Money and Banking Before the Civil War



What is Money?

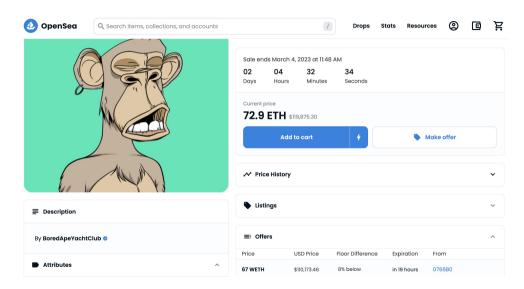
- Money is anything used as a medium of exchange, a store of value and a unit of account
- It can range from promises (checks, bank notes, etc.) to goods (tobacco, furs, precious metals, etc.)
- Reliance on goods as money suffers from the problem of requiring a "double coincidence of wants"
- Money in the form of promises (bank notes, paper currency, bills of exchange) is needed to drive a large economy
- We are going to trace the development of money and banking and its role in promoting (and occasionally hindering) economic growth
- Before we do that, let's start with thinking about modern money...to https://pollev.com/jmparman

What is Money?

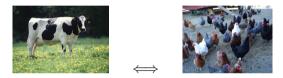


The Daphne "Am I Money?" NFT collection (invaluable).

What is Money?



A Brief History of Money



Bartering has been around for ages. It involves exchanging goods directly with another person and suffers from the double coincidence of wants problem. Not particularly useful once your economy starts growing.

Double Coincidence of Wants - A Craigslist Example

From a recent Richmond Craigslist posting:

Looking to trade the pictured cards for a decent short scale bass...



Double Coincidence of Wants - A Craigslist Example

From a recent Richmond Craigslist:





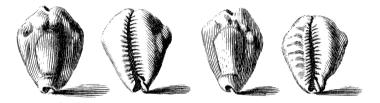
Never used and comes with feet and damper to use in the pipe. Brand new. Trade for: Pressure washer Kayak Fishing gear Lawn trailer Cord of seasoned hardwood Drone print



From a Sacramento Craigslist posting:

I'm looking for the big picture book edition of the Pilgrim's Progress. Must be in good condition and must be the edition I'm looking for. I have many items and services to trade/barter with as well as some cash. I fabricate go carts, I'm a welder, and make special occasion custom DVDs and photo albums for a few examples. Thanks.

A Brief History of Money



People began using shells as currency around 1200 BC.

A Brief History of Money



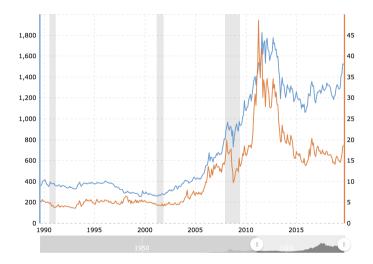
Paper bank notes first begin to appear in the seventh century in China. The first European bank notes were issued by a Swedish bank in the 1600s.

Money and Banking in the United States

- By the time the United States is setting up its banking system, all sorts of money and financial instruments exist
- During the colonial period, colonists used the British pound sterling, foreign coin, personal IOUs, and colonial paper money
- During the transition to independence, the Continental dollar and state-issued paper currency entered the mix
- ▶ As we've discussed, these paper currencies were plagued with problems and led to a major revamping of money after the Constitution

The Federal Government's Approach to Currency

- ▶ After the Constitution, the federal government had to decide how to issue currency
- Hamilton opted for a bimetallic currency (minting both gold and silver coins)
- Both US minted coins and foreign minted coins were accepted as legal tender
- ▶ The value of a gold coin was fixed to be 15 times the value of a silver coin which created some serious problems



Suppose that the value of gold coins is set to 15 times the value of silver coins but an ounce of gold is worth 17 ounces of silver on the world market.



