

Volume 29, Issue 4

Stylized Facts of Prices and Interest Rates over the Business Cycle

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Abstract

This paper investigates the stylized facts of prices and interest rates over the business cycles in nine OECD countries using quarterly data from 1960 to 2004. We examine the stylized facts used various detrending methods. Our findings confirm the existence of substantive cyclical regularities across countries. In particular, nominal interest rates are procyclical and lag the cycle in the majority of countries; term spread is countercyclical and lags the cycle; prices are countercyclical; inflation is procyclical and lag the cycle.

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Citation: Ioanna Konstantakopoulou and Eftymios Tsionas and Tryphon Kollintzas, (2009) "Stylized Facts of Prices and Interest Rates over the Business Cycle", *Economics Bulletin*, Vol. 29 no.4 pp. 2613-2627.

Submitted: Aug 11 2009. **Published:** October 19, 2009.

1. Introduction

In this paper, we will attempt to document the stylized facts of prices and interest rates over the business cycles in 9 countries by using different detrending methods.

Our analysis of the cyclical behaviour of the variables we are interested in will be based on the quarterly data collected in nine countries since the beginning of the '60s till almost the end of 2004. In order to investigate the stationarity properties of each time series examined here, it is essential to test the existence of unit roots in the time series. The statistical tool we are using is the cross correlation between the detrended components of these variables.

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows. Subsection 2 describes the procedures for isolating cyclical fluctuations. Subsection 3 documents and identifies the major stylized facts in the selected sample of countries. Subsection 4 contains the main results of the section.

2. Measuring Business Cycles

In our work, initially, we adopt a definition according to which business cycles are considered to be "deviation" cycles (Lucas 1977), fluctuations around a trend. The calculation of this trend, for each time series observed, is deemed necessary for the extraction of the cyclical component.

Another definition we adopt, which is associated with the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) and Burns and Mitchell (1946) is known as "classical" business cycles. This approach defines the "classical" business cycles in terms of the turning points in the levels of the original series. The above mentioned authors define the business cycle components as fluctuations lasting for no less than 6 quarters and no more than 32 quarters.¹

2.1 Detrending Methods

The Nature of the Trend

The type of trend has serious implications for business cycle theory because it determines the propagation of shocks. Nelson and Plosser (1982) consider that a trend can be deterministic or stochastic. If the trend is deterministic, linear detrending by regression is a highly recommended method.² Linear detrending cannot be used if a trend is stochastic. Then the first differencing of the time series of the variables is appropriate.

Apart from the above mentioned detrending methods, we also apply the following alternative methods:

a) The Hodrick-Prescott decomposition. Another popular method of decomposing a series into a trend and a stationary component was developed by Hodrick and Prescott. The "penalty parameter" was set by Hodrick and Prescott (1997) as equal to

¹ The business cycle component can be regarded as those movements in the series with periodicities within a certain range of business cycle durations.

² The calculated residuals are the detrended data.

1600 for the U.S. quarterly data. Kydland and Prescott (1990) proposed the same value choice for quarterly data as a "reasonable" choice.³

Here we are adopting this value, as used by the majority of recent studies.

b) The Beveridge and Nelson Decomposition (1981) provides an especially useful straightforward method to decompose any ARIMA (p, 1, q) process into a temporary (cyclical) and a permanent component. In our study, the Beveridge-Nelson decomposition is derived by applying a methodology suggested by Cuddington and Winters (1987).

c) The Baxter-King Filter.

Another method to exact the business cycle component of macroeconomic time series is to apply the Baxter-King Filter. In our analysis, we adopt the approximation of Baxter and King (1999) and set the length of the moving average to 12 quarters.

2.2 Testing for Integration

We should not ignore that the first thing to do before the investigation of stylized facts is to examine the stationarity characteristics of each time series. There are several tests to examine whether the underlying processes contain a unit root. In our study, we initially use the augmented Dickey-Fuller (ADF) test (Dickey and Fuller, 1979). Table III represents the results of the ADF test for all the time series of the countries examined. ADF test results suggest that all series are stationary in their first differences.

3. Stylized Facts

3.1 Nominal Interest Rates and Real Output

The analysis of cross-correlations between nominal interest rates and real output yields interesting results. More specifically, Table I shows that: a) there is a contemporaneous positive correlation between real output and nominal interest rates (short and long term) in all countries, except for the UK economy, using all the methods of detrending; b) there is a closer correlation between short-term nominal interest rates and real output than between long-term interest rates and real output, in the cases of the U.S.⁴, Australia, Canada, Germany, Spain and Switzerland.

