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**On the cover****Making sense of a crisis**

By OECD Observer
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The financial crisis sweeping world markets is the worst since the Great Depression. As the crisis bites into the real economy, hard lessons are being learned. Understanding causalities is a pre-condition for good policymaking, since bubbles and crises will occur again if the sources are not addressed directly. The ultimate goal of our actions is to avoid a wide, protracted global economic downturn, restore the conditions for growth and ensure this crisis cannot be repeated.