U.S. Risk and Treasury Convenience

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The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect the position of the Bank of England.

Dollar perceived as safe in short run

Flights-to-safety appreciate dollar in bad times

[Maggiori 2017; Kekre & Lenel 2021; Ostry 2023; ...]

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- Flights-to-safety appreciate dollar in bad times
- But in long run: near-zero excess returns on long-maturity dollar-bond portfolios (vs. G.7)

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· Treasuries command convenience yield, but (now) only at short maturities

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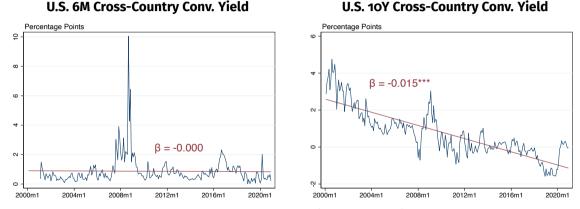
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How are these dimensions of U.S. (dollar) 'specialness' interlinked?

Treasury (In)convenience: 'Specialness' at Different Maturities



Note. Cross-country 6M and 10Y U.S. Treasury convenience yield (avg. vs. other G.7), 2000:M2 to 2020:M12. Constructed from CIP deviation data from Du, Im & Schreger (2018) following Jiang, Krishnamurthy & Lustig (2021).

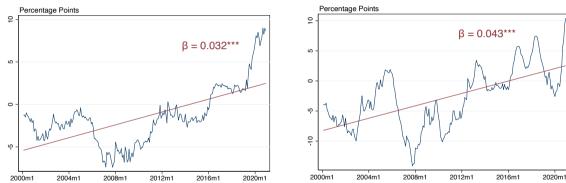
Rising U.S. Relative Equity Premia

U.S. Relative Equity Risk Premium

Percentage Points 2 $\beta = 0.032^{***}$ ß 0 Ģ Μ 2000m1 2004m1 2008m1 2012m1 2016m1 2020m1

Note. Relative U.S. equity risk premium (avg. vs. other G.7), 2000:M2 to 2020:M12.

Rising U.S. Relative Equity Premia and Permanent Risk



U.S. Relative Equity Risk Premium

Note. Relative U.S. equity risk premium and permanent risk (avg. vs. other G.7), 2000:M2 to 2020:M12.

U.S. Relative Permanent Risk

Permanent Risk and Currency Risk Premia

Standard two-country, no-arbitrage setup predicts:

[Lustig, Stathopoulos & Verdelhan 2019]

Relative U.S. Permanent SDF Volatility = Long-Run U.S. Dollar Premium

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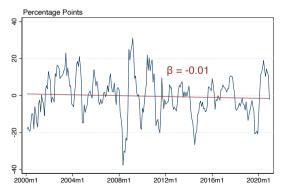
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But empirical evidence does not appear consistent:



U.S. Relative Permanent Risk

Carry-Trade Returns on 10Y Bonds



Our Paper

Theory: two-country, no-arbitrage setup to link U.S. safety across markets: FX, bond, equity

Relative U.S. Risk =	U.S. FX Risk Premium	+ Relative U.S. Convenience Yield
Relative SDF Volatility	Pecuniary Return	Non-Pecuniary Return

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- In equilibrium, changes in U.S. relative risk induce movements in either the pecuniary or non-pecuniary returns to U.S. dollars/Treasuries in short- and long-run
- In long run: countries can have different 'permanent' risk, yet long-run carry-trade returns can be near zero because risk differences reflected in convenience yields

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Empirics: measure U.S. relative risk across markets/maturities and test model relationships

- * Document rise in relative U.S. total risk vs G.7, driven by permanent risk
- $\star\,$ Decline in long-maturity U.S. Treasury convenience and rise in relative U.S. permanent risk are two sides of the same coin

 \cdot Two countries: H (U.S.) and F (*)

