A Fiscal Decomposition of Unexpected Inflation: Cross-Country Estimates and

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Theory

Introduction

- What drives innovations to the price level?
- Sources of inflation variation
- Focus on unexpected inflation $\Delta E_t \pi_t$
 - · Campbell and Ammer (1993)
 - Internal consistency of expectations
- · Breakdown of valuation equation of public debt

Fiscal Connection?

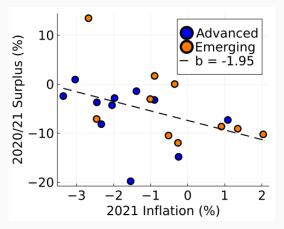


Figure: COVID Inflation - 21 countries in sample

Valuation Equation of Public Debt

Stock market - Campbell and Ammer (1993)

Stock price = Discounted Dividends

$$\Delta E_t$$
 [Stock price] = ΔE_t [Dividends] - ΔE_t [Disc Rates]

Micro-founded monetary models

$$\frac{\text{Bond Prices} \times \text{Bonds}}{\text{Price Level}} = \sum_{t} \frac{\text{Surpluses}_{t}}{\text{Discount}_{t}}$$

 ΔE_t [Bond Price] - ΔE_t [Price] = ΔE_t [Surplus] - ΔE_t [Disc]

Exercises

1. Decomposition estimates

- Bayesian VAR for 21 countries
- · Inflation shock $\Delta E_t \pi_t = 1$
- · Discounted surpluses shock: ΔE_t [Disc Surp] = -1

2. FTPL, New-Keynesian Model

- Volatile surpluses, no contribution to inflation?
- GMM estimate to reproduce decompositions
- Parametric model of partial debt repayment
- Shocks to long-term growth

Motivation + Results

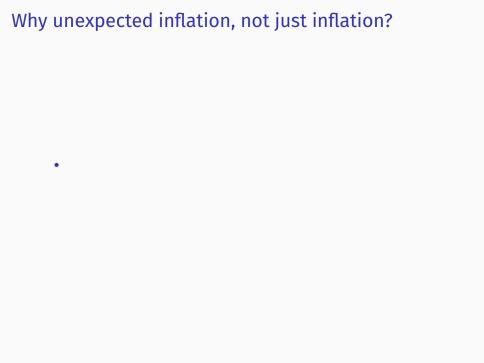
- Measures not structural
- Stylized facts to be matched by theory
- On average:
 - Discount rates → ~80% of total inflation
 - GDP growth → ~20% of total inflation
 - Surplus/GDP \rightarrow ~0% of total inflation

Inflation has fiscal roots, even if fiscal policy is disconnected from the price level.

Motivation + Results

- Volatile surpluses, no inflation?
- "Passive" vs "active" fiscal policy
- No debt repayment inconsistent with decompositions

Discount-driven inflation and realistic surplus process preclude partial repayment.



Literature

- Monetary-Fiscal Interaction. Cagan (1956), Sargent and Wallace (1981), Hall and Sargent (1997), Hall and Sargent (2011), Jiang et al. (2019), Corsetti et al. (2019), Sunder-Plassmann (2020), Du et al. (2020), Akhmadieva (2022)
- Fiscal Theory of the Price Level. Leeper (1991), Sims (1994), Woodford (1995), Cochrane (1998), Cochrane (2005), Sims (2011), Leeper and Leith (2016), Bassetto and Cui (2018), Cochrane (2022c), Brunnermeier et al. (2022), Cochrane (2022a), Cochrane (2022b)
- Empirical Finance. Campbell and Shiller (1988), Cochrane (1992), Campbell and Ammer (1993), Chen and Zhao (2009), Cochrane (2008), Jiang et al. (2019)

Environment

- 1 period = 1 year
- Consumption good price P_t
- Total output Y_t
- Nominal bonds $B_{N,t}^n$, price $Q_{N,t}^n$
 - Pay one unit of currency after *n* years
- Real bonds $B_{R,t}^n$, price $P_t Q_{R,t}^n$
 - Pay one unit of consumption good after *n* years
- Primary Surplus P_tS_t

Issued Currency
$$\begin{bmatrix}
B_{N,t-1}^{1} + P_{t}B_{R,t-1}^{1}
\end{bmatrix} = \Delta M_{t}$$

$$+ \underbrace{\left[P_{t}S_{t} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} Q_{N,t}^{n} \left(B_{N,t}^{n} - B_{N,t-1}^{n+1}\right) + P_{t} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} Q_{R,t}^{n} \left(B_{R,t}^{n} - B_{R,t-1}^{n+1}\right)\right]}_{\text{Retired Currency}}$$

