

A large blue and red container ship named "E.R. RIGA" is docked at a pier on a wide river. The ship is heavily loaded with colorful shipping containers. In the background, another smaller container ship is visible on the river, and a bridge spans the water. The sky is clear and blue.

**KCG Working Paper**

# **Financial Frictions and Foreign Direct Investment: Evidence from Japanese Microdata**

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# Financial Frictions and Foreign Direct Investment: Evidence from Japanese Microdata

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**Abstract:** Using Japanese microdata for the period 1980 to 2000 we find evidence for two transmission channels from financial shocks to foreign direct investment: a collateral channel, whereby changes in the value of investors' landholdings affect their borrowing ability; and a lending channel, whereby changes in bank health affect banks' lending ability. Decreasing land values by 55% on average from their peak in 1990 to the sample mean reduces the predicted number of investments by 17%. Reducing banks' market-to-book ratios by an average 61% from their high in 1986 to the sample mean lowers predicted investment counts by 21%.

**Keywords:** Foreign direct investment, multinational enterprise, credit rationing, collateral, bank health, Japan

**JEL Classification:** F23, L20

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# 1 Introduction

The global financial crisis was accompanied by a worldwide collapse of foreign direct investment (FDI). According to UNCTAD (2011, Table I.1), world outflows of FDI were 46% lower in 2009 compared to 2007, with the drop in outflows from developed countries exceeding 50%. Such a collapse of FDI is worrying because FDI has been one of the main driving forces of globalization in the past decades: foreign affiliate sales have exceeded world trade for more than two decades (see UNCTAD, 2004). Moreover, FDI plays an essential role as a source of investment capital not least for less-developed countries, a source that has traditionally been thought to be much less volatile than portfolio capital (UNCTAD, 2011).

While the financial crisis obviously had drastic consequences for FDI, it remains unclear what exactly caused FDI to fall. UNCTAD (2011) argues that the main reason for the drop in FDI was the economic downturn and that FDI has been slow to recover due to the fragile world economy and an uncertain regulatory environment. This conclusion is in line with the traditional industrial organization view of FDI, where FDI is based on product market or technology market imperfections, but financial markets are assumed to be frictionless (see, for instance, Markusen, 2002, or Barba Navaretti and Venables, 2004). According to this view, not only are changes in FDI flows mainly due to product market shocks, there are also no serious consequences for social welfare when firms simply adjust their FDI to changing demand conditions.

The current paper argues that this traditional view is incomplete in that financial frictions may have potentially strong effects on FDI. More precisely, we identify two possible channels through which financial shocks are transmitted to FDI: (i) a lending channel, whereby changes in bank health affect banks' ability to lend; and (ii) a collateral channel, whereby changes in the value of collateral affect investors' ability to borrow.

We base our analysis on microdata on Japanese FDI projects in the United States between 1980 and 2000. These data are ideally suited for our purpose: First, the time period includes the Japanese land-price bubble, and

land in Japan as elsewhere is the dominant form of collateral to secure loans. Following a steep rise in the second half of the 1980s, land prices in Japan dropped by more than half between 1990 and 1993. The changes in land prices are exogenous to the investing firms (see also Gan, 2007a,b). Second, Japanese companies, even large ones, rely heavily on bank financing, more so than, for instance, firms in the United States. Many of these companies saw the health of their main bank decline starting in the mid 1980s. Third, the financial crisis was by and large confined to Japan. Controlling for local demand conditions in the United States by using industry-time fixed effects, our data hence allow us to identify to what extent the strong increase in Japanese FDI projects in the United States from the mid-1980s until 1990 and the subsequent drop were driven by financial conditions in Japan, in particular by changes in the value of firms' landholdings (or land values for short) and changes in bank health.

We estimate that reducing each firm's land value from its peak in 1990 to the average level in the pre-boom years 1980-85, a reduction of 77% on average, would have cut the predicted number of investments by 22%. By comparison a decrease in bank health, measured in terms of the market-to-book ratio of each firm's main bank, from its highest value in 1986 to the sample mean, an average reduction of 61%, would have lowered the predicted number of investments by 21%. The effect of the Japanese banking crisis in the second half the 1990s has an equally large effect on FDI: reducing banks' market-to-book ratios from their local maximum in 1995 to their 1996-2000 mean, a 55% drop on average, decreases the predicted number of investments by 34%.

Our paper contributes to the growing literature on the effects of financial constraints on FDI and trade (see Foley and Manova (2015) for a recent survey). It builds on the seminal papers by Froot and Stein (1991), and Klein et al. (2002) who previously pointed out the importance of financial constraints for FDI. Froot and Stein show that a domestic currency depreciation raises the relative wealth of foreign investors, giving them an advantage over domestic investors in bidding for take-over targets. Klein et al. argue that the decline in Japanese FDI after 1990 cannot be explained by this relative-

wealth (RW) hypothesis alone, but that the decline is more consistent with weak credit markets caused by the decreasing health of Japanese banks.<sup>1</sup> They show that FDI by Japanese firms is significantly affected by the health of their main banks—what they term the relative-access-to-credit (RAC) hypothesis.<sup>2</sup>

The current paper complements these two hypotheses by showing that the collateral channel’s role in transmitting financial shocks to FDI may be similarly important as that of the lending channel (or RAC hypothesis).<sup>3</sup> More precisely, our counterfactual exercises suggest that reducing the average investing firm’s land value by 77% lowers its investment probability by 16%, whereas reducing the market-to-book ratio of its main bank by 61% lowers its investment probability by 20%.

The paper is also connected with the corporate finance literature on the collateral and lending channels. Gan (2007a) uses the bursting of the Japanese real estate bubble to identify the effect of a shock to firms’ collateral on fixed investment, which in turn is computed using changes in the capital stock and depreciation. Gan finds a statistically and economically significant impact of the drop in collateral value: a 10 percent decrease in land value leads to a 0.8 percent reduction in the investment rate. Using data at the individual loan level, Gan (2007b) identifies a loan supply shock stemming from banks’ real estate exposure. She observes that firms reduce their borrowing from banks with greater exposure to the real-estate market. Gan estimates

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<sup>1</sup>See also Klein and Peek (1994) for further empirical evidence on the RW hypothesis.

<sup>2</sup>Alba et al. (2007) confirm the results of Klein et al. (2002) and show that bank downgrades affect the FDI even of those firms that have access to bond markets and thus could have financed their investment through bonds. Gibson (1995) shows that bank health affects investment: investment is 30% lower for firms that have one of the lowest-rated banks as their main bank.

<sup>3</sup>Another related paper is by Buch et al. (2014) who model the effect of credit constraints on FDI and, conditional on FDI, on the size of overseas operations. Using microdata on German FDI they find that a larger cash flow raises the propensity to invest abroad and to have more overseas affiliates. We, too, control for cash flow, but go further by examining the role of bank health and collateral value. Manova et al. (2015) find that foreign-owned firms perform better in China under credit constraints because they have access to credit through their parent firms. Matsuyama (2005), among others, shows that countries with better-functioning financial markets have a comparative advantage for hosting industries that rely substantially on external credit.

that this lending channel accounts for 20% of the decline in fixed investment and 25% of the drop in stock market value of Japanese firms. Chaney et al. (2012) use data for the period 1992 to 2007 to study the effect of changes in real estate prices on corporate investment in the United States. They find support for the importance of the collateral channel, with an additional dollar of collateral boosting investment of the average firm by 6 cents.

An obvious difference between these corporate finance papers and ours is that we look at a very specific and important form of investment, namely FDI. But FDI is not only interesting in itself. Rather our focus on new FDI projects has the distinct advantage of allowing us to control more easily for demand conditions in the host country and thus the gross return on investment, which is hard to do when looking at aggregate corporate investment, as domestic financial shocks typically go hand in hand with changes in domestic demand conditions.

Finally our findings mirror to some extent what other authors have found regarding the effect of financial constraints on international trade. Amiti and Weinstein (2011), for instance, use Japanese microdata to look for a lending channel in exports. They regress firm-level exports on a proxy of the health of the firm's main bank, and find that declining bank health significantly hurts exports.<sup>4</sup>

The remainder of the paper is organized as follows. In the next section we discuss the theoretical link between financial frictions and FDI to motivate our empirical strategy. In Section 3 we present the Japanese data and discuss stylized facts. In Section 4 we introduce our regression model and examine the statistical significance of the effects stemming from the collateral and lending channels. In Section 5 we provide a quantification of the effects to show that they are indeed economically sizeable, and Section 6 concludes. The Appendix contains a detailed description of data sources.

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<sup>4</sup>Chor and Manova (2012) argue that the recent decrease in world trade has been partly due to the worldwide credit crunch. There is some evidence that FDI is even more vulnerable to credit constraints than exports (see Buch et. al., 2010).

## 2 Theoretical Motivation

In this section we provide a theoretical motivation for the empirical analysis, concentrating on the microfoundations of the lending and collateral channels through which financial market frictions may affect the FDI behavior of Japanese firms. According to the seminal contribution by Stiglitz and Weiss (1981), credit rationing by a bank arises when the bank is incompletely informed about the riskiness of investment projects proposed by borrowers. Simply put, the bank has to impose tough credit terms to deter projects with a low success probability, and consequently the probability that a project is financed is less than one (as shown by Besanko and Thakor, 1987). How tough these terms are, and thus the probability that a project does not receive financing, depends positively on the bank's cost of refinancing, which in turn is inversely related to bank health. This is the lending channel.

