PRINCIPLES OF

macroeconomics



Henderson Poole

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J. Vernon Henderson

Brown University

William Poole

Brown University

Address editorial correspondence to:

D. C. Heath 125 Spring Street Lexington, MA 02173

Editorial Director: George Lobell

Developmental Editors: Debbie Osnowitz and Patricia Wakeley

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Designer: Henry Rachlin Art Editor: Janet Theurer

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To our students, who have taught us so much as they used this book in draft form, and to our families, whose understanding, patience, and encouragement during evening and weekend hours spent on the book, have led to the finished product

About the Authors



J. Vernon Henderson, Professor of Economics at Brown University, received his PhD from the University of Chicago. He has worked extensively as an economist abroad, in Spain, China, India, Nepal, Brazil, and Canada. Recipient of a Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship, an Earhart Foundation Fellowship, and several National Science Foundation grants, Professor Henderson is a consultant to the World Bank and a research associate for the National Bureau of Economic Research. A frequent contributor to journals such as American Economic Review, Journal of Political Economy, Journal of Public Economics, and Journal of Urban Economics, he is also the author of Economic Theory and the Cities (1985) and Urban Development: Theory, Fact, and Illusion (1988). Currently, he is working on issues of industrial location and urban development in developing countries and the impact of fiscal decentralization on resource allocation. Besides his work and his foreign travels, Professor Henderson enjoys playing competitive squash and bringing up his four children, ages six to seventeen.

William Poole, Herbert H. Goldberger Professor of Economics at Brown University, received his PhD from the University of Chicago. From 1982 to 1985, he served as a member of the Council of Economic Advisers to President Reagan. He currently acts as an Adjunct Scholar for both the American Enterprise Institute and the Cato Institute, is a research associate for the National Bureau of Economic Research, a member of the Shadow Open Market Committee and an associate member for the Institute of Fiscal and Monetary Policy, Ministry of Finance, Japan. Professor Poole sits on advisory boards to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and the Congressional Budget Office. He is a frequent contributor to the Journal of Finance, American Economic Review, and the Journal of Money, Credit, and Banking, of which he is also an associate editor. His current research is on issues in monetary policy, macroeconomics, and international finance. In addition to teaching, writing, and consulting, Professor Poole also finds time and enthusiasm for competitive sailing, and enjoys photography, travel, woodworking, hiking and camping.

Preface

There is no shortage of introductory economics texts, but there is a shortage of modern, relevant, and wellwritten ones. We wrote this text so that students could have a pedagogically sound presentation of modern economics. There is an emphasis on data (what economists know) and policy (how government economic policies are created) that is rare in an introductory text. The data are here to give students a basic knowledge of the facts about our world economy and to provide real-life examples. The policy emphasis helps students to understand the critical role of government in today's mixed economies. Moreover, evaluation of public policy is the skill that students need most, because that is how they will apply their knowledge of economics when they venture forth from college to join the labor force and participate in a democracy. The objective of this book is to blend economic modeling with a sense of what is important about economies and how and when economic models are applied to the real world. We have written this book with both students and instructors in mind.

For The Student

Material is clearly presented in a lively, informal style. We provide many examples in the text—in the Focus boxes, in the problems, and in the text proper. We are especially mindful of the need for examples in the traditionally dry theory sections. We have avoided ending sections with vague references to how some theory can be applied to real life, made more complex, or extended to lots of other problems. We have tried to make everything in the text understandable, immediately relevant, and sufficiently illustrated, so that students can embark on their own applications and extensions in the problem sets.

The book has a twofold international focus throughout: (1) We emphasize that today the United States is an open economy. Links to the rest of the world are pervasive; they affect public policy not only with respect to trade, but also in such areas as banking regulation and the international transmission of business cycles and inflation. (2) We are well aware that today's students often travel abroad. We emphasize that they need to understand that economic models apply in other cultures but that laws and institutions affect market structures and outcomes. Examples of

economic behavior from everyday life around the world appear throughout the text. These examples include the problems of Harris tweed weavers in Scotland and inflation in Brazil, and the migration from East to West Germany. Economic applications from developing countries are especially abundant and important because they help students see the universal aspects of economic principles.

