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Paul Cashin, Kamiar Mohaddes, Mehdi Raissi

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China’s Slowdown and Global Financial Market Volatility: Is World Growth Losing Out?∗

Paul Cashin, Kamiar Mohaddes, and Mehdi Raissi†

a International Monetary Fund, Washington DC, USA
b Faculty of Economics and Girton College, University of Cambridge, UK

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Abstract

China’s GDP growth slowdown and a surge in global financial market volatility could both adversely affect an already weak global economic recovery. To quantify the global macroeconomic consequences of these shocks, we employ a GVAR model estimated for 26 countries/regions over the period 1981Q1 to 2013Q1. Our results indicate that (i) a one percent permanent negative GDP shock in China (equivalent to a one-off one percent growth shock) could have significant global macroeconomic repercussions, with world growth reducing by 0.23 percentage points in the short-run; and (ii) a surge in global financial market volatility could translate into a fall in world economic growth of around 0.29 percentage points, but it could also have negative short-run impacts on global equity markets, oil prices and long-term interest rates.

JEL Classifications: C32, E32, F44, O53.
Keywords: China’s slowdown, global financial market volatility, international business cycle, and Global VAR.

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†Corresponding author. Email address: mraissi@imf.org.
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