In the case of Japan, it appears reasonable to consider an investor dealing with a single bank. Although Japanese firms tend to borrow from several banks, this assumption is consistent with the empirical observation that Japanese firms have strong ties with their main bank. In this scenario, i.e., with the main bank exercising some market power, it is well known that collateral is an inefficient means of dealing with the incomplete information problem, and would not be used if loan contracts were complete (see Besanko and Thakor, 1987).<sup>5</sup>

A role for collateral therefore arises when loan contracts are incomplete: the bank requires collateral to prevent a borrower from accepting tough credit terms only to then default on the loan. This happens when the success of the borrower's investment project is either not or only partly verifiable. In that case, the borrower could claim that the project was not successful, and by claiming no success could renege on repaying the loan plus interest. The bank would then only be left with the collateral. Hence the bank will always want to deter this opportunistic behavior, and will do so by specifying a collat-

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<sup>5</sup>If the banking sector were perfectly competitive, collateral would play a role, but all types would be served in equilibrium (see Bester, 1985). However, there would then be no credit rationing and thus no lending channel. See also Bester (1987) and Schmidt-Mohr (1997).

eral that makes the borrower just indifferent between repaying and renegeing. However, acquiring collateral is costly for the borrower (see Barro, 1976).<sup>6</sup> Hence putting up collateral for a project involves an opportunity cost. An increase in the value of existing collateral, such as through an exogenous rise in the value of the borrower's landholding, lowers the opportunity cost and thus raises the probability that the borrower receives funding for a project. This is the collateral channel.

Thus, in a financial market environment characterized by asymmetric information between bank and borrower and a threat of opportunistic behavior of the borrower, FDI is likely to be driven in part by bank health and the value of collateral. How strong each of these effects is for a particular borrower obviously depends on the size of the informational and contractual frictions. In Japan some firms have very close ties with their main bank through membership in the same keiretsu (or industrial group). These ties may mitigate these frictions to some extent. Indeed it has been argued elsewhere that members of a keiretsu enjoy better access to credit compared to non-members (see, for instance, Weinstein and Yafeh, 1998).<sup>7</sup> We account for this in our empirical analysis by interacting both bank health and land value with a dummy variable, *Keiretsu*, that takes the value of 1, if a firm and its main bank are in the same keiretsu. The interaction between bank health and the *Keiretsu* dummy should account especially for the possibility that information asymmetries may be lower when investor and bank are in the same keiretsu. The interaction between land value and *Keiretsu* should account for possibly smaller contractual frictions between members of the same keiretsu.

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<sup>6</sup>Other classic models on the role of collateral include Hart and Moore (1994), and Holmstrom and Tirole (1998).

<sup>7</sup>Hoshi et al. (1990) find that distressed firms in Japan perform better when they have strong ties with a main bank or keiretsu, because free-rider problems among creditors and informational asymmetries tend to be smaller. Hoshi et al. (1991) find that investment is less sensitive to liquidity for Japanese firms with close financial ties to large Japanese banks than for firms without those ties, which suggests that information and incentive problems are smaller.

### 3 The Data

We base our empirical analysis on count data of Japanese FDI projects in the United States between 1980 and 2000.<sup>8</sup> Using the full sample of Toyo Keizai data, Figure 1 shows that the number of FDI projects undertaken by Japanese companies rose quickly from around 100 per year in the early 1980s to nearly 250 per year during the peak years of 1988-1990, but fell just as sharply between 1991-1994. This pattern is remarkable especially when compared with the clearly different FDI pattern of firms from other major FDI source countries (Canada, France, Germany, Netherlands, UK).<sup>9</sup>

Many of the Japanese investors in the Toyo Keizai data are privately held companies, for which we do not have access to the firm-specific information required for our study. We thus base our study on a smaller sample of firms (1196 on average over the sample period) for which we have all the required information; 491 of these firms have at least one investment in the US in the sample period.<sup>10</sup> As shown in Figure 1, the investment pattern for the firms in our sample is similar to that of the full Toyo Keizai dataset. Our firms made around 30 investments a year through the early 1980s, with this number rising to 120 per year in 1989 and 1990. Investments then quickly fell back to their mid-1980s levels, save for the short-term rise in investments in the mid-1990s.

Figure 1 suggests that the pattern of Japanese investment counts may be driven at least in part by factors specific to Japanese investors.<sup>11</sup> The two factors we look at are, of course, bank health and land value. We use two proxies for bank health. One proxy, also used by Klein et al. (2002),

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<sup>8</sup>See the Appendix for a detailed description of the data, the construction of variables, and data sources.

<sup>9</sup>Count data on inward FDI from these other source countries come from the U.S. International Trade Administration's (ITA) dataset on "Foreign Direct Investment into the United States." These data were collected up to 1994.

<sup>10</sup>The fact that a significant share of the firms in the sample do not invest reduces potential selection bias.

<sup>11</sup>This hypothesis is also supported by the pattern of counts of new Japanese FDI projects in Europe, which follows a similar pattern as Japanese FDI counts in the United States.

consists of Moody's long-term obligation ratings of eleven big commercial banks acting as main banks to the firms in our sample; these ratings are only available starting in 1986 (see Table 1 for the names of these banks and their Moody's ratings). The other proxy is available for the entire sample period, namely the market-to-book value of each firm's main bank (see Amiti and Weinstein, 2011, who use this proxy to look at the effects of bank health on exports).

As indicated by Table 1, the drop in FDI after 1990 coincides with a decline in bank health. But this table also suggests that obligation ratings in the second half of the 1980s certainly did not improve. Banks that received Moody's ratings in 1986 were all rated *Aaa*; however, by 1987 two banks (LTCB, Sanwa) had already been downgraded, and all banks suffered at least two downgrades by 1994. In several cases, banks suffered a multiple-level downgrade during a single year; by 1994, each bank had suffered on average a downgrade of 3.5 levels. The few cases where banks were upgraded occurred in the late 1990s, and typically these banks were quickly downgraded again.

When using the market-to-book value, we are able to examine the health of a far greater number of banks than when we rely on the Moody's ratings. More precisely, it allows us to examine the health of 54 banks.<sup>12</sup> However, over 75% of firms, and over 85% of firm-year observations in our data, have one of the 11 Moody's rated banks as their main bank. In addition, a high degree of correlation exists between the two measures of bank health (0.74).<sup>13</sup> Using the market-to-book value, Figure 2 shows that average bank health started to decline around 1986, when the Japanese financial system started to be deregulated and big companies gained limited direct access to the bond

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<sup>12</sup>Each of the 54 banks serves as main bank for between 1 and 178 firms in the sample. The average is 28 firms, the mean is 4 firms. The 11 banks, for which we have Moody's ratings, are the main bank for on average 114 firms.

<sup>13</sup>From authors' calculations. The Moody's ratings were converted to a numerical value (since there are 9 Moody's ratings, we set *Aaa*=9, *Aa1*=8, ..., *Baa2*=1) and weighted by their client totals to calculate the correlation coefficient. The unweighted correlation is 0.78.

market.<sup>14</sup> This suggests that bank health cannot explain the sharp increase in FDI projects leading up to 1990, at least not in the sense of the RAC hypothesis which posits a positive relationship between bank health and FDI.

This increase in the number of FDI projects mirrors the steep rise in investors' land values in the second half of the 1980s, which is shown in Figure 2. Moreover, after the bursting of the real estate bubble in 1990 we see a steep decline in both land values and FDI. Since land is the main form of collateral to secure bank loans, we use a firm's land value as a proxy for the opportunity cost of putting up collateral to secure financing for an investment project. As explained in more detail in the Appendix, land values are calculated by holding the amount of property fixed at the firm's 1980 level, so changes in the land value do not arise from the purchase or sale of land, but rather from changes in land prices that are exogenous to the firm.

Initially we assume that each firm's entire landholding is at its headquarter location. This means that the firm is exposed to the land-price variation in the region (or metropolitan area), in which the headquarter is located. Figure 3 shows the variation of land-price indices across time for the nine Japanese regions and the nationwide average, with March 2000 as the base period. While each Japanese region saw an increase in land prices during the real-estate bubble, it is clear that price changes varied significantly across regions. The largest land-price increases were felt in the Kanto (which includes Tokyo) and Kinki (which includes Osaka) regions. Chubu-Tokai (which includes Nagoya) and the remaining regions experienced below-average movements in land prices, with the strong land-price increase also occurring several years later than, for instance, in the Kanto region. This observation is confirmed in Figure 4, which shows the land price variation at the prefecture and metropolitan level.

However, while there is considerable regional variation in land prices, as indicated by Figures 3 and 4, our approach implies that firms with headquarter-

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<sup>14</sup>In Japan, where securities markets are not as developed as in the US (Yamori and Murakami, 1999), banks remain the preferred source of credit for investors. In fact, during the height of Japanese outward FDI in the late 1980s and early 1990s, investing firms received 66% of their borrowed capital from banks (compared to 39% by U.S. firms during the same time period) (Gibson, 1995).

ters in the same region face the same land-price variation. This may potentially cause problems for the identification of the collateral effect, because headquarters are heavily concentrated in Tokyo (60%), as well as in Osaka and Nagoya (together 25%). We therefore also try a different approach to computing land values, in the spirit of Bartik (1991), which generates firm-specific variation in land values. As we explain in more detail in the Appendix, this approach assigns landholdings not just to the firm’s headquarter but also to its affiliates in other regions. A firm is therefore exposed to individual land-price shocks, because its affiliate network exposes it to a different set of regional land price movements than other firms.

Of course, changes in FDI counts will be affected by macroeconomic conditions, including potentially an increase in the relative wealth of Japanese investors driven by an appreciation of the Yen and rising stock market values of Japanese firms, i.e., Froot and Stein’s RW hypothesis. We control for these and other, possibly unobserved macroeconomic effects at the industry level through industry-time fixed effects. Our identification is therefore through variation at the firm level including in the health of the firm’s main bank, and at the regional level through firm land values.

Since we have access to detailed firm-level information, we can control for a number of additional firm characteristics, such as total assets (excluding land), total factor productivity (TFP), previous investment experience, market value, and cash flow, all known to be associated with FDI (see, for instance, Raff et al., 2012). We can also control for whether a firm and its main bank are in the same keiretsu.<sup>15</sup>

It is important to control for firm-level variables and keiretsu membership, because we do observe considerable heterogeneity among firms in terms of land values, total assets, TFP, etc.; see Table 2 for the descriptive statistics of our dataset. As indicated by Table 2, there is also a large degree of heterogeneity between investing firms and the sample as a whole, with investing firms on average having substantially greater land values, total assets and TFP. The rate of keiretsu membership is about 50% higher among investors.