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- $\Lambda_t = \Lambda_t^{\mathbb{P}} \Lambda_t^{\mathbb{T}}$ such that $\Lambda_t^{\mathbb{P}}$ is a martingale ($\Lambda_t^{\mathbb{P}} = \mathbb{E}_t[\Lambda_{t+1}^{\mathbb{P}}]$) [Alvarez & Jermann 2005]
 - $M_{t,t+1}^{\mathbb{T}} = \Lambda_{t+1}^{\mathbb{T}} / \Lambda_t^{\mathbb{T}}$: **Transitory** component reflects intertemporally 'smoothable' cons. growth affected by, e.g., business-cycle risk, risk associated with adjustment to permanent shocks • $M_{t,t+1}^{\mathbb{P}} = \Lambda_{t+1}^{\mathbb{P}} / \Lambda_t^{\mathbb{P}}$: **Permanent** component reflects long-run effects of shocks to cons. growth affected by, e.g., steady-state risk of financial crisis or changes to long-run growth prospects

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- · Conditional entropy (volatility) of SDF to measure country risk:

$$\mathcal{L}_t(M_{t+1}) = \mathbb{E}_t \ln M_{t+1} - \ln(\mathbb{E}_t M_{t+1}) \approx \frac{1}{2} \mathsf{var}_t(M_{t+1})$$

Trade in:

- #1. Bonds: earning pecuniary returns and non-pecuniary convenience yields
- #2. Foreign Exchange: earning pecuniary currency movements
- #3. Equities: pecuniary returns tied to country-specific risk

Bond Markets

Agents invest in term structure of H and F bonds, with maturity $k = 1, 2, ..., \infty$:

Home Investor (U.S.):

$$\begin{split} e^{-\theta_t^{H,H(k)}} = & \mathbb{E}_t \left[M_{t,t+k} R_t^{(k)} \right] \\ e^{-\theta_t^{H,F(k)}} = & \mathbb{E}_t \left[M_{t,t+k} \frac{\mathcal{E}_{t+k}}{\mathcal{E}_t} R_t^{(k)*} \right] \end{split}$$

where \mathcal{E}_t exchange rate \uparrow is a Foreign currency appreciation

Assumption 1 (Convenience-Yield Term Structure)

Term structure of convenience yields $\theta_t^{i,j(k)}$ (investor *i*, bond *j*, maturity *k*) is observable at time *t*.

Foreign Investor:

$$e^{-\theta_t^{F,F(k)}} = \mathbb{E}_t \left[M_{t,t+k}^* R_t^{(k)*} \right]$$
$$e^{-\theta_t^{F,H(k)}} = \mathbb{E}_t \left[M_{t,t+k}^* \frac{\mathcal{E}_t}{\mathcal{E}_{t+k}} R_t^{(k)} \right]$$

Equity and FX Markets

Assumption 2 (Equities and Convenience)

Investors trade in domestic risky asset (return $R_{t,t+1}^g$) whose convenience is normalised to zero.

$$1 = \mathbb{E}_t \left[M_{t,t+1} R_{t,t+1}^g \right]$$
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Equilibrium FX Process

$$\frac{\mathcal{E}_{t+1}}{\mathcal{E}_{t}} = \frac{M_{t,t+1}^{*}}{M_{t,t+1}} e^{\theta_{t}^{F,H(1)} - \theta_{t}^{H,H(1)}}$$

Investors across countries and time face same FX process, so no-arbitrage implies agreement on convenience yields: $\theta_t^{F,H(1)} - \theta_t^{F,F(1)} = -(\theta_t^{H,F(1)} - \theta_t^{F,F(1)})$

 $+\ restrictions$ on term structure of convenience yields

Restriction

Total, Permanent and Transitory SDF Risk

Lower bound for Total SDF risk:

[Jiang & Richmond 2023]

$$\mathcal{L}_t(M_{t,t+1}) \ge \mathbb{E}_t \log \left[\frac{R_{t,t+1}^g}{R_t}\right] - \theta_t^{H,H(1)}$$

We derive new bounds for permanent SDF risk :

[Alvarez & Jermann 2005]

Proposition

Lower bound for Permanent SDF risk:

$$\mathcal{L}_t\left(M_{t,t+1}^{\mathbb{P}}\right) \ge \mathbb{E}_t \log\left[\frac{R_{t,t+1}^g}{R_t}\right] - \mathbb{E}_t\left[rx_{t+1}^{(\infty)}\right] - \theta_t^{H,H(\infty)} + \mathbb{E}_t\left[\theta_{t+1}^{H,H(\infty)}\right]$$

where $rx_{t+1}^{(k)} = \log(R_{t,t+1}^{(k)}/R_t)$

Rel. risk measures assuming bounds hold with equality (maximised by equity indices)