- · This is a budget constraint
- Assumption 1: households do not value currency $M_t = 0$

- Assumption 1: households do not value currency $M_t = 0$
- End-of-period debt $V_{N,t}$ and $V_{R,t}$

$$(1 + r_t^N)V_{N,t-1} + (1 + r_t^R)(1 + \pi_t)V_{R,t-1} = P_tS_t + V_{N,t} + V_{R,t}$$

- This is an equilibrium condition
- Price level adjusts so that

currency issued = currency retired

• Constant structure of public debt: $\delta = V_{N,t}/V_t$

$$1+r_t^n=\delta\left[(1+r_{N,t})\right]+(1-\delta)\left[(1+r_{R,t})(1+\pi_t)\right]$$

- Debt-to-GDP = $V_t = V_t/P_tY_t$
- Surplus-to-GDP = $S_t = S_t/Y_t$

$$\frac{1 + r_t^n}{(1 + \pi_t)(1 + g_t)} V_{t-1} = s_t + V_t$$

Linearized equations

$$v_t + \frac{s_t}{V} = \frac{1}{\beta} \left[v_{t-1} + r_t^n - \pi_t - g_t \right]$$
$$r_t^n = \delta \left[r_t^N \right] + (1 - \delta) \left[r_t^R + \pi_t \right]$$

- v_t is log debt-to-GDP
- r_t^n is the nominal return on public debt

Valuation Equation of Public Debt

- Assumption 2: debt does not spiral $\lim_{j\to\infty} \beta^j v_{t+j} = 0$
- Solve flow equation forward:

Real market value of debt
$$v_{t-1} + r_t^n - \pi_t = \underbrace{\frac{\beta}{V} \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \beta^j \left[E_t s_{t+j} + E_t g_{t+j} \right] - \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \beta^j \left[E_t r_{t+j}^n - E_t \pi_{t+j} \right]}_{\text{Discounted Surpluses}}$$

Marked-to-Market Decomposition

Take innovation on the valuation equation:

$$\boxed{\epsilon_{r^n,t} - \epsilon_{\pi,t} = \epsilon_{s,t} + \epsilon_{g,t} - \epsilon_{r,t}}$$

Terms:

$$\begin{split} & \epsilon_{r^n,t} = \Delta E_t r_t^n \\ & \epsilon_{\pi,t} = \Delta E_t \pi_t \text{ (current inflation)} \\ & \epsilon_{s,t} = (\beta/V) \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \beta^j \Delta E_t s_{t+j} \\ & \epsilon_{g,t} = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \beta^j \Delta E_t g_{t+j} \\ & \epsilon_{r,t} = \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \beta^j (\Delta E_t r_{t+j}^n - \Delta E_t \pi_{t+j}) \end{split}$$

Public Finances Model

Why a public finances model?

- 1. We can do better: bond prices forecast future inflation
- 2. No historical data for bond price/return r_t^n
- 3. No data on market value of debt (only book value)

Public Finances Model

Key Assumptions

- Assumption: constant maturity structure
- Decays geometrically at rate ω :

$$B_{N,t}^{n} = \omega_{N} B_{N,t}^{n-1}$$

$$B_{R,t}^{n} = \omega_{R} B_{R,t}^{n-1}$$

Assumption: constant (or no) risk premium

$$E_t r_{N,t} = E_t r_{R,t} + E_t \pi_t = i_t$$

Break down of bond price variation

Proposition: let $r_t = i_t - E_t \pi_{t+1}$ be the real interest. Then

$$\epsilon_{r^n,t} - \epsilon_{n,t} = -\delta \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} (\omega_N \beta)^j \Delta E_t \pi_{t+j} - \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \beta^j [\delta \omega_N^j + (1-\delta) \omega_R^j] \Delta E_t r_{t+j}$$

