

Has financialization changed the impact of macro announcements ?*

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Abstract

We investigate, using high-frequency data, how financialization has affected the impact of macroeconomic announcements on commodity futures returns and volatility. We find that financialization lessens the impact of macro news on commodity markets, as measured by price drift and volatility changes. This result is consistent with prior literature suggesting that financial participants improve liquidity and price discovery, while reducing volatility. Assuming that traditional market participants prefer stability, our results suggest a beneficial impact of financialization. We further show that the effects of greater participation by swap dealers and money managers differ.

Keywords: commodities, energy, futures, spillover, financialization, high-frequency, sustainable, commercial, institutional, volatility, macro, announcements, surprise, events

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1 Introduction

Since the early 2000s, commodities have gained renewed popularity among non-traditional market participants such as hedge funds and index traders. What is often called the *financialization of commodities* represents a set of important market and regulatory changes in how commodities (futures, options, swaps and also physicals) are traded by institutional and other non-traditional investors, mainly for diversification or speculative purposes. Such increases in speculation and long-only index positions in commodity markets have been pointed out as being responsible for, respectively, increases in volatility and correlation between different commodities.¹

The financialization of commodities coincides, however, with a rare commodity bull cycle [Humphreys \(2010\)](#), that some call commodity supercycle. Commodity price supercycles are extended periods of time when commodity prices are significantly above or below their long-term trend. According to the Bank of Canada the last super cycle would have started in 1996 with a peak around 2011. This super cycle is not yet officially over, but the rapid increase in the price of most commodities following the COVID-19 pandemic could potentially bring this cycle to an end. Thus, it is no surprise that traditional market participants have voiced concerns that prices have been distorted away from their fundamental values. For instance, [Masters \(2009\)](#) argued that institutional investors have disrupted commodity markets through the use of investment strategies typically found in financial markets. This *Masters hypothesis* has been, however, challenged by empirical research ([Irwin and Sanders, 2011, 2012b,a](#)). According to [Cheng and Xiong \(2014\)](#), it is through risk sharing and information discovery that financialization affects commodity futures markets. Indeed, financial investors can either provide liquidity to meet the hedging needs of other traders or consume liquidity when they trade for their own needs ([Kang et al., 2020](#)), thereby influencing liquidity risk. As for information discovery, commodity markets are affected by informational frictions in the global supply, demand and inventories of commodities. Indeed, international futures markets inform the more decentralized spot or cash markets. As a result, financialization could alter how commodity markets incorporate new information.

¹Helpful surveys of this large literature include [Boyd et al. \(2018\)](#) and [Cheng and Xiong \(2014\)](#).

The information that investors possess is relatively difficult to quantify. The use of macroeconomic announcements as information is widely used in the literature. The advantage of the information provided by macro announcements is that we can know the exact time when investors will have access to this information.

Statistical agencies collect, aggregate and release information about various aspects of the macro economy, providing a seemingly invaluable service to investors. As a result, there is substantial media coverage when this information is released.

Keeping in mind these information discovery channels for macroeconomic announcements, we investigate the impact of financialization on commodity markets through the lens of macroeconomic announcement releases and high-frequency data. We assess the extent to which financialization affects how commodity futures prices and volatility react to macroeconomic announcements. This issue concerns the resolution of uncertainty, market efficiency, and how news is anticipated. Our paper builds on the financial literature on information transmission in markets. [Goldstein and Yang \(2019\)](#) show how financial participants in commodity markets affect futures price informativeness, bias, and comovement. Their model predicts that financialization initially improves, but eventually worsens, price efficiency measured through volatility. This paper also relates to the evidence presented in [Brunetti et al. \(2016\)](#) pertaining to the positions held by certain types of speculators. They show that hedge funds benefit commodity markets by providing additional liquidity, resulting in a more efficient price. In contrast, merchant positions are positively correlated with volatility in the crude oil and natural gas market.

The literature is mixed on the potential increase in volatility in the commodity market caused by financialization. [Singleton \(2014\)](#) concludes that information friction and prices moving away from economic fundamentals lead to a large increase in volatility. Using a Granger causality test and forecasting on the error of variance, [Yang et al. \(2005\)](#) shows that an increase in commodity future trading volume leads to an increase in the volatility of commodity spot prices. [Bryant et al. \(2006\)](#) reject the hypothesis that speculation and uninformed traders affect the level of volatility. They further show that the two theories that would predict this hypothesis (namely

hedging pressure and normal backwardation) are empirically rejected and have no explanatory power. Finally, using a conditional variance measure as well as daily returns on raw material futures, [Bohl and Stephan \(2013\)](#) show that financialization implies no change in variance.

Our contribution lies at the intersection of the macro announcements and financialization literatures. To study the impact of announcements, the methodology has moved from daily to high-frequency data, looking at bonds ([Andersen et al., 2007](#); [Hu et al., 2013](#); [Balduzzi et al., 2001](#); [Lee et al., 1995](#); [Hautsch et al., 2011](#); [Kurov et al., 2019](#)), stocks ([Andersen et al., 2007](#); [Bernile et al., 2016](#); [Kurov et al., 2019](#)) and foreign exchange rates ([Lee et al., 1995](#); [Andersen et al., 2003](#)). But the use of high frequency data is not widespread in commodity futures. We argue that this literature's use of a lower sampling frequency for futures price returns could explain why no clear answer has emerged on volatility ([Tang and Xiong, 2012](#); [Brunetti et al., 2016](#); [Irwin and Sanders, 2012b](#); [Stoll and Whaley, 2010](#); [Alquist and Gervais, 2013](#)). Since most of these studies use daily or monthly data, the resulting sample size is fairly small, which reduces the power of statistical tests ([Irwin et al., 2009](#)).

To better measure the impact of financialization, we use the setting of high-frequency macro announcement releases, allowing us to look at information diffusion. By using high-frequency data, we can measure separately permanent and transitory, news-related shocks on volatility. Using high-frequency data further allows us to bypass a traditional criticism of event-study methods, namely that at a daily frequency the effect of an announcement could easily be attributable to another market event ([Kothari and Warner, 2007](#)). We focus on the US market due to the greater availability of high-frequency data on commodity futures as well as the wealth of distinct macro announcements.

Our first contribution is to consider richer measures of financialization than previously used. Previous research typically splits the sample into pre- and post-financialization periods, generally using 2004 as the break point.² Most previous studies have assumed that financialization started in the early 2000s and that separating the sample into two groups (pre- and post-financialization)

²Although the Commodity Futures Trading Commission passed the Commodity Futures Modernization Act in 2000, the literature generally agrees that 2004 marks the beginning of financialization.

is sufficient to capture the impact of this phenomenon ([Büyükaşahin and Robe, 2010](#); [Kilian and Murphy, 2014](#); [Brunetti et al., 2016](#); [Irwin and Sanders, 2012a](#); [Stoll and Whaley, 2010](#); [Alquist and Gervais, 2013](#)). While it is well established that the period of financialization seems to have started in the early-to-mid 2000s, the use of this method seems to neglect the time-varying speculation level in the post-financialization period. Moreover, we further describe these measures by separately quantifying the level of speculation of fund managers and swap dealers.

Our findings are as follows: First, we show that financialization contributes to information diffusion and price discovery. The impact of macro announcements is typically dampened when a given commodity is more affected by financialization. We interpret this result as commodity markets being better informed—and macro news generating less of a shock—when commodities are financialized. This outcome should be beneficial to traditional commodity market participants. These beneficial effects of financialization appear to be stronger for pro-cyclical commodities such as crude oil or natural gas. In contrast, the evidence is weaker in the case of gold, a safe haven asset.

Second, we provide a richer analysis by looking at money managers and swap dealers separately. We find that money managers contribute more to price discovery when there is a macro announcement, while helping to reduce volatility. This result is consistent with the idea that money managers are more informed investors, given their function in the markets. Swap dealers also contribute to price discovery but cause an increase in volatility following macro announcements. When we consider all categories of traders, greater levels of financialization seem to reduce volatility in commodity markets.

Regarding policy implications, our results reject the [Masters \(2009\)](#) hypothesis, according to which financialization increases commodity price instability and systemic risk. Thus, what we find is consistent with a considerable share of the literature. However, when we separate financial traders into two categories, our results allow us to reject the [Masters \(2009\)](#) hypothesis only for money managers. The evidence points a different way for swap dealers, suggesting they may contribute to commodity price instability. Lastly, the robustness tests we perform show that

our main findings are robust to the use of alternative volatility measures and to differences in econometric specification.

2 Literature Review

2.1 Financialization of Commodities

The literature has not reached a consensus on whether financialization has had a clear impact on commodity futures prices and volatility. [Basak and Pavlova \(2016\)](#) develop a theoretical model that yields four main findings suggesting a meaningful impact. (i) The prices of all commodity futures increase with financialization and this increase is more significant for futures belonging to the index than for non-indexed futures. (ii) The volatility of both index and non-index futures return increases with financialization. (iii) Correlations between commodity futures returns, as well as equity-commodity correlations, increase with financialization. (iv) Only prices of storable commodities are affected by financialization. Moreover, inventories and prices of storable commodities are higher in the presence of institutional investors than in the benchmark economy, and more so for commodities included in the index.