- ▶ The bimetallic standard led to either gold or silver coins being overvalued
- ▶ Initially, gold was undervalued leaving only silver coins in circulation
- When the government revised the gold/silver ratio, gold became overvalued
- ▶ This revision of the ratio plus the effects of the gold rush led to silver disappearing from circulation
- ▶ By 1900, the United States finally dropped the bimetallic standard and went with the gold standard
- ▶ Now we are no longer on the gold standard



Bank Money

- ▶ Not all money was in the form of US currency
- ▶ While the constitution explicitly said the federal government could mint currency and individuals states could not, it did not prevent states from indirectly creating currency in the form of bank notes
- ▶ States could charter banks which could issue their own notes
- ▶ These bank notes could be redeemed in full for legal tender upon presentation to the bank of issue
- Banks and bank notes became a huge portion of the country's financial system (by the Civil War there were over 9,000 kinds of bank notes in circulation)

The Role of Banks as a Financial Intermediary

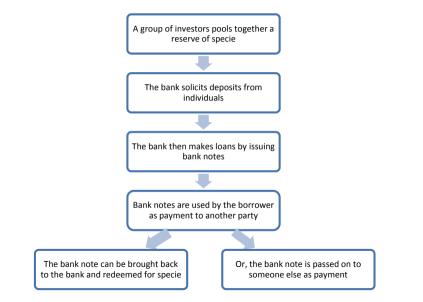
- ▶ Banks serve as an important link between savers and borrowers
- They take in deposits from savers that are looking for interest, security and a certain level of liquidity
- They make loans to borrowers who are willing pay interest in exchange for access to money that can be repaid in the future
- Banks greatly reduce the transaction costs involved in matching savers and borrowers, mobilizing greater amounts of capital and facilitating economic growth

The Role of Banks in the Creation of Money

Money eleution with a 1070 Reserve Ratio			
Event	Total Deposits	Total Reserves	
Person A deposits \$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	
Bank lends out \$900	\$1,000	\$100	
Person B deposits \$900	\$1,900	\$1,000	
Bank lends out \$810	\$1,900	\$190	
Person C deposits \$810	\$2,710	\$1,000	
Bank lends out \$729	\$2,710	\$271	
Final	\$10,000	\$1,000	
		· · · · ·	

Money Creation with a 10% Reserve Ratio

State Chartered Banks



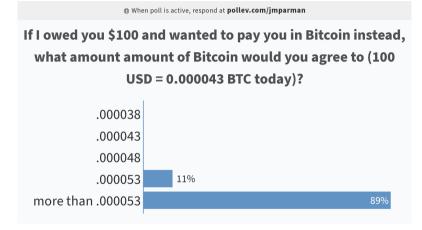
What Happened When Bank Notes Circulated as Currency?

- ▶ If notes started passing from one person to another without being taken back to the bank, they served as paper currency
- ▶ The market value of a note wasn't necessarily the face value
- ▶ Face value did mean something, it was the amount of specie you could collect from the bank
- ▶ Market value takes this into account but gets lowered by several factors:
 - transaction costs (traveling to the bank)
 - ▶ the risk that a bank will not be able to cover the note
 - ▶ the willingness of others to accept the note as currency

The Market Value of Bank Notes



The Market Value of Bank Notes

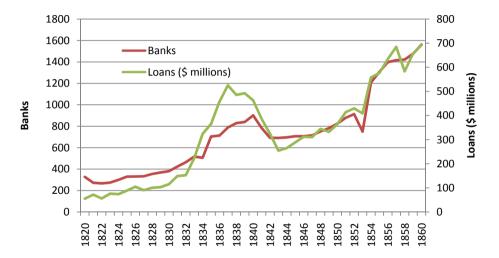


The Market Value of Bank Notes

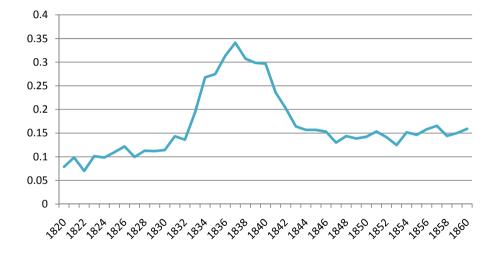
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F & M Steubenville 1 a		75 dia
Franklin bk Cincin 1 c		75 dis
Frank'n bk Colum's 1		75 dis
Germ's bk Wooster bro Geauga 1		5 dis
Gallipolia bro	L. Staten Island bk	60 dis
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Marshion 10	dia Bank of Lodi	25 dis
Manhatan 85	Mer Ex bk Buffalo	50 dis
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The Michigan Farmer and Western Agriculturalist, 1843