- Higher real discount lowers real and nominal bond prices
- Higher inflation lowers nominal bond prices
- No long-term debt ω = 0:

$$\epsilon_{r^n,t} - \epsilon_{\pi,t} = -\delta \Delta E_t \pi_t$$

Total Inflation Decomposition

Replace bond return decomp on marked-to-market decomp:

$$-\varepsilon_{\pi,t}=\varepsilon_{s,t}+\varepsilon_{g,t}-\varepsilon_{r,t}$$

Terms:

$$\begin{split} \varepsilon_{\pi,t} &= \delta \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} (\omega_N \beta)^j \Delta E_t \pi_{t+j} \text{ (current and future inflation)} \\ \varepsilon_{s,t} &= \varepsilon_{s,t} = (\beta/V) \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \beta^j \Delta E_t s_{t+j} \\ \varepsilon_{g,t} &= \varepsilon_{g,t} = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \beta^j \Delta E_t g_{t+j} \\ \varepsilon_{r,t} &= \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \beta^j \left[1 - (\delta \omega_N^j + (1 - \delta) \omega_R^j) \right] \Delta E_t r_{t+j} \end{split}$$

Comparison of Decompositions

- Marked-to-market: $\boxed{\epsilon_{r^n,t} \epsilon_{\pi,t} = \epsilon_{s,t} + \epsilon_{g,t} \epsilon_{r,t}}$
 - Current inflation given current bond prices
 - Highlights effect of monetary policy
- Total inflation: $-\varepsilon_{\pi,t} = \varepsilon_{s,t} + \varepsilon_{g,t} \varepsilon_{r,t}$
 - · Path of inflation given path of discount rates
 - Sensitive to future inflation
 - Nets out effect of discount rates on bond prices

Build Market Value of Debt

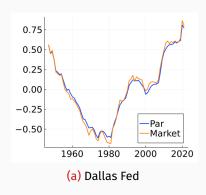
- Converting par to market value of debt
- Dallas Fed, Cox and Hirschhorn (1983) and Cox (1985)

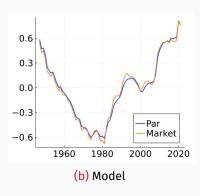
$$V_{j,t} = V_{j,t}^b \times \frac{\text{market value of bonds}}{\text{book value of bonds}} = V_{j,t}^b \frac{Q_{j,t}}{Q_{j,t}^b}$$
 for $j = N, R$

Book price of bonds evolve according to average interest:

$$\begin{split} i^{b}_{N,t} &= (1-\omega_{N})i_{t} + \omega_{N}i^{b}_{N,t-1} \\ i^{b}_{R,t} &= (1-\omega_{R})(i_{t} - E_{t}\pi_{t+1}) + \omega_{R}i^{b}_{R,t-1} \end{split}$$

Comparison with Dallas Fed





Vector Autoregression

States X

$$X_t = AX_{t-1} + e_t \qquad e_t \sim N(0, \Sigma)$$

- Bayesian estimates of 21 countries
- Samples end in 2019 (no COVID!)
- · Prior centered around US OLS estimates

```
    i<sub>t</sub> Nominal Interest
    π<sub>t</sub> Inflation Rate
    g<sub>t</sub> GDP Growth
    v<sub>t</sub> Market Value Debt
    r<sup>n</sup><sub>t</sub> Bond Return (model built)
    s<sub>t</sub> Primary Surplus (model built)
```

VAR and Decomposition Measures

VAR uses time series structure to identify revision of expectations

$$\Delta E_t X_{t+j} = A^j X_t$$

$$\sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \beta^j \Delta E_t X_{t+j} = (I - \beta A)^{-1} X_t$$

The Inflation Shock

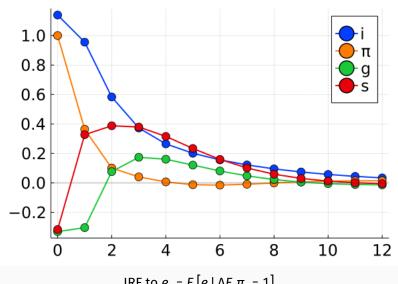
- Source of innovations to inflation $\Delta E_t \pi_t = 1$
- Reduced-form shock $e_t = E[e \mid \Delta E_t \pi_t = 1]$
- Proposition: MtM decomposition

$$\epsilon_{r^n,t} - \epsilon_{\pi,t} = \epsilon_{s,t} + \epsilon_{g,t} - \epsilon_{r,t}$$

same as variance decomposition

$$\frac{\operatorname{cov}(\epsilon_{r^n,t},\epsilon_{\pi,t})}{\operatorname{var}(\epsilon_{\pi,t})} - 1 = \frac{\operatorname{cov}(\epsilon_{s,t},\epsilon_{\pi,t})}{\operatorname{var}(\epsilon_{\pi,t})} + \frac{\operatorname{cov}(\epsilon_{g,t},\epsilon_{\pi,t})}{\operatorname{var}(\epsilon_{\pi,t})} - \frac{\operatorname{cov}(\epsilon_{r,t},\epsilon_{\pi,t})}{\operatorname{var}(\epsilon_{\pi,t})}$$

