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Balanced-Budget Rules and Risk-sharing in a Fiscal Union[§]

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Abstract

This paper addresses the following question: What are the implications of the asymmetry of balanced-budget rules for interregional risk sharing in a fiscal union? We investigate our research question in a two-region, open economy DSGE model that is augmented with the public-sector features of a federal state. The analysis demonstrates that the asymmetry of balanced-budget rules is detrimental for the risk sharing in the union. The degree of risk sharing is a function of the public good productivity, specification of the technology process, and distribution of productivity shocks in the fiscal union.

Keywords: balanced-budget rule, fiscal federalism, fiscal union, occasionally binding constraints, productive public expenditures, risk sharing **JEL codes:** E62, H60, H74, H77

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