

Summary of articles

1992 et l'industrie belge, by Pierre Buigues et Fabienne Ilzkovitz.

This study aims to examine the competitive position of Belgian industries in those sectors most affected by the completion of the internal market. Three main conclusions can be drawn from this analysis. Firstly, the single market has very important implications for Belgian industry because the most affected industries account for 63% of manufacturing value added against a Community average of 49%. Secondly, the overall position of Belgian firms in these sectors is fairly good. The industries in which Belgian firms are relatively strong account for a higher proportion of value added and employment than those in which Belgian firms are vulnerable, though the latter provide one fifth of Belgian manufacturing employment. Unfortunately, it must finally be noted that industries in which Belgian firms show comparative economic strength tend to be the traditional ones whereas their trade performance on the Community market is mediocre in growth industries, such as computers and telecommunications.

Journal of Economic Literature classification numbers: 420, 122, 610.

La sécuritisation et la théorie de l'intermédiation financière, by Olivier Lefèbvre.

This paper is a limited survey of the literature on financial intermediation and securitization which attempt to identify to what extent securitization can duplicate the implicit functions of depository financial intermediaries. As these functions are the "raison d'être" of intermediation, securitization will dominate banking in some circumstances. From the discussion presented here, it comes that, when securitization occur disintermediation should follow, since (most) functions of financial intermediation are already fulfilled. Among these functions, information production is emphasised.

Journal of Economic Literature classification numbers: 026, 313, 314.

Some Specification Tests of Uncovered Interest Parity, by Ian D. McAvinchey et Ronald MacDonald.

Exchange rate theory has recently been concerned with versions of the uncovered interest rate parity (UIP) condition, as an alternative to purchasing power parity. The UIP condition is examined, for the U.S. Dollar, the Deutschemark, the Yen, and the Swiss Franc all against the Pound Sterling, using dynamic specification tests based on residual from the LUS and OLS classes, and selected error orthogonality tests. Market errors for one currency may have an information role for other currencies, this also is tested. It is suggested that spot rates are determined by the same underlying process which requires a considerable amount of past information on market errors for efficient spot rate determination. A role for time varying risk premia is suggested.

Journal of Economic Literature classification numbers : 132, 211, 431.

Les coûts et bénéfices du Canal du Centre, by Michel Beuthe et Anne-Sophie De Saint Martin.

This paper presents a cost-benefit analysis of the Center Canal project. The costs of expropriations, of building and operating the canal are compared to the reduction of transportation costs. These are computed on the basis of a future traffic estimation and a detailed analysis of boats operating costs. A sensitivity analysis is performed on future costs and traffic. The paper concludes that the investment is not economic. It would be even more economic not to complete the work and close the existing old canal.

Journal of Economic Literature classification numbers : 615.