

# Contemporary Macroeconomics

SIXTH EDITION

**Milton H. Spencer**Wayne State University

Worth Publishers, Inc.

#### Contemporary Macroeconomics, Sixth Edition

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#### **Preface**

I hear and I forget
I see and I remember
I do and I understand
Confucius

As a professor who has also been a consultant to domestic and foreign corporations and governments, it has been my experience that the most effective and interesting way of learning economics is by "doing" it. It has also been my experience that a sound understanding of basic theory is necessary for the intelligent application of economics. Accordingly, an introductory text in the subject should, in my judgment, provide students with the fundamental theory needed to do three things:

- 1. Understand matters of public policy
- 2. Evaluate conflicting opinions
- 3. Arrive at informed conclusions

This book seeks to achieve these objectives in a number of ways. To an extent not found in other texts, this one abounds with recent news articles, real-world examples, current issues, case studies, and practical problems. Most important, these motivating features are provided without sacrificing basic theory. As a result, the book enables students

to become deeply involved in the learning process by "practicing" economics instead of merely hearing about it in lectures and seeing it in a text.

### What's New in the Sixth Edition?

One of the notable features of this edition is that it is considerably shorter than the previous one. This has been accomplished by substantially pruning, rewriting, and recasting nearly 50 percent of the book. Topics that have declined in relative importance have been dropped and much new material has been added—thanks to the suggestions of numerous users. The result is a text that is as modern as today's journals and as current as today's news.

Here is a summary of the major changes in this edition:

The Private Sector (Chapter 3) After a discussion of the reasons for disparities in personal income distribution, the difficulties of measuring disparities are explained. Emphasis is placed on understanding the factual errors of omission and comission that

are often encountered in reports concerning income distribution. The end of the chapter contains a unique class-participation problem in which a Lorenz curve and a Gini coefficient of inequality are derived for the class's distribution of cash on hand. The problem, which can be done in about 15 minutes, is current, practical, and highly motivating.

The Public Sector (Chapter 4) A thoroughly revised discussion of externalities is provided, including explanations of how they can be redressed through market and nonmarket methods. New supply-and-demand models illustrating spillovers are included. The diagrams are integrated in a way that makes the basic concepts exceptionally understandable and teachable.

Economic Instability: Business Cycles, Unemployment, and Inflation (Chapter 6) The Department of Labor's seven measures of unemployment are illustrated and explained. The new definitions of full employment, natural employment, and natural unemployment are discussed. In accordance with today's views, emphasis is placed on understanding and estimating the GNP gap.

The Self-Correcting Economy: Introduction to Classical Economics (Chapter 7) This new chapter introduces the necessary micro foundations of today's macro theory and policy. Classical views of the economy's markets are explained and illustrated with demand-and-supply models. These provide a basis for formulating the aggregate-demand/aggregate-supply model that is refined and extended in later chapters.

Income and Employment Determination: The Income-Expenditure and Income-Price Models (Chapter 9) After learning about the classical and Keynesian theories of instability, this chapter compares and contrasts the two views. Two approaches—the income-price (aggregate-demand/aggregate-supply) and income-expenditure (Keynesian-cross) models—are used consistently to illustrate fundamental ideas. The two models are

then integrated to provide a unified illustration of recessionary and inflationary gaps.

Fiscal Policy and the National Debt (Chapter 10) Both the income-expenditure and income-price models are employed to analyze fiscal-policy principles and issues. A substantially revised and simplified explanation of the balanced-budget multiplier is provided. Today's fiscal-policy controversies, including the inflation and interestrate issues, are given major attention.

Money, Financial Markets, and the Banking System (Chapter 11) The changing nature of the financial system and the important role of financial (money and capital) markets are emphasized. The "crisis of confidence" in the banking system is also discussed, and some recent bank failures are examined.

Banking Institutions: Money Creation and Portfolio Management (Chapter 12) A concise explanation of bank legislation since 1980, a self-explanatory consolidated balance sheet of all U.S. banks, and a revised demonstration of credit creation in terms of uniform transaction accounts are provided. In addition, the money multiplier, as distinguished from the deposit multiplier, is explained and illustrated. The importance of each is discussed in the context of today's monetary thinking.

Central Banking: Monetary Policy (Chapter 13) A self-explanatory consolidated balance sheet of the 12 Federal Reserve Banks provides a new starting point for the discussion of central-bank monetary policy.