Empirical evidence is mixed, overall. [Tang and Xiong \(2012\)](#) show that prices of crude oil prices and other, non-energy commodities have become more correlated as a result of the influence of index funds and the rapid growth of index investments in commodity markets. They argue that when a commodity is included in a benchmark index, its price is no longer determined solely by supply and demand. Rather, it is also determined by other commodities and assets included in the index. Moreover, [Singleton \(2014\)](#) shows that speculative activity by financial investors creates significant informational frictions such that commodity prices can quickly move away from the value that is justified by fundamentals.

However, [Stoll and Whaley \(2010\)](#) show that inflows and outflows from commodity index investments do not cause significant changes in price and volatility in the Granger sense. Using an arbitrage argument, [Hamilton and Wu \(2014\)](#) show that the positions of commodity traders

included in index funds cannot be used in order to achieve excess returns in futures markets. In addition, [Kilian and Murphy \(2014\)](#) show that several speculative trades can occur in the oil market without observing a significant change in inventory levels, ruling out speculation as being responsible for the boom and bust in the oil market between 2003 and 2008. [Brunetti and Reiffen \(2014\)](#) use an equilibrium model and data on trader positions in commodity futures markets to show that index traders provide insurance against price risk. Closer to this paper, [Brunetti et al. \(2016\)](#) analyze the impact of certain types of speculators in commodity markets from 2005 to 2009. They find that hedge funds allow for faster and more efficient price discovery, resulting in a lower volatility. Furthermore, they find that the positions of swap dealers are not correlated with contemporaneous returns and volatility in the commodity markets. Table 1 presents a summary of the literature on the influence of financialization and speculation on the volatility of commodity futures returns.

2.2 Macroeconomic Announcements

Other research has examined whether economic conditions can explain some of the more heterogeneous responses across business cycles ([Boyd et al., 2005](#); [Andersen et al., 2003](#)). [Boyd et al. \(2005\)](#) shows that the impact of announcements related to unemployment has a different impact depending on the economic situation. [Andersen et al. \(2003\)](#) also find that the stock market reacts to news differently depending on the stage of the business cycle.

Exploiting the fact that high-frequency traders receive the Michigan Consumer Sentiment Index 2 seconds before its official announcement, [Hu et al. \(2017\)](#) show that there is evidence of highly concentrated trading and rapid price discovery occurring within 200 milliseconds. Outside this narrow window, typical investors trade at fully adjusted prices.

[Balduzzi et al. \(2001\)](#) use intraday data from the interdealer government bond market to investigate the effects of scheduled macroeconomic announcements on prices, trading volume, and bid-ask spreads. They find that 17 public news releases, as measured by the surprise in the announced quantity, have a significant impact on the price of at least one of the following

instruments: a three-month bill, a two-year note, a 10-year note, and a 30-year bond. In addition, they argue that these effects vary significantly according to maturity. The authors also show that following a macroeconomic announcement, volatility and trade volume increase persistently and significantly.

A large literature documents the impact of macroeconomic announcements on stocks ([Boyd et al., 2005](#); [Andersen et al., 2003](#); [Hu et al., 2017](#); [Scholtus et al., 2014](#)) and bonds ([Fleming and Remolona, 1997, 1999](#); [Balduzzi et al., 2001](#)). In contrast, the commodity literature so far has mostly focused on energy commodities and in particular on OPEC meeting announcements. [Horan et al. \(2004\)](#) find that volatility drifts upward as OPEC meetings draw nearer. It decreases after the first day of the meetings and continues to fall in a 5-day window. [Wirl and Kujundzic \(2004\)](#) assess the influence of OPEC on world oil markets by looking at fifty OPEC meetings from 1984 to 2001. They find that markets does not seem to reflect much about these meetings. [Kilian and Vega \(2011\)](#) run daily frequency regressions of WTI crude oil and U.S. gasoline prices on 30 U.S. macroeconomic announcements from 1983 to 2008. They find no evidence of statistically significant responses for either oil or gasoline. [Gu and Kurov \(2018\)](#) provide an explanation for the pre-announcement price drift in the natural gas market. They show that inventory surprises can be predicted using the difference between the forecast of the historically highly-accurate median analyst and the consensus forecast.

In an early study of announcement releases and commodities, [Frankel and Hardouvelis \(1985\)](#) find, using daily data, that a 1 percentage point positive shock in the money supply leads to a 0.7 percent decline in gold prices. [Christie-David et al. \(2000\)](#) analyzes the sensitivity of gold and silver futures prices over 15-minute intervals to 23 U.S. macroeconomic news announcements from 1992 to 1995. He finds that gold and silver price volatility is higher during days in which there are announcements. [Cai et al. \(2001\)](#) capture intraday patterns of 5-minute gold price variation using GARCH models around macro announcements. They intraday price effects of announcements to be fewer and less significant for gold than for bonds or currencies. Likewise, [Hess et al. \(2008\)](#) find that CRB and Goldman Sachs commodity indexes are less sensitive to

the impact of 17 U.S. macro announcements than are bonds or stocks. [Hollstein et al. \(2020\)](#) look at how different economic variables affect the term structure of commodity futures volatility. They show that speculation and jobs-related macro variables have the largest impact on volatility. Lastly, [Ye et al. \(2021\)](#) quantify the impact of expectations about future economic conditions on commodity futures markets. They find that volatility in commodity futures seems to be more impacted by macroeconomic forecasts than by current economic conditions.

3 Data and Variable Definitions

3.1 Macroeconomic Announcements

We collect information on 22 important announcements that are standard to the literature (see e.g. [Kurov et al., 2019](#)). The announcements can be broken down into 10 categories: Income, Employment, Industrial Activity, Investment, Consumption, Housing Sector, Government, Net Exports, Inflation and Forward-looking. The majority of the announcements are released on a monthly basis. However, there are some exceptions, for which the frequency of release is quarterly or weekly.

We provide a summary of announcements in table 2. Details include number of observations, frequency, source, unit of measure, and time of release. Bloomberg provides analyst forecasts for all macroeconomic announcements, as well as the actual value of the announcement release (see e.g., [Kurov et al., 2019](#)).

Following the literature on macro announcements, we do not directly use the value of the announcement release, but rather the resulting *surprise*. To calculate announcement surprises, we use the method proposed by [Balduzzi et al. \(2001\)](#) as a starting point. The A_{kt} variable represents the realized value (i.e., release) for macroeconomic announcement k at time t , while E_{kt} represents the median value of all analyst forecasts for the macroeconomic announcement k at time t . In addition, σ_k denotes the sample standard deviation of the surprise (in absolute value) for macroeconomic announcement k . The full sample period is used to compute σ_k , as

customary in prior research. Equation (1) describes the surprise at time t for a macroeconomic announcement k :

$$S_{kt} = \frac{A_{kt} - E_{kt}}{\sigma_k} \quad (1)$$

Our sample starts for macroeconomic announcements from the beginning of 2007 until the end of 2020. The data for all the announcements we analyze can be obtained with the governmental organizations responsible for the publication of these announcements. The data publishing organizations are the the Bureau of Economic Analysis³, the Department of Labor⁴, the US Census Bureau⁵ and the Federal Reserve⁶. For forecasts or expectations of the value of a macro announcement, we use those of Bloomberg analysts.

Table 3 presents the minimum, 1st quartile, median, mean, 3rd quartile and maximum of the surprise for each announcement.

3.2 Commodity Futures Price Data

Our dataset contains most of the important commodity futures contracts traded in the U.S. The high frequency price series used starts in 2005 until the end of 2020. Typically, crude oil and natural gas (i.e., energy) have a pro-cyclical behavior. On the other hand, gold and silver (i.e., precious metals) behave as a safe haven while copper and palladium (industrial metals) behave ambiguously as they are used in the manufacturing of consumer products.

For each of the commodities studied, price returns R_t are calculated as the log return over a period of 5 minutes ($\tau = 5$) beginning at time t . We use intraday data. For each 5-minute interval, the database provides the futures contract price at the opening (p_t^{Open}) and at the close ($p_{t+\tau}^{Close}$). One of our robustness checks aims to confirm that the main findings are robust to using different window lengths. To this end, we consider estimating equation 2 using 30-minute

³<https://www.bea.gov>

⁴<https://www.dol.gov>

⁵<https://www.census.gov>

⁶<https://www.federalreserve.gov>

returns. Thus, R_t is obtained as in equation (2):

$$R_t^{t+\tau} = \ln \left(\frac{p_{t+\tau}^{Close}}{p_t^{Open}} \right) = \ln(p_{t+\tau}^{Close}) - \ln(p_t^{Open}) \quad (2)$$

Descriptive statistics for the 5-minute log returns are presented in table 5. Crude oil displays outliers with the most extreme vlues and gold the least. Natural gas, however, is more volatile.

3.3 Measures of commodity financialization

To measure the impact of commodity financialization, we need a measure that captures the intensity of speculation in commodity markets. We argue that financialization is greater when speculative activities increase relative to production activity. The indexes we use are constructed using data in the *Commitment of Traders (COT) Report* published weekly by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC). The data provided by the CFTC relates to the number of positions held by different types of participants in commodity markets. The CFTC separates trader types as follows:⁷

1. **Commercial:** All trader reported futures positions for a given commodity are classified as commercial if the trader claims to use futures contracts in that commodity for purposes of hedging;
2. **Non-Commercial:** This value is obtained by subtracting total long and short Commercial Positions from total open interest.

