

Chapter 9
Introduction to Economic
Fluctuations

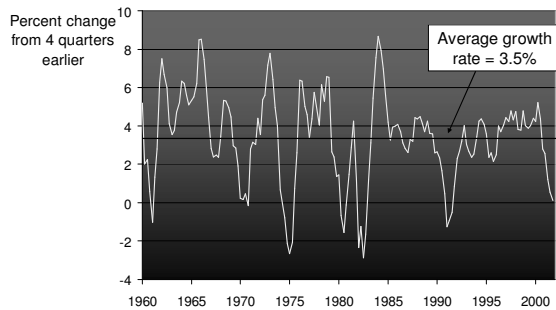
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Learning Objectives

- difference between short run & long run
- introduction to aggregate demand
- aggregate supply in the short run & long run
- see how model of aggregate supply and demand can be used to analyze short-run and long-run effects of “shocks”

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Real GDP Growth in the United States



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Time horizons

Why do we need a new approach when the time horizon changes?

- Long run: Prices are flexible, respond to changes in supply or demand (Classical Dichotomy holds; i.e. a change in money supply only effects prices)
- Short run: many prices are “sticky” at some predetermined level (Hence a change in money supply would be partially adjusted by a change in real variables)

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The Model of Aggregate Demand and Supply

- the paradigm that most mainstream economists & policymakers use to think about economic fluctuations and policies to stabilize the economy
- shows how the price level and aggregate output are determined
- shows how the economy’s behavior is different in the short run and long run

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Aggregate Demand

- The aggregate demand curve shows the relationship between the price level and the quantity of output demanded.
- For this chapter’s intro to the AD/AS model, we use a simple theory of aggregate demand based on the Quantity Theory of Money.
- Chapters 10-12 develop the theory of aggregate demand in more detail!!!!

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1. The Quantity Equation as Aggregate Demand

- From Chapter 4, the quantity equation

$$MV = PY$$

the postulated money demand function and money market equilibrium implies V is constant where $V = 1/k$:

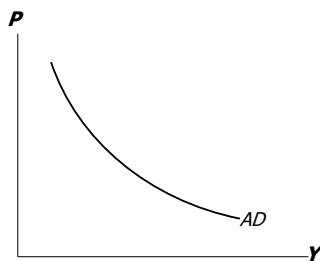
$$(M/P)^d = kY = (M/P)$$

- For fixed values of M and V , these equations imply an inverse relationship between P and Y :

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2. The downward-sloping AD curve

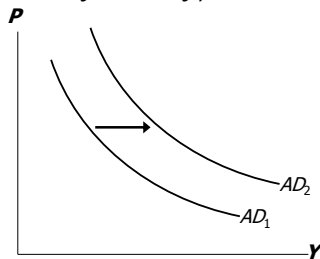
An increase in the price level causes a fall in real money balances (M/P), causing a decrease in the demand for goods & services. (This explanation is different than the one given in Ch 9)



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e.g. Shifting the AD curve (Monetary Policy)

An increase in the money supply shifts the AD curve to the right.



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Aggregate Supply

- AS describes the relationship between the quantity supplied and price level.
- Because the firms that supply goods and services have flexible prices in the LR and sticky prices in the SR the AS depends on the time horizon.

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1. Long Run

In the long run, output is determined by factor supplies and technology

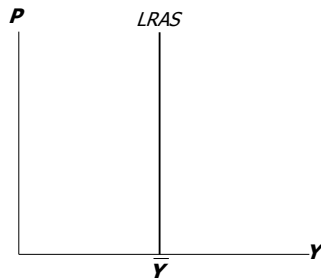
$$\bar{Y} = F(\bar{K}, \bar{L})$$

\bar{Y} is the **full-employment** or **natural** level of output, the level of output at which the economy's resources are fully employed.

