

EE432 Monetary Theory and Policy



Lecture 8 Central banks
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Outline

- Stability: The primary objective of all central banks
- Creating a successful central bank

Chapter 15



Central Banks in the World Today

**Stability: The primary
objective of all central banks**

Stability: The Primary Objective of All Central Banks

Central bankers objectives:

1. *Low and stable* **inflation**
2. *High and stable* **real growth**, together with *high employment*
3. **Financial market stability**
4. *Stable* **interest rates** and **exchange rates**

Stability: The Primary Objective of All Central Banks

- The job of the central bank is to improve general economic welfare by *managing and reducing systematic risk*.
- It is probably *impossible to achieve all objectives simultaneously* - **Tradeoffs**

Low, Stable Inflation

- Many central banks take their ***primary job*** as the ***maintenance of price stability***.
- The **purchasing power of currency** ***should remain stable*** over long periods of time.
- Maintaining price stability **enhances role of money** as a *unit of account* and as a *store of value*.

Low, Stable Inflation

- *Prices provide the **information** to ensure that resources are allocated to their most productive uses.*
- Most people agree that **low inflation** *should be the **primary objective of monetary policy**.*

Low, Stable Inflation

- However, *zero inflation is probably too low.*
- There would be a **risk of deflation**.
 - This makes ***debts more difficult to repay***
 - It would ***need to cut nominal wages, which is difficult to do.***

High & Stable Real Growth

- ***Maximum sustainable growth in output and employment*** means working to reduce the fluctuations of the business cycle.
- The idea is that there is some **long-run normal level of production** called **potential output**, which depends on things like
 - **Technology**
 - The size of the **capital stock**
 - The number of **labours** and **working hours**.
- In the long run, **stability leads to higher growth**.
 - The greater the uncertainty about future business conditions, the more cautious people will be in making investments of all kinds.

Financial System Stability

- **Financial system stability** is an integral part of every *modern central banker's job*.
- If people *lose faith in financial institutions* and markets, *intermediation will ultimately stop*.
- The *possibility of a severe disruption in the financial markets* is a type of systematic risk.

Interest-Rate and Exchange-Rate Stability

- *Interest-rate stability and exchange-rate stability* are means for achieving the ultimate goal of **stabilizing the economy**.
- For *emerging market countries*, **exports and imports** are crucial.
- *Stable exchange rates are very important*.

Interest-Rate and Exchange-Rate Stability

- Most people *respond to low interest rates* by *borrowing and spending more* and vice versa.
 - Interest-rate volatility makes *output unstable*.
- Interest-rate volatility means *higher risk* and therefore a *higher risk premium*.
 - *Risk makes financial decisions more difficult, lower productivity, and lessen efficiency.*

Creating a Successful Central Bank

Meeting the Challenge: Creating a Successful Central Bank

- To be successful, a central bank must:
 1. Be independent of political pressure.
 2. Be accountable to the public and transparent in communicating its policy actions.
 3. *Operate* within an *explicit framework* that *clearly states its goals and* makes clear the **trade-offs** among them.
 4. Make decisions by committee.

The Need for Independence

- **Independence** has two operational components:
 1. **Monetary policymakers** must be *free to control their own budgets*.
 2. The bank's policies **must not be reversible by people outside** the central bank.
 - **cannot be overridden** by politicians.

The Need for Accountability and Transparency

1. **Politicians** would *establish a set of goals*.
2. The **policymakers** would *publicly report their progress in pursuing those goals*.
 - **Explicit goals** foster **accountability** and *disclosure requirements* create **transparency**.
 - Legislatures usually *grant central banks* **instrument independence**, not goal independence

The Need for Accountability and Transparency

- Today **every central bank** announces its policy actions almost immediately.
- **Central bank statements** are far *more informative*.
- The economy and financial **markets should respond to information** that everyone received, not to speculation about what policymakers are doing.
- **Transparency** can help *counter the uncertainties and anxieties*.

The Policy Framework, Policy Tradeoffs, and Credibility

- To meet their objectives, central bankers must be independent, accountable, and good communicators.
- Central bankers face the **tradeoff *between inflation, growth and financial stability*** on a daily basis.
- Because policy goals often conflict, **central bankers *must make their priorities clear.***
- This ***limits the discretionary authority*** of the central bankers.

The Policy Framework, Policy Tradeoffs, and Credibility

- Finally, *a well designed policy framework* helps policy makers **establish credibility**.
 - To *do what they say they are going to do*.
- **Expected inflation creates inflation.**
 - Successful monetary policy, then, requires that **inflation expectations** be kept under control.

