Contents

Letter of transmittal	1
Overview of the economic chapters	3
I. In search of a new compass	7
The global economy: where do we stand?	8
The global economy through the financial cycle lens	10
A balance sheet recession and its aftermath	10
Current macroeconomic and financial risks	12
Policy challenges	14
Near-term challenges: what is to be done now?	14
Longer-term challenges: adjusting policy frameworks	17
Conclusion	20
II. Global financial markets under the spell of monetary policy	23
The year in review: a bumpy ride in the search for yield	23
Emerging market economies suffered sharp reversals	27
Box II.A: Determinants of recent currency depreciations in EMEs	29
Central banks left their mark on financial markets	30
Financial markets fixated on monetary policy	31
Box II.B: The 2013 sell-off in US Treasuries from a historical perspective	32
Low funding costs and volatility encouraged the search for yield	34
III. Growth and inflation: drivers and prospects	41
Growth: recent developments and medium-term trends	42
A stronger but still uneven global recovery	42
The long shadow of the financial crisis	44
Box III.A: Recovery from a balance sheet recession	45
Box III.B: Measuring output losses after a balance sheet recession	48
Inflation: domestic and global drivers	49
Better-anchored inflation expectations?	51
Box III.C: Measuring potential output and economic slack	52
A bigger role for global factors?	53
Investment and productivity: a long-term perspective	56
Declining productivity growth trends	58
IV. Debt and the financial cycle: domestic and global	65
The financial cycle: a short introduction	65
Box IV.A: Measuring financial cycles	68
Where are countries in the financial cycle?	69

BIS 84th Annual Report

What is driving the financial cycle in the current context?	69
Global liquidity and domestic policies fuel credit booms	71
Risks and adjustment needs	73
Indicators point to the risk of financial distress	74
Returning to sustainable debt levels	78
Box IV.B: Estimating debt service ratios	81
V. Monetary policy struggles to normalise	85
Recent monetary policy developments	85
Box V.A: Forward guidance at the zero lower bound	89
Key monetary policy challenges	90
Low monetary policy effectiveness	91
Monetary policy spillovers	92
Box V.B: Effectiveness of monetary policy following balance sheet recessions	93
Box V.C: Impact of US monetary policy on EME policy rates: evidence from Taylor rules	95
Unexpected disinflation and the risks of deflation	96
Box V.D: The costs of deflation: what does the historical record say?	98
Normalising policy	99
VI. The financial system at a crossroads	103
Overview of trends	103
Banks	103
Box VI.A: Regulatory reform – new elements and implementation	105
Box VI.B: Regulatory treatment of banks' sovereign exposures	108
Insurance sector	109
Bank versus market-based credit	110
Structural adjustments in the financial sector	111
Changes in business models	112
Shifting patterns in international banking	113
The ascent of the asset management sector	114
Box VI.C: Financing infrastructure investment	116
How strong are banks, really?	117
Banks in post-crisis recovery	117
Banks in a late financial boom phase	120
Box VI.D: The effectiveness of countercyclical policy instruments	121
Organisation of the BIS as at 31 March 2014	128
The BIS: mission, activities, governance and financial results	129
BIS member central banks	163
Board of Directors	164
Financial statements	171
Independent auditor's report	245
Five-vear graphical summary	246