Macroeconomic Equilibrium (Chapter 14) This chapter has been revised to include a more concise discussion of interest-rate theory, classical and Keynesian interpretations, the Fisher effect, and an enlarged schematic outline of the Keynesian model.

Monetarism and the New Classical Economics: Changing Ideas (Chapter 15) The section on monetarism has been substantially shortened and rewritten. It now serves as a "preface" to new-classical economics and the theory of rational expectations. The coverage of this topic is comprehensive and thoroughly modern. Several novel diagrams and illustrations provide interesting pedagogical vehicles that instructors will find extremely useful.

Understanding Macroeconomic Issues (Chapter 16) Today's inflation and unemployment issues are addressed, using the tools provided in previous chapters. Up-to-date data on the Phillips curve are presented, as well as analyses of current major public-policy issues.

The Open Economy: International Trade and International Finance (Chapters 17 and 18) These two chapters provide a comprehensive survey of modern international economics. Several supply-and-demand models illustrate tariffs, import quotas, and exchange-rate appreciation/depreciation in interesting and novel ways. A comprehensive and self-explanatory balance-of-payments statement makes it easy for students to understand, and for instructors to teach, this important but difficult topic.

#### **Special Features**

News Articles, Issues, and Cases Most chapters contain recent news articles that apply the principles being addressed, and a number of chapters contain controversial Issues or Cases. These brief topical essays focus on real-world situations that allow students to apply concepts learned in the chapter. Many of these essays contain thought-provoking questions for discussion, while others require graphing or problem solving.

Leaders in Economics As in previous editions, there are several brief essays on the work of important economists, past and present. These essays focus on the subject's main ideas and contributions as they relate to the topics discussed in the chapter.

Dictionary of Economic Terms and Concepts All technical terms and concepts are defined in the text where they are first discussed. In addition, all of these (and many others) are included in an extensive Dictionary at the back of the book. The Dictionary has been revised and expanded since the last edition, and it now contains approximately 1,000 entries. It will serve as a convenient reference for this course and also for other courses students will take in economics and business.

### **Study Guide and Teaching Aids**

The following supplements to Contemporary Macroeconomics are also available.

Study Guide The Study Guide, by Muriel W. Converse (University of Michigan), makes use of several pedagogical methods to help students learn the material covered in the text and to provide them with an opportunity to test their mastery of each topic. The Study Guide is written to be useful to all students, from those who are having difficulty (who may need to spend more time with it) to those who learn things quickly (who may be primarily concerned with self-testing to assure complete comprehension).

Instructor's Manual The Instructor's Manual contains an outline and learning objectives for each chapter. Suggested answers to all of the chapterend questions in the text are included, as well as a good deal of supplementary material. For example, additional news articles that instructors may want to distribute to their students have been included here.

**Transparencies** Key charts, graphs, and diagrams from the text are available on acetate transparencies for use in lectures on overhead projectors.

Test Bank and Computerized Test-Generation System In this edition of the Test Bank, many new questions have been added to reflect the content and organizational changes in the text. Approximately 2,000 five-choice multiple-choice questions and more than 300 true-false questions are included. Most of the questions emphasize theory and applications, while others test for knowledge of important facts. Fourteen ready-made model examinations are provided at the back of the Test Bank.

For those who adopt the book, the questions in the Test Bank are available on diskettes (for use on an Apple II+/IIe/IIc or an IBM PC) or on a mainframe tape, either of which can be used to generate examinations. Instructors can add their own questions, edit the existing questions, and print out as many as four different versions of an exam.

## Acknowledgments

It is a pleasure to acknowledge the help and cooperation I have received in the preparation of this book.

A general expression of thanks goes to Muriel Converse. She is not only the author of the accompanying Study Guide but also my severest critic. Her demanding standards have made the book much better than it might otherwise have been.

William Bowen of Fortune magazine read the entire manuscript and made good use of his wide experience and his impressive power of logic in editing it with great skill.

Julie Hearshen-Miller typed a substantial portion of the manuscript and was helpful in many ways.

Over the life of this book, I have benefited greatly from the criticisms and suggestions of hundreds of dedicated teachers. I cannot list them all here, nor can I list all of my students who have also helped to shape and improve the book. But I am grateful for the many suggestions, over the years, from so many people. I do want to mention and thank those who reviewed substantial portions of this edition and shared their classroom experiences with me:

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Part 1

Overview: Our Economic System

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