Chapter 17



The Central Bank Balance Sheet and the Money Supply Process

Outline

- The central banks balance sheet
- Changing the size and composition of the balance sheet
- The deposit expansion multiplier
- The monetary base and money supply

The central banks balance sheet

The Central Bank's Balance Sheet

Figure 17.1

The Central Bank's Balance Sheet

Assets		Liabilities
Government's bank	Securities	Currency
	Foreign exchange reserves	Government's account
Bankers' bank	Loans	Accounts of the commercial banks (reserves)

The Central Bank's Balance Sheet

- The *central bank's balance sheet* shows three ***basic assets***:
 - Securities,
 - Foreign exchange reserves, and
 - Loans.
- The **securities** and **foreign exchange reserves** are needed so that the central bank can *perform its role as the government's bank*.
- The **loans** are a *service to commercial banks*.

Assets

1. ***Securities*** are the **primary asset of most central banks.**
 - Traditionally, the central bank exclusively ***held Treasury securities***, which are virtually *free of default risk*, through *purchases and sales* known as ***open market operations***.

Assets

2. **Foreign exchange reserves** are the central bank's and government's ***balances of foreign currency***.
- These are held in the form of **bonds** *issued by foreign governments*.
 - These reserves are used in **foreign exchange interventions**, when officials attempt to change the market values of currencies.

Assets

3. **Loans** are usually *extended to commercial banks*.

- **Discount loans** are the **loans**, which central bank make *when **commercial banks** need short-term cash*.
- Through its **liquid securities holdings**, the central bank *controls **the overnight rate*** and the availability of money and credit.

Liabilities

- On the **liabilities side** of the central bank's balance sheet, we see three major entries:
 - **Currency,**
 - The **government's deposit account**
 - The **deposit accounts** of the **commercial banks**
- The *currency and government's deposit* allow the central bank to ***perform its role as*** the **government's bank**, while the *commercial banks' deposits* allow it to ***fulfill its role as*** the **bankers' bank**.

Liabilities

1. ***Currency.*** Nearly all central banks have a monopoly on the **issuance of the currency** *used in everyday transactions.*
 - Currency *circulating in the hands of the nonbank public* is the ***principal liability*** of most central banks.

Liabilities

- 2. *Government's account.*** Governments need a bank account which the **government deposits funds (mostly tax revenue)** into, and from which the **government makes payments** by shifting funds between its accounts at commercial banks and the central bank

Liabilities

3. ***Commercial Bank accounts*** (reserves).
- *Commercial bank reserves* are the sum of:
deposits at the central bank, *plus* cash in the bank's own vault.
 - the *commercial bank* can ***withdraw its deposits at the central bank.***
 - **Vault cash** is part of reserves.

Liabilities

- **Commercial bank reserves** are the most important in determining the *quantity of money* and *credit supply* in the economy
- Central banks *run* their *monetary policy operations* through changes in these reserves.
- There are *two types of reserves*.
 - **Required reserves** that banks must hold
 - **Excess reserves**, which banks hold voluntarily.

The Monetary Base

- Together, **currency in the hands of the public** and **reserves in the banking system** make up the **monetary base**.
 - This is the privately held **liabilities** of the central bank.
 - It is also called **high-powered money**.
- The central bank can control the size of the monetary base.

Changing the size and
composition of the balance sheet

Changing the Size and Composition of the Balance Sheet

- The *central bank can simply **buy things** and then **create liabilities to pay for them**, which **increase the size of its balance sheet** as much as it wants.*
1. **Open Market Operation**
 - *Buying or selling a security initiated by the central bank.*
 2. **Foreign Exchange Intervention**
 - *Buy or sell foreign exchange reserves initiated by the central bank.*
 3. **Extend a discount loan, initiated by commercial banks.**
 4. *Decision by an individual to **withdraw cash** from their banks*

Open Market Operations

- When the central bank buys or sells securities in financial markets, it engages in **open market operations**.

Figure 17.2

Balance Sheet Changes after the Federal Reserve Purchases a U.S. Treasury Bond

A. Federal Reserve's Balance Sheet

Assets		Liabilities	
Securities (U.S. Treasury bond)	+\$1 billion	Reserves	+\$1 billion

B. Banking System's Balance Sheet

Assets		Liabilities	
Reserves	+\$1 billion		
Securities (U.S. Treasury bond)	-\$1 billion		

Foreign Exchange Intervention

- If the **central bank** *buy German government bonds (securities)* from **commercial banks**.
- The **payment** is *credited directly* to the **reserve account** of the *commercial bank* from which the bonds were bought.

