

# ECON 421: Business Fluctuations

Spring 2015  
Tu 6:00PM–9:00PM  
Section 102

Created by  
Richard Schwinn, Ph.D.

Based on  
*Macroeconomics*, Blanchard and Johnson [2011]

## What are the origins of economic success?

### Hal Varian

- ▶ Author of **the** microeconomics textbook for graduate students.
- ▶ Chief Economist at Google

*You want to have a scarce factor of production that is complementary to something that is ubiquitous and cheap.*

Consider your university cohort. When you graduate,

- ▶ macroeconomic intuition will be rare among your peers
- ▶ your insights will serve as a valuable input to your job choice
- ▶ you'll find that the opportunity to apply your insights is everywhere.

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Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the market value of all final goods and services produced within a country in a given period of time.

$$Y = C + I + G + NX$$

- ▶  $C$  is the total spending by households on consumable goods and services.
- ▶  $I$  is the total spending on goods intended to increase productive capacity.
- ▶  $G$  is all spending on the goods and services purchased by govt at the federal, state, and local levels.
- ▶  $NX = exports - imports$  where *exports* represent foreign spending on the domestic goods and services while *imports* are the portions of  $C$ ,  $I$ , and  $G$  that are spent on goods and services produced abroad.

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Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures the typical consumer's cost of living.

$$CPI_t = \frac{\text{basket cost in year } t}{\text{basket cost in base year}} * 100$$

and inflation is simply measured using

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# A Bank's Balance Sheet

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Assets		Liabilities	
Reserves	\$200	Deposits	\$800
Loans	\$700	Debt	\$150
Securities	\$100	Capital	\$50

What is this bank's leverage ratio?

$$\text{Leverage Ratio} = \frac{\text{Assets}}{\text{Capital}}$$

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- ▶ U.S. Housing prices, which had doubled since 2000, started to decline in 2007.
- ▶ Mortgage loans which had been given out during the earlier expansion were of poor quality causing many borrowers to increasingly be unable to make mortgage payments. *Why?*
- ▶ Banks that mortgaged the loans often bundled, packaged and repackaged the loans into new securities and then sold them to other banks and investors.
- ▶ The holdings of securities, instead of mortgages by banks, created a complex understanding of the value of the asset making it impossible to appraise.

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- ▶ September 15, 2008, a major bank, Lehman Brothers, went bankrupt due to a decline in the value of its securities.
- ▶ Consider:

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- ▶ The complexity of the value of the securities and the quality of the assets made banks reluctant to lend to each other and within weeks the whole financial system was in jeopardy.
- ▶ The value of many banks assets indirectly relied on the assumption that mortgages would be paid.
- ▶ Inability to assess the values of mortgage backed securities (MBSs), which were often comprised of 1000s of mortgages, meant that banks didn't have detailed information regarding the value of their securities.
- ▶ This led to a fall in demand for MBSs which made primary lenders offer fewer loans to home buyers. Decreasing the demand for housing.
- ▶ Businesses' concerns over sales and continuous decline in housing prices caused a sharp cut back on investment along a decline in the building of new homes.
- ▶ Consumers increased their savings in expectation of recession and partially due to a collapse in stock prices.