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<sup>15</sup>Keiretsu-affiliated banks lend to both keiretsu members and non-members. In addition, keiretsu firms do not always have as their main bank a bank affiliated with its keiretsu.

The year 1988 serves as the average date of first investment for the firms in our study. Further examining initial investments reveals that the average firm with an initial investment between 1986-1990 was 8% smaller in terms of total assets as compared to firms whose initial investment took place prior to 1986. In a within-firm comparison, initial investors in 1988 had on average double the land value than just two years prior. Overall, the average initial investor between 1986-1990 had 70% larger land values than two years prior to its investment, 3.5 times the two-year land value growth rate for firms whose initial investment took place prior to 1986. These results suggest that during the FDI boom years some firms that would not normally have undertaken FDI in the United States were enticed to do so. A possible explanation, of course, is that rising land values enabled these firms to obtain financing for FDI projects.

What does not change over time is the share of cross-border mergers and acquisitions (M&A) in total FDI projects. This share stays roughly constant at just under 10% per year, meaning that a little more than 90% of the projects in our sample are greenfield investments.<sup>16</sup>

## 4 Empirical Specification and Results

In the data we observe whether a Japanese firm  $i$  undertakes an FDI project in the United States in year  $t$ . We hence create a dummy variable  $FDI_{i,t}$  which takes the value 1 if firm  $i$  invests in year  $t$ , and zero otherwise. We want to estimate the probability of investment of firm  $i$  in year  $t$  conditional on a vector of explanatory variables  $x$ :  $Pr [FDI_{i,t} = 1|x]$ . For this purpose we write  $Pr [FDI_{i,t} = 1|x] = \Lambda(x)$ , where  $\Lambda$  denotes the logistic function,

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<sup>16</sup>We do not observe the size of these investments. The size of M&A activity may be large and may have even changed over time. The constant share of M&As is nevertheless an indication that Froot and Stein's RW hypothesis may not be sufficient to explain the pattern of Japanese FDI during the sample period. More precisely, the RW hypothesis explicitly posits that an increase in real wealth of foreign investors increases their chance of outbidding local investors in acquiring local firm assets. If this were a driving force behind the observed Japanese FDI pattern, one would expect this to show up in the M&A share.

and then estimate through maximum likelihood the logit, or log odds, as the following function of the vector of explanatory variables  $x$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \ln\left(\frac{\Lambda(x)}{1-\Lambda(x)}\right) = & \beta_1 \ln(LandValue_{i,t-1}) + \beta_2 BankHealth_{i,t-1} + \\ & \beta_3 Keiretsu_{i,t-1} + \beta_4 \ln(LandValue_{i,t-1}) \times Keiretsu_{i,t-1} \\ & + \beta_5 BankHealth_{i,t-1} \times Keiretsu_{i,t-1} \\ & + \beta_6 FirmChar_{i,t-1} + \alpha_{s,t} + \alpha_i + \varepsilon_{i,t}. \end{aligned}$$

Our explanatory variables are generally time-varying and lagged by one year to account for the time lag that exists between the decision to invest and the affiliate's start of operation, which is when the investment appears in our dataset. The set of explanatory variables includes the firm's land value in logs ( $\ln(LandValue_{i,t-1})$ ), the health of the firm's main bank ( $BankHealth_{i,t-1}$ ), either measured in terms of the market-to-book ratio ( $MarketToBook_{i,t-1}$ ), or alternatively the main bank's Moody's rating, and a dummy variable indicating whether or not the firm is in the same keiretsu as its main bank ( $Keiretsu_{i,t-1}$ ).<sup>17</sup> We also include interaction terms that measure the differential effects of landholding and bank health, respectively, for firms that are in the same keiretsu as their main bank ( $\ln(LandValue_{i,t-1}) \times Keiretsu_{i,t-1}$ ,  $BankHealth_{i,t-1} \times Keiretsu_{i,t-1}$ ). The additional firm-specific characteristics ( $FirmChar_{i,t-1}$ ) include measures of the firm's  $TotalAssets_{i,t-1}$ , previous  $InvestmentExperience_{i,t-1}$ ,  $MarketValue_{i,t-1}$ , and  $CashFlow_{i,t-1}$ . We control for variation across both time and 3-digit industries  $s$  through industry-time fixed effects ( $\alpha_{s,t}$ ). We also include firm fixed effects ( $\alpha_i$ ).<sup>18</sup> Finally,  $\varepsilon_{i,t}$

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<sup>17</sup>Notice that we measure land values in logarithms, not least because they are highly skewed (the maximum is roughly 14 times the mean). Tests confirm that this significantly improves the fit of our regressions.

<sup>18</sup>Notice that the Keiretsu dummy is not a firm fixed effect as the keiretsu status of the firm or its main bank may change over time. We observe 112 cases in the sample, in which the Keiretsu dummy switches from 1 to 0. In 54 cases, the switch occurs because the main bank leaves the keiretsu, which happens mostly due to the bank merging with a non-keiretsu bank. In the other 58 cases, the firm switches to a non-keiretsu bank as its main bank. This typically happens because the second or third most important reference bank listed in the Japan Company Handbook now becomes its main bank. Notice that

is the error term. Since we have significantly more than 40 industries at the 3-digit level, we cluster standard errors at the industry level.<sup>19</sup> We report each variable's effect on the log odds of investment. Positive coefficient estimates indicate an increase in the log odds of an investment occurring, while negative coefficients indicate a decrease in the log odds of investment.

The empirical results of our baseline estimation are summarized in Table 3. Notice that in our baseline estimation we allocate each firm's landholding to its headquarter and thus rely on regional variation in land prices to identify the effect of changes in land values. Column 1 reports results for a model based only on land value and the market-to-book value, whereas the model in column 2 also controls for 3-digit industry-time and firm fixed effects. We find that both the land value and the market-to-book value have the expected positive and significant effect.<sup>20</sup> Given that land values are measured in logs, the coefficients on land value in our regressions gives the elasticity of the odds of investment with respect to land value. We then address the question of whether these variables retain their influence once we control for a broader set of firm-specific characteristics. We first add the *Keiretsu* dummy variable and the keiretsu-interaction terms (column 3). Having the firm and its main bank in the same keiretsu is shown to increase a firm's log odds of investment. The interaction between land value and the *Keiretsu* dummy also shows the predicted sign: the sensitivity of the FDI odds with respect to the land value is significantly smaller for firms in the same keiretsu as their bank. This

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these cases involve significantly less than 58 firms, because there are several firms whose main bank changes several times. It is these firms that account for the 37 cases in which the Keiretsu dummy switches from 0 to 1. Switches, especially those initiated by firms, may not be random events, but only few, if any, are motivated by seeking funding for FDI, as many of these switches are by firms that never invest. Given that our main interest in the Keiretsu dummy is in how it interacts with land value and bank health, we are not too concerned about these fairly rare, possibly non-random events.

<sup>19</sup>We do not cluster at the regional level, because we have comparatively few regions. The problem of too few clusters at the region level is compounded by the fact that we would have very unbalanced clusters, since headquarters are concentrated in a few regions (see Cameron and Miller, 2015). Moreover, when we use the Bartik-type approach to compute land values, we can no longer assign firms to individual regions.

<sup>20</sup>Since the land price index records changes in land prices already with a lag, we ran the regression separately for "contemporaneous" land values and lagged land values. But this makes no difference for our results.

suggests that keiretsu membership may reduce the contractual frictions that would necessitate the use of collateral in lending arrangements. However, the interaction between the market-to-book value and the *Keiretsu* dummy is not significant, which could mean that membership of firm and bank in the same keiretsu does not reduce the informational frictions associated with FDI.

Finally, columns (4) and (5) estimate our model with the full set of firm-specific controls, with column (5) including the industry-time and firm-fixed effects.<sup>21</sup> Note that there are few qualitative differences between these two models and between them and the model in column (3): land value, market-to-book value, the *Keiretsu* dummy, and the land-value-keiretsu interaction term all remain significant determinants of FDI, while we find no statistically significant evidence for the market-to-book-keiretsu interaction effect. Our results for the firm-level variables are also in line with previous findings in the literature. FDI is positively related with total assets, cash flow, market value and previous investment experience. Bigger firms and firms with a greater cash flow are more likely to engage in FDI, possibly because they can more easily cover fixed costs associated with FDI. Firms that have a higher market value are also more likely to engage in FDI, possibly because their better relative wealth position makes them more successful when competing against local firms—the RW hypothesis at the firm level. Previous investment experience also increases investment odds; this experience may be viewed as reducing the riskiness of the FDI project. The only firm-level control that, while having the correct sign, does not significantly affect a firm’s log odds of investment is TFP.<sup>22</sup>

In Table 4 we present the result obtained by re-estimating the model in Table 3, column 5 using the Bartik-type approach to calculate land prices in-

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<sup>21</sup>For robustness, we also estimate the model in column (5) using 2-digit SIC industry-time fixed effects, clustering the standard errors at the firm level. The results are essentially unchanged.

<sup>22</sup>Notice that we also checked for additional heterogeneity in firms’ sensitivity to land value and bank health. In particular we interacted land value with total assets and the market-to-book value with total assets to see if there were differential effects depending on firm size. We did not find any differential effects for the market-to-book value and only a weakly significant negative coefficient for the interaction between land values and total assets.

troduced above. As explained in detail in the Appendix, we consider two ways of assigning landholdings to a firm’s headquarter and affiliate locations. HQ dominant, reported in the first column of Table 4, means that we assign 50% of landholdings to the headquarter and divide the other half equally across affiliates. Equal Weight simply means that we divide the firm’s landholding equally across headquarter and affiliates. The advantage of the Bartik-type approach is that we potentially create additional firm-level variation in land values. However, this comes at the cost of losing almost 60% of observations. The results reported in Table 4 are very similar to those in Table 3, column 5. The coefficients on land value and market-to-book decrease a bit, but the level of significance of the key variables does not change. Since we consider the model in Table 3, column 5 to provide the most reliable estimates of the effect of land value and bank health, we continue to use it as the baseline model for our subsequent regression analysis, which includes the question of whether the impact of bank health and land value remains statistically significant, if we consider different subperiods.

