

TIGER: Tracking Indexes for the Global Economic Recovery

By Eswar Prasad and Aryan Khanna

Technical Appendix

October 2021 NOTE: In April 2020, we noted the low availability of data in light of the effects of Covid-19 on the global economy. As of October 2021, the availability of data has improved; however, the data lags are still apparent. As a result, we continue to integrate real-time estimates of forthcoming data alongside the most recent figures from news accounts and data providers to ensure TIGER is up to date. This method has its limitations at a time of heightened economic uncertainty. Where possible, we have made conservative assumptions about the extent of changes in various indicators.

Methodology

In our analysis, we employ a statistical procedure called Principal Component Analysis (PCA) that is used widely in the physical and social sciences to extract indicators that capture common fluctuations among variables in large datasets. PCA is a transparent and straightforward procedure that can easily handle a large number of variables and enables one to construct indicators of comovement across all variables in a dataset or a subset of them. This procedure is ideal for creating the TIGER indexes as it allows us to combine information from different types of economic variables and multiple countries.

Each variable that enters into the PCA is a priori given an equal weight in the calculations. The procedure then assigns different weights to different variables depending on how important they turn out to be in capturing fluctuations in the entire set of variables. PCA is a special case of a more general technique called factor analysis that captures more complicated patterns of lead and lag correlations across the variables—it is important to note that PCA picks up only contemporaneous correlations.

Dataset

Our dataset covers most of the G-20 countries and contains a set of key real, financial and confidence variables. The main constraint in expanding our dataset to cover more variables is the lack of consistent data availability at a high frequency, especially among the emerging markets. For example, it is difficult to get good data on employment levels for the emerging markets. Nevertheless, we have assembled a set of variables on which we were able to get reasonably timely and high-quality data. The countries and variables in our dataset are listed below. Note that composite total indexes include only Advanced Economies and Emerging Market Economies groups.

Advanced Economies

- Australia
- Canada
- France
- Germany
- Italy
- Japan
- Korea
- Netherlands
- Spain
- United Kingdom
- United States

Emerging Market Economies

- Argentina
- Brazil
- China
- India
- Indonesia
- Mexico
- Russia
- South Africa
- Turkey

Euro Periphery

- Greece
- Italy (Advanced)
- Ireland
- Portugal
- Spain (Advanced)

Economic Indicators

Real Activity Indicators

- Capacity Utilization
- Employment
- Exports

Financial Indicators

- Equity Market Index
- Stock Market Capitalization
- Credit Growth

Confidence Indicators

- Business Confidence
- Consumer Confidence

- Industrial Prodn.
- Imports
- GDP
- Manufacturing Orders
- Retail Sales
- Unemployment Rate

- Emerging Market Bond Spreads
- TED Spread
- VIX

By Country:

Composite Index – Business Confidence, Consumer Confidence, Capacity Utilization, Employment, Exports, Imports, Industrial Production, GDP Growth, Manufacturing Orders, Retail Sales, Unemployment Rate, Equity Markets, Credit Growth, Ted Spread¹, VIX

Real Activity Index – Capacity Utilization, Employment, Exports, Imports, Industrial Production, GDP Growth, Manufacturing Orders, Retail Sales, Unemployment Rate

Financial Index – Equity Markets, Market Capitalization, Credit Growth, Emerging Bond Spreads, TED Spread, VIX

Confidence Index – Business Confidence, Consumer Confidence

By Indicator Variable:

Advanced Economies, Emerging Market Economies, and Total Indexes are found by aggregating directly across country data. We create composite indexes separately for the groups of advanced economies and emerging markets covering all of the above variables. We also create additional indexes for each of these groups based on each category of variables listed below (real, financial, confidence). Finally, we generate country-specific indicators that cover all the variables for a given country and also variable-specific indicators that cover all countries' data for a given variable.