Figure 17.3

Balance Sheet Changes after the Federal Reserve Purchases a German Government Bond

A. Federal Reserve's Balance Sheet

Assets	Liabilities
Foreign exchange reserves +\$1 billion (German government bonds in euros)	Reserves +\$1 billion

B. Banking System's Balance Sheet

Assets	Liabilities
Reserves +\$1 billion Securities -\$1 billion (German government bonds)	

Discount Loans

- Commercial banks ask for loans

Figure 17.4

Balance Sheet Changes after the Federal Reserve Makes a Discount Loan

A. Federal Reserve's Balance Sheet				B. Banking System's Balance Sheet			
Assets		Liabilities		Assets		Liabilities	
Discount loans	+\$100 million	Reserves	+\$100 million	Reserves	+\$100 million	Discount loans	+\$100 million

- For the commercial bank, it is a **liability** *matched by an increase in* the level of its **reserve account**.
- For the central bank, the **loan** is an **asset** that is created in exchange for *a credit to the commercial bank reserve account*, and **expands the monetary base**.

Cash Withdrawal

- When **individual** *takes cash from an ATM*, it **changes the central bank's balance sheet**.
 - shift from **reserves** to **currency** on the central bank's balance sheet.

Cash Withdrawal

Figure 17.5

Balance Sheet Changes after a Private Person Withdraws Cash from His or Her Bank Account

A. Nonbank Public's Balance Sheet

Assets		Liabilities	
Currency	+\$100		
Checkable deposits	-\$100		

B. Federal Reserve's Balance Sheet

Assets		Liabilities	
		Currency	+\$100
		Reserves	-\$100

C. Banking System's Balance Sheet

Assets		Liabilities	
Reserves	-\$100	Checkable deposits	-\$100

- **Individual assets** *shift* from checkable deposits to cash. For the **central bank**, the *change* comes in the *composition of liabilities*.
- By *withdrawing cash* from **commercial bank**, individual decreased the banking system's **reserves**.

The Deposit Expansion Multiplier

The Deposit Expansion Multiplier

- ***Central bank liabilities*** form the base on which the **supplies of money and credit** are built.
 - This is why they are called the ***monetary base***.
 - The central bank ***controls*** the ***monetary base***.
- Our primary interest, however, is in the **broader measure of money** which are ***multiples of the monetary base***.
 - M1.
 - M2.

Deposit Expansion in a System of Banks

- We start with the following assumptions:
 - **Banks** hold *no excess reserves*.
 - The **reserve requirement ratio** is **10%**.
 - **Currency holding** does not change when deposits and loans change.
 - *When a borrower writes a check, none* of the recipients of the funds **deposit them back in the bank** that *initially made the loan*.

Deposit Expansion in a System of Banks

- Suppose OBI company pays \$100,000 to American Steel.
- **American Steel** deposits \$100,000 into ***Second Bank***.
- **Second Bank's reserve account** at the Fed is *credited with \$100,000*.
- Second Bank will **make a loan** of its *now excess reserves minus the 10% they are required to hold*.
- The **new loan** is *deposited into Third Bank* and the process continues.

Deposit Expansion in a System of Banks

Figure 17.7

Changes in Balance Sheets

A. Second Bank after American Steel's Deposit

Assets		Liabilities	
Reserves	+\$100,000	American Steel's checking account	+\$100,000

B. Second Bank after Extension of a Loan

Assets		Liabilities	
Reserves	+\$10,000	American Steel's checking account	+\$100,000
Loan	+\$90,000		

C. Third Bank after Deposit and Extension of a Loan

Assets		Liabilities	
Reserves	+\$ 9,000	Checking account	+\$90,000
Loan	+\$81,000		

Deposit Expansion in a System of Banks

Table 17.3

Multiple Deposit Expansion following a \$100,000 Open Market Purchase
Assuming a 10% Reserve Requirement

Bank	Increase in Deposits	Increase in Loans	Increase in Reserves
First Bank	\$ 0	\$ 100,000	\$ 0
Second Bank	\$ 100,000	\$ 90,000	\$ 10,000
Third Bank	\$ 90,000	\$ 81,000	\$ 9,000
Fourth Bank	\$ 81,000	\$ 72,900	\$ 8,100
Fifth Bank	\$ 72,900	\$ 65,610	\$ 7,290
Sixth Bank	\$ 65,610	\$ 59,049	\$ 6,561
.	.	.	.
.	.	.	.
.	.	.	.
The Banking System	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$100,000