In Table 5 we report the results of separate regressions for different subperiods.<sup>23</sup> We observe that land value and its interaction with *Keiretsu* remain statistically significant across all time periods, although their effect on the log odds of investment vary especially between the 1980-85 period and the following subperiods. The effect of the market-to-book value turns out not to be statistically significant in the 1986-1990 period.<sup>24</sup> This is the period where bank health strongly declined (Figure 2) while the value of investor landholdings rapidly increased. This may be an indication that banks continued to lend to firms during this period despite their failing health, possibly since firms had a greater ability to collateralize their borrowing.

It is also interesting to note that being in the same keiretsu as the main bank does not affect the log odds of investment during the 1986-1990 period.

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<sup>23</sup>Varying the start and end date does not significantly affect our results.

<sup>24</sup>Notice that the coefficient for land value in 1980-85 is statistically different from those in the other three subperiods. There is no statistically significant difference between the land value coefficients in these three subperiods. Regarding the market-to-book value, the coefficient in the 1986-90 period is statistically different from the coefficients in the other subperiods, but the latter are not statistically different from each other.

Thus while in this sub-period neither bank health nor keiretsu membership significantly affects investment, it is also the period where a majority of firms in our sample make their first investment (1988) into the United States. This suggests that the significant increase in land values may have allowed firms to invest that were previously unable to do so.

While we use the bank's market-to-book value as our primary measure of bank health, we also check how robust our results are to changes in the bank health measure. To do this, we use Moody's long-term obligation ratings as the measure of bank health. This changes our sample period, since Moody's ratings are not available prior to 1986, and are only available for all of the 11 rated banks beginning in 1988. We use Moody's *Aa2* rating as the omitted variable, as it is the only rating to appear in each sub-period. Table 6 shows that bank health over the whole sample period 1986-2000 has a significant impact on investment. Firms whose main banks had *Aaa* ratings had slightly higher log odds of investing than those with banks rated *Aa2*, while firms with banks rated *Aa3* or lower had significantly reduced log odds of investment. However, these effects are not consistent across sub-periods. Similar to the results in Table 5 we find that bank health, now measured by Moody's ratings, does not significantly impact FDI in the 1986-1990 subperiod. In the 1991-1995 subperiod, only firms with *Aa1*-rated banks had a different bank health effect. From 1996 onward, with the exception of *Baa2*, firms with main banks rated *A2* and below are significantly impacted by bank health. These results indicate a non-linearity in the effect of bank health on FDI log odds: as long as the rating of the firm's bank is not too bad, the FDI is not affected. But bank ratings at the low end of the ratings scale do significantly negatively impact FDI likelihood. What it also may signal is the relative nature of these bank ratings. *Aa2* is a relatively middle-of-the-road ranking before 1990, and thus already tends to have a negative effect on the FDI of its customers. But it is the highest rating of a bank in 1995, and thus a bank has to be downgraded several notches below *Aa2* in order to generate a significant effect on the log odds of FDI.<sup>25</sup> Whether we use market-to-book values or Moody's ratings to

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<sup>25</sup>For this reason, we also conducted an analysis with the use of a dummy variable that takes the value 1 if the main bank is rated by Moody's as "High" or "Highest Quality"

measure bank health makes little difference for the effect of land values and the other explanatory variables.<sup>26</sup>

Notice that in the regressions reported in Table 6 we did not include an interaction term between Moody's ratings and the *Keiretsu* dummy, because it was impractical to interact each of the eight ratings levels with the *Keiretsu* dummy. Instead we follow Klein et al. (2002) and create the dummy variables "Single Downgrade" and "Multiple Downgrade", and then interact both of these variables with the *Keiretsu* dummy. This allows us to examine whether firms that are linked to their main bank through a keiretsu are affected differently than firms that do not have such a link by small versus big downgrades. Using the data in Table 1, the new dummy variables take the value one, if the firm's main bank was downgraded by a single step (e.g., Sanwa Bank's downgrade from *Aaa* to *Aa1* in 1987), respectively by multiple steps (e.g., LTCB's downgrade from *Aa2* to *A1* in 1990) in a given year. A priori, we expect firms with a keiretsu link to their main bank to be less affected by these downgrades than firms without such a link. This is confirmed by the regression results reported in Table 7. Single and multiple downgrades both negatively affect the log odds of FDI for the sample period as a whole and for the different subperiods, with the effect not surprisingly being stronger for multiple downgrades. In all cases, firms are significantly less affected by downgrades, if their main bank was in the same keiretsu. Unlike in Table 3, where we did not find a differential effect, we now obtain some evidence that membership of firm and bank in the same keiretsu may reduce the informational frictions associated with FDI.

As previously discussed, the Japanese financial market started to be deregulated in the mid-1980s, allowing some of the larger firms to issue bonds (only few firms, with government approval, issued bonds earlier than that). Whereas Alba et al. (2007) find that even firms that had access to the bond market were affected by declines in bank health, an analysis of aggregate

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(the range between *Aaa* and *Aa3*) and 0 if it is rated below this range (*A1* or below). Our results stay stable with this change in ratings measurement: the bank health variable is positive and significant, while all other variables retain their signs and significance levels.

<sup>26</sup>Notice that the differences across periods in the coefficients for land value are not statistically significant.

data by Hayashi and Prescott (2002) suggests that in the 1990s Japanese firms were not constrained in obtaining financing for their investments. Hayashi and Prescott argue, in particular, that low TFP rather than financial frictions lead to stagnant investment in the 1990s. To examine the role of access to alternative sources of financing, we collected data from the Pacific Basin Capital Markets (PACAP) database on the bond market participation of firms. These data show that the number of firms issuing bonds increased from 317 (27% of sample firms) in 1980 to a peak of 659 (56% of sample firms) in 1989, with participation dropping off after that. Even with this growth, firms on average issued bonds in only four of our sample years, with typically two of these years coming post-land-price bubble. In nominal terms, the median firm-level bond issuance was 2,786 million Yen in 1980, with this total rising to 4,338 million Yen in 1985, and 10,000 million Yen in both 1990 and 1995. Not surprisingly, firms issuing bonds were on average slightly larger (in total assets) than the average firm in the sample. Table 8 contains results for regressions similar to those in Table 5, except that now we also include a dummy variable, *Bonds*, that equals one, if the firm issued bonds in the previous year, and zero otherwise. We also interact  $\ln(LandValue)$  and *MarketToBook* with *Bonds* to determine whether firms issuing bonds were affected differently by changes in land values and bank health. We find evidence that this was indeed the case. Firms that issued bonds had significantly higher log odds of FDI after 1985. The interaction terms indicate that firms issuing bonds were less affected by changes in their land values and by changes in bank health. Notice that the interaction effect with respect to bank health is only significant in the 1990s, and takes a much bigger coefficient during that period. This suggests that, while both collateral and lending channel effects were present throughout the sample, these effects became weaker for those firms that, after the mid-1980s, gained access to the bond market. These findings thus reconcile, at least for those firms able to issue bonds, our observation of a dampening effect of financial frictions on FDI with Hayashi and Prescott's result that financial frictions were on aggregate less important in Japan in the 1990s.

The richness of our dataset allows us examine firm behavior in several

additional ways. First, we compare FDI into affiliates in the firm's core and non-core business lines. Non-core investments may be "riskier" in terms of profitability and survival than core investments, leading to different lending requirements by the firm's main bank. The 2-digit SIC codes of the parent and the affiliate determine whether the affiliate is in the parent's core (same 2-digit SIC) or non-core (different 2-digit SIC) business line. Our results from these regressions, found in Table 9, indeed show slightly bigger coefficients for land value and market-to-book value in the case of non-core investments. *Keiretsu* has no effect on investment into core affiliates, while it positively influences the odds of non-core investment. A plausible explanation is that the bank's knowledge of its client through its keiretsu ties increase the firm's ability to finance the more risky type of affiliate. In addition, TFP slightly reduces the log odds of investment into core affiliates, but increases the odds of a non-core investment. This may indicate that more productive firms find it easier to expand into non-core business lines.

Finally we check whether our results could be driven by mergers and acquisitions as opposed to greenfield investment. This is unlikely to be the case, because greenfield investments comprise over 90% of annual investments in our sample. This is confirmed by the regression results for the "Greenfield Only" investment subsample reported in Table 9, which are similar to the full sample results in Table 3, column 5.

## 5 Quantification

In this section we seek to quantify the effects of bank health and land value on FDI, so that we can assess the economic significance of our results. For this purpose we consider separate counterfactual exercises for land value and bank health. In each exercise we use the model from Table 3, column 4 to compute the predicted investment probabilities for representative levels of bank health and land value for an "average" investor, and analyze how these predicted investment probabilities change when we vary either bank health or land value. In addition, we compute the predicted individual investment probabilities of the firms in the sample and add them up to obtain the pre-

dicted number of investments; we then examine how the predicted number of investments changes with either bank health or land value.

Regarding land value we would like to know to what extent the boom in land prices has contributed to the sharp increase in the number of FDI projects in the late 1980s. To find out we compute the predicted investment probability holding all variables at their averages in 1990, at the peak of the land price bubble. This gives us a predicted investment probability for the "average" firm in 1990 of 0.068139. We then ask how much lower the investment probability of the "average" firm would have been if, holding everything else equal, we lower the land value from its peak in 1990 (133,040 million Yen) to the mean of the whole 1980-2000 sample (59,320 million Yen, about the average land value in 1987) or to the average level in the pre-boom years 1980-85 (29,942 million Yen). Lowering the land value to the sample mean, a 55% decrease, leads *ceteris paribus* to a predicted investment probability of 0.061245, a drop of 10%. Reducing the land value by 77% to the 1980-85 average, decreases the predicted investment probability of the average firm by 16% to 0.056904.