Full-employment output does not depend on the price level, so the long run aggregate supply (LRAS) curve is vertical:

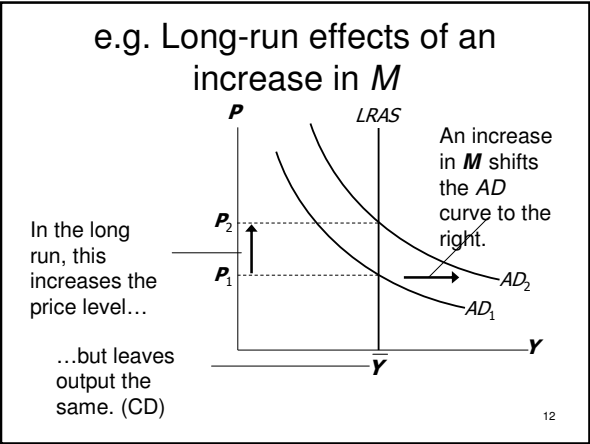
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The long-run aggregate supply curve



The LRAS curve is vertical at the full-employment level of output.

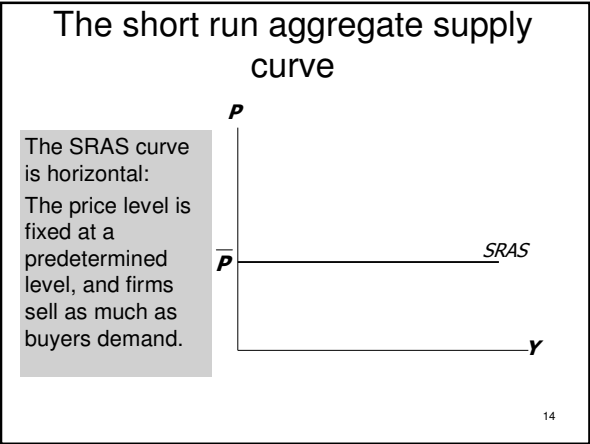
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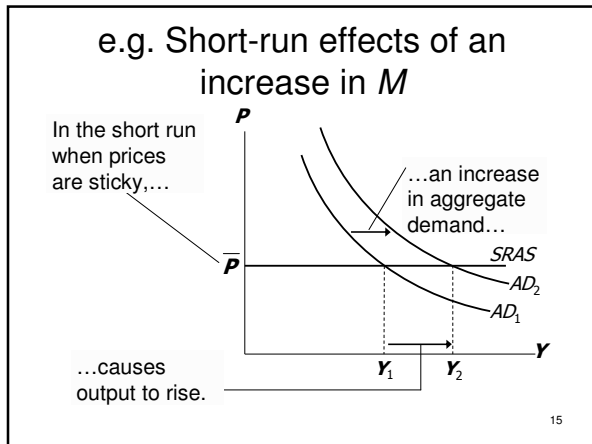


2. Short Run

- In the real world, many prices are sticky in the short run.
- For now (and throughout Chapters 9-12), we assume that all prices are stuck at a predetermined level in the short run...
- ...and that firms are willing to sell as much as their customers are willing to buy at that price level.
- Therefore, the short-run aggregate supply (SRAS) curve is horizontal:

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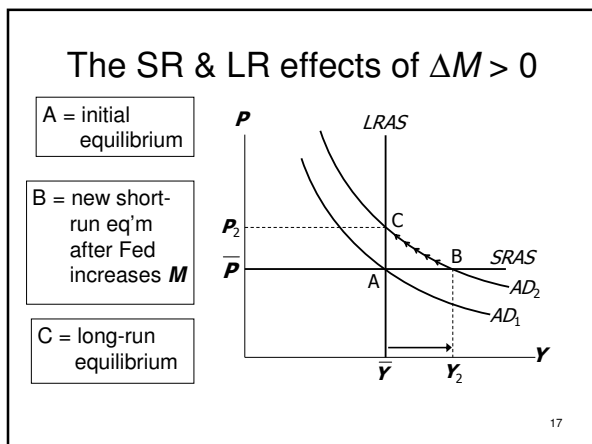
3. From the short run to the long run

Over time, prices gradually become “unstuck.”
When they do, will they rise or fall?

In the short-run equilibrium, if	then over time, the price level will
$Y > \bar{Y}$	<i>rise</i>
$Y < \bar{Y}$	<i>fall</i>
$Y = \bar{Y}$	<i>remain constant</i>

This adjustment of prices is what moves the economy to its long-run equilibrium.