For Instructors

We have tried to make teaching easier. We have worked hard to provide clear exposition. We make topics interesting both through hypothetical examples and through highly relevant real-world examples. We want students to be motivated by a desire to understand the world around them. We emphasize the science and facts of economics; we made a conscious decision to keep the book as ideologically balanced as we possibly could. This does not mean that the book is without opinions. Rather, students are taught how to think in economic terms and how to make their own evaluations and form their own opinions. We simply provide them with tools, facts, and an understanding of the complexity of most public-policy issues. Economics is an evolving discipline, even at the introductory level, and it is important that students learn to apply a healthy skepticism to the latest fad theory.

We have blended modern theory into traditional topics. There are chapters and sections and in some cases appendixes on uncertainty and expectations, financial innovation, the permanent income theory of consumption, rational expectations, and the theory of policy under uncertainty. These may be assigned or ignored as one chooses, without loss of continuity. However, the concepts from these developments in economic theory are blended into the presentation of traditional topics in an informal fashion. Professional economists, as readers of the journal literature, are very familiar with the key concepts from developments in economics over the last quarter century. These developments give us new insight into the traditional topics of Keynesian and monetarist analysis of aggregate demand. We put aside economics journal literature that must be regarded at this time as speculative, and concentrate on the newer developments that have become an established part of mainstream economics.

PREFACE

We weave this body of established newer work into the text while maintaining the traditional presentation of topics. Again, the emphasis is on clarity, intuition, application to everyday life, and consistency in level and style of presentation.

Organization

The text begins with an introductory section (Chapters 1-5). It covers the general topics—from scarcity and a market economy to the use of diagrams and other tools of economic analysis—that all students need to learn as they begin their study of economics. The real substance of economic analysis, however, comes later.

The three chapters following the introductory section (Chapters 6-8) provide an overview of macroeconomics, covering such basic concepts as the national income accounts and the important distinctions between money and financial assets on the one hand and real and nominal output flows on the other hand. The national income accounts are explained not so much for their own sake but rather as part of a framework for macro analysis.

Chapter 8 outlines the major characteristics of business cycles. This chapter reflects our commitment to provide students with a thorough grounding on the purpose of the macro theory that follows. Knowledge of business-cycle regularities is also important for its own sake; students should understand why, for example, new data showing a surge in inventories might lead to a bond-market rally as investors realize that inventories are rising because the economy is weak. This material is essential to understanding the facts that business-cycle theory must explain.

Following the three introductory macro chapters are two chapters on Keynesian theory. The first of these (Chapter 9) covers the Keynesian model of income determination and the basics of the Phillips-curve analysis of inflation. We have consciously put these two topics together in the same chapter to emphasize the integration of output and price determination, as economists always do in microeconomic analysis. The second of the two Keynesian chapters (Chapter 10) covers consumption and investment theory. This chapter explains how a deeper analysis of consumption and investment affects the results of the basic Keynesian model presented in the preceding chapter.

Chapter 11, on money and banking, appears between the Keynesian- and monetary-theory chapters. In a sense, the subject of money and banking belongs with the introductory macro chapters, and some instructors may want to cover the topic there. However, money and banking material is also appropriate as an adjunct to discussing macro theory, so we have placed the topic in this section, just ahead of the monetary-theory chapters.

Following the two chapters on Keynesian theory and one on money and banking are two chapters on monetarist theory of business cycles and inflation. Some instructors may prefer to cover these chapters (Chapters 12 and 13) before the Keynesian ones, because monetarist theory is easier in some respects. Also, of course, the quantity theory of money predated the Keynesian theory and some of Keynes's ideas are best understood as a reaction to quantity-theory ideas.

Although the book is designed so that instructors may take up money first if they prefer, we have a strong conviction that a systematic treatment of stabilization policy should be delayed until the student has covered both Keynesian and monetarist analysis. Macro policy today is always conditioned by the effort to walk the fine line between output growth and inflation. Students cannot appreciate this policy tension without studying both Keynesian theory, with its emphasis on the real economy, and monetarist theory, with its emphasis on the price level.

The last of the macro-theory chapters (Chapter 14) provides a synthesis of Keynesian and monetarist ideas. Most economists today have borrowed heavily from both Keynesian and monetarist traditions, so it makes good sense to examine them together. Not everyone will agree on the way we have done this, but the discussion should nevertheless serve as a vehicle for the instructor to put a personal stamp on where all the theory leads. This chapter also provides a clear statement of the critical unresolved issue in macroeconomics-uncertainty over the correct theory to explain the slope of the aggregate supply curve. Economists find it difficult to abandon their traditional approach to theory—that markets can be best understood under the assumption that economic agents are rational and well-informed—and yet no such theory (as yet) provides a satisfactory explanation of the business cycle.

