia		Norway
Guatemala	Sierra Leone		Portugal
Honduras	South Africa		Singapore
Hungary	Sri Lanka		Slovak Republic
Indonesia	Tanzania		Slovenia
Jordan	Thailand		Spain
Kenya	Trinidad and Tobago		Switzerland

Table A 2 - Description of the variables and data sources

Variable	Description	Data Source
FI	Financial development index (Sahay, R. et al., 2015). This index was multiplied by 100, without prejudice to the values, only to facilitate the analysis of the results.	International Monetary Fund
CRED_GDP	Domestic credit provided by the financial sector (% GDP). It is used as a proxy for financial development measure. Series code FS.AST.DOMS.GD.ZS FS.AST.DOMS.GD.ZS.	World Bank
BANK_5	Assets of the five largest banks as a percentage of total assets of commercial banks. This measure is used as a proxy for banking concentration. Series code GFDD.OI.06.	World Bank
BANK_3	Assets of the three largest banks as a percentage of the total assets of the commercial banks. This measure is used as a proxy for banking concentration. Series code GFDD.OI.01	World Bank
LERNER	The Lerner index is defined as the difference between price and marginal cost, divided by price. It indicates the effective behavior of the banks by measuring a bank's ability to set its price above the marginal cost and therefore the market power of the bank individually. This index is used as a proxy for bank competition. LERNER's higher values indicate less competition. This index was multiplied by 100, without prejudice to the values. Series code GFDD.OI.04.	World Bank
BOONE	This index is a measure of the degree of bank competition, calculated as the elasticity of profits relative to marginal costs. The rationale behind the indicator is that higher profits are achieved by more efficient banks. An increase in the Boone index indicates an inhibition of the competitive conduct of financial intermediaries. This index was multiplied by 100, without prejudice to the values. Only for easy analysis of results. Series code GFDD.OI.05.	World Bank
NPL	Bank Nonperforming Loans to Total Loans (%). Loan to arrears ratio (interest and capital payments due 90 days or more) on total gross loans (total value of the loan portfolio). The amount of the loan recorded as a default includes the gross amount of the loan recorded in the balance sheet, not just the amount in arrears. Series code GFDD.SI.02	World Bank
CAR	Bank Regulatory Capital to Risk-Weighted Assets (%). It is treated as a solvency indicator of a financial institution. The indicator is calculated by dividing the reference equity by the assets weighted by the risk. Series code GFDD.SI.05.	World Bank
INTR	Real interest rate. The real interest rate is the inflation-adjusted interest rate of loans measured by the GDP deflator. Series code FR.INR.RINR.	World Bank
GDP	Annual percentage growth rate of GDP at market prices based on constant local currency. Aggregates are based on constant 2010 U.S. dollars. GDP is the sum of gross value added by all resident producers in the economy plus any product taxes and minus any subsidies not included in the value of the products. It is calculated without making deductions for depreciation of fabricated assets or for depletion and degradation of natural resources. Series code NY.GDP.MKTP.KD.ZG.	World Bank
INFL	Inflation as measured by the consumer price index reflects the annual percentage change in the cost to the average consumer of acquiring a basket of goods and services that may be fixed or changed at specified intervals, such as yearly. Series code FP.CPI.TOTL.ZG.	World Bank