The Growth of State Chartered Banking



Loans as a Fraction of GDP



The Good That Came From Banks

- Bank loans were clearly a significant part of the economy and benefited consumers and producers in a variety of important ways
- ▶ Banks monetized the economy in a way that specie alone could not
 - ▶ Transaction costs were reduced
 - Consumption could be smoothed over time
 - Production could be smoothed over time
- ▶ Through providing credit, banks encouraged entrepreneurship
- Banks provided an efficient way for people to liquidate assets in difficult times

When Banks Aren't That Good

- Banks have a lot of benefits, but antebellum banking wasn't a strictly positive experience
- One problem with state chartered banks was that many didn't lend money in a socially efficient way
- Many banks tended to make big loans to their own presidents or to family and friends
- ▶ This creates problems: loans aren't going to the most efficient ventures, the public loses confidence in the bank, big loans to a few insiders can carry extra risk

Shady Banking Practices

Real Sstate Bank of the State of Arkansas, Sittle and 15 man 1839 BE IT KNOWN That William Press Hourty five Thanks antilled to Capital Stock of the EARSAS. will shave and transferable only at one of the Others a said Bank by the said Milliam Ryan. or his Allorney subject to the provisions of the Charter and the rules of said Institution EXTRACT FROM SEC. 97. "The mortgages for stock, or leans granted by virtue of this act, shall beer ten per cent, interest per annum after maturity, if not panchally paid; and the said Real Estate Bank or the State of Arkanasa, mali is branches, shall have the right to cause to be reized and sold, according to hav, the property mort-gaged, in whose hands source the same may be found, in the same manner, and with the same facilities, as it was seized in the hands of the mortgager, notwithstanding SEC. 30. And by it further enacted, That, if a stockholder shall fail, he shall be divested of his quality as stockholder, and his share or shares shall be sold by the board of directors, with all the rights and credits thereto belonging. Exercisery when Sec. 31, "And whenever application shall be made by a stockholder to transfer his stock and he discharged, such transfer and discharge may take place upon the new stockholder's furnishing mortgage to the satisfaction of at least a majority Sugardo President

The Wilson-Anthony Duel

- ▶ The problems with antebellum banking weren't restricted to inefficient loans
- ▶ Another problem was banks not being able to pay their depositors
- ▶ Remember that banks only keep a fraction of total deposits as reserves
- ▶ If too many people try to claim their deposits at once, the bank runs into trouble
- If too many of the bank's loans go into default, they won't be able to pay depositors
- ▶ There are a few consequences to all of this: devaluation of circulating banknotes that can ultimately lead to bank runs and direct loss of deposits if banks go bankrupt





Lydia Lobsiger, first person to be paid by FDIC, Fond du Lac State Bank, Peoria Illinois, 1934



http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/377/scenes-from-a-recession?act=2



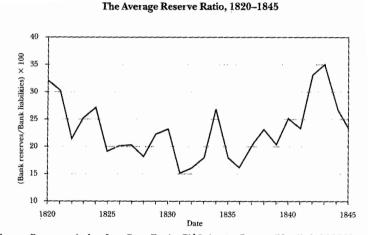
The Panic of 1837

- ▶ Banks were at the mercy of public confidence
- ▶ This is demonstrated by the Panic of 1837
- Through the 1820s there was increasing confidence in bank money (meaning more deposits, loans, and notes)
- ▶ The traditional view holds that unregulated banks behaved irresponsibly
- ▶ They increased note issues without sufficient reserves to back them up
- ▶ Eventually, people panic and make a run on the banks

The Panic of 1837

- ▶ Temin (1968) is going to raise a problem: the facts don't quite match
- Banks weren't dropping their reserve ratio in the years leading up to the panic
- People weren't getting irrationally confident in the banks (currency ratio was rising)
- What was primarily driving changes in the money supply was an increase in the stock of specie
- ▶ When the inflow of specie stopped, trouble ensued

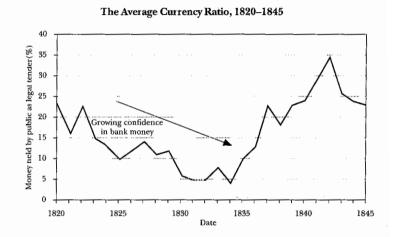
Jacksonian Inflation and the Panic of 1837



Source: Reserve ratio data from Peter Temin, The Jacksonian Economy (New York: W. W. Norton, 1969): 71, 159.