To get an idea of the corresponding change in the predicted number of investments we compute each firm's predicted investment probability for 1990 by using its individual 1990 values for all variables. By adding up these probabilities we obtain 89 predicted investments in 1990. Reducing each firm's land value to its individual sample average, holding all other variables fixed at their 1990 levels, we obtain 74 investments, which corresponds to a fall of 17%. Alternatively, when we decrease each firm's land value to its 1980-85 average, the predicted number of investments falls by 22% to just 69 investments. These results have to be taken with a grain of salt, because we implicitly assume in our computations that, for instance, no firm has more than one investment. Still they indicate a substantial effect of land value on FDI, and thus an economically significant role for the collateral channel.

Regarding bank health we compare the investment probability for the "average" firm in 1986, when the market-to-book value of the banks was at its peak (9.60), with the investment probability that would have obtained, *ceteris paribus*, if the market-to-book value had been at the sample average

(3.7, about the average for the 1980-85 period), a 61% decrease. In the former case the predicted investment probability is equal to 0.048621, in the latter case it is equal to 0.039117, which corresponds to a fall of 20%. In terms of the predicted number of investments, we obtain 77 investments by adding up the individual predicted investment probabilities of firms using the individual 1986 values for all variables. When we then lower, *ceteris paribus*, the market-to-book values of the respective banks to the sample average, the predicted number of investments decreases to 61, a 21% drop.

We can perform a similar exercise for the local maximum achieved by the market-to-book ratio in 1995. Specifically we compute the predicted investment probability holding all variables at their 1995 averages, and then reduce *ceteris paribus* the value of the market-to-book ratio to its 1996-2000 mean (a 55% drop from 3.73 to 1.65). This reduces the investment probability of the "average" 1995 firm by 30% from 0.050328 to 0.035122. By computing the individual investment probabilities of firms in 1995 and then adding them up we obtain 67 predicted investments in 1995. When we decrease, *ceteris paribus*, the market-to-book value of each firm's main bank to the 1996-2000 average, the predicted number of investments falls by 34% to 44 investments. Both counterfactual exercises for bank health indicate that the lending channel, too, plays an economically important role for FDI.

## 6 Conclusions

The paper identifies two separate channels through which financial shocks are transmitted to FDI: a collateral channel and a lending channel. The analysis of the collateral channel builds on the fact that in Japan and elsewhere land is the primary form of collateral. Changes in the value of its land affect a firm's ability to provide collateral to secure bank financing for its FDI projects. The lending channel, or RAC hypothesis, implies that FDI depends on the ability of banks to provide loans and thus on bank health.

To sort out the collateral and lending channels empirically we rely on microdata on Japanese FDI projects in the United States between 1980 and 2000. This time period is well suited for this task, because it exhibits con-

siderable exogenous variation in land prices and in bank health at the firm level. That this variation may help explain the big changes in Japanese FDI counts is suggested by the fact that FDI into the United States from other source countries simply does not exhibit the same strong pattern we observe for Japanese FDI.

Focusing first on statistical significance, we find that land value is a significant determinant of FDI throughout the sample period. This is true, if we consider individual subperiods, such as years of the land price boom from 1986 to 1990, or the land price bust between 1991 and 1995; but it remains true for the periods prior to the land price boom and following the drop in land prices. We take this to be convincing evidence of the presence of a collateral channel.

Statistical evidence for the presence of a lending channel is also strong. Whether measured in terms of the market-to-book ratio or Moody's ratings, bank health turns out to be a significant determinant of FDI. The impact of bank health, however, appears to be weaker if we focus on the period 1986-1990, during which FDI boomed, apparently supported by the dramatic rise in the value of land, but bank health started to decline. Apparently banks were willing to finance the FDI boom at that time and, as our data indicate, to increasingly support projects of smaller firms and firms without keiretsu ties that may not have been able to receive funding under "normal" circumstances. Thus an initial weakening of bank health during this period did not discourage FDI, at least not when combined with the strong rise in the value of land that could be used as collateral. What becomes evident especially in the regressions where we use Moody's ratings to measure bank health is that the effect of bank health is non-linear. The negative influence on FDI of a decline in bank health is typically felt only once banks have been downgraded sufficiently strongly.

Turning to the economic significance of our results we observe that both the collateral and the lending channel exert a strong influence on FDI. This can best be understood by considering several counterfactual exercises. Consider, for example, the year 1990, in which land values reached their peak just before the land price bubble burst. When we reduce each firm's land

value from the 1990 level to the average level in the 1980-85 period, which corresponds to a 77% fall on average, the predicted number of investments decreases by 22%. Similarly we may consider the year 1986, in which bank health, measured by the yearly average market-to-book value, reached its maximum. Reducing the market-to-book value of each firm's main bank from its peak to its sample mean, a drop of 61% on average, decreases the predicted number of investments by 21%. A counterfactual exercise for the reduction in banks' market-to-book value during the Japanese banking crisis in the second half of the 1990s comes to roughly similar conclusions regarding the magnitude of the bank health effect on FDI. When we lower the market-to-book value of each firm's main bank from the 1995 level to the 1996-2000 average, a drop of 55% on average, the predicted number of investments falls by 34%.

Much more research is needed, of course, before the results we obtain for Japan can be generalized. But one thing we certainly learn is that financial frictions by themselves may have significant consequences for FDI, even if demand conditions remain stable. In light of the Japanese experience, it may appear premature to blame the drastic decline of FDI during the recent world financial crisis only on weak demand and an uncertain regulatory environment.

## **7 Appendix: Description of the Data and Data Sources**

### **7.1 FDI**

We examine count data on Japanese FDI into the United States. These data come from Toyo Keizai Inc.'s *Japanese Overseas Investment: A complete listing by firms and countries* (JOI). Data collected for each investment includes: the name of the Japanese parent; the name, nationality and equity ownership percentage of each investing firm; the date and geographic location of initial investment into the affiliate; and the written description of each affiliate's

main business line at the time of initial investment. We include an investment only if the principal Japanese investor held an equity ownership share of at least 10%, which is the standard OECD minimum equity ownership percentage threshold for an investment to be considered FDI.

There are three primary methods to determine a firm's main bank: (1) the presence of a bank employee on the firm's board of directors, (2) the bank with the largest shareholding in that firm, and (3) the bank listed as the primary "reference" bank in Toyo Keizai's *Japan Company Handbook*.<sup>27</sup> To remain consistent with previous studies, especially Klein et al. (2002), the primary reference bank serves as the main bank for our paper. In the few cases where the first bank listed was Norinchukin Bank or the Japan Development Bank, the first listed non-governmental bank serves as the main bank.<sup>28</sup> Note also that the client-bank relationship is not always stable—in every year of the sample there are a few firms that change their main bank. Over the sample period we identify 211 switches, many of them after 1994. In numerous cases the switch occurs between the first and second listed reference bank, and in some cases firms switch back to their original main bank later in the sample period. It does not appear that firms switched banks specifically to obtain financing for FDI projects, as many of our recorded switches were by non-investing firms.

## 7.2 Investor Landholding

Data on Japanese firms' landholdings are found in the Pacific Basin Capital Markets (PACAP) database. This database provides annual data on the firm's landholdings (measured in millions of Yen). As noted by Gan (2007a) and others, Japanese firms are only required to provide the book value of this

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<sup>27</sup>Gibson (1995) finds a 95-97% correlation between the three methods.

<sup>28</sup>Obviously, the influence that primary reference banks may have on their client firms is not homogeneous. For instance, firms that are members of a bank-centered keiretsu may have closer ties to their primary bank than non-members, given the keiretsu structure of information sharing through corporate presidents' council meetings, cross-shareholdings of stock, and the presence of bankers on clients' executive boards (Hoshi, et al., 1991). In addition large firms that list a reference bank may differ in how much credit they require from that bank because of their ability to generate funds from non-bank sources.

land, and not the land's market value. Thus, we have to convert the book values of the firms' landholdings to their market values, with this conversion accounting for both land price changes as well as firms' land purchases/sales.

Land values are calculated using the purchase price, which suggests a LIFO accounting technique to convert land prices to market value. However, as Hoshi and Kashyap (1990) indicate, several assumptions must be made before this calculation can occur. First, we cannot assume that the market and book values of landholdings are the same in our initial period, as a significant divergence between these two values may have occurred before the start of the book value time series. Thus, for firms with landholdings prior to 1980, the start of our sample period, we follow Hayashi and Inoue (1991) and Gan (2007a) and multiply the book value of landholdings in 1980 by a factor of 8 to obtain the market value.<sup>29</sup> For firms that entered our sample after 1980, we assume that the book and market values of their land holdings are equivalent at the time of entry.

Once we have established the market value of the firm's landholdings in 1980, we then allow this value to fluctuate annually only according to changes in Japanese land prices. This creates exogenous fluctuations in a firm's land values, eliminating concerns over endogeneity of land values that would result from firm land sales/purchases during this period.

Data on land prices originates from the Japanese Real Estate Institute's (JREI) Urban Land Price Index (we use the September 2012 edition). The JREI calculates a nationwide price index, computed from prices in 223 cities. It subdivides this into separate composite indices for the group of the six largest cities (Kobe, Kyoto, Osaka, Nagoya, Tokyo Metropolitan Wards, Yokohama) and the group of the remaining 217 cities. In addition, the JREI calculates nine region-specific price indices, with separate indices for the regions of Chubu-Tokai, Chugoku, Hokkaido, Hokuriku, Kanto, Kinki, Kyushu-Okinawa, Shikoku, Tohoku. Each region is comprised of several prefectures and includes anywhere from 11 to 50 of the 223 cities in the overall sample.

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<sup>29</sup>Hayashi and Inoue (1991) and Gan (2007a) use the value 7.582446 to calculate this divergence by 1969. Given that we start in 1980, we increased the factor to 8. Our results, however, are robust to using both 8 and 9 as the initial multiplier.