IRF - Brazil



IRF to $e_t = E[e \mid \Delta E_t \pi_t = 1]$

Inflation Shock - Marked-to-Market

Country	ϵ_{r^n}	$-\epsilon_{\pi}$	=	$\epsilon_{_{\mathrm{S}}}$	+ ϵ_g	$-\epsilon_r$
1947 Sample (Advanced)						
United Kingdom	**-0.7	**-1	=	**-2.2	**-0.7	**1.2
United States	**-0.7	**-1	=	-0.3	**-0.5	**-0.9
1960 Sample (Advanced)						
Canada	**-2.8	**-1	=	0.3	*-1.4	**-2.8
Denmark	**-0.9	**-1	=	0.2	-0.2	**-1.9
Japan	**-0.6	**-1	=	**2.8	**-3.0	**-1.4
Norway	**-0.7	**-1	=	0.7	*3.0	**-5.4
Sweden	**-0.6	**-1	=	**0.9	**-0.9	**-1.6
1973 Sample (Advanced)						
Australia	**-2.2	**-1	=	0.2	0.1	**-3.5
New Zealand	**-1.0	**-1	=	*1.2	**-1.4	*-1.8
South Korea	**-0.6	**-1	=	**-2.4	0.2	*0.7
Switzerland	**-2.0	**-1	=	*-0.8	0.1	**-2.3

Inflation Shock - Marked-to-Market

Country	ϵ_{r^n}	$-\epsilon_{\pi}$	=	$\epsilon_{_{\mathrm{S}}}$	+ ϵ_g	$-\epsilon_r$
1997 Sample (Emerging)						
Brazil	**-0.7	**-1	=	**2.4	-0.1	**-4.0
Colombia	**-1.4	**-1	=	0.2	**-0.7	**-1.9
Czech Republic	*0.2	**-1	=	*0.7	**-1.3	-0.2
Hungary	**-0.8	**-1	=	0.0	-0.2	**-1.6
India	*-0.2	**-1	=	**-1.0	-0.1	-0.1
Israel	**-0.4	**-1	=	**0.8	*-0.4	**-1.8
Mexico	**-1.4	**-1	=	*-1.2	0.0	*-1.3
Poland	**-1.4	**-1	=	**1.0	*-0.3	**-3.0
South Africa	**-0.6	**-1	=	0.3	**-0.8	**-1.1
Ukraine ————————————————————————————————————	**-0.5	**-1	=	**-1.1	0.0	-0.3

Inflation Shock - Total Inflation

Country	$-\varepsilon_{\pi}$	=	ε _s	+ε _g	-ε _r
1947 Sample (Advanced)					
United Kingdom	**-2.8	=	**-2.2	**-0.7	0.1
United States	**-1.5	=	-0.3	**-0.5	**-0.7
1960 Sample (Advanced)					
Canada	**-2.6	=	0.3	*-1.4	**-1.5
Denmark	**-1.6	=	0.2	-0.2	**-1.6
Japan	**-1.5	=	**2.8	**-3.0	**-1.3
Norway	**-2.0	=	0.7	*3.0	**-5.7
Sweden	**-1.6	=	**0.9	**-0.9	**-1.5
1973 Sample (Advanced)					
Australia	**-3.1	=	0.2	0.1	**-3.4
New Zealand	**-2.3	=	*1.2	**-1.4	**-2.1
South Korea	**-2.0	=	**-2.4	0.2	0.2
Switzerland	**-2.0	=	*-0.8	0.1	**-1.3

Inflation Shock - Total Inflation

Country	$-\varepsilon_{\pi}$	=	$\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_{s}$	+ ϵ_g	$-\varepsilon_r$
1997 Sample (Emerging)					
Brazil	**-0.8	=	**2.4	-0.1	**-3.1
Colombia	**-0.7	=	0.2	**-0.7	-0.2
Czech Republic	**-0.5	=	*0.7	**-1.3	0.1
Hungary	**-1.4	=	0.0	-0.2	**-1.3
India	**-1.4	=	**-1.0	-0.1	*-0.4
Israel	**-0.6	=	**0.8	*-0.4	**-1.0
Mexico	**-1.4	=	*-1.2	0.0	-0.3
Poland	**-1.4	=	**1.0	*-0.3	**-2.1
South Africa	**-0.8	=	0.3	**-0.8	*-0.3
Ukraine	**-1.2	=	**-1.1	0.0	-0.1

