

The Pros & Cons of LR Data Sets for Monetary Analysis

- Cons:
 - Difficult to obtain in easily accessible electronic format (see below)
 - Is this desirable?
 - Limitations on types of studies that can be undertaken: period or era specific rather than the long sweep of history
 - Number of time series is limited



The Pros & Cons of LR Data Sets for Monetary Analysis

- Pros:
 - Breaks and changes in regimes require long-run series to provide useful inference
 - Challenging way of exploring validity of economic hypotheses
 - Avoids the tendency to think everything is new
 - “What constitutes a “unique” shock? Can we expect authorities, if they are granted flexibility, to be sufficiently disciplined not to decide that *all* shocks are uniquely virulent? Everyone always thinks they live in interesting times.” M. Carney (2008)



Present Challenges I

- What & where are the sources? *electronic*
 - Non-central banking & governmental institutions
 - <http://www.eh.net>: lots of specific data but relatively few macro time series
 - <https://www.globalfinancialdata.com/>: Global Financial Data...can be expensive
 - <http://www.nber.org/databases/macrohistory/contents/> NBER Macro history. Arguably, the best link but only a few countries
 - IEHA: Still discussing the idea of 'portal'
 - Others too but have similar limitations as above



Present Challenges II

- What & where are the sources?
 - Central banks: Relatively few have long-run historical time series that can be readily downloaded
 - Australia: some but only since 1949 [http://www.rba.gov.au/Statistics/statistics_by_frequency.html]
 - Canada: None
 - Germany: None
 - Hong Kong [http://www.hkimr.org/history_database.asp]
 - Italy: Some but not as far back as one might like [<http://www.bancaditalia.it/statistiche/storic>]
 - Japan [<http://www.imes.boj.or.jp/english/hstat/index.html>]
 - New Zealand: None
 - Norway: http://www.norges-bank.no/templates/article____42332.aspx. By far the most impressive
 - Portugal: similar to Italy [http://www.bportugal.pt/default_e.htm⇒Publications & scroll down]
 - Spain: None
 - Sweden: <http://www.riksbank.com/templates/Page.aspx?id=27394>
 - UK: None
 - US: Not were you think. See ALFRED, FRASER at St. Louis Fed [<http://alfred.stlouisfed.org/>; <http://fraser.stlouisfed.org/>]



Present Challenges III

Bordo, Dueker, Wheelock 2003	1790-1999 UK	Financial conditions
Angtchen 2003	1926-2001 US	Portfolio analysis
Bohl, Siklos 2004	1871-2001 US	Dividends-Stocks
Murray, Nelson 2000	1870-1994 US	GDP growth
Muscatelli, Spinelli 2000	1861-1996 Italy	Money Demand
Borio-Filardo 2005	1800-1999 International	Deflation
Broz-Grossman 2004	1694-1844 UK	Bank of England
Prado 2000	1820-1990 International	PPP/GDP growth
Burdekin, Siklos 2004	1870-2001 International	Deflation



Where Do We Go From Here?

- A portal is a good idea but who will do it?
- In the meantime central banks outside the Nordic countries might be persuaded to provide links, store data?
 - Needs champions...do they exist in central banks?
 - Can central banks be convinced to invest more in monetary research?
 - Need not be expensive but...are there roadblocks (e.g., who 'owns' the data?)



You are Not Alone

- *Symposium on the theme of Business Cycle Behaviour in Historical Perspective* (University of Manchester)
[<http://www.socialsciences.manchester.ac.uk/cg/bcr/>]
 - June 2009 – I plan to use Norges Bank LR Historical Series!
 - “Bring together a small number of leading scholars in order to discuss the lessons that history holds on the effects of international monetary regimes and economic and financial integration on business cycle behaviour”.

