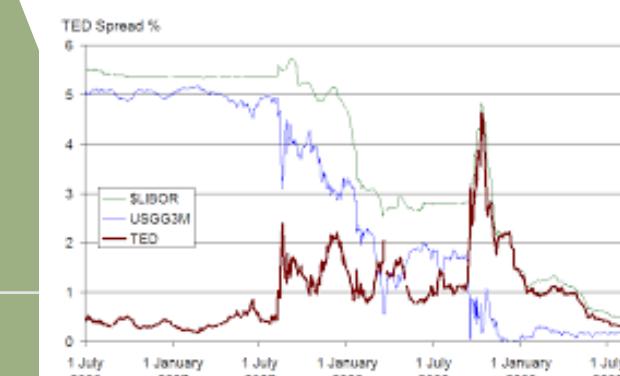


The **financial crisis of 2007–08**, also known as the **global financial crisis** and the **2008 financial crisis**, was a severe worldwide [economic crisis](#) considered by many economists to have been the most serious [financial crisis](#) since the [Great Depression](#) of the 1930s, to which it is often compared



It began in 2007 with a crisis in the [subprime mortgage](#) market in the [United States](#), and developed into a full-blown international [banking crisis](#) with the collapse of the investment bank [Lehman Brothers](#) on September 15, 2008.^[5] Excessive risk-taking by banks such as Lehman Brothers helped to magnify the financial impact globally.^[6] Massive [bailouts](#) of financial institutions and other palliative monetary and fiscal policies were employed to prevent a possible collapse of the [world financial system](#). The crisis was nonetheless followed by a global [economic downturn](#), the [Great Recession](#).