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Authors: Guglielmo Maria Caporale, Suman Lodh, Monomita Nandy



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**THE PERFORMANCE OF BANKS
IN THE MENA REGION
DURING THE GLOBAL FINANCIAL CRISIS**

**Guglielmo Maria Caporale
Brunel University London**

**Suman Lodh
Middlesex University**

**Monomita Nandy
Brunel University London**

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Corresponding author: Professor Guglielmo Maria Caporale, Department of Economics and Finance, Brunel University, London, UB8 3PH, UK. Tel.: +44 (0)1895 266713. Fax: +44 (0)1895 269770. Email: Guglielmo-Maria.Caporale@brunel.ac.uk

Abstract

This paper examines the impact of the global financial crisis on the banking sector in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, as well as the main determinants of the profitability of both domestic and foreign banks. The empirical findings suggest that during the crisis the former outperformed the latter in that region. As for the determinants of profitability, size does not appear to play a role, whilst the liquidity ratio and net interest revenues seem to have a negative and positive effect respectively; GDP has a positive effect in the case of domestic banks.

Keywords: MENA region, banking sector, profitability, global financial crisis

JEL classification: G21

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