

Introduction

The FDIC sought comments from academics and other bank regulators on preliminary results of the FDIC's study at a symposium held on January 16, 1997, at which three draft papers were presented. These papers have since been revised, and now correspond to Chapters 1, 12, and 13 in Volume 1 of this study. Participants at the symposium were invited to provide written versions of their comments for publication, and those submitted are presented in this volume. In addition, the symposium's final panel included a less structured discussion, an edited transcript of which is presented. Finally, the keynote address of Ricki Helfer, then-Chairman of the FDIC, to the symposium is also included in this volume. These materials are organized according to the order of the symposium's agenda.

Readers should note that in the study the FDIC's Division of Research and Statistics sought to take into account the symposium participants' observations; the study therefore now often reflects those comments. In addition, readers should be aware that further analysis undertaken since the symposium has occasionally resulted in changes to the materials upon which symposium participants based their comments.

The views expressed by the symposium participants are their own, and are not necessarily those of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.