

An Empirical Study of Adjustable Rate Mortgage Indexes with Reference to US Economy

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ABSTRACT

Two types of financial contracts are prevailing in the market between lender and borrower; confusing the customers to opt either of them for their advances. Choice of low initial rate is preferred by the borrower who want to match their low cash inflow in initial years to cash outflow in the form of payment of interest and principal. Whereas customer is sure about fix interest rates because installments are known to him and he makes cash arrangements accordingly. Situation is opposite in the case of variable rate mortgages as financial institutions change the rate to interest according to market conditions and mitigate interest rate risk. This paper analyses adjustable rate mortgage with treasury bill, inflation and GDP growth.

Keywords: Adjustable Rate Mortgages (ARMs), T-Bill, 1-year constant-maturity Treasury (CMT) securities, 12-month Treasury Average Index (MTA)

Introduction

Adjustable-rate mortgages (ARMs) have an interest rate that may change periodically depending on changes in a corresponding financial index that's associated with the loan. When the rate changes, generally, your monthly payment will increase if rates go up and decrease if rates fall.

Most lenders today offer a "hybrid ARM," or "fixed-period ARM," which features an initial fixed interest rate period, typically of 3, 5, 7 or 10 years. After the introductory fixed-rate period expires, the interest rate becomes adjustable for the remainder of the term loan. The overall term for Bank of America hybrid ARM loans is 30 years. These loans are named by the length of time the interest rate remains fixed and how often the interest rate is subject to adjustment thereafter.

For example, in a 5/1 ARM, the "5" stands for a 5-year introductory period in which the interest rate remains fixed. The "1" shows the interest rate is subject to adjustment once per year after the introductory period expires.

Literature Review-

Brent W. Ambrose et al.(2005) extended previous research on traditional 1-year adjustable-rate mortgages by analyzing the performance of 3/27 hybrid instruments. Under this contract innovation, which first appeared in the mid-1990s, note rates are fixed for three years after which they convert to a traditional 1-year adjustment schedule with periodic and lifetime caps. This paper finds that more people pay when the rate is low and default rate increased when payment shifted to adjustable-rate loans.

Kathleen W. Johnson(2011) find that demographic and financial characteristics of ARM and FRM (fixed rate mortgage) borrowers are identical but there is difference in use of advances and attitude towards it. find the consumption growth of households with an ARM is more sensitive to past

income than the consumption growth of other households, suggesting the ARM borrowers are more likely subject to borrowing constraint that hinder their ability to smooth consumption.

Jean Goggin of Central Bank Of Ireland(2012) studied that movement in interest rate charged by financial institutions from the borrower closely followed changes in the ECB's (European Central Bank) policy rate, tracker rate mortgages and short-term wholesale rates until the end of 2008. Then bank's market funding cost increased and this relationship breaks apart. It appears that some lenders with higher mortgage arrears rates and a greater proportion of tracker rate loans on their books exhibit higher variable rates. After controlling for these additional factors, most of the divergence between banks variable rates is explained, but there are some exceptions. There is also some evidence of asymmetric adjustment in rate setting behaviour: that is, rates tend to adjust slowly when they are above the long-run predicted level but more quickly when they are below this level. This asymmetric adjustment behavior appears to increase in the post-2008 period.

Jonathan Berk of Yale University and Richard Roll of Anderson Graduate School of Management(1988) made an empirical research to price two typical instruments: an ARM linked to a Treasury interest rate and an ARM linked to a "Cost of Funds" Index. Contractual provisions such as the margin over the index, caps and floors on the ARM's rate or on the monthly prepayment, reset frequency, and the "teaser" rate are examined for their influence on value. The effects of interest rate trend and volatility are also analysed.

Masaki et al.(2009) explained the positive psychological factor of acquiring a home behind the choice of adjustable rate mortgages (ARMs) over fixed rate mortgages (FRMs) even when interest rates are historically very low. Prospect theory's

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reflection hypothesis is tested on business professionals to know the other psychological factors responsible for the choice of ARMs.