Three chapters on economic policy follow the macro-theory chapters. The theory chapters contain some policy applications to help make the theory come alive, but it is best to delay a thorough discussion of stabilization until after students have macro theory under their belts.

The first of the stabilization chapters (Chapter 15) provides a general introduction to the goals of policy

PREFACE xiii

and the problems of lags and uncertainty. A chapter on fiscal policy (Chapter 16) follows; it covers traditional fiscal-policy topics such as the full-employment budget surplus. The chapter also includes material on the federal budget process, Gramm-Rudman, and supply-side fiscal policies.

The analysis of monetary policy (Chapter 17) includes a description of the Federal Reserve's policy process, the relative advantages of money and interest rates as guides to monetary policy, and a discussion of the changing behavior of velocity in the 1980s.

The last two chapters of the text are devoted to international issues. Of course, international examples and illustrations appear throughout the book, and we have emphasized that economic theory applies to all exchange, which of course includes international trade. The theory of comparative advantage is treated at the very beginning of the book and not simply relegated to a chapter on international trade. Nevertheless, there is a place for separate consideration of international economic issues.

Chapter 18, on international trade, presents the theory of comparative advantage explicitly in an international setting and explores theories of the sources of comparative advantage. Most of the trade chapter, however, is devoted to an analysis of trade barriers—how they work, their costs to consumers, and common arguments for them. International finance (Chapter 19) is inherently a rather specialized topic, and we devote a separate chapter to it. Topics include exchange rates, balance of payments, and international investment.

Learning Aids in the Text

Several elements in the text are specially designed as tools to help students learn:

- Topics in This Chapter. Each chapter begins with a list of the key concepts introduced in the chapter. It offers a convenient way to both preview and review the chapter's contents.
- Focus. Real-world events and opinion in these boxed applications show how economic principles operate in everyday life.
- Public Policy in Action. A special box on a public or controversial issue at the end of each chapter analyzes economic aspects of public life and politics.
- Key Terms. The definitions of terms comprise a complete learning system. When a term is first introduced, it is printed in boldface in the text. A

formal definition appears nearby, and the term is also listed at the end of the chapter with other key terms. Finally, all key terms and their definitions are brought together in the Glossary at the end of the text.

• Questions and Problems. These unusually lively and pertinent questions and problems were written by Albert E. Parish, Jr., who is also the author of the Student Workbook, the Test Bank, and the Instructor's Guide. Solutions to odd-numbered questions and problems are given at the end of the text; solutions to even-numbered problems are in the Instructor's Guide.

Text Supplements

Principles of Microeconomics is supported by several supplements for students and instructors. All of the print supplements were written by Albert E. Parish, Jr., of Charleston Southern University.

The Student Workbook is especially strong. Each chapter offers students a varied menu of activities and learning aids, including a detailed review of the most important equations and graphs from the text. Other features include a brief explanation of important concepts, chapter objectives and summary, and approximately 40 questions and problems of varying difficulty. One or two problems in each chapter require the use of calculus; these are clearly identified. Complete solutions at the end of the chapter help students stay on track.

The Test Bank provides approximately 1,250 multiple-choice questions, many with graphs that the students must analyze. The Test Bank is available in four formats: IBM, Macintosh, Apple, and a print version. With the computerized versions, instructors can easily edit the questions or add their own, including graphics.

The *Instructor's Guide* consists primarily of the problem solutions not given in the text. It also includes chapter outlines and our rationale for each chapter—why we wrote it as we did.

The Transparencies set pulls together the most important graphs from the text, printed in two colors and ready for use with an overhead projector.

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XÎV PREFACE

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Contents in Brief

PART ONE Introduction to Economics 1		1	11 Money, Banking, and the Financial System	343
1	The Discipline of Economics	1	12 Money, Inflation, and Interest Rates	383
2	Resource Constraints and Economic Exchange	33	13 Monetarist Theory of Business Fluctuations	423
3	Prices, Quantities, and Markets: An Overview	65	14 Keynesians, Monetarists, and New Classical Economists	455
4	Supply and Demand Analysis	97	PART FOUR	
5	Tools of the Trade	131	Stabilization	493
	TTWO erview of Macroeconomics	161	15 Overview of Stabilization- Policy Issues	495
6	Macroeconomics: The Big Picture	163	16 Fiscal Policy 17 Monetary Policy	533 579
7	Structure of the Macroeconomy	199	PART FIVE The World Economy	621
8	Characteristics of Business Fluctuations	231	18 International Trade	623
PART THREE Macroeconomic Theory 267		19 International Finance	673	
9	Keynesian Theory of Business Fluctuations	269	Solutions to Odd-Numbered Questions and Problems	S -1
			Glossary	G -1
10	Consumption and Investment	303	Index	I-1