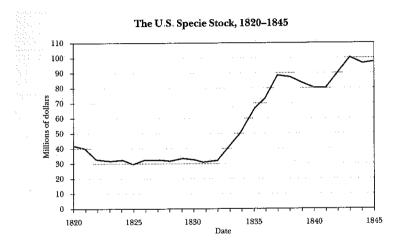
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Jacksonian Inflation and the Panic of 1837



Source: Currency ratio data from Peter Temin, *The Jacksonian Economy* (New York: W. W. Norton, 1969): 71, 159

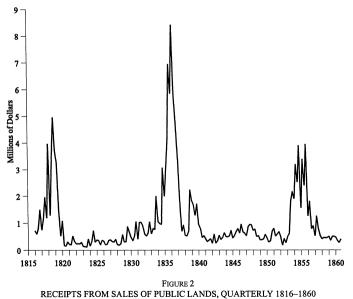
Jacksonian Inflation and the Panic of 1837



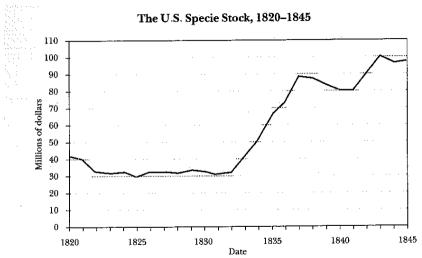
Source: Specie estimates from Peter Temin, The Jacksonian Economy (New York: W W. Norton, 1969): 71, 159.

- Specie stopped flowing into the country, having a big impact on the money supply
- ▶ Why did the gold stop coming in?
- ▶ Let's think about two possibilities:
 - ▶ The Specie Circular issued by Jackson in 1836
 - ▶ British interest rate policies that changed dramatically, also in 1836

The Panic of 1837



The Panic of 1837



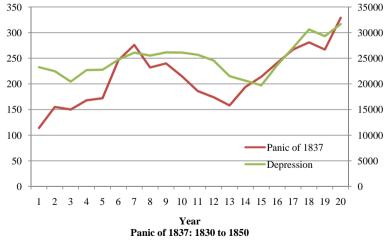
Source: Specie estimates from Peter Temin, The Jacksonian Economy (New York: W W Norton, 1969): 71, 159.

The Panic of 1837

- ▶ When specie stopped flowing into the country (partly because of British policies) people changed their mind about the security of deposits
- ▶ People rushed to cash in bank notes
- Banks had to suspend payments temporarily, another panic a couple years later led to many bank failures
- ▶ The money supply contracted and a period of deflation began

The Effects of Bank Runs

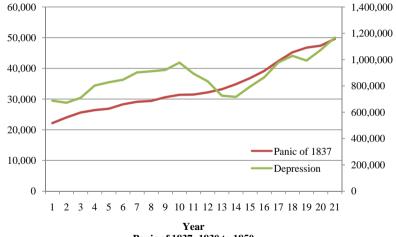
Money supply



Great Depression : 1920 to 1940

The Effects of Bank Runs

Real GDP



Panic of 1837: 1830 to 1850 Great Depression : 1920 to 1940

So how badly did the bank panics and the resulting contraction of the money supply hurt the American economy? Not as badly as similar bank runs hurt the economy during the Great Depression. To see why, we can use some simple economic theory:

MV = PT

M: money in circulation V: velocity (how quickly money circulates) P: price level T: real output

The Effects of Bank Runs

MV = PT

- ▶ So the initial problem is a drop in M
- In the 20th century, prices are fairly sticky so a fall in M is balanced by a fall in T (think union contracts, large fixed debts)
- ▶ In the 19th century, prices adjusted quickly so the fall in *M* was balanced by a fall in *P*, output actually grew during the slump
- ▶ What was different about the 19th century? Agriculture was big and manufacturers trimmed costs rather than output

Jackson and the Panic of 1837

- ▶ Back to Temin contesting traditional views of the Panic of 1837
- Traditionally, a decent amount of blame was placed at the feet of Andrew Jackson
- ▶ Some of this has to do with Jackson's attitudes toward the other big type of banking we haven't talked about yet: federally-chartered banks and central banking
- Digging into the politics of Jackson and banking will give us a chance to talk about the appearance, disappearance, and reappearance of federally-chartered banking