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Stabilization Policy

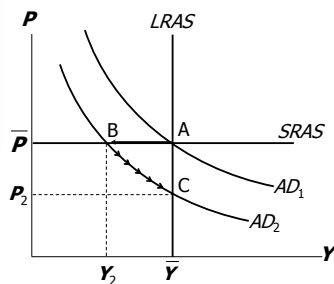
- **shocks:** exogenous changes in aggregate supply or demand
- Shocks temporarily push the economy away from full-employment.
- An example of a **demand shock:** exogenous decrease in velocity
- If the money supply is held constant, then a decrease in V means people will be using their money in fewer transactions, causing a decrease in demand for goods and services:

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The effects of a negative demand shock

The shock shifts AD left, causing output and employment to fall in the short run

Over time, prices fall and the economy moves down its demand curve toward full-employment.



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Supply shocks

A **supply shock** alters production costs, affects the prices that firms charge. (also called **price shocks**)

Examples of *adverse* supply shocks:

- Bad weather reduces crop yields, pushing up food prices.
- Workers unionize, negotiate wage increases.
- New environmental regulations require firms to reduce emissions. Firms charge higher prices to help cover the costs of compliance.

(*Favorable* supply shocks *lower* costs and prices.)

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CASE STUDY:

The 1970s oil shocks

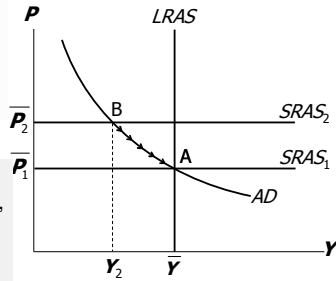
- Early 1970s: OPEC coordinates a reduction in the supply of oil.
- Oil prices rose
 - 11% in 1973
 - 68% in 1974
 - 16% in 1975
- Such sharp oil price increases are supply shocks because they significantly impact production costs and prices.

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CASE STUDY:

The 1970s oil shocks

The oil price shock shifts SRAS up, causing output and employment to fall.



In absence of further price shocks, prices will fall over time and economy moves back toward full employment.

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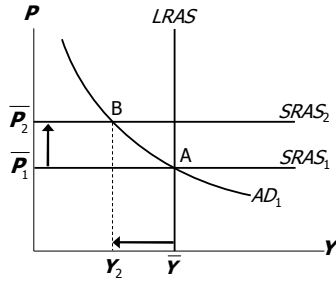
Stabilization policy

- Def: policy actions aimed at reducing the severity of short-run economic fluctuations.
- Example: Using monetary policy to combat the effects of adverse supply shocks:

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Stabilizing output with monetary policy

The adverse supply shock moves the economy to point B.

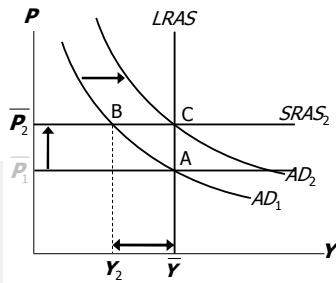


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Stabilizing output with monetary policy

But the Fed accommodates the shock by raising agg. demand.

results:
P is permanently higher, but **Y** remains at its full-employment level.



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Chapter summary

1. Long run: prices are flexible, output and employment are always at their natural rates, and the classical theory applies.
 Short run: prices are sticky, shocks can push output and employment away from their natural rates.
2. Aggregate demand and supply: a framework to analyze economic fluctuations

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Chapter summary

3. The aggregate demand curve slopes downward.
4. The long-run aggregate supply curve is vertical, because output depends on technology and factor supplies, but not prices.
5. The short-run aggregate supply curve is horizontal, because prices are sticky at predetermined levels.

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Chapter summary

6. Shocks to aggregate demand and supply cause fluctuations in GDP and employment in the short run.
7. Poor monetary policy can be a source of shocks to the economy. Also, the Fed can attempt to stabilize the economy with monetary policy.

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