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- Measure $\theta_t^{H,H}$ using swap-Treasury spreads

[Du, Hébert & Li 2022]



- ► Rel. risk measures assuming bounds hold with equality (maximised by equity indices)
- Measure $\theta_t^{H,H}$ using swap-Treasury spreads
- Proxy (log) equity risk premium according to Gordon growth formula: [Farhi & Gourio 2018]

$$\mathbb{E}_t \log \left[\frac{R^g_{t,t+1}}{R_t} \right] := \frac{D_t}{P_t} + g^e_t - r_t + \pi^e_t$$

- D_t/P_t : dividend-price ratio from G.7 equity price indices (Global Financial Data)
- $\cdot g^e_t$: proxy exp. future dividend gr. with avg. annual dividend gr. in 10 years prior to t

Realised Eq. Ret. Plot

 $r_t - \pi_t^e$: 6-month nominal zero-coupon bond yield and inflation forecasts (Consensus Economics)

► CIP to Conv Yids

IR and FX Data

Cross-Country CY Plot

▶ Within-FA CY Plot

Within-U.S. CY Plot

[Du, Hébert & Li 2022]

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Key finding: U.S. Total risk now higher than G.7, driven by Permanent risk

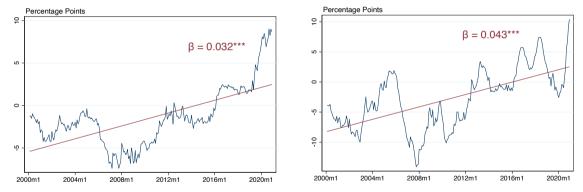
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[Du, Hébert & Li 2022]

Our Measures of U.S. Relative Risk





Note. Relative U.S. equity risk premium and permanent risk (avg. vs. other G.7), 2000:M2 to 2020:M12.

U.S. Relative Permanent Risk

Relationship to Other Measures of U.S. Relative Risk

U.S. Relative Permanent Risk

Ex Ante Equity-Based Measure

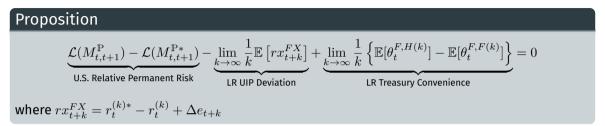
Standard Deviations Percentage Points 2 $\beta = 0.043^{***}$ $\beta = 0.03^{***}$ ŝ N 0 0 ŝ 2 <u>e</u> 2004m1 2020m1 2000m1 2008m1 2012m1 2016m1 2000m1 2004m1 2008m1 2012m1 2016m1 2020m1

Note. Relative U.S. permanent risk (avg. vs. other G.7, LHS), 2000:M2 to 2020:M12. Schorfheide, Song & Yaron (2018) volatility of permanent component of US %△ cons. (RHS), 2000:M1 to 2015:M1.

U.S. Long-Run Risk

Schorfheide, Song & Yaron 2018

Unconditional Long-Run SDF Risk, FX Premia and Convenience Yields



Absent convenience, long-horizon UIP holds $(\lim_{k\to\infty} \frac{1}{k}\mathbb{E}\left[rx_{t+k}^{FX}\right] = 0) \Rightarrow$ permanent risk equalised across countries $\mathcal{L}(M_{t,t+1}^{\mathbb{P}}) = \mathcal{L}(M_{t,t+1}^{\mathbb{P}*})$ [Lustig, Stathopoulos & Verdelhan 2019]

With convenience, changes in relative permanent risk generate adjustment through non-pecuniary convenience yields: $\left(\mathcal{L}(M_{t,t+1}^{\mathbb{P}}) - \mathcal{L}(M_{t,t+1}^{\mathbb{P}^*})\right) \uparrow \longleftrightarrow \left(\theta_t^{F,H(\infty)} - \theta_t^{F,F(\infty)}\right) \downarrow$

