

Introduction to Financial and Money Markets

Economics 301: Money and Banking

Goals and Learning Outcomes

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- Goals:
 - Get an overview of money and financial markets.
 - Understand why it is important to study these markets.
- Learning Outcomes:
 - Just touch on LO1: Understand and appreciate the importance of financial markets for the overall functioning of the economy.

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Reading

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- Read Hubbard and O'Brien, Chapter 1.

Types of Markets

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- **Financial Markets:** markets in which funds are transferred from those who have an excess of available funds (people or institutions that save) to those who have a shortage of funds (borrowers).
 - **Banking and financial institutions:** These are what make financial markets work. These businesses make a profit by moving funds around the economy.
- **Monetary Markets:** market for money.
 - **Money:** anything that can be used as a means of payment.
 - Typically, if something is money, it earns little to no interest.
 - **Monetary Policy:** actions by a country's central bank to control the money supply.
- **Asset:** Anything of value that can be owned. That is anything that can be converted for a means of payment.
- **Security:** issued by an institution; *tradable* claim on the institutions assets or future income.

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Financial Markets vs. Intermediaries

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- **Financial intermediary:** A financial firm such as a bank which borrows money from savers and lends money to borrowers.
 - Most common source of financing for individuals and small businesses.
- **Financial Markets:** A market for businesses to obtain funds *directly from savers*.
 - Examples of financing include selling stocks and bonds.
 - Common for large (nationally or internationally recognized) businesses that can credibly communicate the profitability of the firm.
 - **Primary markets:** markets where stocks, bonds, or other securities are sold for the first time.
 - **Secondary markets:** markets where stocks, bonds, and other securities are traded.

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Bond Markets

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- **Bond:** Debt security that promises to make payments periodically for a specified period of time.
- **Interest rate:** cost of issuing a bond, or income received from owning a bond. Typically expressed as a percentage of the bond price.
- Lots of different interest rates:
 - Consumer interest rates: mortgage rates, car loan rates, credit card rates, savings account rates, certificates of deposit rates etc.
 - Government bond rates: Treasury bill rate (Federal government debt), state and local government bonds.
 - Corporate bond rates.
 - Federal reserve rates: discount rate, federal funds rate.

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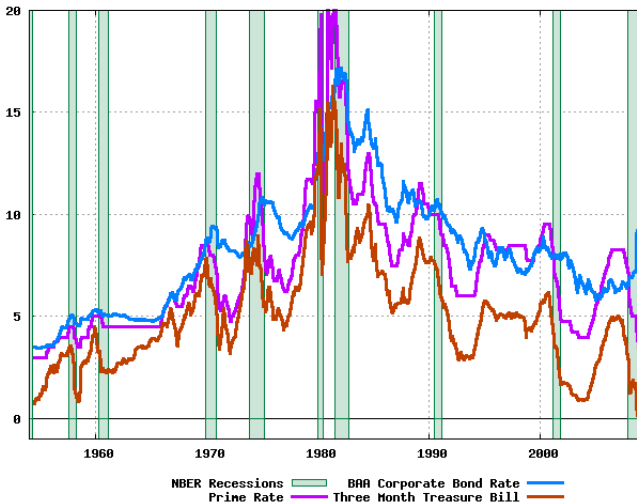
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Interest Rates

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Importance of Interest Rates: Text Questions!

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- Interest rates affect the macroeconomy through producers.
- Interest rates affect the macroeconomy through consumers.

Stock Markets

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- **Common Stock:** represents a share in ownership of a corporation.
- Security that is a claim on the earnings and assets of the corporation.
- Dividends: distribution of the corporations earnings to the shareholders.
- Capital gain (loss): money earned (lost) by selling a stock for more (less) than you originally purchased it for.
- Why should stock prices change?

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Profits of Firms

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What do you expect to happen to profits of a firm if...

- you expect the Federal Reserve is going to soon raise interest rates?
- you expect new government mandated restrictions on the types of lending financial institutions can engage in?
- you expect consumers' incomes to increase in the near future?
- you expect the value of the dollar to decrease against the Euro and the firm sells a large amount of its output to European consumers?