The timing patterns of nominal interest rates in the above mentioned group of countries indicate that nominal interest rates are lagging variables. This result holds across all the methods of detrending. Except for the GB Yield in the case of Germany and the GB 10Yield in the case of the U.S. which displays the opposite behavior. Stock and Watson (1999a) also found evidence that GB 10Yield leads the American business cycle. As far as the UK is concerned, it is important to note the following: a) the long-run interest rate is negatively correlated with real output, while the correlation of the short-term interest rate with real output is marginally negative; b) the nominal interest rates are lagging variables; these cyclical patterns of variables are observed across all the detrending methods we apply here except for the first-

³ In the sense that the implied cyclical component largely agrees with "conventional wisdom" about the U.S. business cycle.

⁴ Cooley and Hansen (1995) were led to the same finding and used HP-detrended data for their analysis.

differencing method. In Norway, we observe that, there is a contemporaneous marginal negative correlation between long-run interest rate and real output (-0.068), the sign of the relationship is reversed in the case of the short-run interest rate (0.103) using the HP filter, in both these cases. The cyclical patterns for the HP-detrended variables indicate that long-term interest rate tends to be lagging while, for the short-run interest rate, it is not possible to reach safe conclusions. Finally, in the case of Japan, the direction in which the nominal interest rate moves, in relation to real output, changes according to the detrending method used. The cyclical pattern of the nominal interest rate indicates that the interest rate tends to be a lagging variable.

3.2 Term Spread and Real Output

What is the direction of the relation between term spread⁵ and real output? As term spread of the interest rate we define the difference between long and short run interest rates. Most studies use as a measure of the long run interest rate the long (10year) government bond rate, while as a short run interest rate the Federal funds rate, which is an overnight rate, or the 3-Month Treasury Bill Rate. In our analysis, we use the latter measure for the short run interest rates; thus, the term spread equals the long government bond rate minus the 3-month government bond rate, except for USA, where we use both.

The cross-correlations between term spread and real output reported in table I indicates that: a) Using the different detrending methods, except for the BN method which is used in the case of the U.S., the contemporaneous correlation coefficient is negative for all the countries, that is term spread is countercyclical. b) The timing pattern shows clearly that the term spread is a lagging variable in the majority of countries, with the exception of Spain, where we cannot reach safe results, and of Switzerland, where the spread tends to be lagging. The above findings are also confirmed in the U.S. using both measures of term spread.

Moreover, confirming the Stock and Watson (1998) findings for the term spread 1, in the same country, we find that the contemporaneous correlation coefficient is -0.505, while the correspondent coefficient of Stock and Watson is -0.52.

3.3 Prices and Real Output

In Table II, using the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and GDP Deflator as measures for prices, we observe that there is a negative correlation between prices and real output at both leads and lags for the majority of countries. This is so regardless of the method of detrending we choose for the evaluation of the examined stylized fact, which means that prices are countercyclical.

Differentiated behavior is seen in the case of Germany using all detrending methods, whereas in the case of Japan and Canada there is a positive correlation when linear detrending is used. Consistent with the countercyclical behavior of prices are also Weeb (2003), Agresti and Mojon (2001), Stock and Watson (1999a), Cooley and Hansen (1995), Chadha and Prasad (1994), Fiorito and Kollintzas (1994), Backus and Kehoe (1992), Blackburn and Ravn (1992), Smith (1992), Cooley and Ohanian (1991), and Kydland and Prescott (1990). The results of countercyclical are consistent

⁵ The term spread is a "leading indicator" variable which is included, together with many other variables, in the composite Index of Leading Economic Indicators.

with the behavior of prices noted above. Observation of the cyclical timing of prices shows that prices are leading variables. In some countries this result depends upon the detrending method chosen, thus in the cases of Japan and Canada prices tend to be procyclical when linear detrending is used, while in Germany prices are lagging when HP and BK detrended data are used.