Description of Data and Source Information:

Indicator Variable	Unit	Description	Source
Business Confidence	Index	National confidence indicator	OECD
Consumer Confidence	Index	National confidence indicator	OECD
Capacity Utilization	Percent	Capacity utilization rate for industrial sector	Haver Analytics; National sources
Employment	Percent	12-month growth rate of total employment levels	IMF International Financial Statistics; CEIC Data Company, Ltd.; National sources
Exports	Percent	12-month growth rate of 3 month moving average. Goods. USD	IMF Direction of Trade Statistics
Imports	Percent	12-month growth rate of 3 month moving average. Goods. USD	IMF Direction of Trade Statistics
Industrial Production	Percent	12-month growth rate of 3 month moving average. Seasonally Adjusted Volumes	World Bank, Global Economic Monitor; National sources
GDP Growth	Percent	Quarterly, year-over-year real growth rate. Each month in quarter are equal to quarterly rate. Latest quarter uses estimates from source.	Economist Intelligence Unit
Manufacturing Orders	Percent	12-month growth rate of new manufacturing orders. Seasonally adjusted, local currency or index.	Haver Analytics; National sources
Retail Sales	Percent	12-month growth rate of 3 month moving average. Seasonally adjusted, Volume, Index	World Bank, Global Economic Monitor; National sources

¹ The TED Spread, by construction, is available only as a single variable and is not country-specific.

Equity Markets	Percent	12-month growth rate of share price index in national currency	CEIC Data Company, Ltd.; IMF International Financial Statistics; Bloomberg
Stock Market Capitalization	Percent	12-month growth rate in national currency	CEIC Data Company, Ltd.
Credit Growth	Percent	12-month growth rate in national currency. Banking claims on private sector	IMF International Financial Statistics; Federal Reserve; Bank of Japan
Emerging Bond Spreads	Level	Basis points over US treasury	World Bank, Global Economic Monitor
TED Spread	Level	Difference between 3-month LIBOR and U.S. Treasury, basis Points	US Department of Treasury via Federal Reserve (FRED)
Unemployment Rate	Percent	OECD Harmonized Unemployment Rate	OECD via Federal Reserve (FRED)
VIX	Level	Volatility index for national stock markets	Bloomberg

Data Composition of TIGER Indexes

The matrix below shows which countries and variables are included across the aggregated TIGER indexes.

	Bus Conf.	Cons. Conf.	Cap. Utilization	Employ ment	Export	Import	Ind. Prodn	GDP	Man. Orders	Retail Sales	Equity Market	Market Cap	Credit Growth	Emerging Bond Spreads	Unem ploym ent Rate	VIX
Advanced:																
Australia	x	x	-	x	x	x	-	x	-	-	x	x	x	-	x	-
Canada	-	-	-	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	x	-	-	-	x	-
France	x	x	-	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	x	x	x	-	x	x
Germany	x	x	-	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	x	x	x	-	x	x
Italy	x	x	-	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	-	x	x	-	x	-
Japan	x	x	-	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	x	x	x	-	x	x
Korea	x	x	-	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	x	x	-	-	x	x
Netherlands	x	x	-	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	x	x	x	-	-	-
Spain	x	x	-	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	x	x	x	-	x	-
UK	x	x	-	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	x	x	x	-	x	-
US	x	x	-	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	x	x	x	-	x	x
Emerging Markets:																
Argentina	-	-	-	-	x	x	-	x	-	-	x	x	-	-	-	-
Brazil	x	x	-	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	x	x	-	-	-	-
China	x	x	-	-	x	x	x	x	-	-	x	x	x	-	-	-
India	-	-	-	-	x	x	x	x	-	-	x	x	-	-	-	-
Indonesia	x	x	-	-	x	x	-	x	-	-	x	x	x	-	-	-
Mexico	-	-	-	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	x	x	x	-	-	-
Russia	x	x	-	-	x	x	x	x	-	-	x	x	x	-	-	-
South Africa	x	x	-	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	x	x	x	-	-	x
Turkey	x	x	-	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	x	x	x	-	-	-