Graphs

1.1	Debt levels continue to rise	10
II.1	Accommodative policy in advanced economies holds down bond yields	24
II.2	Monetary accommodation spurs risk-taking	25
II.3	The bond market sell-off induces temporary financial tightening	26
11.4	Financial market tensions spill over to emerging market economies	27
II.5	Emerging market economies respond to market pressure	28
II.6	US interest rates show the first signs of normalisation	34
II.7	News about US monetary policy triggers repricing	35
II.8	Lower-rated credit market segments see buoyant issuance	36
II.9	Credit spreads narrow despite sluggish growth	37
II.10	Equity valuations move higher while volatility and risk premia fall	38
II.11	Volatility in major asset classes approaches record lows	39
III.1	Advanced economies are driving the pickup in global growth	42
III.2	Credit growth is still strong in EMEs	43
III.3	The recovery in output and productivity has been slow and uneven	44
III.4	Fiscal consolidation in advanced economies is still incomplete	47
III.5	Global inflation has remained subdued	50
III.6	The price and wage Phillips curves have become flatter in advanced	
	economies	51
III.7	Inflation is a global phenomenon	54
8.111	Domestic inflation is influenced by global slack	55
III.9	Trends in investment diverge	57
III.10	Productivity growth and working-age population are on a declining path	59
IV.1	Financial cycle peaks tend to coincide with crises	67
IV.2	Where are countries in the financial cycle?	70
IV.3	Uneven deleveraging after the crisis	71
IV.4	Low yields in advanced economies push funds into emerging market economies	72
IV.5	Low policy rates coincide with credit booms	73
IV.6	Emerging market economies face new risk patterns	77
IV.7	Demographic tailwinds for house prices turn into headwinds	79
IV.8	Debt sustainability requires deleveraging across the globe	80
IV.9	Debt service burdens are likely to rise	83
V.1	Monetary policy globally is still very accommodative	86
V.2	Policy rates remain low and central bank assets high in major advanced economies	87
V.3	Small advanced economies are facing below-target inflation and high debt	88
v.5 V.4	EMEs respond to market tensions while concerns about stability rise	91
V.4 V.5	Global borrowing in foreign currencies rises while short-term interest rates	
	co-move	94
V.6	Well anchored inflation expectations	97
V.7	Taylor rule-implied rates point to lingering headwinds	101
VI.1	Capital accumulation boosts banks' regulatory ratios	106
VI.2	Divergent trends in bank lending	110
VI.3	Hurdles to bank lending	111
VI.4	Efficiency and earnings stability go hand in hand	112

BIS 84th Annual Report

VI.5	International banking: the geography of intermediation matters	114
VI.6	The asset management sector grows and becomes more concentrated	115
VI.7	Banks' ratings remain depressed	118
VI.8	Markets' scepticism differs across banking systems	118
VI.9	Non-performing loans take divergent paths	119
Tab	les	
III.1	Output growth, inflation and current account balances	61
III.2	Recovery of output, employment and productivity from the recent crisis	62
III.3	Fiscal positions	63
D / 4		7-
IV.1	Early warning indicators for domestic banking crises signal risks ahead	75
V.1	Annual changes in foreign exchange reserves	102
V.I	Affilia changes in foreign exchange reserves	102
VI.1	Banks' common equity (CET1) has risen relative to risk-weighted assets	104
VI.2	Profitability of major banks	107
VI.3	Profitability of the insurance sector	109
	Business models: traditional banking regains popularity	113
•	2 dominos modelos didentinas paraming regularity	

The economic chapters of this Report went to press on 18–20 June 2014 using data available up to 6 June 2014.

Conventions used in this Report

lhs, rhs left-hand scale, right-hand scale billion thousand million

trillion thousand billion %pts percentage points

... not available

- . not applicable
- nil or negligible
- \$ US dollar unless specified otherwise

Components may not sum to totals because of rounding.

The term "country" as used in this publication also covers territorial entities that are not states as understood by international law and practice but for which data are separately and independently maintained.

84th Annual Report

submitted to the Annual General Meeting of the Bank for International Settlements held in Basel on 29 June 2014

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to submit to you the 84th Annual Report of the Bank for International Settlements, for the financial year which ended on 31 March 2014.

The net profit for the year amounted to SDR 419.3 million, compared with SDR 895.4 million for the preceding year. The figure for the preceding year has been restated to reflect a change in accounting policy for post-employment benefit obligations. The amended policy is disclosed under "Accounting policies" (no 26) on page 184, and the financial impact of the change is disclosed in note 3 to the financial statements on pages 186–8. Details of the results for the financial year 2013/14 may be found on pages 167–9 of this Report under "Net profit and its distribution".

The Board of Directors proposes, in application of Article 51 of the Bank's Statutes, that the present General Meeting allocate the sum of SDR 120.0 million in payment of a dividend of SDR 215 per share, payable in any constituent currency of the SDR, or in Swiss francs.

The Board further recommends that SDR 15.0 million be transferred to the general reserve fund and the remainder – amounting to SDR 284.3 million – to the free reserve fund.

If these proposals are approved, the Bank's dividend for the financial year 2013/14 will be payable to shareholders on 3 July 2014.

Basel, 20 June 2014

JAIME CARUANA General Manager