

Does monetary policy affect the net interest margin of credit institutions?

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Enfoque

Este documento analiza empíricamente la relación entre las intervenciones de política monetaria y el margen neto de interés de los establecimientos de crédito en Colombia. Con el fin de controlar por el problema de causalidad circular (endogeneidad) que existe entre la tasa de política monetaria y el margen neto de interés se utilizan choques de política monetaria para capturar el efecto sobre el margen.

Contribución

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Various studies have found a concave relation between the monetary policy rate and the net interest margin, which implies that the net interest margin decreases in response to an expansionary monetary policy. However, given that monetary policy decisions are primarily based on the macroeconomic information available at that time, analyzing the direct relation between the monetary policy rate and the net interest margin can lead to biased results. In this sense, the main contribution of this work is related to the innovative treatment given to the problem of circular causality: an exogenous time series for the monetary policy rate is estimated using the residuals from regressing the monetary policy rate on a set of quantifiable variables that were discussed by the Board of Directors of the Central Bank of Colombia in each of its monetary policy meetings. In this way, a series of monetary policy shocks is obtained, exogenous to the observable variables, which allows for the estimation of unbiased results.

Estos resultados son útiles para el modelamiento del riesgo de tasa de interés de corto plazo y para proporcionar un entendimiento más profundo de las implicaciones de la política monetaria en la rentabilidad de los establecimientos de crédito.

Resultados

The results of the estimations indicate that monetary policy shocks generate increases in the net interest margin, especially for larger credit institutions. In response to positive monetary policy shocks, the increase in the net interest margin follows the asymmetric behavior of loans and deposits. On the other hand, in response to negative monetary policy shocks, the net interest margin increases due to the higher sensitivity of banking costs to interest income. The larger effect observed for larger credit institutions is explained by their high participation in the commercial portfolio of loans. These results are useful for modeling the short-term interest rate risk and for providing a deeper understanding of the implications of monetary policy on the profitability of credit institutions.