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Measures of U.S. Relative Risk and Long-Run Treasury Convenience

	Regression			
	Dependent Variable: $ ilde{ heta}_{i,t}^{F,H(\infty)} - ilde{ heta}_{i,t}^{F,F(\infty)}$			
US Relative Equity Prem.	-0.08***		·	
	(0.02)			
US Relative Equity Return		-0.03***		
		(0.01)		
US Relative Equity net Term Prem.	-0.05***			
			(0.01)	
US Relative Permanent Risk				-0.06***
				(0.01)
Observations	1,657	1,657	1,657	1,544
Country FE	YES	YES	YES	YES
Within R-squared	0.0564	0.0402	0.0402	0.0616
Pedroni Panel Cointegration t Test	-5.43***	-5.36***	-4.86***	-4.46***

Pedroni (1999, 2004) Test Details: H_0 : No cointegration in alls panels; H_1 : Cointegration in every panel

▶ UR Tests ▶ Coint. Tests

Conditional Long-Run SDF Risk, FX Premia and Convenience Yields

Carry-trade return long Foreign ∞ -maturity bond, short Home ∞ -maturity bond for one period:

$$\mathbb{E}_{t}[rx_{t+1}^{(\infty),CT}] = \underbrace{\mathbb{E}_{t}[rx_{t+1}^{FX}]}_{\mathbb{E}_{t}[rx_{t+1}^{FX}]} + \underbrace{\mathbb{E}_{t}[rx_{t+1}^{(\infty)*}] - \mathbb{E}_{t}[rx_{t+1}^{(\infty)}]}_{\mathbb{E}_{t}[rx_{t+1}^{(\infty)}]}$$

Currency Returns

Difference in Local Bond Returns

Proposition

U.S. Relative Permanent Risk

$$\underbrace{\mathcal{L}_{t}(M_{t,t+1}^{\mathbb{P}}) - \mathcal{L}_{t}(M_{t,t+1}^{\mathbb{P}*})}_{-\mathbb{E}_{t}[rx_{t+1}^{(\infty),CT}] + \left(\theta_{t}^{F,H(\infty)} - \theta_{t}^{F,F(\infty)}\right) - \underbrace{\left(\mathbb{E}_{t}[\theta_{t+1}^{F,H(\infty)}] - \mathbb{E}_{t}[\theta_{t+1}^{F,F(\infty)}]\right)}_{\mathbb{A} \mid \mathbb{B} \text{ transum Convenience}} = 0$$

Long-Run Risk, Treasury Convenience & FX Premia in the Data

$$\begin{split} \tilde{\theta}_{i,t}^{F,H(\infty)} &- \tilde{\theta}_{i,t}^{F,F(\infty)} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \big[\tilde{\mathcal{L}}_t(M_{i,t,t+1}^{\mathbb{P}}) - \tilde{\mathcal{L}}_t(M_{i,t,t+1}^{\mathbb{P}*}) \big] \\ &+ \beta_2 r x_{i,t+1}^{(\infty),CT} + \beta_3 \big[\tilde{\theta}_{i,t+1}^{F,H(\infty)} - \tilde{\theta}_{i,t+1}^{F,F(\infty)} \big] + f_i + \varepsilon_{i,t} \end{split}$$

Variables	Dependent	: Variable: $ ilde{ heta}_{i,t}^{F,H(lpha)}$	$\tilde{\theta}_{i,t}^{F,F(\infty)} = \tilde{\theta}_{i,t}^{F,F(\infty)}$
$\tilde{\mathcal{L}}_t\left(M_{i,t,t+1}^{\mathbb{P}}\right) - \tilde{\mathcal{L}}_t(M_{i,t,t+1}^{\mathbb{P}*})$	-0.015**		
	(0.008)		
$ ilde{\mathcal{L}}_t \left(M_{i,t,t+1}^{\mathbb{P}} \right)$		-0.024***	
		(0.009)	
$ ilde{\mathcal{L}}_t(M_{i,t,t+1}^{\mathbb{P}*})$		0.002	
		(0.01)	
$ ilde{\mathcal{L}}_t\left(M_{i,t,t+1}^{\mathbb{P}} ight) - ilde{\mathcal{L}}_t(M_{i,t,t+1}^{\mathbb{P}*})$ ex post			-0.012***
			(0.004)
Observations	1,508	1,508	1,508
Country FE	Yes	Yes	Yes
Within R^2	0.682	0.688	0.688

Corsetti, Lloyd, Marin & Ostry (BoE, EUI, UC Davis)

U.S. Risk and Treasury Convenience

SR Reg.