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Foreign Exchange Markets

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- **Foreign Exchange Market:** market where funds from one country are exchanged for funds from another country.
- Need another country's currency in order to,
 - make a financial investment in that country.
 - purchase final goods from that country.
 - purchase intermediate goods from that country.
- In order for an American to convert dollars to Euros, she/he must be able to find someone who wants to convert Euros to dollars.

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Exchange Rate

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- Price of one country's currency in terms of another country's currency.
- Many different currencies: dollar/euro, dollar/yen, dollar/pound, etc...
- Two ways to express exchange rate:
 - Exchange rate on 1/25/10: 1.4139 \$/€.
 - Exchange rate on 1/25/10: 0.7073 €/\$.
- If the \$/€ exchange rate rises, is this a depreciation or appreciation of US Dollar? depreciation or appreciation of Euro?
- If the €/€ exchange rate rises, is this a depreciation or appreciation of US Dollar? depreciation or appreciation of Euro?

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Monetary Markets

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- The market for money is very closely linked to economic variables that influence the health of the economy.
- **Business Cycles:** upward and downward movement over time of measures of the health of the economy.
- Measures of health of macroeconomy:
 - Aggregate output, aka aggregate production, aka real gross domestic product: measure of the total amount of production of goods and services in an economy.
 - Unemployment rate: percentage of the *labor force* that is not employed.
 - Recession: period of declining *macroeconomic activity*.

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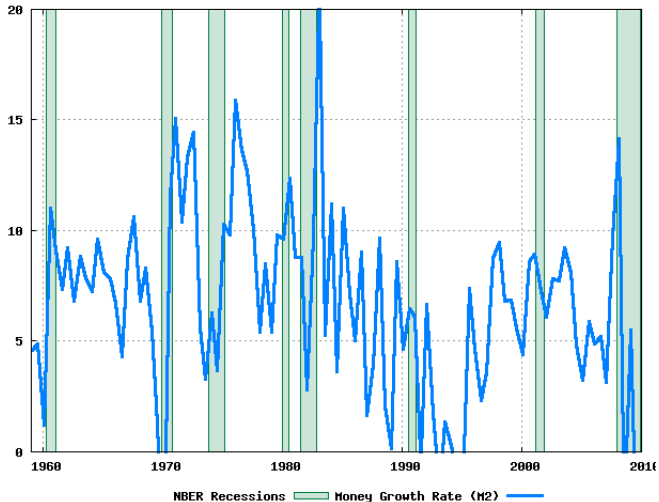
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Money Growth

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Price Level and Inflation

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- **Price level:** measure of the overall level of prices in the economy.
 - Consumer Price Index: price of a “basket of goods”, scaled to equal 100 in base year.
 - GDP Deflator: ratio of nominal GDP to real GDP, scaled to equal 100 in base year.
- **Inflation:** growth rate of price level.
- In long run, money growth rate tends to equal inflation rate.
- In short run though, there can be big fluctuations.

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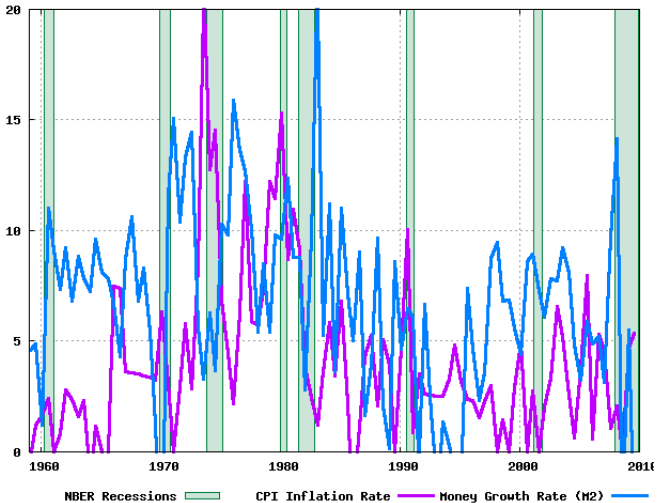
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Inflation and Money Growth

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Origins of a Financial Crisis

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- Housing market bubble: ever-rising house prices led banks/borrowers to expect:
 - borrowers to be able to pay off or refinance adjustable rate mortgages.
 - even sub-prime borrowers could sell their house and avoid default.
 - valuable collateral in event of a default.
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