The following elements are presented in the CoT report and are used to compute financialization measures:

⁷The CFTC defines commercial traders as participants in commodity markets who primarily use futures contracts to hedge their business activities (e.g., buying or selling commodities). All traders who are not classified as Commercial are automatically be classified as Non-Commercial traders. To obtain the number of long positions held by Non-Commercial traders, we subtract the total long Commercial Positions from the total open interest. For the number of short positions held by Non-Commercial traders, we subtract the total short Commercial Positions from the total open interest.

- SS_i is the number of short positions in commodity i futures held by Non-Commercial traders,
- SL_i is the number of long positions in commodity i futures held by Non-Commercial traders,
- HS_i is the number of short positions in commodity i futures held by Commercial traders,
- HL_i is the number of long positions in commodity i futures held by Commercial traders.

3.3.1 Working-T

We use a proxy developed by [Working \(1960\)](#), to compare levels of speculative and hedging activity. This index compares Non-Commercial commodity futures traders (e.g., speculators) activity to that of Commercial traders (e.g., hedgers). Typically, Commercial traders take short positions in futures contracts while Non-Commercial traders take long positions (see [Shanker \(2017\)](#), for an updated definition of Working's T). Working's proxy measures the extent to which speculation exceeds the level required to offset any unbalanced hedging at the market clearing price. The Working's T index, WT_i , is computed as in equation (3): can be constructed using

$$WT_i = \begin{cases} 1 + \frac{SS_i}{HL_i + HS_i} & \text{if } HS_i \geq HL_i \\ 1 + \frac{SL_i}{HL_i + HS_i} & \text{if } HS_i < HL_i \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

3.3.2 Market Share of Non-Commercials (MSCT)

[Büyükhahin and Robe \(2014\)](#) propose a measure of commodity financialization emphasizing the market share of Non-Commercial traders (MSCT). This is a ratio, expressed as the sum of the short and long positions of Non-Commercial traders over twice the total open interest in that market:

$$MSCT_i = \frac{SL_i + SS_i}{2 \times OI_i} \quad (4)$$

3.3.3 Net Long Short (NLS)

Hedegaard (2011) suggests an index of speculative activity defined as the ratio of net long speculative positions over total open interest (NLS_i)

$$NLS_i = \frac{SL_i - SS_i}{OI_i} \quad (5)$$

3.4 Modeling the impact on returns

Our regression models are based on Kurov *et al.* (2019) and Andersen *et al.* (2007). To be consistent with the existing literature, we perform the two procedures for the regression model presented in the equation (6):

$$R_t^{t+\tau} = \alpha + \sum_{m=1}^{22} \gamma_m S_{m,t} + \delta X_{t,i} + \sum_{m=1}^{22} \theta(S_{m,t} \times X_t) + \beta R_{t,-\tau}^t + \epsilon_t \quad (6)$$

In equation (6), $R_t^{t+\tau}$ denotes the continuously compounded asset return between time t and $t+\tau$, S_{mt} denotes the surprise for the macroeconomic announcement m , which was published at time t . $X_{t,i}$ is the measure of commodity financialization i , which is valid at time t . $X_{i=1}$, The three possible values for the exogenous variable are: $X_{t,1}$, $X_{t,2}$ and $X_{t,3}$ represent the financialization variables $MSCT_i$, NLS_i and WT_i .

We estimate the model using the two-step weighted least squares procedure. In the case of Andersen *et al.* (2007), we estimate equation (6) by OLS. Then, we regress the residuals of the last model, in absolute value, on the macro variables as well as on 23 time-specific dichotomous variables to adjust for the time of day. This auxiliary regression is represented by the equation (7).

$$|\epsilon_t| = \rho + \sum_{m=1}^{22} \zeta_m S_{m,t} + \sum_{h=1}^{23} \delta_h D^h \quad (7)$$

After estimating the model, we use the fitted value of the residuals to obtain the WLS regression

weight:

$$w_t = 1 / |\hat{\epsilon}_t|^2$$

To finish, we multiply each dependent and independent variable of our original model by w_t , to finally estimate the model again by OLS.

Next, we estimate eq.(6) using the [Kurov et al. \(2019\)](#) approach. Heteroskedasticity is accounted for by constructing an estimate for volatility by means of an exponential moving average, using the regression residuals obtained in the first step. This auxiliary regression is represented by equation (8) in which the smoothing parameter is $\alpha = 0.9$ and the starting parameter is set as $\sigma_1 = \epsilon_t$:

$$\sigma_t = \alpha\sigma_{t-1} + (1 - \alpha) |\epsilon_t| \quad (8)$$

After obtaining σ_t for each observation, we transform it to obtain the WLS regression weight:

$$w_t = 1 / |\hat{\sigma}_t|^2$$

As with the previous equation, we complete this step by multiplying each variable by w_t and we run an OLS regression to estimate the model.

The impact of macro announcements on commodity futures returns can be assessed by looking at the significance of the coefficient γ_m in the mean equation. As for the impact of financialization on commodity futures returns, we test the significance of the coefficient δ . Finally, the significance of the coefficient θ_m is tested to quantify the simultaneous impact of financialization and the surprise following a macro announcement on commodity futures returns.

3.5 Modeling the impact on volatility

Using a GARCH specification is justified by the time-varying and clustered volatility of commodity price returns (e.g. (Hammoudeh and Yuan, 2008)). The ARCH(1) specification is used to quantify the impact of macro announcements and financialization on conditional variance. Estimating the ARCH model is done in two steps. First, we estimate the mean eq. (9):

$$R_t^{t+\tau} = \alpha + \sum_{m=1}^{22} \gamma_m S_{m,t} + \beta R_{t,-\tau}^t + \epsilon_t \quad (9)$$

$$h_t = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 h_{t-1} + \sum_{m=1}^m \Phi_m D_{m,t} + \beta X_{i,t} + \sum_{k=1}^n \phi_k I_{kt} \quad (10)$$

where $I_{kt} = D_{m,t} \times X_{i,t}$ and $D_{m,t}$ is a dummy variable for the macro announcement m . It equals 1 if an announcement took place at time t and 0 otherwise. $X_{i,t}$ is the financialization variable i as of time t . The impact of the macro announcement m on commodity futures volatility is tested by means of the significance of Φ_m in the variance eq.(10). To assess the impact of the financialization variable $X_{m,i,t}$ on commodity futures volatility, we look at the significance of the coefficient β . Finally, we look at the significance of the coefficient ϕ_k to assess the simultaneous impact on commodity futures volatility of financialization and the surprise contained in macro announcement m .

Among the announcements that are analyzed, only a positive surprise in Initial Jobless Claims indicates a deterioration in economic conditions. In the case of the energy sector, we expect the surprise coefficient to be positive if the surprise for the Initial Jobless Claims announcement is negative. For the other announcements, the coefficient is expected to be positive when the surprise is positive. For precious metals, the coefficient attached to the surprise is expected to be positive if the surprise for the **Initial Jobless Claims** announcement is positive. For the other announcements, the coefficient is expected to be positive when the surprise is negative.

3.6 Types of non-commercial traders

To better categorize financialization and its effects, we reproduce the procedure in (3.4) and (3.5) using only the NLS index for two separate groups of Non-Commercial investors: swap dealer and money managers. A swap dealer is an entity that deals primarily in swaps for a commodity and uses the futures markets to manage or hedge the risk associated with those swaps transactions. The swap dealer's counterparties may be speculative traders, like hedge funds, or traditional commercial clients that are managing risk arising from their dealings in the physical commodity. A money manager is a registered commodity trading advisor (CTA), a registered commodity pool operator (CPO), or an unregistered fund identified by the CFTC. These traders are engaged in managing and conducting organized futures trading on behalf of clients. For both categories (swap dealers and managed money), the CFTC reports the number of long and short positions. We construct, for each category, the NLS index proposed by Hedegaard (2011). This measurement allows us to quantify the extent of speculation for Money Managers and Swap Traders, respectively. For Swap Traders, we represent the index by NLS_{SWAP} while for Money Managers, we represent the index by NLS_{MM} .

4 Empirical results

4.1 Effect on returns

First, we present results for regressions that explain returns following a macroeconomic announcement. Results for different commodities are presented in tables 7. In this table, we present only the results with the NLS financialization variable, as our results are robust to all three financialization measures.

We focus first on the γ_m coefficient which measures the impact of a surprise on the commodity futures returns following a macro announcement. The coefficient attached to the surprise for the Initial Jobless Claims announcement is negative for crude oil and positive in the case of gold. This

result is consistent with oil being procyclical, while gold is typically seen as a safe haven asset. In addition, this result is significant for the coefficients obtained using the method of [Kurov et al. \(2019\)](#) and [Andersen et al. \(2007\)](#). For the surprises linked to the CB Consumer, Advance Retail Sales, ADP Employment and Pending Home Sales announcements, we obtain coefficients that are significant and positive for crude oil and significant and negative for gold. For the other commodities, we show that copper returns behave like crude oil returns, as high-grade copper is an industrial metal and a pro-cyclical commodity. The coefficient attached to a surprise of the Initial jobless claims announcement is negative but positive for other macroeconomic announcements.