Jackson and the Panic of 1837



Federally Chartered Banking

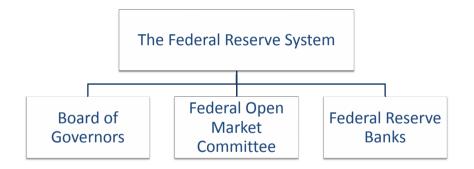
- ▶ We've been discussing the role of state-chartered banks
- These state banks made up the vast majority of the commercial banking system
- One other type of commercial bank that emerged (and disappeared, re-emerged and then disappeared again) was federally-chartered central banking
- ▶ Federally-chartered banking was similar to state-chartered banking (printing banknotes and making loans) but had the US federal government as both an owner and a customer

Modern Central Banking in the United States

- ▶ Today we're used to having a fairly strong central bank, the Federal Reserve
- The Fed was only created in 1913 in response to a bad financial panic in 1907
- ▶ The Federal Reserve Act was passed by Congress to:

"provide for the establishment of Federal reserve banks, to furnish an elastic currency, to afford means of rediscounting commercial paper, to establish a more effective supervision of banking in the United States, and for other purposes"

The Structure of the Fed



The Board of Governors has the following responsibilities:

- Set monetary policy (the board makes up the majority of the FOMC)
- ▶ Set reserve requirements
- ▶ Set discount rate policy (shared responsibility with the Reserve Banks)
- Regulate and supervise member banks and US activities of foreign-owned banks

The Federal Open Market Committee has the following responsibilities:

- ▶ Formulate policy for national economic growth
- ▶ Purchase and sell US government and federal agency securities
- ▶ Direct Federal Reserve System operations in foreign currency

The Purposes of the Fed

The Federal Reserve Banks have the following responsibilities:

- Set the discount rate (subject to Board approval)
- ▶ Hold cash reserves of depository institutions
- ▶ Make loans to depository institutions
- ▶ Move currency in and out of circulation
- Process checks
- Act as the fiscal agent for the US government (provides checking accounts for the Treasury, issues and redeems government securities)
- Supervise member banks

The Federal Reserve Banks



The Founding of the First Bank of the United States

- ▶ The first national bank was the brainchild of Alexander Hamilton
- Hamilton's plan for the US economy included a national bank to stimulate the economy and enhance the shaky credit of the new government
- ▶ Modeled in part on the Bank of England
- The bank had plenty of opposition (from Jefferson, Madison, and even Washington's own attorney general)

Why the Resistance to a National Bank?

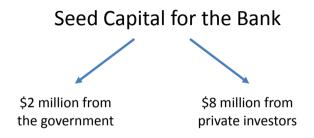
- Many people opposed big government, they wanted as small a central government as possible
- Southerners feared that a national bank in Philadelphia would mean the capital stayed in Philadelphia
- People questioned whether the Constitution allowed the federal government to charter a bank
- ▶ This became one of the first tests of "implied power" in the Constitution

The Founding of the First Bank of the United States

The three main advantages of a national bank, according to Hamilton:

"First. The augmentation of the active or productive capital of a country...Secondly–Greater facility to the Government in obtaining pecuniary aids, especially in sudden emergencies...Thirdly–The facilitating of the payment of taxes."

The Structure of the First Bank



•Bank was authorized to issue \$10 million in notes

•This would equal roughly one third of bank notes

in circulation

How the First Bank was Different from State Banks

- Served as fiscal agent for the government (it held government receipts and paid government bills)
- ▶ It could operate in multiple states (total of 8 branch banks)
- ▶ It's notes could circulate nationwide
- It's size was unprecedented (because it handled the government's accounts)
- It had some power to regulate other banks through calling in their bank notes (it was a net creditor to the private banking system)

Problems with the First Bank

- ▶ The script bubble during the initial stock offering
- ▶ The Panic of 1792 the bank first flooded the market with banknotes and then reversed course leading to a liquidity crisis
- Hamilton handled both events as a modern banker would: he injected money into the economy by buying back government securities
- ▶ The biggest problem with the bank was that people still didn't like the idea of a national bank
- ▶ Ultimately, its initial 20-year charter was not renewed and the bank closed in 1811