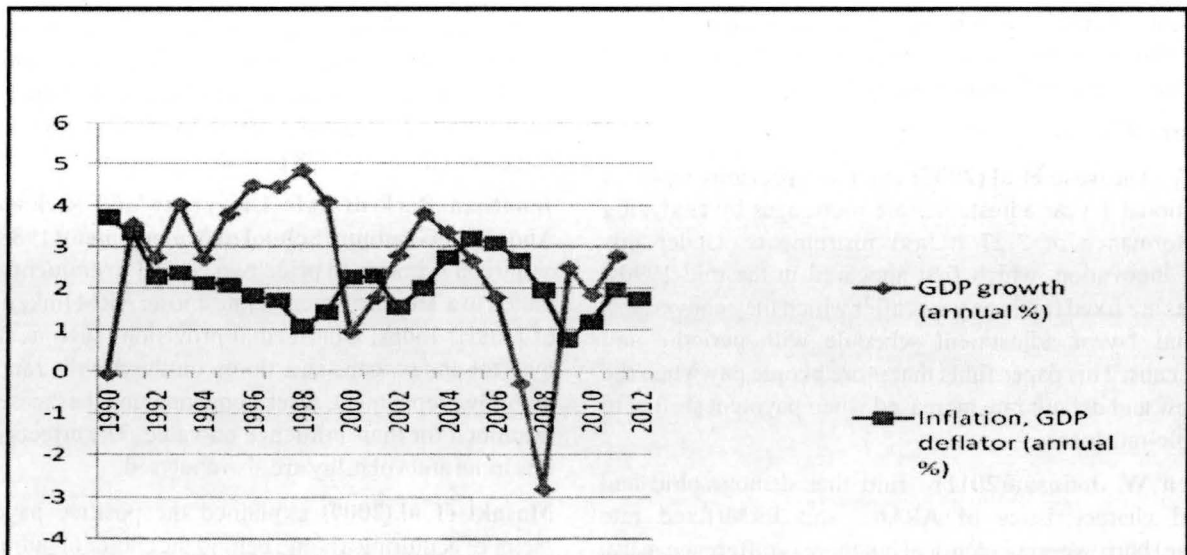
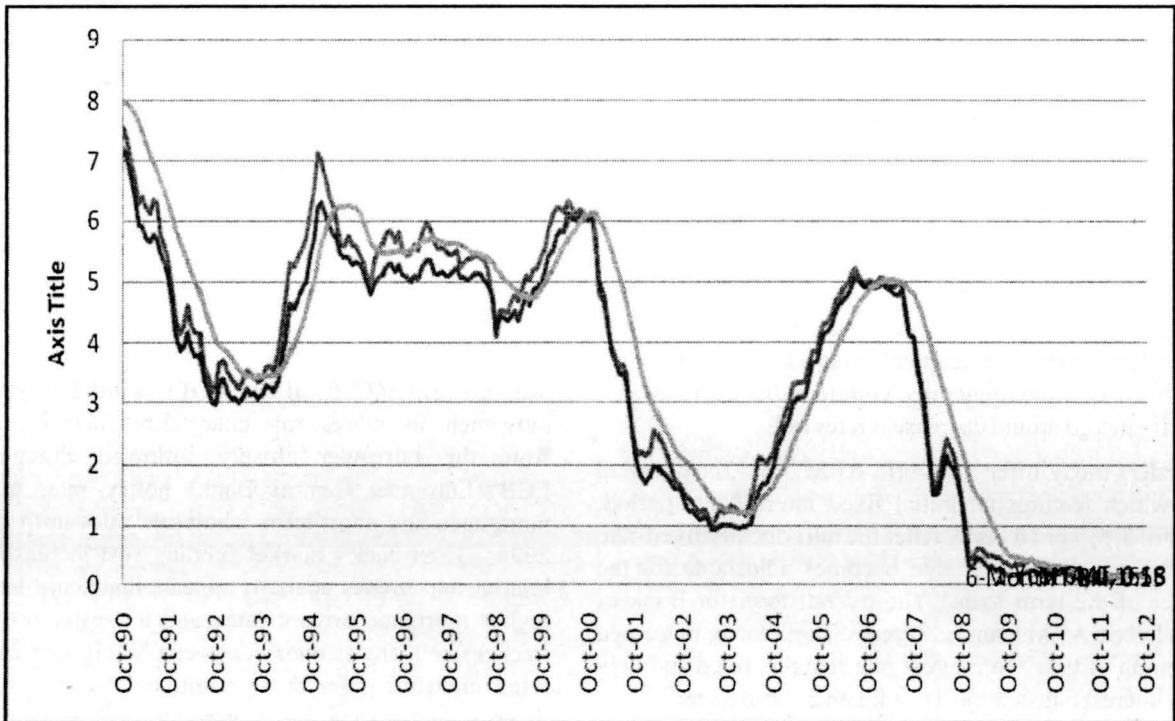
Hypothesis of the study