Conclusion

- $\star\,$ Framework to assess dimensions of U.S. 'specialness' jointly in FX, bond and equity markets
 - * In equilibrium, changes in U.S. relative risk induce movements in either the pecuniary or non-pecuniary returns to U.S. dollars/Treasuries
- Combine theory with novel measures of SDF risk (from equity markets) as well as convenience yields (from CIP) and returns (from FX and bond markets) for G.7 countries
- * Document rise in relative U.S. total risk vs G.7, driven by permanent risk
- * Decline in long-maturity U.S. Treasury convenience and rise in relative U.S. permanent risk are two sides of the same coin
 - Mechanism: re-assessment by investors of U.S. risk following the recent large global crises
 (Dot-Com and GFC) that originated in the U.S
 [Kozlowski, Veldkamp, & Venkateswaran 2019]

Appendix

Restrictions on Term Structure of Convenience Yields

Lemma (Term Structure of Convenience Yields)

Given $M_{t,t+1}$, $M_{t,t+1}^*$, the Euler equations, and the exchange-rate process, term structure of convenience yields satisfies the following conditions:

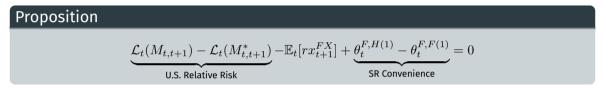
$$\theta_t^{F,H(k)} - \sum_{\tau=0}^{k-1} \theta_{t+\tau}^{F,H(1)} = \theta_t^{H,H(k)} - \sum_{\tau=0}^{k-1} \theta_{t+\tau}^{H,H(1)}$$

for all k and all t. There is an analogous expression for the Home and Foreign investors' convenience yields on Foreign bonds.

Back

Short-Run SDF Risk, FX Premia and Convenience Yields

Euler equations & FX process imply tight link between relative *total* risk, pecuniary one-period currency returns $(rx_{t+1}^{FX} = r_t^{(1)*} - r_t^{(1)} + \Delta e_{t+1})$ and one-period non-pecuniary convenience yields

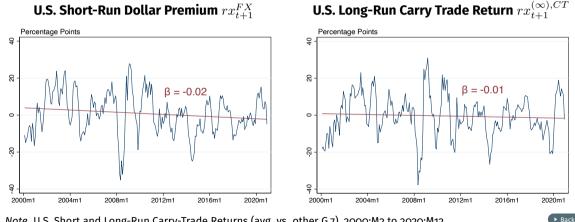


Higher U.S. relative total risk can generate adjustment through two channels

- #1 FX Risk Premia: U.S. dollar depreciates \rightarrow U.S. investor earns higher returns to net-long positions in Foreign currency bond: rx_{t+1}^{FX} \uparrow
- #2 **Convenience Yields:** U.S. investor earns higher convenience yield on Foreign bond vis-à-vis U.S. Treasury: $(\theta_t^{F,H(1)} - \theta_t^{F,F(1)}) \downarrow$

Interest Rates and Exchange Rates

- \mathcal{E}_t : FX data for U.S. vs. other G.7 economies: 1997:M1 to 2020:M12
- $r_{\star}^{(k)}$: 6-month and 10-year zero-coupon government bond yields



Note, U.S. Short and Long-Run Carry-Trade Returns (avg. vs. other G.7), 2000:M2 to 2020:M12.