Problems with Closing the First Bank

- ▶ Immediately after closing the First Bank, the number of commercial banks shot up, the quantity of outstanding banknotes more than doubled but the specie held by banks declined
- ▶ The banking system was growing too rapidly and was looking less and less stable
- ▶ Ultimately there was a run on the banks in 1814 and Congress had to reconsider a national bank
- ▶ By 1816, the Second Bank of the United States is chartered

Another National Bank

First Bank of the	Second Bank of the
United States	United States

Initial Seed Capital					
\$2 million from	\$7 million from				
government	government				
\$8 million from private	\$28 million from private				
investors	investors				
Year Chartered					
1791	1816				
Year Closed					
1811	1836				
Precendents					

Hamilton argues 'implied Supreme Court confirms powers' 'implied powers'

Another Failure to Get a Renewed Charter



Brown University Library Center for Digital Initiatives, Print, Drawings & Watercolors from the Anne S. K. Brown Military Collection, ID 119817787962500

Another Failure to Get a Renewed Charter



Lithograph by Edward W. Clay, http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:1832bank1.jpg

Another Failure to Get a Renewed Charter

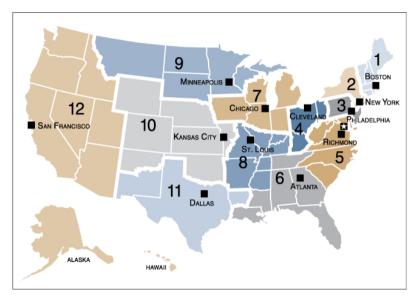
I have read the scriptures, gentlemen, and I find that when Moses ascended the mountain, the children of Israel rebelled, and made a golden calf and worshipped it, and it brought a curse upon them. This bank will be a greater curse. I have no hostility to the bank; I am willing it should expire in peace; but if it does persist in its war with the government, I have a measure in contemplation which will destroy it at once, and which I am resolved to apply, be the consequences to individuals what they may. - Andrew Jackson, 1834

Some Noes on the First Attempts at Central Banking

- Both were killed at the end of their initial charter period (with the Second Bank losing its power well before the end of its charter)
- ▶ Failure wasn't the result of the central bank failing to meet its own goals
- ▶ The banks did seem to have some ability to regulate the banking industry and the way in which they exercised that power was consistent with maintaining stability
- ► The banks weren't necessarily mismanaged but they were definitely unwanted

- ▶ The First and Second Bank could exert some influence on other banks
- Doing away with the Second Bank did away with any chance for influence, hence some of the talk of irresponsible lending leading up to the Panic of 1837 and its bank runs
- We saw the impacts these bank runs on inflation and output but we're looking at correlations
- ▶ But how do we really get at causal impacts?

- As Temin showed us, there's a lot going on, a lot of endogenous and exogenous things interacting with one another during the Panic of 1837
- So how can we isolate a causal channel? It's pretty hard to run controlled experiments during a bank panic
- ▶ Let's take a quick look at one paper that basically tries to do this
- Ziebarth, "Identifying the Effects of Bank Failures from a Natural Experiment in Mississippi during the Great Depression", American Economic Journal - Macroeconomics (2013)



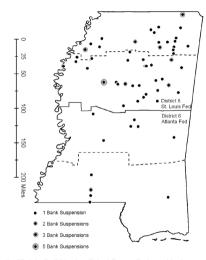


FIG. 1.—Mississippi's division into Federal Reserve districts and bank suspensions between October 1930 and March 1931. Source: See Section II. The solid line represents the Federal Reserve district border. The dotted lines enclose the counties for which at least half the area lies within 1 degree latitude of the district border.