The JREI also calculates land prices at the subregional level, including separate indices for the Kanagawa, Saitama, and Chiba prefectures. It also has created indices for each of the Tokyo Metropolitan Area, the Osaka Metropolitan Area, and the Nagoya Metropolitan Area as well as indices for a group of second-tier designated cities (e.g., Sapporo, Hiroshima, and 8 others) and 30 other prefectural capitals. The nationwide index dates back to 1955, while the regional and metropolitan area indices date back to 1985.

The *Japan Company Handbook* provides the address of the principal office of each firm in our sample, thus allowing us to determine the corporate headquarter location of each firm in our sample. In our main specification we calculate a firm's land value based on its headquarter location, using the appropriate JREI land price index to calculate land value fluctuations. We use the appropriate nationwide index (6-main cities, non-main cities) for the years 1980 through 1984, and the appropriate sub-regional index for the years 1985-2000. Since we keep each firm's landholding in 1980 fixed (and we use firm fixed effects in our main regressions), the variation in land values then comes from the regional variation in land prices.

While there appears to be a substantial variation in land prices at the regional level, one may be concerned whether this variation is enough to identify the collateral effect on firms' FDI, especially since nearly 60% of the sample firms are headquartered in Tokyo, with Osaka and Nagoya combined housing an additional 25% of headquarters. Given that we keep constant a firm's landholding at the beginning of the sample, all firms headquartered in the same region face the same variation in land values.

Ideally, we would like to have variation in land prices at the firm level, not just at the regional level, so that land values develop differently even for firms headquartered in the same region. For this purpose, we create a measure for land prices in the spirit of Bartik (1991) that varies at the firm level and thus potentially introduces additional firm-level variation in land values. In particular, we try to determine each firm's domestic affiliate network in 1980 using various sources, such as Toyo Keizai's *Japan Company Handbook* and Moody's *International Manual*, and based on our own extensive internet searches. We then partition the firm's PACAP listed total

landholding to account for the fact that the firm holds land not just at its headquarter but also at each affiliate location. Since we do not observe how much land the firm holds at each of its affiliate locations, and do not have any affiliate-specific information, such as employment or total assets, that we could use to construct weights, we try different ad hoc weights to assign landholdings to affiliates. We initially partition the landholding such that the headquarter location receives 50% of the firm's initial landholding, with the remaining land equally divided among its affiliates. Assuming that each affiliate remained operational throughout our sample, we employ the appropriate JREI land index to calculate the land price growth at each location. We then sum the weighted headquarter and affiliate land prices to calculate the firm's land value for each year. Alternatively, we allow for headquarter and each affiliate to have equal weight in the landholding.<sup>30</sup>

We were able to find information on the affiliate network of about 40% of firms in our sample; 251 firms had documented domestic affiliate locations at the beginning of the sample, and our search indicated that an approximately equal number had no listed domestic affiliate. For the remainder of our firms we were not able to verify whether an affiliate existed. Those firms with affiliates had on average seven affiliates, a value skewed by a few firms with 100 or more affiliates, whereas the median number of affiliates was three. In some cases, we were able to find only a partial list of the firm's affiliates, with phrases like "Osaka, Nagoya, Yokohama, and 10 other locations" common. Therefore, in both Bartik-type calculations, we include up to seven possible affiliates.

In the sample used for the Bartik-type calculations, around 55% of firms are headquartered in Tokyo, which is similar to the share in the original sample. However, an above-average number of Tokyo-based firms, namely two thirds, has affiliates elsewhere, and the median number of affiliates of Tokyo-based firms is also larger than the median number of affiliates of firms

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<sup>30</sup>Suppose a firm headquartered in Tokyo has affiliates located in Osaka, Nagoya, Kobe, and Yokohama in 1980. Our initial calculation would thus credit Tokyo with 50% of the initial landholding, and assign 12.5% to each of the affiliates. The alternate approach would credit each location with 20% of the initial landholding.

headquartered elsewhere. This suggests that our Bartik-type calculations indeed create more variation in land values, not least for Tokyo-based firms. Whereas before firms that have headquarters in the same location were assumed to face the same variation in land values, with the Bartik-type approach even firms with the same headquarter location may see their land values fluctuate differently, depending upon the location of their domestic affiliates. For example, a Tokyo-based firm with an affiliate in Osaka is exposed to different land price fluctuations than a Tokyo-based firm with affiliates in Nagoya and Hiroshima, because, as Figures 4 and 5 show, land prices in Osaka grew far higher than those in Nagoya (in the Chubu-Tokai region) or Hiroshima (in the Chugoku region) during our sample period.

The Bartik-type approach does come at a cost, however. As already mentioned, we cannot accurately determine the affiliate status for almost 60% of our Japanese firms in 1980, which reduces sample size. We also assume that all affiliates are of equal size, since we cannot determine the size of an affiliate's landholding or even its total assets or employment. Finally, we assume that each affiliate remains open throughout our sample period.

### **7.3 Bank Health**

We use two proxies for the health of each investor's main bank: the bank's market-to-book value and its Moody's long-term obligation rating. Applying the market-to-book value allows us to create a longer FDI timeline for our firms, as these data date back to 1977 for many Japanese banks, and 1980 for all of the banks in our sample.

Moody's ratings are, in descending order: Aaa, Aa1, Aa2, Aa3, A1, A2, A3, Baa1, Baa2. As stated in Moody's *Ratings Symbols and Definitions*, "Moody's long-term obligation ratings are opinions of the relative credit risk of fixed-income obligations with an original maturity of one year or more. They address the possibility that a financial obligation will not be honored as promised. Such ratings use Moody's Global Scale and reflect both the likelihood of default and any financial loss suffered in the event of default."

## 7.4 Firm Characteristics

3-digit SIC codes for Japan-based investors can be determined from numerous publicly available sources such as Diamond Lead's *Diamond's Japan Business Directory* and Toyo Keizai's *Japan Company Handbook* (various years). The JOI's verbal description of the affiliate's main business line allows for a clear determination of the affiliate's activities at the 2-digit SIC level. Six different firm-specific measures are used to capture a wide range of FDI-related firm characteristics. *TotalAssets* is measured as the real value of a firm's total assets (excluding landholding), where the nominal values are deflated by the Japanese wholesale price index. *MarketValue* is measured as the total market capitalization of the firm. *TFP* is computed via Levinsohn-Petrin's (2003) method. Previous *InvestmentExperience* is a dummy variable that takes a value of 1, if the firm has a previous investment in the United States, and 0 if not. *CashFlow* is a measure of an investor's operating cash flow margin. It is calculated as the sum of income from firm operations scaled by total sales. Correlations between firm-specific characteristics are reported in Table 10.

Dodwell Marketing's *Industrial Groupings in Japan* is used to determine keiretsu membership of the investing firms as well as for each bank. Notice that keiretsu-affiliated banks lend to both keiretsu members and non-members. Keiretsu firms do not always have as its main bank a bank affiliated with its keiretsu.

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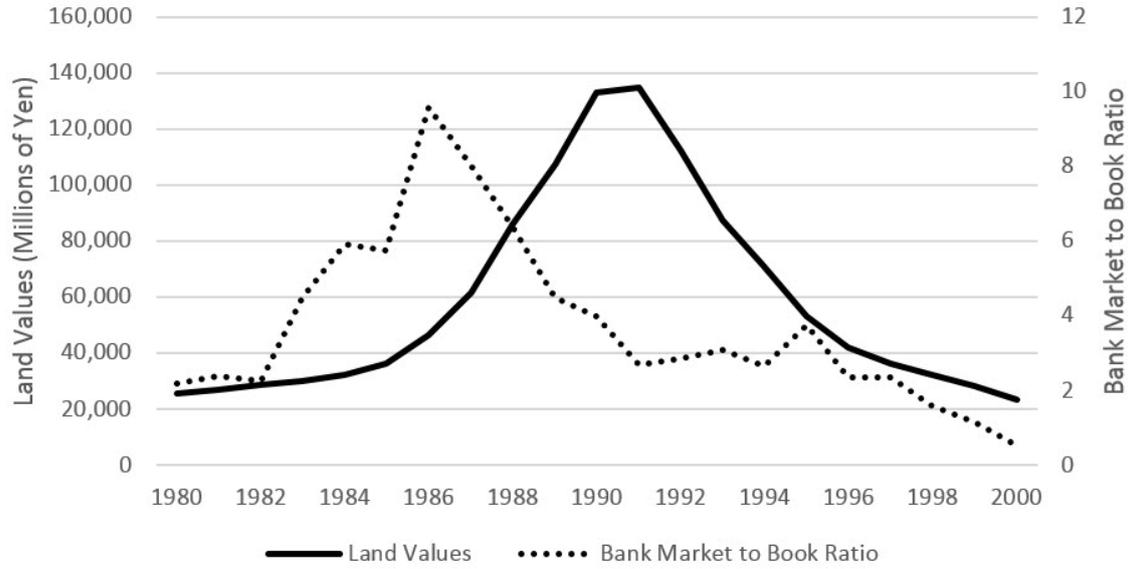
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Figure 1: Annual Investment Counts by Japanese and Other Major Country Firms into the United States: 1980-2000