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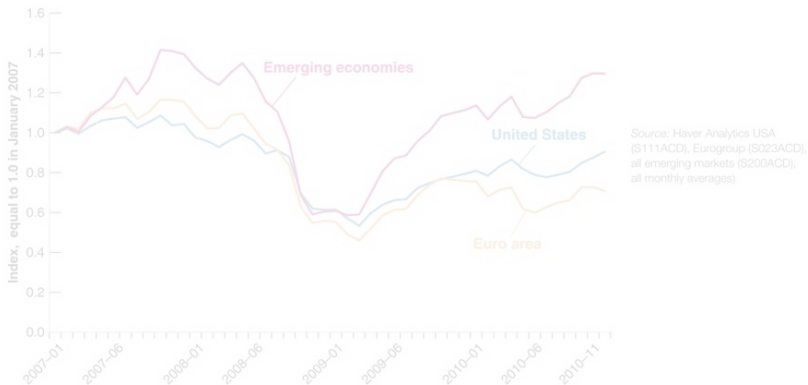
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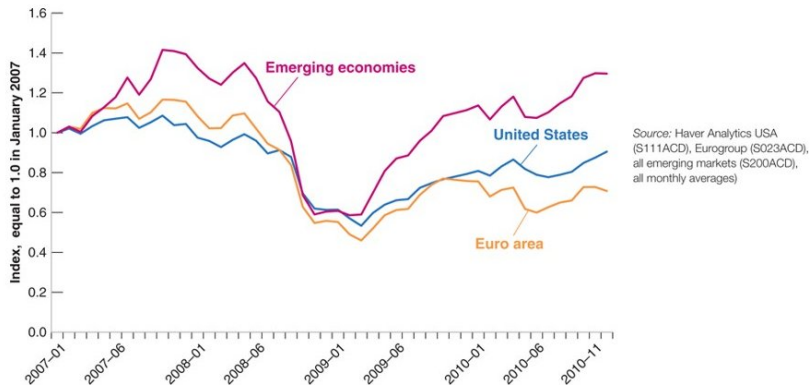
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- ▶ A decline in the U.S. importing goods from abroad along with U.S. banks needing repatriate funds from other countries moved a U.S. crisis into a world crisis.
- ▶ By 2009, average growth in advanced economies was -3.7%, by far the lowest annual growth rate since the Great Depression.
- ▶ Growth in emerging and developing economies remained positive but was nearly 4 percentage points lower than the 2000-2007 average.

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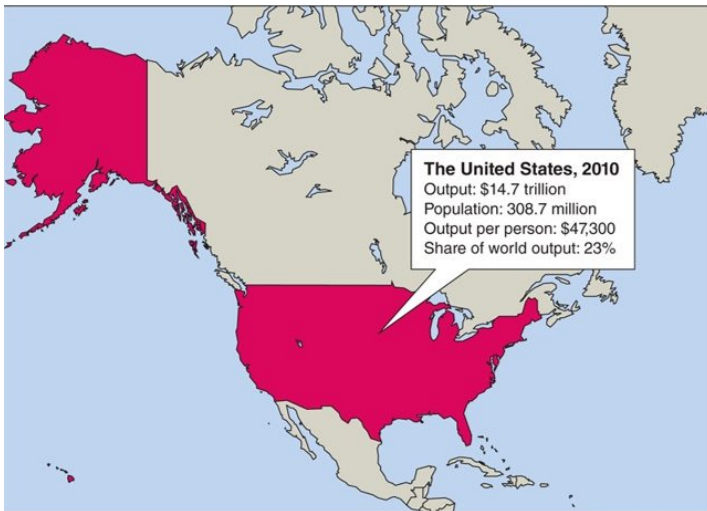
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- ▶ In the United States the rate of growth of the economy was 2.6% which is fairly high for an advanced country.
- ▶ On average, the unemployment rate and the inflation rate was lower in 2007 than over the period since 1980.
- ▶ During the crisis output did not grow in 2008 and declined by 3.5% in 2009.
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<b>Output growth rate</b>	3.0	2.6	0.0	–3.5	3.0	1.5	1.8
<b>Unemployment rate</b>	6.5	5.0	5.8	9.3	9.6	9.1	9.0
<b>Inflation rate</b>	4.2	2.8	3.8	–0.3	1.7	2.9	1.2
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  - ▶ A decline in Federal revenues, from 18.9% of GDP in 2007, to 16.2% of GDP in 2010.
  - ▶ Increase in Federal spending, from 20.6% in 2007, to 25.3% in 2010.

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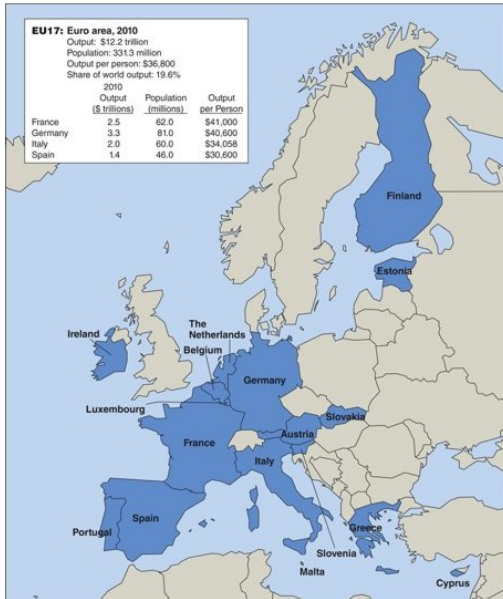
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<b>Unemployment rate</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>9.9</b>
<b>Inflation rate</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>1.5</b>

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- ▶ During the 2000–2007 time period right before the crisis, the Euro Area experienced positive but relatively low growth.
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## The issues facing the Euro area are:

- ▶ How to reduce unemployment.
- ▶ How to function effectively as a common currency area.
- ▶ The debate over remedies for high unemployment in Europe is characterized by two polar views.
  - ▶ According to the first view, high unemployment is the result of tight monetary policy by the European Central Bank. The suggested remedy is lower interest rates.
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## The Euro offers political and economic benefits.