The θ_m coefficient assesses the impact of financialization on commodity returns following an announcement release. For crude oil and gold, the coefficient θ_m is systematically of opposite sign to the sign of the coefficient γ_m . Thus, an increase in speculation reduces the extent of the drift during a macro announcement. More specifically, using MSCT as proxy, the effect of financialization is significant for all commodities when we combine it with surprises for the following macroeconomic announcements: ADP Employment, Durable goods orders, and Non-farm employments. Using instead NLS as proxy for financialization, we find a significant effect for announcement surprises in Initial jobless claims, ADP Employment, Advance retail sales, New home sales, and Personal income. Finally, using Working's T as proxy, the effect of financialization is significant for Initial jobless claims, ADP Employment, CB Consumer, Durable goods orders, New home sales and Non-farm employment. Thus, announcements related to employment and household income seem to have an impact on commodity returns when we include a financialization variable in the regression model. Our results are consistent with [Hördahl et al. \(2015\)](#) where macroeconomic announcements included in the Employment Report are the most important and the most likely to influence the returns and volatility of financial assets.

4.2 Effect on volatility

Table 8 shows the results of (10) estimated for different commodities. Coefficient Φ_m linked to announcements is positive and significant. Macro announcements typically increase futures volatility. However, the ϕ_k coefficient is always negative when it is significant. This supports Brunetti *et al.* (2016), who argue that speculation reduces volatility rather than increasing it. Looking at conditional variance, when we combine the macro announcements Non-farm employment or Pending home sales with the MSCT financialization index, we obtain a consistent result for all commodities in our sample. When we use NLS as an index of financialization, we obtain significant and consistent results for all commodities as well for the surprise coefficient for Advance retail sales, Construction spending, Factory orders and Non-farm employment. If we use the Working-T financialization index, we find significant results for all commodities for macro announcements in Factory orders, Initial jobless claims and New home sales. Consistent with the results obtained by Hördahl *et al.* (2015), the only macroeconomic announcement with a negative and significant coefficient for all commodities is Non-farm employment. More specifically, information discovery following a surprise in the Employment Report seems to be more efficient when the market is more financialized and this for all the commodity futures contracts studied. However, the results showing that the financialization favors a reduction in variance, are less generalizable to all the commodities studied.

4.3 Types of non-commercial traders

In this section, we present the results of our analysis when we separate financial investors into two categories when creating the NLS financialization variable. The results concerning the estimation of the mean equation (6) are presented in the table 9 for money managers and the table 10 for swap dealers. Subsequently, for the results concerning the variance equation (10), table 11 presents the results for money managers and table 12 for swap dealers. The regressions presented in this section include a recession indicator variable following the NBER's Business Cycle Dating Committee. This variable is not significant for the returns regressions, but it is

positive and significant for the volatility regressions. This result is robust to using instead the Aruoba-Diebold-Scotti (ADS) Business Conditions Index, published by the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia. The ADS variable is not significant for returns, but is negative and significant for volatility (as a higher value of ADS indicates a better economic state).

These additional results confirm our baseline findings obtained with the initial methodology. Moreover, by dividing financial traders into two groups, Money Managers and Swap Dealers, we provide additional support for the results in [Brunetti et al. \(2016\)](#). Indeed, it seems that the phenomenon whereby financial traders reduce volatility by limiting hedging pressure is solely attributable to Money Managers. In contrast, our results suggest that swap dealers seem to worsen hedging pressure, which usually results in higher volatility.

In Table 9, we can see that for crude oil the γ_m coefficient is positive when significant while the θ_m coefficient is negative when significant. These results further confirm the procyclical nature of crude oil, given a positive γ_m coefficient for all announcements except Initial Jobless Claims. Since the γ_m coefficient has the opposite sign of the θ_m coefficient, money managers contribute to lowering hedging pressure. For swap dealers, we can see in the table 10 that the γ_m and θ_m coefficients have the identical sign. Unlike money managers, it appears that swap dealers worsen hedging pressure and may not contribute as much to improving liquidity in crude oil futures. Concerning the volatility equation, we can see in the table 11 that the coefficient ϕ_m is negative when significant, while in table 12 the coefficient ϕ_m is positive when significant. Thus, trading by money managers appears to lower hedging pressure and volatility, while swap dealer trading seems to worsen hedging pressure and increase volatility.

The robust results we have presented for crude oil are also valid for all other commodities in our sample except gold. The main explanation for the different behavior of gold is its safe haven attribute. Gold has attributes of a currency, commodity, and safe asset for risk aversion ([Wu et al., 2019](#)). Prior research has focused more on the last attribute, as gold acts as safe haven in periods of economic uncertainty and market turmoil. In particular, [Baur and Lucey \(2010\)](#) describes the empirical observations that should be obtained for an asset class to be considered

as a safe haven. For instance, asset returns should be uncorrelated or negatively correlated with other asset returns, and this property should be valid only in times of market stress or turmoil.

Financial traders will be especially interested in going long in a gold futures contract in times of uncertainty or crisis. Given the large proportion of gold futures positions held at all times by financial traders, the following two outcomes could occur:

- When non-financial traders are mostly long in gold futures, financial traders will worsen hedging pressure and thus cause increased volatility;
- When non-financial traders are mostly in short positions in gold futures, they will be in the opposed position to financial traders, which should result in a decrease in hedging pressure and a decrease in volatility.

4.4 Discussion of the results

Our results are consistent with the model presented in [Goldstein and Yang \(2019\)](#), and provide a more detailed explanation for their theoretical predictions.⁸ Their model involves asymmetric information whereby financial traders, commodity producers, and noise traders trade futures contracts. Their results show, first, that financial traders bring in new information when they enter commodity futures markets. They also show that the presence of financial traders can improve price accuracy measured in terms of precision, i.e., as a function of price variance (precision is represented simply as the inverse of variance). The lower the variance, the higher the precision.⁹ However, in some circumstances, they can make the situation worse. They conclude that financial traders also introduce noise with the new information. The improvement in price accuracy due to the new information brought by financial traders will dominate the loss of accuracy caused by

⁸[Goldstein and Yang \(2019\)](#) use as a starting point the theories proposed by Grossman and Stiglitz (1980), Kyle (1985), Glosten and Milgrom (1985), to model better understand how information can be incorporated into the price of financial assets.

⁹To compare our results with their predictions, note that price precision can be expressed as a function of price variance. The more the values of the price of an asset are scattered around the average (high variance), the less precise they are (low precision). The lower the variance, the higher the precision. The precision represented by τ is simply the inverse of the variance: $\tau = \frac{1}{\sigma^2}$.

noise when the proportion of financial traders remains relatively small compared to commercial traders. Thus, an increase in the proportion of financial traders up to a threshold point (around 20%) will increase the accuracy of commodity futures prices equivalent to a reduction in volatility. When the proportion of financial traders passes the threshold, the noise introduced by financial traders becomes more important and dominant than the new information brought in. In their model, financial traders are all the same and the loss of accuracy past the threshold is caused by too large a proportion of financial trader positions compared to commercial trader positions.

However, our results provide further depth to understand their model by considering the different types of traders included in the broader financial trader category, as they do not have the same level of risk aversion, the same objectives or the same regulatory restrictions. Our results suggest that if financial traders were composed solely of money managers, an increase in the proportion of financial traders past the threshold point would continue to improve price accuracy and thereby reduce volatility. On the other hand, if financial traders were composed only of swap dealers, we would have a less accurate and more volatile price, whether the level of financial traders passed the threshold point or not. Overall, our results suggest that the loss of accuracy or the increase in volatility is not necessarily due to an excessively high concentration of financial traders, but rather to the type of traders included in the financial trader category.

As with [Brunetti and Buyuksahin \(2009\)](#), this first result relies on a proxy for financialization that includes all financial investors. It is still possible for a specific class of trader to implement trading strategies that move prices and increase volatility. Knowing this, our results imply that financialization as a whole reduces volatility when there is a macro announcement. We interpret this result as indicating that commodity markets are better informed—and macro news create less of a shock—when they are financialized, which should be beneficial for traditional commodity market participants. Subsequently, we examine the impact of different types of traders by breaking down the data. We find that money managers seem to contribute to price discovery when there is a macro announcement, while helping to reduce volatility. This result is consistent with the fact that money managers are more informed investors given their function in the markets. On

the other hand, swap dealers also contribute to price discovery while causing an increase in volatility following macroeconomic announcements. Our second result is consistent with [Cheng *et al.* \(2012\)](#), who show that fund managers are clearly more sensitive to market information and fill hedgers' liquidity needs by taking the opposite position. This result is also consistent with [Goldstein *et al.* \(2014\)](#) who show that financial speculators improve price informativeness, while hedgers decrease it. Finally, all the results obtained are robust to the use of a non-parametric variance estimator.

5 Conclusion

This paper investigates whether financialization has amplified the impact of macro announcements on prices or volatility in commodity markets. Our results suggest that financialization is beneficial to commodity markets, by reducing volatility and improving price discovery. Financialization does not appear to amplify macro announcement releases effects. In fact, volatility fluctuations are mitigated after macro releases when there is greater financialization. Our results are consistent with literature suggesting that non-traditional investors such as hedge funds are beneficial to commodity markets by supplying liquidity, reducing volatility, and improving market efficiency. Our results are robust to the use of a non-parametric variance estimator and to alternative empirical specification. This paper, and the recent body of research showing a decrease in volatility related to financialization, suggest that financialized commodity markets may contribute to sustainability in energy, alongside other instruments such as green bonds and portfolio screens for sustainable investments.