Kydland and Prescott (1990), relied on the countercyclicality of prices, in order to prove that supply shocks (not demand shocks) must be responsible for business cycle fluctuations. On the other hand, Chadha and Prasad (1994) note that the correlation between inflation and output rather than price and output should be used as a "criterion" for determining the different types of shocks (demand or supply) that are responsible for cyclical fluctuations. However, Lucas (1977) considered that prices are procyclical variables, leading to the monetary misperceptions model, and Zarnowitz (1992) found strong evidence of procyclical prices in the first 150 years of the U.S. history.

We also observe that: a) the negative correlation between real GDP and prices is smaller when extracting the influence of oil prices on these variables [by using a dummy variable (see table 5b)], b) the negative correlation between real GDP and prices is stronger when we use the GDP Deflator as a measure of prices than when we use the CPI. This deviation is in relation to the nature of these two measures.

3.4 Inflation and Real Output

Table II shows that there is a contemporaneous positive correlation between real output and inflation in most of the examined countries, that is inflation is a procyclical variable. The countries which behave differently are the UK, when we use (GDP Deflator) as measure of inflation, Japan, when we use the same measure and finally Spain and Norway, when we use both measures of inflation. The only detrending method where procyclicality of inflation is not confirmed is the BN procedure, where inflation tends to be countercyclical.

Table II provided evidence supporting that inflation lags real output in the U.S. economy, irrespectively of the data filtering methods and the measures of inflation used. Many studies have been carried out for the same economy as regards the features of business cycles allowing us to make comparisons with our study.

Thus, a remarkable similarity with the work of Cooley and Hansen (1995) is observed although their sample does not concern the same period of time. In their work, the contemporaneous correlation coefficient between (CPI) and real output is 0.34 while in ours it is 0.36. It should be noted, that HP-filtered data were used in both works. Moreover, in their study, the cyclical timing pattern shows that inflation is a lagging variable. Stock and Watson (1999a), in a thoroughly empirical work for the U.S. economy, found out evidence confirming that inflation is strongly procyclical and lags the business cycle. Finally, the procyclical behavior of inflation during the postwar period in the G7 economies was supported by Chadha and Prasad (1994).

The patterns of lead/ lag correlations for the remaining countries show evidence that tends to support that inflation lags the business cycle, in most methods of detrending. Germany is an exception as the timing patterns, for the various detrending methods used cannot be easily interpreted.

4. Summary of the Findings

The purpose of this section has been to study the cyclical properties of a large number of macroeconomic time series for a group of 9 countries, using different detrending methods. We have provided a thorough presentation of the cross-correlation patterns between real output and prices, between real output and interest rates and between real output and inflation. We have highlighted similarities and differences between our results and existing studies on business cycle fluctuations in selected countries.

The main findings of this section can be summarized as follows:

The contemporaneous correlations between nominal interest rates and real output are positive in all countries, except for the UK. These correlations become stronger when short-term rather than long-term nominal interest rates are used. The nominal interest rates are lagging variables for almost all the countries in our sample.

Term spread is a countercyclical and lagging variable in the majority of countries. By comparing our findings for the U.S. economy with those of Stock and Watson (1999a), we find out that they are almost identical.

There is a negative correlation between prices and real output in both leads and lags for the majority of countries, regardless of the method of detrending we choose for the evaluation of the examined stylized facts. The negative correlation between real GDP and prices is stronger when the GDP Deflator rather than the CPI is used as a measure of prices. Moreover, the timing patterns of prices provide evidence that prices are leading variables.

There is a contemporaneous positive correlation between real output and inflation in most of the examined countries. The patterns of lead/ lag correlations show evidence of tendency for inflation to lag the business cycle, in most methods of detrending.

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Table II: Cross-Correlation of Real GDP with:

Main Countries	Variables		x(-8)	x(-7)	x(-6)	x(-5)	x(-4)	x(-3)	x(-2)	x(-1)	x	x(1)	x(2)	x(3)	x(4)	x(5)	x(6)	x(7)	x(8)
United States	CPI	HP	-0.203	-0.333	-0.458	-0.578	-0.673	-0.722	-0.726	-0.664	-0.537	-0.377	-0.216	-0.045	0.121	0.256	0.371	0.453	-0.490
		BK	-0.157	-0.299	-0.440	-0.568	-0.669	-0.727	-0.729	-0.669	-0.553	-0.398	-0.222	-0.045	0.117	0.253	0.359	0.432	0.471
		DS	-0.151	-0.157	-0.174	-0.242	-0.314	-0.306	-0.355	-0.346	-0.227	-0.132	-0.130	-0.079	0.032	0.019	0.064	0.124	0.057
		TS	-0.291	-0.304	-0.317	-0.328	-0.336	-0.337	-0.330	-0.316	-0.293	-0.259	-0.224	-0.187	-0.150	-0.115	-0.083	-0.055	-0.031
		BN	0.003	-0.021	-0.036	-0.074	-0.100	-0.148	-0.200	-0.269	-0.355	-0.428	-0.312	-0.256	-0.307	-0.333	-0.297	-0.321	-0.208
	GDPDEF	HP	-0.050	-0.185	-0.330	-0.468	-0.595	-0.680	-0.714	-0.703	-0.652	-0.552	-0.417	-0.258	-0.094	0.058	0.208	0.340	0.432
		BK	-0.031	-0.168	-0.308	0.441	-0.557	-0.643	-0.690	-0.689	-0.638	-0.542	-0.412	-0.259	-0.099	0.054	0.190	0.300	0.377
		DS	-0.124	-0.104	-0.155	-0.182	-0.254	-0.275	-0.255	-0.229	-0.247	-0.201	-0.162	-0.103	-0.041	-0.054	0.008	0.064	0.059
		TS	-0.211	-0.214	-0.217	-0.218	-0.217	-0.213	-0.202	-0.187	-0.167	-0.140	-0.112	-0.083	-0.053	-0.024	-0.004	0.028	0.050
		BN	0.088	0.018	0.115	-0.084	0.176	-0.068	0.087	-0.298	0.274	0.271	0.134	-0.009	0.009	0.028	-0.044	-0.036	0.019
	INFLATION [$\Delta(CPI)$]	HP	-0.405	-0.374	-0.358	-0.342	-0.275	-0.141	-0.010	0.176	0.366	0.450	0.467	0.487	0.487	0.400	0.328	0.241	0.108
		BK	-0.516	-0.536	-0.530	-0.483	-0.381	-0.219	-0.007	0.223	0.432	0.583	0.660	0.664	0.609	0.514	0.399	0.276	0.150
		DS	-0.077	-0.006	-0.019	-0.109	-0.115	0.013	-0.094	0.010	0.190	0.149	0.008	0.075	0.182	-0.013	0.061	0.101	-0.105
		TS	-0.069	-0.027	0.019	0.068	0.137	0.224	0.307	0.404	0.499	0.553	0.577	0.606	0.614	0.592	0.581	0.552	0.510
		BN	-0.032	-0.099	-0.049	-0.012	0.011	-0.084	0.058	0.107	0.076	-0.402	-0.141	0.058	0.093	0.011	0.008	0.033	-0.016
	INFLATION [$\Delta(GDP DEF)$]	HP	-0.403	-0.399	-0.420	-0.398	-0.357	-0.243	-0.107	0.029	0.132	0.281	0.389	0.466	0.502	0.452	0.432	0.369	0.255
		BK	-0.507	-0.548	-0.557	-0.529	-0.460	-0.345	-0.189	-0.002	0.196	0.374	0.515	0.604	0.635	0.612	0.544	0.440	0.312