- ▶ Politically, the adoption of a single currency provides a strong symbol of European unification after the wars of the 20th century and before.
- ▶ Economically, the Euro has eliminated exchange rate uncertainty among participating countries, and thus may facilitate trade and contribute to the economic development of Europe as, perhaps, the largest economic power in the world.
- ▶ On the other hand, the adoption of a single currency has eliminated the discretion of each country individually to use monetary policy to stimulate output and reduce unemployment.
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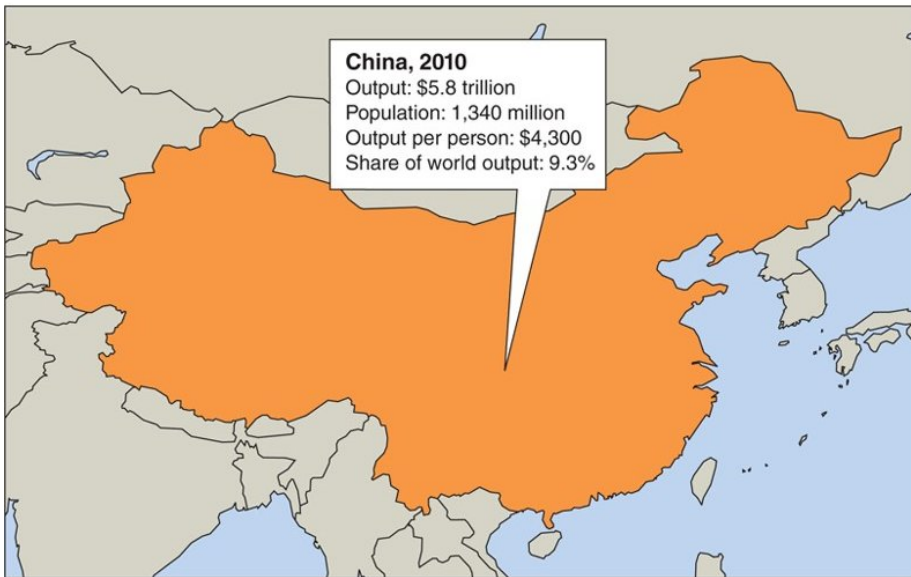
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<b>Unemployment rate</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>4.0</b>
<b>Inflation rate</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>−0.6</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>3.3</b>

Output growth rate: annual rate of growth of output (GDP). Inflation rate: annual rate of change of the price level (GDP deflator).

*Source: World Economic Outlook database, September 2011*

- ▶ Since 1980, China's output has grown at roughly 10% a year.
- ▶ The crisis has had little effect on the Chinese economy.
- ▶ Although official Chinese statistics are not as accurate as in richer countries, research suggests that there is no clear bias in the numbers.
- ▶ **China's high growth is a fact**, and not an artifact of poor statistics.

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- ▶ **China's high growth is a fact**, and not an artifact of poor statistics.

Percent	1980–1999 (average)	2000–2007 (average)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
<b>Output growth rate</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>9.0</b>
<b>Unemployment rate</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>4.0</b>
<b>Inflation rate</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>−0.6</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>3.3</b>

Output growth rate: annual rate of growth of output (GDP). Inflation rate: annual rate of change of the price level (GDP deflator).

Source: *World Economic Outlook* database, September 2011

- ▶ Since 1980, China's output has grown at roughly 10% a year.
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  - ▶ The latter achievement is in part a result of the Chinese governments strategy of encouraging foreign firms which are typically more productive than Chinese firms to produce in China.
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$$I = 600, G = 500, T = 400$$

- ▶ Find equilibrium income. Find savings.
- ▶ Let autonomous consumption,  $c_0$ , decrease from 800 to 700. That is, let people be virtuous and try to save more and consume less.
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Comments, questions, or concerns?

# References

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