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6 Tables

7 Tables

Table 1: Influence of financialization and speculation on volatility

References	Proxy used for financialization or speculation	Impact on volatility
Chang <i>et al.</i> (1997)	CFTC's definition of speculators	Positive
Daigler and Wiley (1999)	CFTC's definition of speculators	
Irwin and Holt (2004)	Set speculators	
Tang and Xiong (2012)	Commodity index trader (CIT) positions	
Irwin and Brorsen (1987)	Amount of money invested in traded futures funds	Neutral
Irwin and Yoshimaru (1999)	Trading volume of large-commodity pool operators	
Bryant <i>et al.</i> (2006)	CFTC's definition of speculators	
Haigh <i>et al.</i> (2007)	Number and positions of commodity pool operators and hedge funds	
Brunetti <i>et al.</i> (2016)	The net positions of hedge funds and floor brokers	Negative
Aulerich <i>et al.</i> (2012)	Commodity index trader (CIT) positions	

Table 2: Summary of Macroeconomics announcements used

Announcement	Frequency	Source*	Unit	Time
GDP advance	Quarterly	BEA	%	8:30
GDP preliminary	Quarterly	BEA	%	8:30
GDP final	Quarterly	BEA	%	8:30
Personal income	Monthly	BEA	%	8:30
ADP employment	Monthly	ADP	Number of jobs	8:15
Initial jobless claims	Weekly	ETA	Number of claims	8:30
Non-farm employment	Monthly	BLS	Number of jobs	8:30
Factory orders	Monthly	BC	%	10:00
Industrial production	Monthly	FRB	%	9:15
Construction spending	Monthly	BC	%	10:00
Durable goods orders	Monthly	BC	%	8:30
Advance retail sales	Monthly	BC	%	8:30
Consumer credit	Monthly	FRB	USD	15:00
Personal consumption	Monthly	BEA	%	8:30
Building permits	Monthly	BC	Number of permits	8:30
Existing home sales	Monthly	NAR	Number of homes	10:00
Housing starts	Monthly	BC	Number of homes	8:30
New home sales	Monthly	BC	Number of homes	10:00
Pending home sales	Monthly	NAR	%	10:00
Trade balance	Monthly	BEA	USD	8:30
Consumer price index	Monthly	BLS	%	8:30
Producer price index	Monthly	BLS	%	8:30
CB Consumer confidence index	Monthly	CB	Index	10:00
UM Consumer sentiment	Monthly	TR/UM	Index	9:55

Shows the category, frequency, source, unit of measure, and release time for each macroeconomic announcements.

*(Automatic Data Processing, Inc. (ADP), Bureau of the Census (BC), Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), Conference Board (CB), Employment and Training Administration (ETA), Federal Reserve Board (FRB), Institute for Supply Management (ISM), National Association of Realtors (NAR), Thomson Reuters/University of Michigan (TR/UM), and U.S. Department of the Treasury (USDt).)

Table 3: Descriptive Statistics : Standardized Surprises for each of the Macroeconomic Announcements.

Announcements	Nb. Observation	Min.	1st Qu.	Median	Mean	3rd Qu.	Max.
Initial jobless claims	672	-3.117	-0.059	0.000	0.076	0.066	20.746
ADP Employment	154	-2.549	-0.040	0.005	0.054	0.070	11.931
CB Consumer	155	-2.590	-0.638	-0.018	0.053	0.821	2.371
Advance retail sales	154	-4.458	-0.304	-0.051	-0.025	0.203	9.828
Building permit	155	-2.065	-0.589	0.000	0.117	0.743	3.496
Construction spending	155	-2.884	-0.698	-0.093	-0.155	0.372	4.093
Consumer_credit	154	-6.213	-0.511	0.116	0.010	0.588	1.741
Consumer price index	155	-3.799	-0.760	0.000	-0.152	0.000	3.039
Durable goods orders	161	-3.479	-0.467	0.042	0.051	0.551	6.406
Existing home sales	155	-4.586	-0.449	0.000	0.007	0.598	2.393
Factory orders	153	-2.978	-0.496	0.000	0.015	0.496	2.647
GDP	153	-2.861	-0.204	0.000	0.088	0.409	4.292
Housing starts	154	-2.389	-0.708	-0.028	-0.037	0.514	3.556
Industrial production	291	-4.486	-0.641	-0.214	-0.186	0.427	2.563
Michigan Sentiment Index	155	-3.271	-0.414	0.075	-0.021	0.508	2.519
New home sales	154	-3.374	-0.394	-0.066	0.018	0.482	2.914
Non-farm employment	155	-0.690	-0.053	-0.001	0.094	0.056	12.069
Pending home sales	155	-3.905	-0.413	0.000	0.034	0.558	5.669
Personal consumption	154	-9.063	-0.363	0.000	-0.131	0.363	2.538
Personal income	154	-4.828	-0.241	0.000	-0.036	0.241	10.380
Producer price index	155	-3.138	-0.571	0.000	0.011	0.571	2.853
Trade balance	154	-3.010	-0.417	-0.027	0.036	0.466	3.878

In this table, we present some descriptive statistics of the standardizer surprise for each of the macroeconomic announcements. The column (Nb. Observations) shows the number of individual surprises that can be calculated over the whole analysis period. The columns (Min.), (1st Qu.), (Median), (Mean), (3rd Qu.) and (Max) present respectively the minimum value, the first quartile, the median, the mean, the third quartile and the maximum value for the standardized surprise of each macroeconomic announcement

Table 4: Summary of Commodity Futures Used

Commodity name	Commodity Ticker	Commodity Exchange	Price quotation	Contract unit
Crude Oil	CL	New York Mercantile Exchange	U.S. dollars and cents per barrel	1,000 barrels
Gold	GC	Commodity Exchange Inc.	U.S. dollars and cents per troy ounce	100 troy ounces
Copper	HG	Commodity Exchange Inc.	U.S. dollars and cents per pound	25,000 pounds
Natural Gas	NG	New York Mercantile Exchange	U.S. dollars and cents per MMBtu	10,000 MMBtu
Palladium	PA	New York Mercantile Exchange	U.S. dollars and cents per troy ounce	100 troy ounces
Silver	SI	Commodity Exchange Inc.	U.S. dollars and cents per troy ounce	5,000 troy ounces

This table presents information about the futures contracts of the 6 selected commodities: Crude Oil, Gold, Copper, Natural Gas, Palladium and Silver. For each commodity, the commodity ticker, commodity exchange, price quotation and contract unit are presented.

Table 5: Descriptive Statistics: 5-minute intraday returns

Commodity Futures	Min (%)	1st Qu. (%)	Median (%)	Mean (%)	3rd Qu. (%)	Max (%)
Crude Oil (CL=F)	-33.9081	-0.0441	0.00	0.00	0.0447	41.64134
Gold (GC=F)	-2.7822	-0.0241	0.00	0.0001	0.0244	3.0641
Copper (HG=F)	-4.534	-0.0363	0.00	-0.0001	0.0365	8.877
Natural Gas (NG=F)	-6.735	-0.0528	0.00	-0.0003	0.0532	15.62
Palladium (PA=F)	-13.35	-0.034	0.00	0.0001	0.0348	9.467
Silver (SI=F)	-7.504	-0.0394	0.00	0.0001	0.0415	4.242

Shows descriptive statistics of the 5 minute intraday returns, for each commodity futures. The columns (Min.), (1st Qu.), (Median), (Mean), (3rd Qu.) and (Max) present respectively the minimum value, the first quartile, the median, the mean, the third quartile and the maximum value for the 5 minute intraday returns.

Table 6: Descriptive Statistics: MSCT, NLS and Working-T financialization variables

	CL	GC	HG	SI	PA	NG
MSCT						
Min,	0,062945	0,165982	0,122262	0,155190	0,058447	0,037411
1st Qu,	0,147171	0,270250	0,234365	0,207841	0,362742	0,129146
Median	0,165226	0,305187	0,282629	0,252736	0,406176	0,234401
Mean	0,164179	0,304460	0,291516	0,260574	0,391650	0,216984
3rd Qu,	0,185501	0,341228	0,353014	0,307877	0,438621	0,272414
Max,	0,243133	0,450365	0,496837	0,459285	0,595550	0,402280
NLS						
Min,	-0,112938	-0,082052	-0,323828	-0,136418	-0,350847	-0,274505
1st Qu,	0,035834	0,228504	-0,106675	0,154751	0,318095	-0,173095
Median	0,108400	0,330220	0,017086	0,245223	0,453227	-0,081458
Mean	0,110749	0,309760	0,020385	0,242498	0,421290	-0,094391
3rd Qu,	0,183409	0,401171	0,141731	0,333416	0,565189	-0,032108
Max,	0,294144	0,526856	0,441333	0,574770	0,734284	0,079358
Working-T						
Min,	1,021866	1,043735	1,024398	1,014335	1,000000	1,004389
1st Qu,	1,076590	1,090740	1,152226	1,076194	1,106552	1,131993
Median	1,100555	1,140149	1,234470	1,117848	1,155713	1,209708
Mean	1,103168	1,160994	1,254092	1,150930	1,193110	1,237466
3rd Qu,	1,124351	1,197429	1,356929	1,188077	1,234792	1,341500
Max,	1,247876	1,663823	1,655362	1,604836	1,938426	1,558946

Shows descriptive statistics of the financialization variables, for each commodity futures. The line (Min.), (1st Qu.), (Median), (Mean), (3rd Qu.) and (Max) present respectively the minimum value, the first quartile, the median, the mean, the third quartile and the maximum value for the 5 minute intraday returns.