Deposit Expansion in a System of Banks

- We can *derive* a formula for the **deposit expansion multiplier**
- Let's begin by *assuming* there is *only one bank and everyone must use it*.
- The **level of reserves**, then, is just the **required reserve ratio** r_D *times* its **deposits**.
- If **required reserves** are RR and **deposits** are D, then the **level of reserves** can be *expressed as*:

$$RR = r_D D.$$

Deposit Expansion in a System of Banks

- Any **change in deposits** creates a corresponding **change in reserves**:

$$\Delta RR = r_D \Delta D$$

- The **change in deposits** is:

$$\Delta D = \frac{1}{r_D} \Delta RR$$

- For *each dollar increase in reserves, deposits increase by $(1/r_D)$.*

The Monetary Base and the Money Supply

The Arithmetic of the Money Multiplier

- The ***money multiplier*** shows how the **quantity of money** is ***related to the monetary base***.
- If we label the **quantity of money M** and the **monetary base MB** , the **money multiplier m** is defined as:

$$M = m \times MB$$

The Arithmetic of the Money Multiplier

- We will start with the following relationships:
 - **Money** equals **currency, C , plus checkable deposits, D ,**
 - **The monetary base MB equals **currency plus reserves in the banking system R , and****
 - **Reserves equal **required reserves RR plus excess reserves ER .****

$$M = C + D$$

$$MB = C + R$$

$$R = RR + ER$$

The Arithmetic of the Money Multiplier

- We know that **banks** holdings of *required reserves* depends on the **required reserve ratio** r_D .
- The amount of excess reserve a bank holds depends on the *costs and benefits of holding them*.
 - The *higher the interest rate* on loans, the *lower banks' excess reserves*, and
 - The *greater banks' concern* over the *possibility of deposit withdrawals*, the *higher their excess reserves*.

The Arithmetic of the Money Multiplier

- Labeling the **excess reserve-to-deposit ratio** $\{ER/D\}$, we can rewrite the reserve equation as:

$$\begin{aligned} R &= RR + ER \\ &= r_D D + \{ER/D\}D \\ &= (r_D + \{ER/D\})D \end{aligned}$$

- Banks ***hold reserves*** as a ***proportion of their deposits***.

The Arithmetic of the Money Multiplier

- The **currency-to-deposit ratio**, $\{C/D\}$, is the *fraction of deposits that people hold as currency*.

$$C = \{C/D\}D$$

- The **decision of how much currency to hold** depends on the costs and benefits as well.
 - The **cost of currency** is the *interest it would earn on deposit*.
 - The **benefit** is its *lower risk and greater liquidity*.

The Arithmetic of the Money Multiplier

- Putting this all together, we can see to following.

$$\begin{aligned} MB &= C + R \\ &= \{C/D\}D + (r_D + \{ER/D\})D \\ &= (\{C/D\} + r_D + \{ER/D\})D \end{aligned}$$

- The **monetary base** has three uses:
 - Required reserves
 - Excess Reserves
 - Cash in the hands of the nonbank public

The Arithmetic of the Money Multiplier

- We can do the same with the **equation for money**.

$$\begin{aligned} M &= C + D \\ &= \{C/D\}D + D \\ &= (\{C/D\} + 1)D \end{aligned}$$

The Arithmetic of the Money Multiplier

- We can use the **equation for MB** to *solve for deposits*:

$$D = \frac{1}{\{C/D\} + r_D + \{ER/D\}} \times MB$$

- And **substituting D** into the **money equation**:

$$M = \frac{\{C / D\} + 1}{\{C/D\} + r_D + \{ER/D\}} \times MB$$

The Arithmetic of the Money Multiplier

The **quantity of money** in the economy *depends on*:

1. The **monetary base**, which is controlled by Fed,
2. The **reserve requirement**,
3. The ***bank's desire to hold excess reserves***, and
4. The nonbank **public's demand for currency**.

The Limits on the Central Bank's Ability to Control the Quantity of Money

- The **various factors** *affecting the quantity of money change* over time.
 - **Market interest rates** affect the *cost of holding both excess reserves and currency*.
 - As **interest rates increase**, we expect to see **$\{ER/D\}$ and $\{C/D\}$ fall**.
 - This **increases the money multiplier** and **the quantity of money**.

The Limits on the Central Bank's Ability to Control the Quantity of Money

- If these changes in the money multiplier were predictable, the *central bank might choose to exploit this link in its policymaking.*
- Although this made sense in the U.S. in the 1930s, **it no longer does.**
- In a financial crisis, **other balance-sheet tools** help address *liquidity needs and market disruptions* more directly.

End of lecture