Mapping CIP to Cross-Country Convenience Yields

Measure relative U.S. Treasury convenience $\theta_t^{F,H(k)} - \theta_t^{F,F(k)}$ from CIP deviations

$$\mathbb{E}_{t}[M_{t,t+k}^{*}\frac{\mathcal{E}_{t}}{\mathcal{E}_{t+k}}\underbrace{\left(\frac{F_{t}^{(k)}}{\mathcal{E}_{t}}R_{t}^{(k)*}\right)}_{\text{Synthetic Treasury}}] = e^{-\theta_{t}^{F,F(k)}-\beta_{k}^{*}(\theta_{t}^{F,H(k)}-\theta_{t}^{F,F(k)})}$$

β_k^{*} = 1: Foreign investor values a synthetic Treasury same as a U.S.-issued Treasury
 ⇒ U.S. Treasuries only convenient due to their currency and CIP deviations not informative
 β_k^{*} < 1: Intrinsic convenience from U.S. Treasury, beyond its currency denomination
 ⇒ CIP_t^(k) suggests Foreigners value U.S. bonds more than Foreign ones

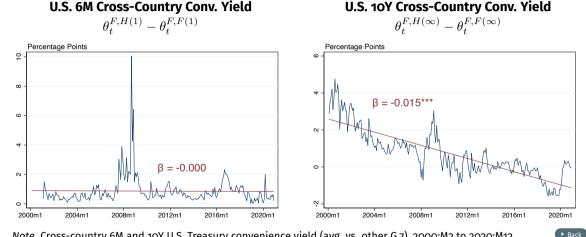
$$\theta_t^{F,H(k)} - \theta_t^{F,F(k)} := \frac{1}{1 - \hat{\beta}_k^*} CIP_t^{(k)}$$

[Jiang, Krishnamurthy & Lustig 2021]

Maturity	6-month	1-year	10-year
\hat{eta}^*_k	0.76	0.89	0.85

Back

Cross-Country Convenience Yields

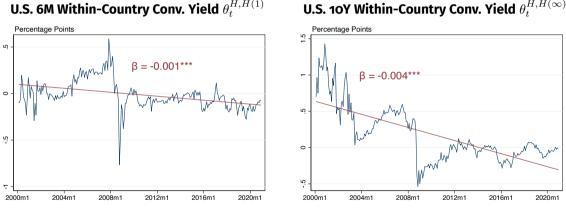


Note. Cross-country 6M and 10Y U.S. Treasury convenience yield (avg. vs. other G.7), 2000:M2 to 2020:M12.

U.S. Within-Country Convenience Yields

Measure using interest-rate swaps: $\theta_t^{H,H(k)} := r_{irs,t}^{(k)} - r_t^{(k)}$

[Du, Hébert & Li 2022]



Note. Within-country 6M and 10Y U.S. Treasury convenience yield, 2000:M2 to 2020:M12.

Corsetti, Llovd, Marin & Ostry (BoF, FUL UC Davis)

July 2023

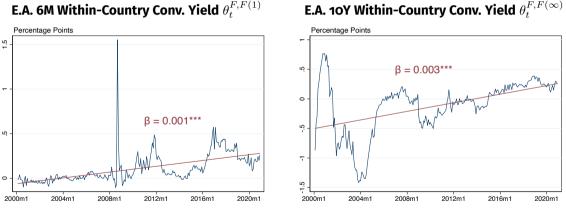
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U.S. 10Y Within-Country Conv. Yield $\theta_{\star}^{H,H(\infty)}$

E.A. Within-Country Convenience Yields

Measure using interest-rate swaps: $\theta_t^{F,F(k)} := r_{irs\,t}^{(k)*} - r_t^{(k)*}$

[Du, Hébert & Li 2022]



E.A. 6M Within-Country Conv. Yield $\theta_t^{F,F(1)}$

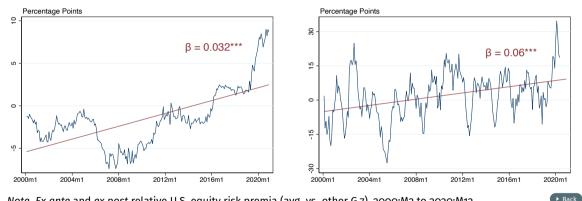
Note. Within-country 6M and 10Y E.A. convenience yield, 2000:M2 to 2020:M12.

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Relative Equity Risk Premia



U.S. Relative Expected Equity Risk Premium

Note. Ex ante and ex post relative U.S. equity risk premia (avg. vs. other G.7), 2000:M2 to 2020:M12.