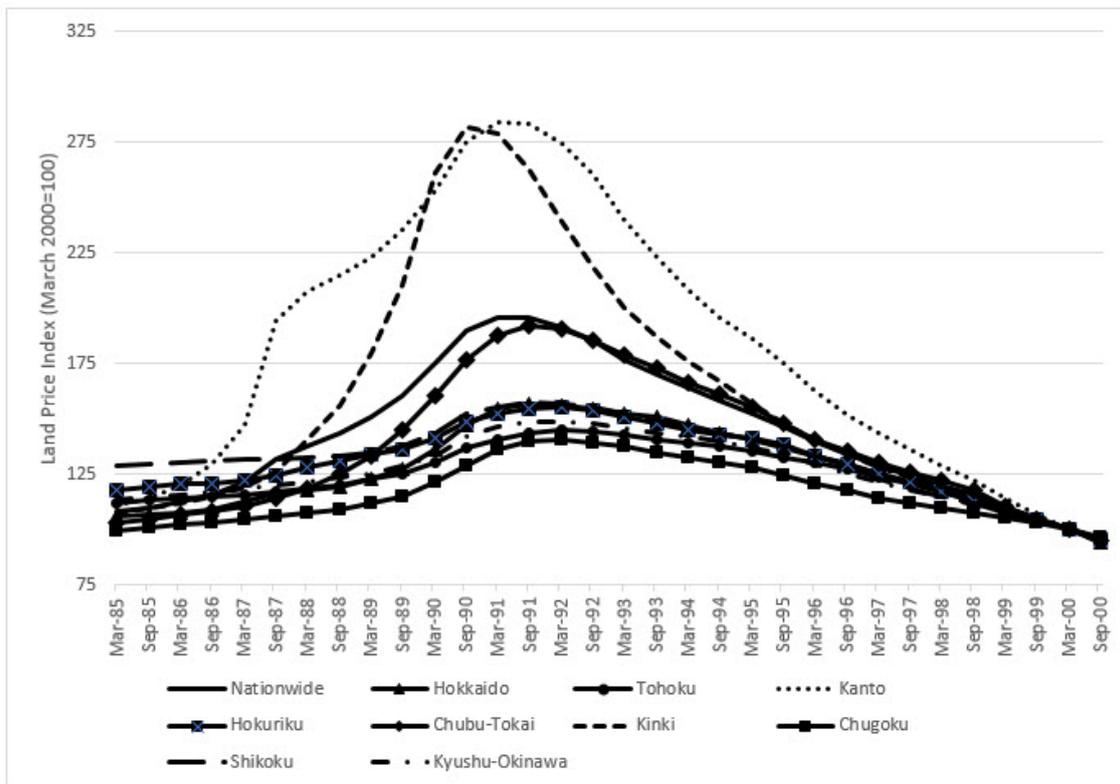
Source: Toyo Keizai and U.S. International Trade Administration, various years

Figure 2: Average Land Values and Bank Health



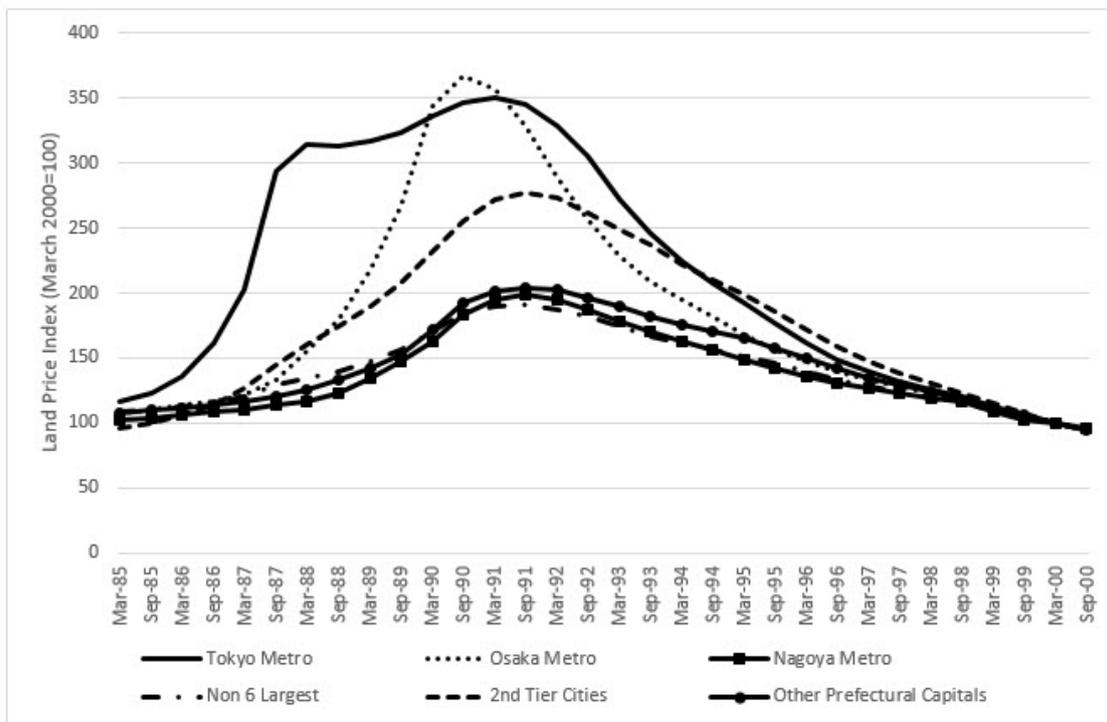
Source: Author calculations from PACAP dataset

Figure 3: Land Price Variation among 9 Japanese Regions (with Nationwide Average)



Source: Japanese Real Estate Institute *Urban Land Price Index*

Figure 4: Prefectural and City-level Price Indices



Source: Japanese Real Estate Institute *Urban Land Price Index*

Table 1: Japanese Bank Ratings (Moody's Long-Term Obligation Ratings)

	1986 <sup>a</sup>	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Asahi Bank	..	..	Aa3	Aa3	Aa3	Aa3	A1	A2	A2	A2	A2	Baa1	Baa1	Baa1	Baa1
Dai-Ichi Kangyo Bank	Aaa	Aaa	Aaa	Aaa	Aa1	Aa1	Aa3	A1	A1	A1	A1	A3	Baa1	A3	Baa1
Daiwa Bank	..	..	..	Aa3	Aa3	Aa3	Aa3	A3	A3	Baa1	Baa1	Baa1	Baa1	Baa1	Baa1
Fuji Bank	Aaa	Aaa	Aaa	Aaa	Aa1	Aa3	Aa3	A1	A1	A1	A1	Baa1	Baa1	A3	Baa1
Indus. Bank of Japan	Aaa	Aaa	Aaa	Aaa	Aaa	Aa2	Aa3	Aa3	A1	A1	A2	A3	Baa1	A3	Baa1
Long-Term Credit Bank	Aaa	Aa2	Aa2	Aa2	A1	A2	A2	A3	A3	Baa1	Baa1	Baa2	Baa2	Baa2	Baa2
Mitsubishi Bank	Aaa	Aaa	Aaa	Aaa	Aa1	Aa1	Aa3	Aa3	Aa3	Aa3	Aa2	Aa2	A1	A2	A2
Sakura Bank	..	..	Aa2	Aa3	Aa3	A1	A1	A2	A2	A3	A3	Baa1	Baa1	A3	Baa1
Sanwa Bank	Aaa	Aa1	Aa1	Aa1	Aa1	Aa1	Aa3	Aa3	Aa3	Aa3	Aa3	A1	A3	A3	A3
Sumitomo Bank	Aaa	Aaa	Aaa	Aaa	Aa1	Aa3	Aa3	A1	A1	A1	A1	A2	A3	A3	A3
Tokai Bank	..	Aa2	Aa2	Aa2	Aa3	Aa3	A1	A2	A2	A2	A2	Baa1	Baa1	Baa1	Baa1

<sup>a</sup> Notes: Ratings from highest to lowest: Aaa, Aa1, Aa2, Aa3, A1, A2, A3, Baa1, Baa2. Mitsubishi Bank merged with the Bank of Tokyo to form the Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi in 1996. ”..” indicates no Moody's rating.

Table 2: Data Descriptive Statistics

Average Values *	All Firms			Investors Only		
	Average	Minimum	Maximum	Average	Minimum	Maximum
ln(LandValue)	24.806	23.036	27.420	25.396	23.574	27.420
MarketToBook	3.70	0.11	14.56	3.81	0.11	14.38
Keiretsu	42.7	0	1	66.5	0	1
TotalAssets <sup>a,b</sup>	48.89	727	893.64	93.07	3.50	893.64
TFP	4.00	1.03	15.43	4.27	1.03	15.43
InvestmentExperience	0.25	0	1	0.63	0	1
MarketValue <sup>b</sup>	0.17	0.01	0.92	0.19	0.01	0.84
CashFlow	0.07	-0.53	0.55	0.08	-0.33	0.41

\* Notes: See Appendix for details on data construction and sources. a - Excluding Land. b - Billions of Yen

Table 3: Japanese FDI into US: 1980-2000

	1	2	3	4	5
ln(LandValue)	0.189*** (0.053)	0.188*** (0.055)	0.186*** (0.051)	0.186*** (0.052)	0.185*** (0.050)
ln(LandValue) * Keiretsu			-0.104*** (0.035)	-0.057** (0.031)	-0.046** (0.025)
MarketToBook	0.103*** (0.041)	0.102*** (0.040)	0.101** (0.042)	0.101*** (0.039)	0.101*** (0.041)
MarketToBook * Keiretsu			0.002 (0.003)	0.001 (0.002)	0.001 (0.002)
<u>Investor Firm-Level Variables</u>					
Keiretsu			0.183*** (0.061)	0.154** (0.057)	0.153** (0.055)
TotalAssets <sup>a</sup>				0.093*** (0.033)	0.084*** (0.029)
TFP				0.014 (0.009)	0.015 (0.011)
InvestmentExperience				0.105*** (0.037)	0.103** (0.042)
MarketValue				0.087* (0.049)	0.085* (0.051)
CashFlow				0.054*** (0.018)	0.054*** (0.020)
3-digit Industry-Time Fixed Effects	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Firm-Fixed Effects	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
N	21,740	21,740	21,740	17,447	17,447
Log Pseudolikelihood	-4320.784	-3998.452	-3901.145	-1841.159	-1656.578
Prob > $\chi^2$	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000

Notes: Logit Model, log odds reported. Standard errors clustered at industry-level. \*,\*\*,\*\*\* -Significant at the 10%, 5%, and 1% level,respectively. a - Excluding land.