CONTENTS

PART ONE Introduction to Economics 1 1 The Discipline of Economics 3 Prices 17 Scarcity and Resource Allocation 6 Markets 17 What, How, and for Whom 7 Circular flow 18 Issues of the Day 10 Interdependence of markets 19 For whom? 10 The role of government 21 How? 10 What? 10 The mixed economy 22 Microeconomics 23 Positive Economics Versus Normative Macroeconomics 28 **Economics** 11 Public Policy in Action: The Issue of Organ The Scientific Method in Economics 12 Transplants 26 Public Policy 14 FOCUS 1 Respect for the Individual and Acknowl-Managerial Economics 15 edgment of Diversity Are the Pillars of Democratic Society 5 The Economic Person 15 FOCUS 2 Entrepreneurship: McDonald's Goes to Moscow 8 Organization of the Market Economy — FOCUS 3 An Unintended and Unforeseen Side Overview 16 Effect [of Windmills] 13 Goods, Prices, and Markets 17 FOCUS 4 The Berlin Wall Comes Tumbling Down 24 Goods 17 2 Resource Constraints and Economic Exchange 33 Production possibilities for a country 41 The Production Possibilities Curve Production possibilities for many goods 42 (Production Frontier) 33 Opportunity Cost 43 The Concept of the Production Possibilities Fffect of Economic Growth 45 Curve 34 A Curved Production Frontier 35 Production possibilities with two kinds of Exchange and Comparative Advantage 45 land 36 Trade Between Two Farms 45 Production possibilities with many kinds of Trade Between Two Countries 46 land 40 The Principle of Comparative Advantage 48 Generalizing the Production Possibilities

Curve 40

Voluntary Exchange 48

XX CONTENTS

The Central Role of Exchange in Expanding Total Supply 50

Trade Among Individuals: Division and Specialization of Labor 50

Trade Among Regions of a Country 52 Trade Among Nations 52

Production Inside the Frontier 55
Misallocation of Resources 55
Unemployed Resources; Recessions and Depressions 57

Public Policy in Action: The Growth of World Trade 56

FOCUS 1 How to Read a Graph 36

FOCUS 2 The Opportunity Cost of Living in the German Democratic Republic 44

FOCUS 3 Adam Smith on the Division of Labor 51 **FOCUS 4** Free Trade Constrains Government Taxes, Too 54

Appendix to Chapter 2: The Production Possibilities Surface for Three Goods 62

3 Prices, Quantities, and Markets: An Overview

65

Functions of Market Prices 65

Prices as Signals to Suppliers 66
Prices as Signals to Buyers 70
Coordination of Production Activities of Firms 71
Prices in Planned Economies 72

Supply and Demand 72
Quantities 73
Supply and Demand Equilibrium 73

The Demand Curve in a Market 76
Intuitive Justification of Demand Relation 76
Tracing Out the Demand Curve Through Hypothetical Experiments 77

Given price, how much will consumers buy? 78
Given quantity, how much will consumers
pay? 80
A brief digression on terminology 81
Sensitivity of quantity demanded to price 81
Measuring demand sensitivity 82

The Supply Curve in a Market 83

Intuitive Justification of Supply Relation 83 Tracing Out the Supply Curve Through Hypothetical Experiments 83

Given price, how much will firms produce? 83
Given quantity, how much will firms charge? 84
Sensitivity of Quantity Supplied to Price 85

Market Equilibrium and Disequilibrium 85 Excess Supply and Demand 86 Shifts in Supply and Demand Curves 87

Public Policy in Action: Government Responses to Hurricane Hugo 92

FOCUS 1 Changing Tastes Cause Far-Reaching Effects 68

FOCUS 2 'The Ford Motor Company Has Laid an Egg' 71

FOCUS 3 Will the Last One Out Please Turn Off the Lights? 75

FOCUS 4 Effects of Abnormally Cold Weather on Supplies and Demands 90; Effects of Return to Normal Weather on Supplies and Demands 91

4 Supply and Demand Analysis

97

Relative Prices 98

Converting Prices to a Common Currency 100

Relative Prices of Two Goods 100

A Price Relative to Goods Prices in General 100

An Introduction to Reasons for Shifts of Demand Curves 102
Changes in Tastes 103
Changes in Income 103

