Figure 1.8. United States: Capital Expenditure Developments in Nonfinancial Firms

Investment is picking up as capacity utilization is getting back to precrisis levels...

1. Capacity Utilization and Business Fixed Investment (Percent)

- Capacity utilization (left scale)
- Nonresidential fixed investment (year-over-year growth, right scale)

2. Lending Standards for Corporate Loans and Commercial and Industrial (C&I) Loan Growth (Percent)

- C&I loan growth (year-over-year, left scale)
- Lending standards (small firms, net percentage, right scale, reversed)

Easier standards
Tighter standards

...and banks are loosening lending standards.


...while more debt issuance is now getting used for capex.

4. NFCs: Debt Issuance, Capex, and Equity Buybacks
(Percent of operating cash flows on a four-quarter trailing basis)

Capital expenditure: Historical average since 1999
Debt issuance (net)
Equity buyback (net)
Capital expenditure (right scale)

Sources: Federal Reserve; and IMF staff estimates. Note: Pink bars indicate National Bureau of Economic Research recession dates.

Sources: Baker, Bloom, and Davis (2012); Haver Analytics; and IMF staff estimates. Note: Pink bars indicate National Bureau of Economic Research recession dates.

Sources: Federal Reserve Senior Loan Officer Survey. Note: Pink bars indicate National Bureau of Economic Research recession dates.

Sources: Federal Reserve; and IMF staff estimates. Note: Capex = capital expenditure; NFC = nonfinancial corporation. Pink bars indicate National Bureau of Economic Research recession dates.