Table 7: Announcement and financialization effects on futures returns

Commodities	Crude Oil		Gold		Copper		Natural Gas		Palladium		Silver	
Announcements	γ_m	θ_m	γ_m	θ_m	γ_m	θ_m	γ_m	θ_m	γ_m	θ_m	γ_m	θ_m
Initial jobless claims	-0.002***	0.010***	0.007***	-0.013***	-0.0001	-0.001	0.0001	0.0004	0.0001	0.0004	0.005***	-0.022***
ADP Employment	0.007***	-0.026***	-0.017***	0.035***	0.0003***	0.001	-0.001***	-0.034***	-0.001***	-0.034***	-0.006***	0.027***
CB Consumer	0.001***	-0.005***	-0.0004***	0.0005	0.0001	0.0004	0.0003	-0.00002	0.0003	-0.00002	-0.001***	0.001
Advance retail sales	0.002***	-0.008***	-0.003***	0.005***	0.0001	-0.001	-0.0002	-0.004	-0.0002	-0.004	-0.001***	0.005***
Building permit	-0.0001	0.001	-0.0005***	0.001***	0.0001	-0.0002	0.001**	0.004**	0.001**	0.004**	-0.001***	0.001**
Construction spending	0.0001	-0.001	-0.0003*	0.001	-0.00004	-0.002***	-0.0003	-0.001	-0.0003	-0.001	-0.0003	0.001
Consumer credit	-0.0001	0.001	-0.0001	0.0003	0.00002	0.0001	-0.0001	-0.001	-0.0001	-0.001	-0.0001	0.001
Consumer price index	-0.0005**	0.001	-0.001***	0.003***	-0.0001	-0.002***	0.0004	0.002	0.0004	0.002	-0.001***	0.004***
Durable goods orders	0.002***	-0.008***	-0.001***	0.002***	0.0001**	0.0002	0.00002	-0.001	0.00002	-0.001	-0.001***	0.001
Existing home sales	0.001***	-0.006***	-0.0002	0.001	0.0003***	-0.001	0.001	0.003	0.001	0.003	-0.0003	0.001
Factory orders	0.0002	-0.001	-0.0001	-0.0003	0.00003	-0.0001	0.001***	0.006**	0.001***	0.006**	-0.0003	0.0003
GDP	0.0003	-0.001	-0.001***	0.001***	0.0003***	0.0002	-0.0003	-0.003*	-0.0003	-0.003*	-0.002***	0.003***
Housing starts	0.001*	-0.002	-0.001***	0.001***	0.00002	0.001	-0.0003	0.0005	-0.0003	0.0005	-0.001***	0.001
Industrial production	0.0003	-0.001	-0.00001	-0.001	-0.0001	0.0001	0.0002	0.002	0.0002	0.002	-0.0001	-0.001
Michigan Sentiment Index	0.0003	-0.001	-0.0002	-0.0002	0.0001	0.0005	-0.0003	-0.002	-0.0003	-0.002	-0.0004***	0.0003
New home sales	0.001***	-0.004**	-0.001***	0.001**	0.0003***	-0.001**	0.00003	-0.001	0.00003	-0.001	-0.0004*	-0.0003
Non-farm employment	0.035***	-0.132***	-0.045***	0.098***	-0.0001	-0.001	-0.003***	-0.088***	-0.003***	-0.088***	-0.009***	0.040***
Pending home sales	0.001***	-0.004***	-0.0002	0.0001	0.0003***	-0.001	-0.00002	-0.003	-0.00002	-0.003	-0.00001	-0.001
Personal consumption	0.0002	-0.0005	-0.0003**	0.001**	0.00001	0.0001	-0.0001	0.0001	-0.0001	0.0001	0.0002*	-0.001
Personal income	0.006***	-0.026***	-0.008***	0.017***	-0.0003**	-0.002*	-0.0005	-0.011***	-0.0005	-0.011***	-0.002***	0.010***
Producer price index	0.0004**	-0.003**	-0.001***	0.002***	-0.00004	-0.0004	-0.0004	-0.002	-0.0004	-0.002	-0.0002	-0.0001
Trade balance	-0.0001	0.0004	-0.001***	0.002***	-0.00004	-0.001	-0.0001	-0.002	-0.0001	-0.002	-0.0003	0.002
R^2	0.001		0.002		0.0003		0.0004		0.0004		0.001	
Observations	971826		968141		916716		880054		880054		959102	

Presents the estimates of eq. 6, using the method proposed by (Kurov *et al.*, 2019) and financialization variable $X_{t,2} = NLS_t$. The γ_m coefficients capture the instantaneous change in return when an announcement has just occurred and especially if that announcement was unanticipated. The coefficients θ_m capture the instantaneous change in return when an announcement has just occurred in conjunction with the level of financialization.

Table 8: Announcement and financialization effects on futures conditional variance

Commodities	Crude Oil		Gold		Copper		Natural Gas		Palladium		Silver	
Announcements	Φ_m	ϕ_m	Φ_m	ϕ_m	Φ_m	ϕ_m	Φ_m	ϕ_m	Φ_m	ϕ_m	Φ_m	ϕ_m
Initial jobless claims	0.001***	-0.003***	0.0003***	0,0002	0.0002***	-0,0003	-0.0003***	-0,0003	0.001***	-0.002***	0.001***	-0.001***
ADP Employment	0,0003	-0,002	0.001***	-0.001***	0.0002***	-0,00002	0,0002	0,0005	-0.001**	0.001*	0.001***	-0,0002
CB Consumer	0.001***	-0.004**	0.0003**	-0,0002	0.0003***	-0.001**	-0,00002	0,0001	0,0003	-0,0003	0.0004**	0
Advance retail sales	0.002***	-0.008***	0.001***	-0.001*	0.0003***	-0.002***	0.001***	0.003**	-0,0003	0,001	0.001***	0,001
Building permit	0,0002	-0,003	0.001**	-0.002**	-0,0001	0,0004	0,0001	-0,002	0.015***	-0.026***	0,001	-0,003
Construction spending	0.001***	-0.005***	0.001***	-0.001***	0.0004***	-0.002***	-0.0003*	-0.004***	0.001*	-0.0003	0.001***	-0,001
Consumer credit	0.0005*	-0,003	0,0001	-0,0001	0,0001	0,0005	0	0,00003	-0,001	0,001	0,0002	-0,0001
Consumer price index	0,0002	-0,001	0.001***	-0,0005	0,00003	0,0002	0,00002	0,0003	-0,0003	0,001	0.001***	-0,0001
Durable goods orders	0.001***	-0.003**	0,0001	0	-0,00001	-0,0003	-0,00003	-0,001	0,0004	-0,0001	-0,00001	0,001
Existing home sales	0,0004	0,00004	0.0002*	0,0004	0.0002***	-0.002***	0,0001	-0,001	0.002***	-0.003***	0.0004**	-0,0002
Factory orders	0.001***	-0.003**	-0,0001	0.001***	0.0002***	-0.001***	-0.0004**	-0.006***	0.001***	-0.002**	-0,0001	0.002**
GDP	0.001***	-0.005***	0.0003**	0,0003	0.0002***	0,0003	-0.0005**	-0.003*	0.001**	-0.001*	0.001***	-0,0002
Housing starts	0,001	-0,002	-0.001*	0.002*	0,0002	-0,001	-0,0002	0,001	-0.015***	0.026***	-0,0002	0,001
Industrial production	0.001***	-0.008***	0.0002**	0,00002	0,0001	-0,001	-0,0003	-0,001	0.001***	-0.002***	0.0003*	-0,0001
Michigan Sentiment Index	0,0003	-0,001	-0.0002**	0.001***	0,00002	0,0002	-0,0001	0,001	0,0002	-0,0001	0,00005	0.001*
New home sales	0.001***	-0.005***	0.0004***	0,0001	0.0002***	0,0003	-0,0002	-0,001	0.001***	-0.002***	0.0004**	0,001
Non-farm employment	0.004***	-0.019***	0.004***	-0.004***	0.001***	-0.006***	-0,0005	-0.015***	0.002***	-0,001	0.003***	0,001
Pending home sales	0.001**	-0.003*	0.0002*	-0,0003	0.0003***	0,0003	-0,0002	-0.003*	0.001***	-0.002**	0,0002	0,001
Personal consumption	-0,0003	0,002	0,0001	0,0001	-0,0001	0,0004	-0,0004	-0.005***	0.001*	-0,001	-0,00002	0,001
Personal income	0,001	0,004	-0.001***	0.005***	0.0005***	0.006***	0.001***	0.014***	-0.001*	0.002*	0.001**	-0.004***
Producer price index	0,0002	0,0002	-0,0001	0.001**	-0,00004	0,0003	0	-0,001	0.001**	-0,0003	0.001***	-0,001
Trade balance	0,0004	-0,0001	-0.001***	0.004***	-0.0002***	0,001	0,0002	0,002	0,001	-0,001	-0.001***	0.006***

Presents the estimate of eq. 10 using financialization variable $X_{2,t} = NLS_t$. The Φ_m coefficients capture the instantaneous change in the conditional variance when an announcement has just occurred. The ϕ_m coefficients capture the conditional variance when an announcement has just occurred in conjunction with the level of financialization.