Changes in Prices of Other Goods 105
Substitutes 106
Complements 108
Population 109

An Introduction to Reasons for Shifts of Supply Curves 109

Changes in Technology 109
Prices of Productive Inputs, Regulations, and
Taxes 109

Elasticities of Demand and Supply Curves 110

Definition of Price Elasticity of Demand 110 Elasticity Versus Slope 112 Relationship of Amount Spent on a Good to Price Elasticity of Demand 114 Definition of Price Elasticity of Supply 118 Other Elasticities 118 Short Run Versus Long Run 119

Short-Run Versus Long-Run Demand 119 Short-Run Versus Long-Run Supply 120 Long-Run Equilibrium 121

The Stock-Flow Distinction 122

The Market for Stocks 123 The Market for Flows 123

FOCUS 1 The Drug Market in the News 98
FOCUS 2 An Open Letter to Bill Bennett 104
FOCUS 3 A Response to Milton Friedman 106

Appendix to Chapter 4: The Simple Algebra of Elasticities 129

Relationship Between Demand Elasticity and Amount Spent on a Good 129 Arc Elasticity 130

5 Tools of the Trade

Graphs and Diagrams 131

Scatter 133

Causal relations versus associations 133
Relation between theoretical curves and empirical scatters 137

Line Graphs 137
Bar Graphs 138
Stacked Bar Graphs 139
Pie Graphs 139
Lying with Graphs 141
Separate Right and Left Scales 142
Ratio Scales 144

Marginal This and Marginal That 146
Relationship of Marginal Changes to Slope of Tangent 146
Relationship of Marginal Changes to Arc Slope 149

Algebra 149

Interest Rates 151

Future Value 151
Present Value 152

Developing Good Analytical Habits 153

131

Forward Versus Diagnostic Analysis 154 Economic Analysis: A Checklist 154

Label axes and curves in diagrams 154
State your analytical assumptions 154
Break a problem into pieces for analytical
purposes 155
When analytical markets remember that the

When analyzing markets, remember that price and quantity never change unless the supply curve, the demand curve, or both shift 155

Public Policy in Action: How Trustworthy Are Our Data? 156

FOCUS 1 The Census 132
FOCUS 2 Evidence on Smoking and Health from Mortality Data by State 136

FOCUS 3 Counting the Homeless 147

FOCUS 4 The Magic of Compound Interest 153

xxii CONTENTS

PART TWO

Overview of Macroeconomics 161

6 Macroeconomics: The Big Picture

163

Macro Topics and Methods 164

Definitions of Macroeconomics Terms 165

Measurement 165

Distinguishing Macro Issues from Micro
Ones 166

The Scope of "Other Things Being Equal" in Macro Analysis 167

Macro Interactions 167

Gross National Product 168
Aggregation 168
Nominal and Real GNP 169
National Income Accounting 170

Long-run Growth 170 U.S. Economic Growth 172 Impact of Growth 173

Business Fluctuations 176
Phases of the Business Cycle 177
Economic Indicators 179

Inflation 181

The Implicit GNP Price Deflator 181

Calculating the implicit deflator 182

The deflator as an index number 183

Inflation and the Purchasing Power of Money 184

Money and Other Financial Assets 184
Definition of Money 184

Creation and Destruction of Money 185 Non-money Financial Assets 185

The Aggregate Supply-and-Demand

Framework 186

Comparison of Micro and Macro Analysis 186
The Person-in-the-Street View 187
The Keynesian View 188

Keynesian views on output determination 188

Keynesian views on price-level

determination 189

The Monetarist View 190

Monetarist views on output determination 190

Monetarist views on inflation 190
The "Real Business Cycles" View 191
Eclectic Views 191
Policy Analysis 192

The Unsettled State of Macroeconomics 194 **Public Policy in Action:** Polish Reforms to Speed

Economic Growth 192

Focus 1 The Origin of the National Income and Product Accounts 171

Focus 2 Perspective on World Economic Output and Growth 174

Focus 3 The Simple Algebra of Quarterly GNP and its Growth Rate 177

Focus 4 Anticipations of Price Increases Empty Shelves in Soviet Stores 180

7 Structure of the Macroeconomy

199

The Circular Flow of Income and Output:
The Basics 200

Double-entry Bookkeeping 201

Households 202

Consumption 202

Saving 203

Firms 203

Value added 204

Producers' investment 206

Gross and Net National Product 207 Income and Output 208

231

The Government Sector in the Circular **Flow 208** Measuring Government Output 209 Government Purchases 210 Government Transfers 211