		DS	-0.136	0.048	-0.083	-0.045	-0.133	-0.042	0.014	0.050	-0.056	0.086	0.080	0.119	0.141	-0.011	0.102	0.109	-0.017
		TS	-0.085	-0.044	-0.004	0.048	0.106	0.184	0.272	0.360	0.445	0.503	0.550	0.589	0.619	0.611	0.610	0.594	0.561
		BN	0.101	0.101	0.084	0.071	0.053	0.027	0.002	0.029	0.061	-0.077	-0.086	-0.088	-0.083	-0.071	-0.056	-0.037	-0.005
Australia	CPI	HP	0.028	-0.040	-0.117	-0.227	-0.326	-0.376	-0.403	-0.353	-0.272	-0.160	-0.008	0.123	0.202	0.279	0.302	0.285	0.269
		BK	0.008	-0.074	-0.186	-0.306	-0.407	-0.468	-0.479	-0.439	-0.355	-0.238	-0.102	0.038	0.163	0.253	0.294	0.284	0.232
		DS	-0.062	-0.113	-0.082	-0.155	-0.198	-0.155	-0.227	-0.127	-0.134	-0.161	-0.053	0.012	-0.067	0.026	0.021	-0.042	0.051
		TS	-0.485	-0.484	-0.481	-0.475	-0.464	-0.448	-0.427	-0.401	-0.376	-0.340	-0.299	-0.258	-0.216	0.175	-0.137	-0.099	-0.061
	GDPDEF	HP	-0.106	-0.138	-0.176	-0.243	-0.261	-0.232	-0.190	-0.144	-0.146	-0.037	0.011	0.043	0.078	0.051	0.064	0.108	0.119
		BK	-0.136	-0.175	-0.219	-0.254	-0.270	-0.266	-0.248	-0.221	-0.188	-0.150	-0.106	-0.061	-0.020	0.014	0.044	0.071	0.096
		DS	-0.032	-0.104	-0.075	-0.191	-0.174	-0.116	-0.088	0.012	-0.247	0.017	-0.036	-0.071	0.057	-0.093	-0.085	0.032	0.019
		TS	-0.366	-0.354	-0.341	-0.325	-0.305	-0.281	-0.253	-0.224	-0.197	-0.161	-0.125	-0.088	-0.048	-0.012	0.022	0.059	0.094
	INFLATION [$\Delta(CPI)$]	HP	-0.099	-0.171	-0.186	-0.243	-0.198	-0.086	-0.027	0.139	0.183	0.227	0.318	0.278	0.159	0.159	0.055	-0.034	-0.032
		BK	-0.123	-0.276	-0.390	-0.422	-0.358	-0.219	-0.042	0.137	0.294	0.409	0.478	0.494	0.446	0.329	0.161	-0.023	-0.176
		DS	-0.042	-0.065	0.037	-0.086	-0.046	0.054	-0.082	0.120	-0.014	-0.022	0.137	0.080	-0.100	0.119	-0.002	-0.076	0.119
		TS	0.229	0.249	0.282	0.308	0.352	0.407	0.450	0.512	0.548	0.588	0.628	0.635	0.626	0.637	0.616	0.595	0.590
	INFLATION [$\Delta(GDP DEF)$]	HP	0.024	-0.076	-0.086	-0.137	-0.030	0.071	0.101	0.108	0.003	0.206	0.097	0.055	0.077	-0.046	0.019	0.099	0.026
		BK	-0.069	-0.143	-0.167	-0.131	-0.059	0.016	0.071	0.103	0.127	0.149	0.166	0.172	0.162	0.145	0.130	0.121	0.108
		DS	0.168	-0.087	0.034	-0.124	0.025	0.066	0.037	0.110	-0.291	0.303	-0.065	-0.025	0.149	-0.180	0.018	0.128	-0.013