Table 9: Announcement and financialization effects on futures returns, with an alternative financialization variable built with the position of the money managers

Commodities	Crude Oil		Gold		Copper		Natural Gas		Palladium		Silver	
Announcements	γ_m	θ_m	γ_m	θ_m	γ_m	θ_m	γ_m	θ_m	γ_m	θ_m	γ_m	θ_m
Initial jobless claims	-0,0003	0,0002	0.003***	-0.009***	-0.0002**	-0,0010	0,0001	0,0010	-0.001***	0.007***	-0,0010	0.005**
ADP Employment	0.007***	-0.033***	0,0002	-0,0020	0.0003***	0,0010	-0.0003*	-0,0100	0,0003	-0.003*	-0,0003	-0,0020
CB Consumer	0.001***	-0.006*	-0.0003***	-0,0001	0,0001	0,0003	0.0003*	0,0010	-0.001*	0,0010	-0.0005***	0,0010
Advance retail sales	0.002***	-0.010***	-0.001***	0,0001	0,0001	-0,0010	0,0000	-0,0010	0,0001	-0,0010	-0.001***	0.006***
Building permit	-0,0001	0,0010	-0.0003***	0.001*	0,0001	-0,0001	0,0002	0,0010	0,0003	-0.001**	-0.0004***	0.001*
Construction spending	0,0003	-0,0030	-0.0004***	0.001***	0,0000	-0.001**	-0,0001	-0,0010	0,0010	-0,0010	-0,0003	0,0010
Consumer credit	-0,0001	0,0010	-0,0001	0,0003	0,0000	0,0001	0,0000	-0,0004	0,0003	-0,0010	-0,0001	0,0010
Consumer price index	-0.001**	0,0020	-0.001***	0.002***	0,0000	-0.001*	0,0002	0,0010	0.001***	-0.002***	-0.001***	0.003***
Durable goods orders	0.001***	-0.007***	-0.001***	0.002***	0.0002**	-0,0004	0,0001	0,0003	-0,0005	0.002**	-0.0005***	0,0010
Existing home sales	0.001***	-0.007**	-0,0001	0,0003	0.0003***	-0,0001	0,0001	0,0010	-0,0010	0,0010	-0,0001	0,0010
Factory orders	-0,0003	0,0020	-0,0001	-0,0010	0,0001	-0,0002	0.0004*	0,0030	0,0000	-0,0003	-0,0003	0,0004
GDP	0,0004	-0,0020	-0.001***	-0,0005	0.0003***	0,0001	0,0000	-0.003*	-0.002***	0.004***	-0.001***	0,0010
Housing starts	-0,0001	0,0020	-0.0003***	0,0002	0,0000	0,0010	-0.0003**	0,0010	-0.0004*	0.001*	-0.0004***	0,0005
Industrial production	0,0000	0,0004	-0,0002	-0,0002	0,0000	-0,0003	0,0001	0.003**	-0.001*	0,0010	-0,0002	-0,0010
Michigan Sentiment Index	0,0003	-0,0010	-0.0002***	0,0000	0,0000	0,0003	-0,0001	-0,0010	-0.001**	0.001*	-0.0004***	0,0002
New home sales	0,0010	-0,0030	-0.0005***	0.001*	0.0003***	-0,0010	0,0001	-0,0010	-0,0005	0,0010	-0.0004**	-0,0003
Non-farm employment	0.022***	-0.117***	0,0002	-0,0030	-0,0001	0,0002	-0,0002	-0.030*	0.001*	-0.006*	-0.003**	0.019**
Pending home sales	0.001***	-0.007**	-0,0001	-0,0003	0.0003***	-0,0005	0,0002	-0,0020	-0,0003	0,0010	-0,0001	-0,0004
Personal consumption	-0.001*	0.006**	-0,0001	0,0003	0,0000	0,0003	-0,0001	0,0010	0,0004	-0.001*	0,0001	-0,0010
Personal income	0.004***	-0.027***	-0.002***	0.009***	-0.0002**	-0.002*	0,0002	-0.011***	0.0005*	-0.002**	-0.001**	0,0030
Producer price index	0,0004	-0.003*	-0.001***	0.002***	0,0000	-0,0010	-0,0002	-0,0010	0,0000	-0,0003	0,0000	-0,0010
Trade balance	-0,0001	0,0010	-0.0004***	0.001**	0,0000	-0,0004	0,0001	-0,0010	0,0001	0,0000	-0.0003*	0.002**

Presents the estimates of eq. 6, using the method proposed by (Kurov *et al.*, 2019) and financialization variable $X_{t,2} = NLS_t$. Only the positions of the money managers are included in the NLS index. The γ_m coefficients capture the instantaneous change in return when an announcement has just occurred and especially if that announcement was unanticipated. The coefficients θ_m capture the instantaneous change in return when an announcement has just occurred in conjunction with the level of financialization. For all the regressions estimated in this table, we include the control variable NBER to control for the business cycle.

Table 10: Announcement and financialization effects on futures returns, with an alternative financialization variable built with the position of the swap dealers

Commodities	Crude Oil		Gold		Copper		Natural Gas		Palladium		Silver	
Announcements	γ_m	θ_m	γ_m	θ_m	γ_m	θ_m	γ_m	θ_m	γ_m	θ_m	γ_m	θ_m
Initial jobless claims	-0.002***	-0.009***	0.004***	0.011***	0.001**	-0.006**	0,000	0,001	0,0003	-0,002	0,0001	0,001
ADP Employment	0.005***	0.023***	-0.009***	-0.023***	-0,001	0,005	-0.001***	0.032***	-0.001**	0.005**	-0.002***	-0.034***
CB Consumer	0.001***	0.005***	-0.0003***	-0,0002	-0.0005**	0.002***	0,0003	-0,001	-0.0002*	-0,001	-0.0003***	-0,00001
Advance retail sales	0.002***	0.007***	-0.002***	-0.005***	-0.001**	0.004**	-0,0001	0,003	-0.0003*	0,001	-0.001***	-0,001
Building permit	0,0001	0,001	-0.0003***	-0.001*	0,0002	-0,001	0.001***	-0.007***	-0.0002**	0,001	-0.0002**	0,0002
Construction spending	0,00002	0,001	-0,0001	-0,0004	-0.001**	0.002**	0,0001	-0,002	0.0003*	0.002*	-0,0001	-0,001
Consumer credit	0,000	-0,0001	0,000	0,00001	-0,00003	0,0002	-0,0002	0,002	0,0001	0,001	0,0000	0,00003
Consumer price index	-0.0005***	-0.002**	-0.001***	-0.004***	-0.001***	0.003***	0,0003	-0,002	-0,0001	0.002**	-0.001***	-0.002**
Durable goods orders	0.001***	0.004***	-0.0004***	-0.001***	-0,0001	0,001	0,0002	-0,001	0.0003**	0,0003	-0,0002	0.004***
Existing home sales	0.0003**	0.003***	-0,0001	-0,0001	-0.001***	0.004***	0.001*	-0.004*	-0.0002*	-0,001	-0,00002	0,001
Factory orders	0,0001	0,001	-0.0002	0,0002	0,0001	-0,0004	0.001**	-0.006**	-0.0002	-0,001	-0.0003**	-0,001
GDP	0.0003**	0,001	-0.001***	0,0001	0,0001	0,001	-0.0003	0.004*	-0.001***	-0.001*	-0.001***	-0,001
Housing starts	0.0003*	0,001	-0.001***	-0.002***	-0,0002	0.001*	-0.0003	-0,0001	-0,0001	-0.001**	-0.0004***	-0.002**
Industrial production	0,0003	0,001	0,00004	0.002***	-0,0001	0,0004	0,000	-0,001	-0,0002	-0,0004	-0.0003**	0,001
Michigan Sentiment Index	0.0003**	0,0003	-0.0001**	0,001	0,0002	-0,001	-0.0003	0,002	-0,0001	-0,001	-0.0003***	0,001
New home sales	0.001***	0.003***	-0.0003***	0,0003	-0.0004**	0.003***	0,0002	-0,0004	-0,0001	-0,001	-0.0004***	0,001
Non-farm employment	0.022***	0.108***	-0.033***	-0.090***	-0.012***	0.064***	-0.002***	0.069***	-0.002**	0.010**	-0,001	-0,012
Pending home sales	0.001***	0.003***	-0.0002*	-0,0003	-0,0002	0,002	0,0002	0,001	0,00003	-0,0003	-0,0001	0,001
Personal consumption	0,0002	0,001	-0.0003**	-0.001**	-0,0004	0,002	-0,0001	0,001	-0,00003	0.001**	0,0001	0.004***
Personal income	0.003***	0.017***	-0.005***	-0.015***	-0.003***	0.011***	-0,0002	0,006	-0.0005**	0.003***	-0.0003**	-0.019***
Producer price index	0,0001	0,001	-0.0002**	-0,0002	-0.0005*	0.002*	-0,0002	0,001	-0,0001	0,001	-0.0002**	0,001
Trade balance	-0,0001	-0,0001	-0.0003*	-0,001	-0,0003	0,001	0,0001	0,0004	-0,00003	-0,001	0,00003	-0.002*

Presents the estimates of eq. 6, using the method proposed by (Kurov *et al.*, 2019) and financialization variable $X_{t,2} = NLS_t$. Only the positions of the swap dealers are included in the NLS index. The γ_m coefficients capture the instantaneous change in return when an announcement has just occurred and especially if that announcement was unanticipated. The coefficients θ_m capture the instantaneous change in return when an announcement has just occurred in conjunction with the level of financialization. For all the regressions estimated in this table, we include the control variable NBER to control for the business cycle.