The Financial Sector in the Circular Flow 213 Borrowing and Lending 213 Interest and Dividends 214 Saving Versus Savings 215 Income and Output Once Again 215

The Foreign Sector in the Circular Flow 216 Balanced and Unbalanced Trade 218 Net Exports, National Output, and Spending 219

The Income Side of the Macroeconomy 219 Labor income 220 Capital Income 220

Rental income of people 220 Interest 221 Equity (profit) income 221 Proprietors' Income 222 Statistical Discrepancy 222

Government 225

Income 221

Circular Flow and Aggregate Supply and Demand 222

Public Policy in Action: Government in the National Accounts 224 Analytical Arguments for a Capital Budget 224 Political Arguments Against Capital Budgets for

FOCUS 1 What Do and Did U.S. Consumers Spend Their Incomes On? 204 FOCUS 2 Perils in Measuring National Defense Expenditures 212 FOCUS 3 The Changing Pattern of National

8 Characteristics of Business Fluctuations

The All-Time Champion Business Cycle: The Great Depression 231

Unemployment 232 Lost Income 232 Despair and Conflict 232 Government Action 233

Chronology and Principal Characteristics of **Business Cycles** 234

The Noncyclic Character of Business Cycles 235 Comparing One Cycle to Another 236

Cyclical Behavior of Major Components of GNP 240

Measuring GNP Components Relative to Trend **GNP 240** Consumption and Investment 242 Government Purchases and Net Exports 243

Employment and Unemployment 245 Unemployment Duration 246

Types of Unemployment 247

Cyclical unemployment 247 Frictional unemployment 247 Structural unemployment 248 Seasonal unemployment 248 Full Employment 248

Prices and Wages 250

Stock Prices and Interest Rates 253 Stock Prices 253 Interest Rates 254

The Task of Business-Cycle Theory 255 Public Policy in Action: The Anatomy of the 1981-82 Recession 258

FOCUS 1 Industrial Production in Germany and Japan, Monthly, 1949:1-1989:12 240 FOCUS 2 Unemployment in Germany, Japan, and the United States 249 FOCUS 3 The United States Discovers Stagflation 255

FOCUS 4 The 1987 Stock Market Crash 256

PART THREE

Macroeconomic Theory

267

9 Keynesian Theory of Business Fluctuations

269

Price Flexibility and Economic Equilibrium 270

The Consumption Function 272
The Average Propensity to Consume 274
The Marginal Propensity to Consume 275
The Saving Function 277

The Keynesian-Cross Model of Income Determination 278

The Relationship of Disposable Income to the GNP 279

Autonomous Components of Aggregate Expenditures 280

Effects of Changes in Autonomous Expenditures 281

The Multiplier 282

A Model Exercise—The Paradox of Thrift 283 Income as the Market-Clearing Variable in the Keynesian Model 285

The Investment Function 286
Animal Spirits 286

Role of the Interest Rate 287 Role of Income 290

Government and Net Exports 292

Aggregate Demand and Supply 293
Slope of the Aggregate Demand Curve 293
Implication of Changing Prices for Aggregate
Demand 295
Aggregate Supply 298

Public Policy in Action: Are We All Keynesians Now? 300

Focus 1 Personal Income: Changing Sources and Taxes 275

Focus 2 The U.S. Personal Saving Rate, 1959–90 279

Focus 3 Keynes on the Stock Market 290

Focus 4 Panic Buying at the Outbreak of the Korean War 297

Appendix to Chapter 9: The Simple Algebra of Multipliers 301

10 Consumption and Investment

303

Consumption 303

The Consumption Function 304
Understanding Cross-Section Data on Income

and Consumption 304

The Concept of Permanent Income 306
The Permanent-Income Theory of

Consumption 307

Algebraic Statement of the Permanent-Income Theory 310

The Time-Series Consumption Function 310
Consumption Versus Consumption

Expenditures 313

The Cyclical Behavior of Consumption 316 Implications of Consumption Theory for the Business Cycle 318

Investment 320

Household Investment in Durable Goods 320

Investment in Residential Structures 322

Nonresidential Fixed Investment 324

Capital stocks and investment flows 324
Investment in a balanced growing economy 325
Cyclical behavior of nonresidential fixed
investment 325

The Investment Demand Function 326

The Investment Accelerator 326

Illustration of simple investment accelerator 326 The flexible accelerator 328

Inventory Investment 329

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