Ho 1-year CMT, 6 month T-Bill & MTA have positive

correlation

H1 1-year CMT, 6 month T-Bill & MTA have negative correlation

ARMs and US Economy



1990-1995 :

USA's GDP growth was below 2% in 1990 and financial management required lowering of interest rate to boost the world no. 1 economy to sustain competitive advantage. 1-year CMT, 6 month T-Bill & MTA were below 8% with a spread of 0.77%. Level of treasury rates is result of financial environment of any country and indicates the perception & tool of higher authorities to take best out of growth and inflation tradeoff. These ARM(adjustable rate mortgage) indexes reached a low point in April, 1993 along with decrease in inflation and US economy registered growth with a difference of 100 basis points in very next year. So, it show a negative correlation in ARM levels, inflation and growth. In 1995, ARMs started to increase but growth and inflation declined.

1996-2000 :

US economy experienced a golden period from 1996 to 2000 when growth rate was above 4% was maintained after thirty years(it was only in 1962-1966 when growth above four percent was maintained continuously four years). There were no high fluctuations in ARMs and this kind of constancy helps to stabilize financial environment by boosting the investor's confidence who feel more comfortable in a low ebb and flow phase that help them to manage their own funds better. A moderate inflation is considered good and it was below 2.5% throughout the period and even touches approximately 1% in 1993. 6 month T-Bill rates were below 5% but soon they crossed this level and ended above 6% level in year 2000. 1-year CMT and MTA were close to five percent and showing a correlation with T-Bill as they also augmented.

2001-2005 :

GDP was only 2.7% in 2003 and T-Bill were around 1% in that year resulting more growth in next two years. GDP was showing zigzag as its growth was more than one percent, then two percent and finally crossed three percent upto 2005. 1-year CMT, 6 month T-Bill & MTA show a positive correlation as these were decreasing and then increased. Inflation also decline and then increased. George W. Bush administration was in favour of reducing the role of government paving the way for more importance to private sector by cutting taxes and promoting free market ideology. Many laws i.e Job Creation and Worker Assistance Act of 2002, the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001, and Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2003 were passed to keep the world no. 1 economy progressing. The extra dose of financial stimuli proved decisive as excess of everything is bad. No one can control an open economy like USA in a uncomplicated manner as financial world has its own dimensions which are to be managed in phased manner monitoring environmental

factors.

2006-2012 :

Western countries feel one of the worst period in recent times which saw risk of bankruptcy by countries which fail to honour huge external debt. even bigger then some economies, and downgrading of government bonds to junk status by credit rating agencies. US economy started positive growth in 2006, remaining positive and decreasing due to subprime crisis that caused by heavy financing by some of the largest financial institutions without any security to the people having no job, no income and no home, resulting heavy default rate. 6 month T-Bill decrease intermittently along with 1-year CMT & MTA and reached underneath 2% in August, 2008 and 1% in November, 2008. Cricket, indexes and interest rates are said to be unpredictable and there are many occasions to prove it. In the 22-year history 6 month T-Bill touched a new low of 0.05% in December, 2011, a level no one can even imagine five years back, to boost the customer confidence which was lowest in 2008-2009 since 1998 (Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas). Due to financial instability, demand of goods and service came down en route for softening inflation below 1% in 2009. It was only after 2009 that it recovered remaining between 1% to 2%, upto 2013. All the three indexes under this study were below .02% in October, 2012.

Conclusion :

Banking regulators pay close attention to asset-liability mismatches to avoid such problems, and place tight restrictions on the amount of long-term fixed-rate mortgages that banks may hold (in relation to their other assets). To reduce this risk, many mortgage originators will sell many of their mortgages, particularly the mortgages with fixed rates.