Table 11: Announcement and financialization effects on conditional variance, with an alternative financialization variable built with the position of the money managers

Commodities	Crude Oil		Gold		Copper		Natural Gas		Palladium		Silver	
Announcements	Φ_m	ϕ_m	Φ_m	ϕ_m	Φ_m	ϕ_m	Φ_m	ϕ_m	Φ_m	ϕ_m	Φ_m	ϕ_m
Initial jobless claims	0.001***	-0.003***	0.0003***	0,0002	0.0002***	-0,0003	-0.0003***	-0,001	0.002***	-0.002***	0.001***	-0.001***
ADP Employment	-0,0001	0,0005	0.0005***	-0,0005	0.0002***	0,0004	0,0001	0,0005	-0.001*	0.001	0.001***	-0,00002
CB Consumer	0.001***	-0.007**	0.0002**	0,0001	0.0003***	-0,0005	-0,00004	0,00004	0.0001	0.00002	0.0004***	0,00004
Advance retail sales	0.001***	-0.009***	0.001***	-0,0003	0.0003***	-0.001***	0.0003***	0.004***	-0.0003	0.001	0.001***	0,001
Building permit	0,001	-0,013	0.001**	-0.002*	-0,0002	-0,0001	0,001	0,002	0.015***	-0.029***	0,001	-0,005
Construction spending	0.001***	-0.006**	0.001***	-0,0004	0.0004***	-0.002***	-0,00003	-0.003***	0.001***	-0.001*	0.001***	-0,0003
Consumer credit	0,0004	-0,003	0,0001	0,0001	0,00004	0,0004	0	0,0001	-0.001	0.001	0,0001	0,0004
Consumer price index	0,00002	-0,0003	0.0005***	0,0004	0,00001	0,0005	-0,00003	0,00004	-0.001	0.002*	0.001***	-0,001
Durable goods orders	0,0003	-0,0002	0,0001	0,0001	0,000	-0,0003	0,0001	-0,0002	0.0005	-0.0004	0,0001	0,0004
Existing home sales	0.001***	-0.007***	0.0003***	0,0002	0.0002***	-0.002***	0,0002	-0,001	0.002***	-0.003***	0.0004***	-0,0003
Factory orders	0.002***	-0.013***	0,0001	0.001***	0.0003***	-0.001***	0,0001	-0.005***	0.001***	-0.002*	0,0001	0.001*
GDP	0.001**	-0.006**	0.0003***	0.001*	0.0002***	0,0002	-0.0003*	-0.002**	0.001***	-0.002***	0.001***	-0,00004
Housing starts	-0,0001	0,006	-0.0005*	0.002*	0,0002	-0,0004	-0,001	-0,003	-0.014***	0.028***	-0,0005	0,004
Industrial production	0.001***	-0.012***	0.0002**	0,0002	0,0001	-0.001*	-0.0002*	-0,002	0.001***	-0.003***	0.0004***	-0,001
Michigan Sentiment Index	0.001***	-0.006***	-0,00004	0.001***	0,00003	0,0001	-0.0002*	0,001	0.0001	0.0002	0,0001	0,001
New home sales	0.001**	-0.005*	0.0004***	0,0001	0.0002***	0,0001	-0,0001	-0,001	0.001***	-0.002***	0.001***	-0,0002
Non-farm employment	0.003***	-0.017***	0.002***	0,0003	0.001***	-0.004***	0.001***	-0.010***	0.002***	-0.001	0.004***	-0,001
Pending home sales	0.001***	-0.006**	0.0002***	-0.001*	0.0003***	0,0003	-0,0001	-0.003***	0.001**	-0.001	0,0002	0,001
Personal consumption	0,00002	-0,0005	0.0002*	-0,0003	-0,0001	0,00002	0,0001	-0.003***	0.001**	-0.001	0,00001	0,001
Personal income	0.001*	0,002	-0,0001	0.001**	0.0004***	0.003***	-0,0002	0.009***	-0.001	0.002*	-0.0004*	0,002
Producer price index	0,001	-0,003	0.0002**	-0,0001	-0,0001	0,0001	0,0001	-0,0003	0.001***	-0.001	0.001***	-0,001
Trade balance	0,0004	-0,001	-0.001***	0.003***	-0.0002***	0,001	0,0001	0,001	0.0004	-0.0004	-0.001***	0.004***

Presents the estimate of eq. 10 using financialization variable NLS (for Money Manager positions). The Φ_m coefficients capture the instantaneous change in the conditional variance when an announcement has just occurred. The ϕ_m coefficients capture the conditional variance when an announcement has just occurred in conjunction with the level of financialization. For all the regressions estimated in this table, we include the control variable NBER to control for the business cycle.

Table 12: Announcement and financialization effects on conditional variance, with an alternative financialization variable built with the position of the swap dealers

Commodities	Crude Oil		Gold		Copper		Natural Gas		Palladium		Silver	
Announcements	Φ_m	ϕ_m	Φ_m	ϕ_m	Φ_m	ϕ_m	Φ_m	ϕ_m	Φ_m	ϕ_m	Φ_m	ϕ_m
Initial jobless claims	0.0004***	0.002***	0.0003***	-0.0005**	-0.0002*	0.001***	-0.0002*	-0,001	0.001***	0.002***	0.001***	0.002***
ADP Employment	0,0001	0,001	0.0004***	0,0003	-0,0002	0.002**	0,0002	-0,001	-0.0002*	-0.002*	0.0005***	-0,001
CB Consumer	0.001***	0.002**	0.0003***	0,0004	-0.001***	0.003***	0,00002	-0,001	0,0001	-0,0003	0.0004***	0.001*
Advance retail sales	0.001***	0.006***	0.001***	0,0003	-0.001***	0.005***	0.001***	-0.004**	0,0001	-0,001	0.001***	-0,0005
Building permit	-0,0001	0,003	0,0004	0,002	0	0,0001	0,001	-0,003	0.004***	0.041***	0,0001	0,002
Construction spending	0.001***	0.002**	0.001***	-0,0003	-0.001***	0.005***	0,00003	0,001	0.001***	0.002*	0.001***	0.002**
Consumer credit	0,0002	0.002*	0,0001	0,0002	0,0002	-0,001	-0,0001	0,0005	-0,0002	-0.002**	0.0002**	-0,001
Consumer price index	0,00003	0,001	0.001***	0.002***	0,0002	-0,001	-0,00003	0,0001	0,00001	-0,001	0.001***	-0.002*
Durable goods orders	0.0005***	0.002**	0,0001	-0,0002	-0.0003*	0.001*	-0,0001	0,002	0.0004***	0,001	0.0002**	0.002**
Existing home sales	0.0003**	-0.002*	0.0003***	-0,001	-0.0003*	0.002***	0,0003	-0,001	0.001***	0.004***	0.0004***	0,001
Factory orders	0.001***	0,001	0.0002***	-0.001***	-0.0004**	0.002***	-0,0002	0.005***	0.0004***	0.002**	0.0002***	-0.002*
GDP	0.0004***	0.004***	0,0001	-0.002***	-0,00001	0,001	-0,0003	0,001	0.0005***	0,002	0.001***	0,001
Housing starts	0,0004	0,001	-0,0003	-0,002	-0,001	0,003	-0,001	0,004	-0.003***	-0.040***	0,00002	-0,001
Industrial production	0.0003**	0.004***	0.0004***	0.001*	-0,0001	0,0005	-0,0002	0,0002	0,0002	0.002***	0.0003***	0,001
Michigan Sentiment Index	0,0001	0,001	0,00002	-0.001***	0,0001	-0,0003	0,00001	-0,002	0,0001	-0,001	0.0003***	-0,0003
New home sales	0.0004***	0.003***	0.0004***	0,0001	-0,00004	0,001	-0,0002	0,002	0.0004***	0.003***	0.001***	0.002**
Non-farm employment	0.002***	0.013***	0.003***	0.002***	-0.002***	0.011***	0.001**	0,003	0.002***	0.004***	0.003***	0.007***
Pending home sales	0.0004***	0.002*	0.0001*	0,0001	-0,0002	0.002**	0,0002	-0,001	0.0003**	0,001	0.0003***	-0,0003
Personal consumption	-0,0001	-0,001	0.0004***	0.002***	0,0001	-0,001	-0.0004*	0.006***	0.0004***	0.002**	0,0001	-0,001
Personal income	0.001**	-0.004**	-0.0005***	-0.004***	0.001***	-0.003**	0,0001	-0,004	0,0001	-0,002	-0,00002	0,0002
Producer price index	0,0001	-0,0003	0,0001	-0.001**	-0,00002	-0,0003	0,0001	-0,0001	0.001***	0.002**	0.0004***	-0,001
Trade balance	0.0004***	0,0002	-0.0004***	-0.004***	0,0001	-0,001	0,0001	-0,001	0,0001	-0,001	0,00002	-0.009***

Presents the estimate of eq. 10 using financialization variable NLS (for swap dealers positions). The Φ_m coefficients capture the instantaneous change in the conditional variance when an announcement has just occurred. The ϕ_m coefficients capture the conditional variance when an announcement has just occurred in conjunction with the level of financialization. For all the regressions estimated in this table, we include the control variable NBER to control for the business cycle.