Table 4: Using Bartik-Type LandValue Calculations for Investment between 1980-2000

	HQ Dominant	Equal Weight
ln(LandValue)	0.166*** (0.052)	0.175*** (0.057)
ln(LandValue) * Keiretsu	-0.070** (0.041)	-0.074** (0.041)
MarketToBook	0.093*** (0.034)	0.090*** (0.034)
MarketToBook * Keiretsu	0.003 (0.002)	0.001 (0.001)
<u>Investor Firm-Level Variables</u>		
Keiretsu	0.109** (0.060)	0.110** (0.057)
TotalAssets <sup>a</sup>	0.096*** (0.037)	0.095*** (0.036)
TFP	0.005 (0.008)	0.004 (0.003)
InvestmentExperience	0.085** (0.041)	0.079** (0.38)
MarketValue	0.089* (0.045)	0.085* (0.047)
CashFlow	0.048*** (0.17)	0.049*** (0.017)
3-digit Industry-Time Fixed Effects	Yes	Yes
Firm-Fixed Effects	Yes	Yes
N	7,433	7,433
Log Pseudolikelihood	-943.563	-917.645
Prob > $\chi^2$	0.000	0.000

Notes: Logit Model, log odds reported. Standard errors clustered at industry-level. \*, \*\*, \*\*\* -Significant at the 10%, 5%, and 1% level, respectively. a - Excluding land.

Table 5: Japanese FDI into US by Subperiods: 1980-2000

	1980-1985	1986-1990	1991-1995	1996-2000
ln(LandValue)	0.251*** (0.073)	0.136*** (0.052)	0.138*** (0.051)	0.197** (0.093)
ln(LandValue) * Keiretsu	-0.187*** (0.064)	-0.080*** (0.027)	-0.041*** (0.015)	-0.094* (0.055)
MarketToBook	0.171** (0.085)	0.048 (0.040)	0.202*** (0.077)	0.218*** (0.079)
MarketToBook * Keiretsu	-0.003 (0.002)	-0.001 (0.001)	-0.071*** (0.022)	-0.008 (0.005)
<u>Investor Firm-Level Variables</u>				
Keiretsu	0.247*** (0.089)	0.122 (0.093)	0.197*** (0.066)	0.188** (0.082)
TotalAssets <sup>a</sup>	0.107*** (0.032)	0.101*** (0.034)	0.071** (0.029)	0.104*** (0.038)
TFP	0.018 (0.013)	0.011 (0.009)	0.012 (0.008)	0.014 (0.010)
InvestmentExperience	0.174*** (0.067)	0.100** (0.050)	0.122*** (0.045)	0.131*** (0.047)
MarketValue	0.094* (0.051)	0.055 (0.038)	0.062 (0.047)	0.109** (0.059)
CashFlow	0.038 (0.29)	0.071** (0.033)	0.068** (0.031)	0.066*** (0.030)
N	4,914	4,507	4,298	3,728
Log PseudoLikelihood	-609.745	-674.534	-611.473	-461.547
Prob > $\chi^2$	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000

Notes: Logit Model, log odds reported. 3-digit industry-time and firm fixed effects, while not reported, are used. Standard errors clustered at industry-level. \*, \*\*, \*\*\* -Significant at the 10%, 5%, and 1% level, respectively. a - Excluding land.

Table 6: FDI into US, Using Moody's Ratings as Bank Health Measure

	1986-2000	1986-1990	1991-1995	1996-2000
ln(LandValue)	0.228*** (0.088)	0.171*** (0.063)	0.155*** (0.051)	0.137* (0.085)
ln(LandValue) * Keiretsu	-0.131*** (0.42)	-0.083*** (0.031)	-0.071*** (0.27)	-0.099* (0.053)
Keiretsu	0.213*** (0.081)	0.163** (0.083)	0.157** (0.071)	0.153** (0.077)
<u>Bank Health</u>				
Aaa	0.104* (0.063)	-0.078 (0.054)	.. (..)	.. (..)
Aa1	0.100 (0.081)	-0.087 (0.062)	0.114* (0.071)	.. (..)
Aa3	-0.155*** (0.051)	-0.107 (0.088)	0.048 (0.041)	-0.071 (0.050)
A1	-0.181*** (0.047)	-0.132* (0.083)	0.119 (0.109)	-0.108 (0.095)
A2	-0.218*** (0.078)	.. (..)	0.137 (0.113)	-0.209*** (0.59)
A3	-0.231*** (0.077)	.. (..)	0.084 (0.057)	-0.199*** (0.071)
Baa1	-0.228*** (0.082)	.. (..)	0.101 (.084)	-0.210*** (0.061)
Baa2	-0.161** (0.072)	.. (..)	.. (..)	-0.118 (.079)
N	12,432	3,896	4,424	4,112
Log PseudoLikelihood	-1137.812	-800.912	-558.821	-423.674
Prob > $\chi^2$	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000

Notes: Logit Model, log odds reported. Aa2 is the omitted variable. 3-digit industry-time and firm fixed effects, while not reported, are used. Standard errors clustered at industry-level. \*, \*\*, \*\*\* -Significant at the 10%, 5%, and 1% level, respectively. Other firm-level variables included in regression but omitted for brevity.

Table 7: Effect of Single versus Multiple Bank Downgrades on FDI Likelihood

	1986-2000	1986-1990	1991-1995	1996-2000
ln(LandValue)	0.174*** (0.062)	0.132*** (0.049)	0.192*** (0.074)	0.231* (0.124)
ln(LandValue) * Keiretsu	-0.055*** (0.021)	-0.061*** (0.023)	-0.068*** (0.025)	-0.139* (0.71)
Keiretsu	0.209*** (0.080)	0.173*** (0.059)	0.187** (0.092)	0.145** (0.083)
SingleDowngrade	-0.104** (0.051)	-0.117** (0.058)	-0.131* (0.067)	-0.142* (0.075)
SingleDowngrade * Keiretsu	0.083** (0.035)	0.081* (0.044)	0.084* (0.052)	0.079* (0.050)
MultipleDowngrade	-0.243*** (0.094)	-0.271*** (0.103)	-0.238** (0.111)	-0.214** (0.108)
MultipleDowngrade * Keiretsu	0.102** (0.062)	0.128** (0.064)	0.111** (0.060)	0.107* (0.53)
N	12,432	3,896	4,424	4,112
Log PseudoLikelihood	-1218.541	-795.197	-524.643	-418.578
Prob > $\chi^2$	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000

Notes: Logit Model, log odds reported. 3-digit industry-time and firm fixed effects, while not reported, are used. Standard errors clustered at industry-level. \*, \*\*, \*\*\* -Significant at the 10%, 5%, and 1% level, respectively. Other firm-level variables included in regression but omitted for brevity.

Table 8: Effect of Bond Issuances on FDI Likelihood

	1980-1985	1986-1990	1991-1995	1996-2000
ln(LandValue)	0.247*** (0.089)	0.131*** (0.045)	0.120** (0.051)	0.184** (0.078)
ln(LandValue) * Bonds	-0.141*** (0.055)	-0.052*** (0.014)	-0.061*** (0.021)	-0.072* (0.040)
MarketToBook	0.141** (0.078)	0.025 (0.017)	0.202*** (0.071)	0.171*** (0.064)
MarketToBook * Bonds	-0.017 (0.011)	0.052 (0.039)	-0.151*** (0.57)	-0.112* (0.061)
<u>Investor Firm-Level Variables</u>				
Bonds	0.074 (0.054)	0.218** (0.104)	0.204** (0.095)	0.187* (0.103)
Keiretsu	0.171*** (0.061)	0.009 (0.007)	0.143*** (0.051)	0.155** (0.072)
N	4,914	4,507	4,298	3,728
Log PseudoLikelihood	-621.317	-894.145	-582.134	-451.359
Prob > $\chi^2$	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000

Notes: Logit Model, log odds reported. 3-digit industry-time and firm fixed effects, while not reported, are used. Standard errors clustered at industry-level. \*, \*\*, \*\*\* -Significant at the 10%, 5%, and 1% level, respectively. Other firm-level variables included in regression but omitted for brevity.

Table 9: Core, Non-Core, and Greenfield Only Investments

	Core	Non-Core	Greenfield Only
ln(LandValue)	0.137*** (0.049)	0.152*** (0.053)	0.140*** (0.050)
ln(LandValue) * Keiretsu	-0.038** (0.018)	-0.077*** (0.029)	-0.041** (0.019)
MarketToBook	0.109*** (0.041)	0.115*** (0.044)	0.118*** (0.045)
MarketToBook * Keiretsu	0.008 (0.005)	0.018 (0.013)	0.021 (0.015)
<u>Investor Firm-Level Variables</u>			
Keiretsu	0.107 (0.072)	0.201** (0.111)	0.218** (0.119)
TotalAssets <sup>a</sup>	0.102*** (0.027)	0.099*** (0.037)	0.100*** (0.035)
TFP	-0.037* (0.020)	0.071** (0.033)	0.014 (0.009)
InvestmentExperience	0.118*** (0.044)	0.115*** (0.039)	0.105*** (0.037)
MarketValue	0.054 (0.040)	0.088*** (0.029)	0.091** (0.031)
CashFlow	0.081*** (0.027)	0.055*** (0.019)	0.050*** (0.017)
N	12,956	4,491	17,447
Log PseudoLikelihood	-1689.351	-555.210	-1931.548
Prob > $\chi^2$	0.000	0.000	0.000

Notes: Logit Model, log odds reported. 3-digit industry-time and firm fixed effects, while not reported, are used. Standard errors clustered at industry-level. \*, \*\*, \*\*\* -Significant at the 10%, 5%, and 1% level, respectively. a - Excluding land.

Table 10: Correlations Between Firm Level Characteristics

	ln(LandValue)	MarketToBook	Keiretsu	TotalAssets	TFP	Invst. Exp.	MarketValue	CashFlow
ln(LandValue)	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
MarketToBook	0.071	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Keiretsu	0.121	0.067	1	..	..	..	..	..
TotalAssets	0.118	-0.015	0.183	1	..	..	..	..
TFP	0.192	-0.051	-0.087	0.308	1	..	..	..
InvestmentExperience	0.201	-0.074	0.228	0.392	0.037	1	..	..
MarketValue	0.101	0.001	-0.056	-0.062	0.160	0.096	1	..
CashFlow	0.127	0.081	0.099	0.052	0.078	-0.037	0.131	1