Inflation Shock - Averages

Country	ϵ_{r^n}	$-\epsilon_{\pi}$	=	$\epsilon_{_{\mathrm{S}}}$	+ ϵ_g	$-\epsilon_r$
Averages	**-1.0	**-1	=	0.1	**-0.4	**-1.7
1947 (Advanced)	**-0.7	**-1	=	**-1.2	**-0.6	0.1
1960 (Advanced)	**-1.1	**-1	=	*1.0	*-0.5	**-2.6
1973 (Advanced)	**-1.4	**-1	=	-0.4	-0.3	**-1.7
1997 (Emerging)	**-0.7	**-1	=	0.2	**-0.4	**-1.5

Marked-to-Market

Country	$-\varepsilon_{\pi}$	=	$\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_{s}$	+ε _g	-ε _r
Averages	**-1.6	=	0.1	**-0.4	**-1.3
1947 (Advanced)	**-2.2	=	**-1.2	**-0.6	-0.3
1960 (Advanced)	**-1.9	=	*1.0	*-0.5	**-2.3
1973 (Advanced)	**-2.3	=	-0.4	-0.3	**-1.6
1997 (Emerging)	**-1.0	=	0.2	**-0.4	**-0.9

Total Inflation

Inflation Shock - Takeaways

- Discount rates: 80% of inflation variation (average)
- · The rest comes mostly from GDP growth
- Positive contribution of surplus-to-GDP 7/21
- Monetary policy reduces inflation in 20/21

Inflation has fiscal roots, even if fiscal policy is disconnected from the price level.

Discounted Surpluses Shock

- Discount rates drive innovations to inflation
- What drives discounted surpluses?
- Put differently: what drives unexpected returns on the basket of public bonds?

$$e_t = E[e \mid \Delta E_t(\text{Disc Surpl}) = -1]$$

= $E[e \mid \Delta E_t(\epsilon_{s,t} + \epsilon_{g,t} - \epsilon_{r,t}) = -1]$

Discounted Surpluses Shock - Marked-to-Market

Country	ϵ_{r^n}	$\boldsymbol{-\epsilon}_{\pi}$	=	$\epsilon_{_{\mathrm{S}}}$	+ ϵ_g	$-\epsilon_r$
1947 Sample (Advanced)						
United Kingdom	**-0.8	**-0.2	=	**-0.5	-0.1	*-0.4
United States	**-0.7	**-0.3	=	0.0	**0.2	**-1.2
1960 Sample (Advanced)						
Canada	**-0.8	**-0.2	=	*0.2	-0.1	**-1.1
Denmark	**-0.8	**-0.2	=	*0.6	*0.5	**-2.0
Japan	**-0.6	**-0.4	=	0.0	-0.2	**-0.8
Norway	**-0.6	**-0.4	=	*1.0	*1.9	**-3.9
Sweden	**-0.6	**-0.4	=	**0.7	-0.2	**-1.5
1973 Sample (Advanced)						
Australia	**-0.8	**-0.2	=	*0.5	*0.2	**-1.7
New Zealand	**-0.6	**-0.4	=	**0.8	**-0.5	**-1.3
South Korea	**-0.6	**-0.4	=	**-2.4	**1.3	0.2
Switzerland	**-0.8	**-0.2	=	-0.1	*0.2	**-1.1

Discounted Surpluses Shock: $E[e \mid \Delta E_t(\epsilon_{s,t} + \epsilon_{g,t} - \epsilon_{r,t}) = -1]$