U.S. Relative Realised Equity Returns

Panel Unit-Root Tests

	Adj. t	p-val.		Adj. t	p-val.
Currency Returns			Equity Risk Premium		
rx_{t+6m}^{FX}	-5.87	0.00	U.S.	-2.90	0.00
rx_{t+1y}^{FX}	-4.06	0.00	R.o.W.	-4.03	0.00
$rx_{t+1}^{(\infty),CT}$	-6.30	0.00	ERP	-2.13	0.04
Cross-Country Convenience			Equity Returns		
$ heta_t^{F,H(6m)} - heta_t^{F,F(6m)}$	-7.08	0.00	Rel. Eq. Ret.	-6.20	0.00
$ heta_t^{F,H(1y)} - heta_t^{F,F(1y)}$	-5.55	0.00	Permanent Risk		
$ heta_t^{F,H(10y)} - heta_t^{F,F(10y)}$	-3.26	0.00	$\mathrm{D}\mathcal{L}_t(M_{t,t+1}^{\mathbb{P}})$, ERP	-4.42	0.00
Within-Country Convenience			$\mathrm{D}\mathcal{L}_t(M_{t,t+1}^{\mathbb{P}})$, ERP (m.a. TP)	-1.35	0.68
$\theta_t^{H,H(6m)} - \theta_t^{F,F(6m)}$	-4.68	0.00	ERP net TP	-5.41	0.00
$ heta_t^{H,H(10y)} - heta_t^{F,F(10y)}$	-2.18	0.03	ERP net (m.a.) TP	-1.83	0.18
Relative Total Risk			$D\mathcal{L}_t(M^{\mathbb{P}}_{t,t+1})$, Eq. Ret.	-5.09	0.00
$\mathrm{D}\mathcal{L}_t(M_{t,t+1})$, ERP	-1.91	0.12]		
$\mathrm{D}\mathcal{L}_t(M_{t,t+1})$, Eq. Ret.	-4.89	0.00			

Note. Im, Pesaran and Shin (2003) tests. H₀: all panels include unit root. H₁: at least one panel does not include a unit root.

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Panel Cointegration Tests

	Modified Phillips-Perron t	Phillips-Perron t	Augmented Dickey-Fuller t			
Dependent Variable: $\theta_t^{F,H(10y)} - \theta_t^{F,F(10y)}$						
$\mathrm{D}\mathcal{L}_t(M_{t,t+1}^{\mathbb{P}})$	-4.19	-3.64	-4.47			
p-val	0.00	0.00	0.00			
$\mathrm{D}\mathcal{L}_t(M_{t,t+1}^{\mathbb{P}})$ (smooth.)	-4.19	-3.64	-4.47			
p-val	0.00	0.00	0.00			
Eq. net TP (smooth.)	-5.26	-3.79	-4.85			
<i>p</i> -val	0.00	0.00	0.00			
Eq. Ret.	-5.75	-4.09	-5.36			
<i>p</i> -val	0.00	0.00	0.00			

Note. Pedroni (1999, 2004) panel-by-panel cointegration tests. H_0 : no cointegration. H_1 : all panels cointegrated.

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Testing Short-Run Relationship (Proposition 1)

$$\tilde{\theta}_{i,t}^{F,H(6M)} - \tilde{\theta}_{i,t}^{F,F(6M)} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \left[\tilde{\mathcal{L}}_t \left(M_{i,t,t+1} \right) - \tilde{\mathcal{L}}_t (M_{i,t,t+1}^*) \right] + \beta_2 r x_{t+1}^{FX} + f_i + \varepsilon_{i,t}$$

	$ heta_t^{F,H(1)} - heta_t^{F,F(1)}$	$\theta_t^{F,H(1)} - \theta_t^{F,F(1)}$
Rel. Tot. Risk	-0.03**	
	(0.01)	
U.S. Eq. Risk Prem.		-0.01
		(0.01)
R.o.W. Eq. Risk Prem.		0.01^{***}
		(0.00)
Observations	1,531	1,531
# Countries	6	6
Controls	YES	YES
Country FE	YES	YES
Within R^2	0.0184	0.0714

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