For the borrower, adjustable rate mortgages may be less expensive, but at the price of bearing higher risk. Many ARMs have "teaser periods", which are relatively short initial fixed-rate periods (typically one month to one year) when the ARM bears an interest rate that is substantially below the "fully indexed" rate. The teaser period may induce some borrowers to view an ARM as more of a bargain than it really represents. A low teaser rate predisposes an ARM to sustain above-average payment increases. Financial products are complex to understand by common person dealing when lending and borrowing funds with financial institutions specially with variable or adjustable interest rates. A few schemes offer interest above the inflation hedging the inflation risk ensuing affirmative real interest rates. Different adjustable rate mortgage index has their own pros and cons. There is positive correlation among 1-year CMT, 6 month T-Bill & MTA but no one directional correlation with GDP growth and inflation. Though inflation and GDP growth show negative correlation

during the study period.

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Appendix:- 1. Performance of Indexes

Date	1-Year CMT	6 Month T-BILL	MTA
Oct-90	7.55	7.2	7.9767
Nov-90	7.31	7.04	7.9383
Dec-90	7.05	6.76	7.8825
Jan-91	6.64	6.34	7.7758
Feb-91	6.27	5.93	7.6225
Mar-91	6.4	5.91	7.46
Apr-91	6.24	5.73	7.28
May-91	6.13	5.65	7.0975
Jun-91	6.36	5.76	6.9525
Jul-91	6.31	5.71	6.8167
Aug-91	5.78	5.47	6.65
Sep-91	5.57	5.29	6.4675
Oct-91	5.33	5.08	6.2825
Nov-91	4.89	4.66	6.0808
Dec-91	4.38	4.16	5.8583
Jan-92	4.15	3.88	5.6508
Feb-92	4.29	3.94	5.4858
Mar-92	4.63	4.19	5.3383
Apr-92	4.3	3.93	5.1767
May-92	4.19	3.78	5.015
Jun-92	4.17	3.81	4.8325
Jul-92	3.6	3.36	4.6067
Aug-92	3.47	3.23	4.4142

Date	1-Year CMT	6 Month T-BILL	MTA
Sep-92	3.18	3.01	4.215
Oct-92	3.3	2.98	4.0458
Nov-92	3.68	3.35	3.945
Dec-92	3.71	3.39	3.8892
Jan-93	3.5	3.17	3.835
Feb-93	3.39	3.08	3.76
Mar-93	3.33	3.08	3.6517
Apr-93	3.24	3	3.5633
May-93	3.36	3.07	3.4942
Jun-93	3.54	3.23	3.4417
Jul-93	3.47	3.15	3.4308
Aug-93	3.44	3.17	3.4283
Sep-93	3.36	3.06	3.4433
Oct-93	3.39	3.13	3.4508
Nov-93	3.58	3.27	3.4425
Dec-93	3.61	3.25	3.4342
Jan-94	3.54	3.19	3.4375
Feb-94	3.87	3.38	3.4775
Mar-94	4.32	3.79	3.56
Apr-94	4.82	4.13	3.6917
May-94	5.31	4.64	3.8542
Jun-94	5.27	4.58	3.9983
Jul-94	5.48	4.81	4.1658

Date	1-Year CMT	6 Month T-BILL	MTA
Aug-94	5.56	4.91	4.3425
Sep-94	5.76	5.02	4.5425
Oct-94	6.11	5.39	4.7692
Nov-94	6.54	5.69	5.0158
Dec-94	7.14	6.21	5.31
Jan-95	7.05	6.31	5.6025
Feb-95	6.7	6.1	5.8383
Mar-95	6.43	5.91	6.0142
Apr-95	6.27	5.8	6.135
May-95	6	5.73	6.1925
Jun-95	5.64	5.46	6.2233
Jul-95	5.59	5.41	6.2325
Aug-95	5.75	5.4	6.2483
Sep-95	5.62	5.28	6.2367
Oct-95	5.59	5.34	6.1933
Nov-95	5.43	5.29	6.1008
Dec-95	5.31	5.15	5.9483
Jan-96	5.09	4.97	5.785
Feb-96	4.94	4.79	5.6383
Mar-96	5.34	4.96	5.5475
Apr-96	5.54	5.08	5.4867
May-96	5.64	5.12	5.4567
Jun-96	5.81	5.26	5.4708
Jul-96	5.85	5.32	5.4925
Aug-96	5.67	5.17	5.4858
Sep-96	5.83	5.29	5.5033
Oct-96	5.55	5.12	5.5
Nov-96	5.42	5.07	5.4992
Dec-96	5.47	5.02	5.5125
Jan-97	5.61	5.11	5.5558
Feb-97	5.53	5.05	5.605
Mar-97	5.8	5.24	5.6433
Apr-97	5.99	5.35	5.6808
May-97	5.87	5.35	5.7
Jun-97	5.69	5.14	5.69
Jul-97	5.54	5.12	5.6642
Aug-97	5.56	5.17	5.655