Data Availability

The table below describes the availability of each variable by country. All data are monthly, begin on January 2005, and end in the specified month of 2021. *Note: TED Spread data, not country specific, ranges from January 2005 through July 2021.*

	Bus Conf.	Cons. Conf.	Cap. Utilization	Employ ment	Export	Import	Ind. Prodn	GDP	Man. Ord.	Retail Sales	Equity Market	Market Cap	Credit Growth	Emerg. Bond Spreads	Unemp. Rate	VIX
Advanced:																
Australia	July	July	July	July	July	July	-	Q3	-	-	July	July	July	-	July	-
Canada	Oct'20	Oct'20	July	July	July	July	July	Q3	July	July	July	-	-	-	July	-
France	July	July	Aug'17	July	July	July	July	Q3	-	July	July	July	July	-	July	July
Germany	July	July	Aug'17	July	July	July	July	Q3	July	July	July	July	July	-	July	-
Italy	July	July	July	July	July	July	July	Q3	May	July	-	July	July	-	July	-
Japan	July	July	July	July	July	July	July	Q3	July	July	July	July	July	-	July	July
Korea	July	July	-	July	July	July	July	Q3	-	July	July	July	July	-	July	July
Netherlands	July	July	July	July	July	July	July	Q3	-	July	July	July	July	-	July	-
Spain	July	July	July	July	July	July	July	Q3	July	July	July	July	July	-	July	-
UK	July	July	-	July	July	July	July	Q3	-	July	July	July	July	-	July	-
US	July	July	Aug'17	July	July	July	July	Q3	July	July	July	July	July	-	July	July
Emerging:																
Argentina	-	-	-	-	July	July	-	Q3	-	-	July	July	-	July	-	-
Brazil	July	July	-	-	July	July	July	Q3	-	July	July	July	July	July	-	-
China	July	Jun	-	-	July	July	July	Q3	-	July	July	July	July	July	-	-
India	-	-	-	-	July	July	July	Q3	-	-	July	July	-	-	-	-
Indonesia	Jun'20	Jul	-	-	July	July	-	Q3	-	July	July	July	July	-	-	-
Mexico	-	-	-	July	July	July	July	Q3	-	July	July	July	July	July	-	-
Russia	July	May	-	-	July	July	July	Q3	-	-	July	July	July	July	-	-
South Africa	Jun'20	Jun	-	July	July	July	July	Q3	-	July	July	July	July	July	-	July
Turkey	July	July	-	July	July	July	July	Q3	-	July	July	July	July	July	-	-

Data Availability for Euro Periphery

The table below describes the availability of each variable for Greece, Ireland, and Portugal. Availability for Italy and Spain are included in the above Advanced Economy group. All data are monthly, begin on January 2005, and end in the specified month of 2021.

	Bus Conf.	Cons. Conf.	Cap. Utilization	Employment	Export	Import	Ind. Prodn	GDP	Man. Order	Retail Sales	Equity Market	Market Cap	Credit Growth	Emerging Bond Spreads	Unemployment Rate	VIX
Greece	July	July	-	-	July	July	July	Q3	-	July	July	July	July	-	July	-
Ireland	July	July	-	-	July	July	July	Q3	-	July	July	July	July	-	July	-
Portugal	July	July	-	-	July	July	July	Q3	-	July	July	July	July	-	July	-

Data Composition of Euro Periphery Country Indexes

The matrix below shows which countries and variables are included in the country indexes for Greece, Ireland, and Portugal. Italy and Spain are included in the above Advanced Economy group.

	Bus Conf.	Cons. Conf.	Cap. Utilization	Employment	Export	Import	Ind. Prodn	GDP	Man. Orders	Retail Sales	Equity Market	Market Cap	Credit Growth	Emerging Bond Spreads	Unemp. Rate	VIX
Greece	x	x	-	-	x	x	x	x	-	-	x	x	x	-	x	-
Ireland	x	x	-	-	x	x	x	x	-	-	x	x	x	-	x	-
Portugal	x	x	-	-	x	x	x	x	-	-	x	x	x	-	x	-