		TS	0.298	0.311	0.346	0.372	0.429	0.480	0.515	0.542	0.615	0.603	0.614	0.620	0.584	0.602	0.609	0.588	0.580
Canada	CPI	HP	-0.244	-0.355	-0.458	-0.542	-0.607	-0.615	-0.595	-0.537	-0.419	-0.273	-0.141	0.006	0.136	0.256	0.335	0.401	0.437
		BK	-0.203	-0.320	-0.432	-0.522	-0.587	-0.608	-0.588	-0.526	-0.429	-0.305	-0.161	-0.009	0.135	0.258	0.348	0.400	0.418
		DS	-0.115	-0.143	-0.167	-0.174	-0.243	-0.171	-0.188	-0.207	-0.143	-0.016	-0.066	-0.008	0.039	0.116	0.063	0.108	0.106
		TS	-0.037	-0.017	0.005	0.028	0.051	0.078	0.107	0.137	0.172	0.208	0.244	0.279	0.314	0.349	0.382	0.415	0.447
	GDPDEF	HP	-0.289	-0.358	-0.432	-0.476	-0.491	-0.450	-0.356	-0.245	-0.143	-0.012	0.092	0.162	0.240	0.295	0.343	0.368	0.377
		BK	-0.290	-0.367	-0.435	-0.478	-0.475	-0.438	-0.357	-0.252	-0.137	-0.028	0.073	0.164	0.244	0.308	0.351	0.372	0.372
		DS	-0.060	-0.061	-0.141	0.148	-0.178	-0.164	-0.084	0.026	-0.095	0.076	0.126	0.042	0.095	0.097	0.130	0.124	0.134
		TS	0.171	0.198	0.225	0.254	0.284	0.316	0.349	0.384	0.418	0.449	0.478	0.505	0.531	0.556	0.581	0.605	0.629
	INFLATION [$\Delta(CPI)$]	HP	-0.274	-0.275	-0.257	-0.206	-0.153	-0.026	0.039	0.137	0.270	0.363	0.326	0.338	0.345	0.313	0.207	0.164	0.096
		BK	-0.417	-0.446	-0.427	-0.353	-0.232	-0.082	0.076	0.229	0.366	0.473	0.547	0.576	0.550	0.467	0.341	0.197	0.066
		DS	-0.048	-0.030	-0.032	0.000	-0.085	0.092	-0.031	-0.023	0.070	0.191	-0.047	0.041	0.077	0.125	-0.057	0.059	0.006
		TS	0.475	0.498	0.521	0.555	0.588	0.633	0.665	0.696	0.734	0.745	0.739	0.752	0.737	0.717	0.688	0.671	0.644
	INFLATION [$\Delta(GDP DEF)$]	HP	-0.182	-0.177	-0.177	-0.091	-0.013	0.091	0.221	0.277	0.221	0.324	0.274	0.188	0.171	0.142	0.110	0.046	0.016
		BK	-0.262	-0.281	-0.247	-0.147	-0.005	0.152	0.284	0.370	0.405	0.392	0.362	0.325	0.279	0.218	0.144	0.066	-0.006
		DS	-0.032	-0.001	-0.101	0.004	-0.026	0.002	0.107	0.157	-0.186	0.225	0.065	-0.073	0.040	0.015	0.051	-0.040	0.023
		TS	0.479	0.497	0.526	0.563	0.590	0.619	0.657	0.678	0.678	0.686	0.666	0.637	0.631	0.602	0.575	0.553	0.525
United Kingdom	CPI	HP	0.262	0.190	-0.089	-0.226	-0.328	-0.437	-0.674	-0.743	-0.721	-0.623	-0.653	-0.490	-0.274	-0.091	-0.074	0.093	0.301
		BK																	