Discounted Surpluses Shock - Marked-to-Market

Country	ϵ_{r^n}	$-\epsilon_{\pi}$	=	$\epsilon_{_{\mathrm{S}}}$	+ ϵ_g	$-\epsilon_r$
1997 Sample (Emerging)						
Brazil	**-0.5	**-0.5	=	**1.4	0.1	**-2.6
Colombia	**-0.6	**-0.4	=	0.0	**-0.3	**-0.8
Czech Republic	**-0.4	**-0.6	=	-0.1	-0.3	**-0.6
Hungary	**-0.6	**-0.4	=	*0.4	-0.3	**-1.2
India	**-0.5	**-0.5	=	-0.1	*-0.2	**-0.7
Israel	**-0.7	**-0.3	=	**0.6	-0.1	**-1.5
Mexico	**-0.6	**-0.4	=	**-0.6	0.1	*-0.6
Poland	**-0.7	**-0.3	=	**0.5	-0.1	**-1.4
South Africa	**-0.7	**-0.3	=	*-0.2	0.0	**-0.8
Ukraine	**-0.5	**-0.5	=	**-0.4	*-0.1	**-0.6

Discounted Surpluses Shock: $E[e \mid \Delta E_t(\epsilon_{s,t} + \epsilon_{a,t} - \epsilon_{r,t}) = -1]$

Discounted Surpluses Shock - Total Inflation

Country	$-\varepsilon_{\pi}$	=	ε _s	+ε _g	-ε _r
1947 Sample (Advanced)					
United Kingdom	**-0.9	=	**-0.5	-0.1	*-0.3
United States	**-0.5	=	0.0	**0.2	**-0.7
1960 Sample (Advanced)					
Canada	**-0.5	=	*0.2	-0.1	**-0.6
Denmark	**-0.6	=	*0.6	*0.5	**-1.6
Japan	**-0.7	=	0.0	-0.2	**-0.5
Norway	**-0.9	=	*1.0	*1.9	**-3.8
Sweden	**-0.8	=	**0.7	-0.2	**-1.2
1973 Sample (Advanced)					
Australia	**-0.6	=	*0.5	*0.2	**-1.3
New Zealand	**-0.8	=	**0.8	**-0.5	**-1.2
South Korea	**-1.2	=	**-2.4	**1.3	0.0
Switzerland	**-0.5	=	-0.1	*0.2	**-0.6

Discounted Surpluses Shock: $E[e \mid \Delta E_t(\epsilon_{s,t} + \epsilon_{g,t} - \epsilon_{r,t}) = -1]$

Discounted Surpluses Shock - Total Inflation

Country	$-\varepsilon_{\pi}$	=	$\epsilon_{_{\mathrm{S}}}$	+ε _g	-ε _r
1997 Sample (Emerging)					
Brazil	**-0.3	=	**1.4	0.1	**-1.9
Colombia	**-0.3	=	0.0	**-0.3	-0.1
Czech Republic	**-0.5	=	-0.1	-0.3	-0.2
Hungary	**-0.6	=	*0.4	-0.3	**-0.8
India	**-0.6	=	-0.1	*-0.2	**-0.3
Israel	**-0.2	=	** 0.6	-0.1	**-0.7
Mexico	**-0.6	=	**-0.6	0.1	-0.1
Poland	**-0.5	=	** 0.5	-0.1	**-0.9
South Africa	**-0.3	=	*-0.2	0.0	*-0.1
Ukraine	**-0.6	=	**-0.4	*-0.1	**-0.1

Discounted Surpluses Shock: $E[e \mid \Delta E_t(\epsilon_{s,t} + \epsilon_{g,t} - \epsilon_{r,t}) = -1]$

Discounted Surpluses Shock - Averages

Country	ϵ_{r^n}	$-\epsilon_{\pi}$	=	$\epsilon_{_{\mathrm{S}}}$	+ ϵ_g	$-\epsilon_r$
Averages	**-0.6	**-0.4	=	0.1	0.1	**-1.2
1947 (Advanced)	**-0.8	**-0.2	=	*-0.2	0.1	**-0.8
1960 (Advanced)	**-0.7	**-0.3	=	*0.5	0.4	**-1.9
1973 (Advanced)	**-0.7	**-0.3	=	-0.3	0.3	**-1.0
1997 (Emerging)	**-0.6	**-0.4	=	*0.2	*-0.1	**-1.1

Marked-to-Market

Country	$-\varepsilon_{\pi}$	=	$\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_{s}$	+ ϵ_g	-ε _r
Averages	**-0.6	=	0.1	0.1	**-0.8
1947 (Advanced)	**-0.7	=	*-0.2	0.1	**-0.5
1960 (Advanced)	**-0.7	=	*0.5	0.4	**-1.6
1973 (Advanced)	**-0.8	=	-0.3	0.3	**-0.8
1997 (Emerging)	**-0.4	=	*0.2	*-0.1	**-0.5

Total Inflation

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