CONTIDENTIAL COVERNMENT REPORT mx 34-346 Form 103 FOR OFFICE USE ONL DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE. topen every mante There and County factory to break come BURFAU OF THE CENSITED . K WASHENGTON VERTIFIED EV The second **CENSUS OF MANUFACTURES, 1929** REQUIRED BY ACT OF CONGRESS APPROVED JUNE IS. 1800 RUTTER: CHEESE: CONDENSED AND EVAPORATED MILK Ender the law, no one not a secone employee of the Barress of Ho Chemas with be permitted to examine your report, and no information can ow will be piron out by the Barress of Ho Chemas to any person scalar that Barress, whither the Garresson energy of the piron out by the Barress of the Chemas to any person scalar that Barress, whither the Garresson energy of the piron out by the Barress of the Chemas to any person scalar the the Barress, whither the Garresson energy of the piron of the Chemas the Chemas to any person scalar that the Barress, whither the Garresson energy of the piron of the Chemas (in point Prior). GENERAL INSTESTICTOR—Reports are required from all plants. Separate reports are reached for plants in different contrins and the function different disks having INSE contributions or more. A combined report on your having the true more reached for her many the function different disks having INSE contributions. Notes and indexing on each plant small be specified. Use accompanying instantians in report to transports that and manythening entrying. 1. DESCRIPTION OF PLANT .--- If this report every flaw one plant, give name and location of each, under " Lonavita," . Nave of the adventing the strong to Cramery Is this evener or corrator an incorporated concern? . BRAVE Cashtabula CITY, TOTY, OR VILLOT astabula 42 an 7 NAMES AND NUMBER · Desponses and it presents man accords (d) A INPLANT LOCATED WITHIN BOUNDAMERS OF CITY, D. W. OR THELADE AS INCOMPANYING. CLEAR 14 and the township, however, or other civil distaton is which the plant is located. 4. In THIS & NEW PLANT WHICH STARTED OPERATIONS AFTER JANUARY 1, 19287 INDICATE BY CHICK MARK (V) IN PROPER STATE THETHER, MAKE JANUARY), 1928, THIS PLANT HAS CRASHED ITS NAME OF ATTON. OF MERADIP. OF MERAL NATURE OF STRIMEN. If SO, give former came. bootion committe on nation of londness A. IN THIS PLANT & BRANCH ON ATBRIDIARY OF SCHE OTHER CONCERNY. TO. It so, give name and address of and concern CHARACTER OF NOTSTEX.— These assess shield be a default as possible in their grant, indicating several product of the signers.
 A structure of the several several shield be a default as possible in the grant holidating several product of the several sev Mider Helatine • SPRIOD COVERED.— This report should relate probably to the calcular year 100° but it may be rack to over the observation of the should be sho Inan (Jan. 1. 192.9 The facal own or period covered by the information given below---Entre OSec.31 129 A TIME IN OPTRATION AND HOURS OF LARCE. NUMBER OF LAST THE PLANT WAS OFFICED BUILD FERIOR COVERED. 345 in the paper of he other some day in others the manner of days the plant, as any supprised out of it, which we taken the the start A NORMAL STREET OF HOUSE FLAST WAS COLLETED: PER DAY . 10/12. FIR WILL . 9018 4 5 c. NORMAL SUBSIDE OF SHIPTS PER DAY A. NORMAL SUBJECT OF BOURS PER VER FOR THE INDIVIDUAL WASE RANNES. Does this number of hours refer to a 6-day, a 5%-day, or a 3-day week, or to some other basis (specify " A. IF BURNE PRIMER PRESEDT THE PLANT WORKED PARK TIME (part of the factual working days per work of part of the normal lours per day) cive seasons and APPROXIMATE DATES Val. Add S

	Revenue				Physical output		
-	Within (1)	Balanced (2)	Unbalanced (3)	County (4)	Within (5)	Balanced (6)	Unbalanced (7)
St. Louis Fed 1931	-0.24^{***} (0.06)	-0.21*** (0.08)	-0.18** (0.09)	-0.28* (0.16)	-0.37^{***} (0.11)	-0.53** (0.19)	-0.43** (0.17)
St. Louis Fed	_	-0.12 (0.11)	-0.15* (0.08)	_	_	-0.18 (0.20)	0.20 (0.28)
Observations Adjusted R ²	1,226 0.57	635 0.61	1,224 0.56	148 0.94	479 0.64	282 0.81	479 0.79

TABLE 2-EFFECTS ON OUTPUT VARIABLES

Notes: All dependent variables are in logs. The within specification includes plant fixed effects. All the regressions include industry-specific time trends though the coefficients are excluded for clarity. The price and quantity effects are only for plants producing one good. Plant-clustered standard errors are reported in parentheses. County-level regressions include full set of county fixed effects with standard errors clustered at the county level and observations weighted by number of plants in a given county. Note there is no St. Louis Fed coefficient for the county estimates because I estimate a full set of county fixed effects.