Table III: Augmented Dickey-Fuller Unit Root Tests

<i>Countries</i>	<i>Variable</i>	<i>Intercept</i>	<i>Trend</i>	<i>Integration Order</i>	$\sum_{j=1}^k \Delta Y_{t-j}$	<i>ADF</i>
United States	GDP	YES	NO	I(1)	1	-2. 916**
	Real GDP	YES	YES	I(1)	1	-6. 357*
	CPI	YES	NO	I(1)	2	-2. 71***
	GDP Deflator	YES	NO	I(1)	3	-2.57***
	Inflation Δ (CPI)	NO	NO	I(1)	1	-16. 935*
	Deflator)	NO	NO	I(1)	2	-11. 176*
	GB 10YEAR	NO	NO	I(1)	0	-10. 41*
	GB 3YEAR	NO	NO	I(1)	2	-6. 377*
	TR	NO	NO	I(1)	6	-5. 773*
	FF	NO	NO	I(1)	1	-10. 157*
Australia	GDP	YES	YES	I(1)	0	-9. 557*
	Real GDP	YES	YES	I(1)	0	-12. 85*
	CPI	YES	YES	I(1)	2	-3. 658**
	GDP Deflator	YES	YES	I(1)	3	-2. 552***
	Inflation Δ (CPI)	NO	NO	I(1)	2	-10. 067*
	Deflator)	NO	NO	I(1)	2	-10. 875*
	TR: 15 year	NO	NO	I(1)	0	-11. 473*
	TR: 2 year	NO	NO	I(1)	0	-11. 371*
Canada	GDP	YES	NO	I(1)	0	-5. 49*
	Real GDP	YES	YES	I(10)	0	-8. 541*
	CPI	YES	YES	I(1)	0	-12. 85*
	GDP Deflator	YES	NO	I(1)	0	-6. 941*
	Inflation Δ (CPI)	NO	NO	I(1)	2	-11. 25*
	Deflator)	NO	NO	I(1)	1	-14. 506*
	GB >10 years	NO	NO	I(1)	0	-11. 558*
	GB >3-5 years	NO	NO	I(1)	1	-10. 7*
	TR	NO	NO	I(1)	0	-10. 521*
	GDP	YES	YES	I(1)	0	-11. 034*
United Kingdom	Real GDP	YES	YES	I(1)	6	-4. 747*
	CPI	YES	NO	I(1)	4	-3. 843*
	GDP Deflator	YES	NO	I(1)	3	-2. 887*
	Inflation Δ (CPI)	NO	NO	I(1)	3	-6. 906*
	Deflator)	NO	NO	I(1)	6	-5. 254*
	GB: long-term	NO	NO	I(1)	0	-9. 798*
	GB: short-term	NO	NO	I(1)	1	-9. 708*
	TR	NO	NO	I(1)	0	-9. 059*
Japan	GDP	YES	YES	I(1)	2	-3. 62**
	Real GDP	YES	NO	I(1)	3	-4. 547*
	CPI	YES	YES	I(1)	4	-3. 506**
	GDP Deflator	YES	YES	I(1)	3	-4. 099*
	Inflation Δ (CPI)	NO	NO	I(1)	6	-6. 299*
	Inflation Δ (GDP)	NO	NO	I(1)	2	-9. 76*
	GB	NO	NO	I(1)	0	-10.006*
Germany	GDP	YES	NO	I(1)	0	-8. 781*
	Real GDP	YES	NO	I(1)	0	-8. 998*
	GDP Deflator	YES	YES	I(1)	5	-3. 301***
	Inflation Δ (GDP)	NO	NO	I(1)	2	-10. 927*
	GB	NO	NO	I(1)	0	-6. 643*
	TR	NO	NO	I(1)	0	-5. 956*
Spain	GDP	YES	NO	I(1)	1	-2. 658**
	Real GDP	YES	YES	I(1)	3	-5. 203*
	CPI	YES	YES	I(1)	3	-3. 168***
	GDP Deflator	YES	NO	I(1)	5	-3. 655*
	Inflation Δ (CPI)	YES	NO	I(1)	2	-13. 066*
	Inflation Δ (GDP)	YES	YES	I(1)	2	-17. 405*
	GB	NO	NO	I(1)	0	-5. 534*
	TR	NO	NO	I(1)	0	-7. 02*
Norway	GDP	YES	YES	I(1)	12	-3. 857***
	Real GDP	YES	YES	I(1)	11	-4. 233*
	CPI	YES	NO	I(1)	3	-3. 18**
	GDP Deflator	YES	NO	I(1)	0	-11. 629*
	Inflation Δ (CPI)	YES	YES	I(1)	6	-7. 52*
	Inflation Δ (GDP)	YES	YES	I(0)	3	-12. 143*
	GB	NO	NO	I(1)	1	-8. 097*
Switzerland	GDP	YES	YES	I(1)	1	-6. 482*
	Real GDP	YES	YES	I(1)	1	-6. 915*
	CPI	YES	NO	I(1)	4	-2. 806***
	GDP Deflator	YES	YES	I(1)	12	-3. 528**
	Inflation Δ (CPI)	YES	YES	I(1)	3	-7. 713*
	Inflation Δ (GDP)	YES	YES	I(1)	12	-4. 14*
	GB	YES	YES	I(1)	0	-7. 567*

Note : (*) Significant at the 1% level, (**) significant at the 5% level, (***) significant at the 10% level.

Table IV: Data Sources and Definitions	
Countries	Dates
United States	1960:Q1-2004:Q4
Australia	1960:Q1-2004:Q3
Canada	1960:Q1-2004:Q3
United Kingdom	1969:Q2-2004:Q1
Japan	1966:Q2-2003:Q4
Germany	1975:Q3-1998:Q4
Spain	1979:Q1-1998:Q4
Norway	1966:Q1-2004:Q3
Switzerland	1970:Q1-2005:Q1
Data	Description
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
CPI	Consumer Price Index
GDP Deflator	
Inflation	$\Delta(\text{CPI})$
Inflation	$\Delta(\text{GDP Deflator})$
GB 10YEAR	Government Bond Yield 10 YEAR
GB 3YEAR	Government Bond Yield 3 YEAR
TR	Treasury Bill Rate
FF	Federal Funds Rate
LR	Leading Rate
TR: 15 year	Treasury Bonds: 15 year
TR: 2 year	Treasury Bonds: 2 year
GB >10 years	Government Bond yield > 10 years
GB >3-5 years	Government Bond yield > 3-5 years
GB: long-term	Government Bond Yield: long-term
GB: short-term	Government Bond Yield: short-term
Source	Note: IFS--Financial Statistics (International Monetary Fund).