Date	1-Year CMT	6 Month T-BILL	MTA
Sep-97	5.52	5.11	5.6292
Oct-97	5.46	5.09	5.6217
Nov-97	5.46	5.17	5.625
Dec-97	5.53	5.24	5.63
Jan-98	5.24	5.07	5.5992
Feb-98	5.31	5.07	5.5808
Mar-98	5.39	5.04	5.5467
Apr-98	5.38	5.08	5.4958
May-98	5.44	5.15	5.46
Jun-98	5.41	5.12	5.4367
Jul-98	5.36	5.03	5.4217
Aug-98	5.21	4.97	5.3925
Sep-98	4.71	4.75	5.325
Oct-98	4.12	4.15	5.2133
Nov-98	4.53	4.43	5.1358
Dec-98	4.52	4.43	5.0517
Jan-99	4.51	4.36	4.9908
Feb-99	4.7	4.43	4.94
Mar-99	4.78	4.52	4.8892
Apr-99	4.69	4.36	4.8317
May-99	4.85	4.55	4.7825
Jun-99	5.1	4.81	4.7567
Jul-99	5.03	4.62	4.7292
Aug-99	5.2	4.88	4.7283
Sep-99	5.25	4.91	4.7733
Oct-99	5.43	4.98	4.8825
Nov-99	5.55	5.17	4.9675
Dec-99	5.84	5.43	5.0775
Jan-00	6.12	5.52	5.2117
Feb-00	6.22	5.75	5.3383
Mar-00	6.22	5.85	5.4583
Apr-00	6.15	5.82	5.58
May-00	6.33	6.12	5.7033
Jun-00	6.17	6.02	5.7925
Jul-00	6.08	5.9	5.88
Aug-00	6.18	6.09	5.9617
Sep-00	6.13	6.09	6.035

Date	1-Year CMT	6 Month T-BILL	MTA
Oct-00	6.01	6.04	6.0833
Nov-00	6.09	6.08	6.1283
Dec-00	5.6	5.77	6.1083
Jan-01	4.81	5	5.9992
Feb-01	4.68	4.78	5.8708
Mar-01	4.3	4.36	5.7108
Apr-01	3.98	3.89	5.53
May-01	3.78	3.69	5.3175
Jun-01	3.58	3.46	5.1017
Jul-01	3.62	3.48	4.8967
Aug-01	3.47	3.31	4.6708
Sep-01	2.82	2.84	4.395
Oct-01	2.33	2.19	4.0883
Nov-01	2.18	1.94	3.7625
Dec-01	2.22	1.81	3.4808
Jan-02	2.16	1.72	3.26
Feb-02	2.23	1.83	3.0558
Mar-02	2.57	1.99	2.9117
Apr-02	2.48	1.97	2.7867
May-02	2.35	1.88	2.6675
Jun-02	2.2	1.83	2.5525
Jul-02	1.96	1.71	2.4142
Aug-02	1.76	1.62	2.2717
Sep-02	1.72	1.61	2.18
Oct-02	1.65	1.58	2.1233
Nov-02	1.49	1.33	2.0658
Dec-02	1.45	1.26	2.0017
Jan-03	1.36	1.26	1.935
Feb-03	1.3	1.18	1.8575
Mar-03	1.24	1.12	1.7467
Apr-03	1.27	1.15	1.6458
May-03	1.18	1.09	1.5483
Jun-03	1.01	0.94	1.4492
Jul-03	1.12	0.94	1.3792
Aug-03	1.31	1.02	1.3417
Sep-03	1.24	1.02	1.3017
Oct-03	1.25	1.01	1.2683