*** Significant at the 1 percent level.

** Significant at the 5 percent level.

*Significant at the 10 percent level.

	Total wage earners				Hours per wage earner		
	Within (1)	Balanced (2)	Unbalanced (3)	County (4)	Within (5)	Balanced (6)	Unbalanced (7)
St. Louis Fed 1931	-0.02 (0.07)	0.03 (0.07)	-0.00 (0.08)	-0.39* (0.25)	-0.13** (0.07)	-0.11* (0.06)	-0.09** (0.05)
St. Louis Fed	_	-0.20** (0.10)	-0.22*** (0.07)	_	—	0.04** (0.02)	0.03** (0.02)
Observations Adjusted R ²	1,224 0.32	640 0.49	1,223 0.53	146 0.89	1,109 0.15	590 0.16	1,108 0.18

TABLE 4—EFFECTS ON LABOR INPUTS

Notes: All dependent variables are in logs. The within specification includes plant fixed effects. All the regressions include industry-specific time trends though the coefficients are excluded for clarity. Standard errors are clustered at the plant level and reported in parentheses. County-level regressions include county and year fixed effects and standard errors are clustered at the county level. County-level observations are weighted by number of plants in a given county. Note there is no St. Louis Fed coefficient for the county estimates because I estimate a full set of county fixed effects.

***Significant at the 1 percent level.

**Significant at the 5 percent level.

*Significant at the 10 percent level.

Other Ways to Bankrupt a Bank



Luke Lea, 1879-1945

Kaiser Wilhelm II, 1859-1941

Other Ways to Bankrupt a Bank

- The bank runs we've talked about weren't necessarily the fault of the banks
- There were instances where bankruptcies were very much the bank's fault
- ▶ This is usually discussed in the context of the free banking era
- ▶ The basic idea is that states allowed anybody who met certain requirements to set up a bank anywhere they wanted
- ▶ Some of these banks were good, some were bad
- The bad ones put up worthless collateral to set up the bank, paid themselves dividends as people starting making deposits and taking out loans, then declared bankruptcy when people came to take their money out

Wildcat Banks



Losses From Free Banking

LOSSES SUFFERED BY HOLDERS OF FREE BANK NOTES FROM THE FIRST YEAR OF FREE BANKING THROUGH 1860*

State	First Year	Loss (dollars)	State	First Year	Loss (dollars)
Vermont	1851	24,500	Michigan	1857	+
Massachusetts	1851	0	Wisconsin	1852	0
Connecticut	1852	0	Minnesota	1858	96,900
New York	1838	394,700	Iowa	1858	_
New Jersey	1850	6,000	Georgia	1838	3,000
Pennsylvania	1860	0	Florida	1853	_
Ohio	1851	77,600	Tennessee	1852	0
Indiana	1852	227,900	Alabama	1849	_
Illinois	1851	21,300	Louisiana	1853	0
Michigan	1837	1,000,000		Total	1,851,900

Losses From Free Banking in Context

The Impact of Free Banking Losses

Noteholder Losses under Free Banking	\$1,851,600
Nominal GDP (1860)	\$4,350,000,000
Noteholder Losses as a % of GDP	0.04%
Outstanding Subprime Loans	\$1,344,000,000,000
Nominal GDP (2007)	\$13,807,500,000,000
Subprime Loans as a % of GDP	9.73%

Losses From Free Banking in Context

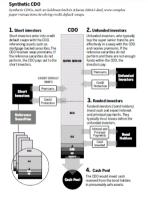


Figure 8.2, Final Report of the National Commission on the Causes of the Financial and Economic Crisis in the United States

Announcements

- Make certain you are working on your first referee report, due October 10th
- ▶ Feel free to stop by office hours with any and all questions or email me
- Also remember that I am happy to look at full or partial drafts (but count on that taking longer than answering direct questions)
- Money and banking will be the last topic for the midterm, Ziebarth (2013) is the last required reading for it

Announcements

- ▶ Referee reports are due by 5pm, just submit them by email to me
- Money and banking will be the last topic for the midterm, Ziebarth (2013) is the last required reading for it
- ▶ The midterm is on October 24th, we'll do a review in class on Thursday, October 19th
- Remember that the exam is open notes, so think about how to take useful notes as you study