Chapter 1

Why Study Money, Banking, and Financial Markets?

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Why Study Money, Banking, and Financial Markets

- To examine how financial markets such as bond, stock and foreign exchange markets work
- To examine how financial institutions such as banks and insurance companies work
- To examine the role of money in the economy
Financial Markets

- Markets in which funds are transferred from people who have an excess of available funds to people who have a shortage of funds
The Bond Market and Interest Rates

• A security (financial instrument) is a claim on the issuer’s future income or assets

• A bond is a debt security that promises to make payments periodically for a specified period of time

• An interest rate is the cost of borrowing or the price paid for the rental of funds
FIGURE 1  Interest Rates on Selected Bonds, 1950–2005

The Stock Market

- Common stock represents a share of ownership in a corporation
- A share of stock is a claim on the earnings and assets of the corporation
FIGURE 2  Stock Prices as Measured by the Dow Jones Industrial Average, 1950–2005

Source: Dow Jones Indexes: http://finance.yahoo.com/?
The Foreign Exchange Market

- The foreign exchange market is where funds are converted from one currency into another.
- The foreign exchange rate is the price of one currency in terms of another currency.
- The foreign exchange market determines the foreign exchange rate.
**FIGURE 3** Exchange Rate of the U.S. Dollar, 1970–2005

*Source: Federal Reserve: [www.federalreserve.gov/releases/H10/summary/indexbc_m.txt](http://www.federalreserve.gov/releases/H10/summary/indexbc_m.txt).*
Banking and Financial Institutions

- Financial Intermediaries—institutions that borrow funds from people who have saved and make loans to other people
- Banks—-institutions that accept deposits and make loans
- Other Financial Institutions—insurance companies, finance companies, pension funds, mutual funds and investment banks
- Financial Innovation—in particular, the advent of the information age and e-finance
Money and Business Cycles

- Evidence suggests that money plays an important role in generating business cycles
- Recessions (unemployment) and booms (inflation) affect all of us
- Monetary Theory ties changes in the money supply to changes in aggregate economic activity and the price level
FIGURE 4 Money Growth (M2 Annual Rate) and the Business Cycle in the United States, 1950–2005

Note: Shaded areas represent recessions.

Money and Inflation

- The aggregate price level is the average price of goods and services in an economy.
- A continual rise in the price level (inflation) affects all economic players.
- Data shows a connection between the money supply and the price level.
Figure 5  Aggregate Price Level and the Money Supply in the United States, 1950–2005

FIGURE 6  Average Inflation Rate Versus Average Rate of Money Growth for Selected Countries, 1995–2004

Money and Interest Rates

• Interest rates are the price of money

• Prior to 1980, the rate of money growth and the interest rate on long-term Treasure bonds were closely tied

• Since then, the relationship is less clear but still an important determinant of interest rates
Figure 7  Money Growth (M2 Annual Rate) and Interest Rates (Long-Term U.S. Treasury Bonds), 1950–2005

Monetary and Fiscal Policy

- Monetary policy is the management of the money supply and interest rates
  - Conducted in the U.S. by the Federal Reserve Bank (Fed)
- Fiscal policy is government spending and taxation
  - Budget deficit is the excess of expenditures over revenues for a particular year
  - Budget surplus is the excess of revenues over expenditures for a particular year
  - Any deficit must be financed by borrowing
Figure 8  Government Budget Surplus or Deficit as a Percentage of Gross Domestic Product, 1950–2005

Source: www.gpoaccess.gov/usbudget/fy06/sheets/hist01z2.xls.
How We Will Study Money, Banking, and Financial Markets

- A simplified approach to the demand for assets
- The concept of equilibrium
- Basic supply and demand to explain behavior in financial markets
- The search for profits
- An approach to financial structure based on transaction costs and asymmetric information
- Aggregate supply and demand analysis
Federal Reserve Statistical Release

H.15
Selected Interest Rates (Weekly)

Release dates | Daily update | Historical data | About
Current release | Other formats: Screen reader | ASCII | PDF (17 KB)

Release Dates

These data are released each Monday. The exact time may be obtained by calling 202-452-3206.

Announcements

Addition of 20-Year Treasury Constant Maturity Inflation-Indexed Rates

FIGURE 9 Federal Reserve Board Web Site
Figure 10  Excel Spreadsheet with Interest-Rate Data
FIGURE 11  Excel Graph of Interest-Rate Data