Date	1-Year CMT	6 Month T-BILL	MTA
Nov-03	1.34	1.02	1.2558
Dec-03	1.31	1	1.2442
Jan-04	1.24	0.98	1.2342
Feb-04	1.24	0.99	1.2292
Mar-04	1.19	0.99	1.225
Apr-04	1.43	1.06	1.2383
May-04	1.78	1.31	1.2883
Jun-04	2.12	1.58	1.3808
Jul-04	2.1	1.69	1.4625
Aug-04	2.02	1.72	1.5217
Sep-04	2.12	1.84	1.595
Oct-04	2.23	1.99	1.6767
Nov-04	2.5	2.28	1.7733
Dec-04	2.67	2.45	1.8867
Jan-05	2.86	2.6	2.0217
Feb-05	3.03	2.76	2.1708
Mar-05	3.3	2.98	2.3467
Apr-05	3.32	3.07	2.5042
May-05	3.33	3.1	2.6333
Jun-05	3.36	3.11	2.7367
Jul-05	3.64	3.37	2.865
Aug-05	3.87	3.67	3.0192
Sep-05	3.85	3.68	3.1633
Oct-05	4.18	3.98	3.3258
Nov-05	4.33	4.16	3.4783
Dec-05	4.35	4.19	3.6183
Jan-06	4.45	4.3	3.7508
Feb-06	4.68	4.51	3.8883
Mar-06	4.77	4.61	4.0108
Apr-06	4.9	4.72	4.1425
May-06	5	4.81	4.2817
Jun-06	5.16	4.95	4.4317
Jul-06	5.22	5.09	4.5633
Aug-06	5.08	5	4.6642
Sep-06	4.97	4.91	4.7575
Oct-06	5.01	4.91	4.8267
Nov-06	5.01	4.96	4.8833

Date	1-Year CMT	6 Month T-BILL	MTA
Dec-06	4.94	4.89	4.9325
Jan-07	5.06	4.94	4.9833
Feb-07	5.05	4.97	5.0142
Mar-07	4.92	4.9	5.0267
Apr-07	4.93	4.87	5.0292
May-07	4.91	4.8	5.0217
Jun-07	4.96	4.78	5.005
Jul-07	4.96	4.86	4.9833
Aug-07	4.47	4.56	4.9325
Sep-07	4.14	4.13	4.8633
Oct-07	4.1	4.08	4.7875
Nov-07	3.5	3.63	4.6617
Dec-07	3.26	3.29	4.5217
Jan-08	2.71	2.98	4.3258
Feb-08	2.05	2.13	4.0758
Mar-08	1.54	1.53	3.7942
Apr-08	1.74	1.54	3.5283
May-08	2.06	1.82	3.2908
Jun-08	2.42	2.15	3.0792
Jul-08	2.28	2.02	2.8558
Aug-08	2.18	1.95	2.665
Sep-08	1.91	1.78	2.4792
Oct-08	1.42	1.39	2.2558
Nov-08	1.07	0.78	2.0533
Dec-08	0.49	0.32	1.8225
Jan-09	0.44	0.31	1.6333
Feb-09	0.62	0.46	1.5142
Mar-09	0.64	0.44	1.4392
Apr-09	0.55	0.38	1.34
May-09	0.5	0.31	1.21
Jun-09	0.51	0.32	1.0508
Jul-09	0.48	0.23	0.9008
Aug-09	0.46	0.28	0.7575
Sep-09	0.4	0.22	0.6317
Oct-09	0.37	0.17	0.5442
Nov-09	0.31	0.16	0.4808

Date	1-Year CMT	6 Month T-BILL	MTA
Dec-09	0.37	0.16	0.4708
Jan-10	0.35	0.16	0.4633
Feb-10	0.35	0.18	0.4408
Mar-10	0.4	0.22	0.4208
Apr-10	0.45	0.24	0.4125
May-10	0.37	0.23	0.4017
Jun-10	0.32	0.19	0.3858
Jul-10	0.29	0.21	0.37
Aug-10	0.26	0.19	0.3533
Sep-10	0.26	0.19	0.3417
Oct-10	0.23	0.18	0.33
Nov-10	0.25	0.18	0.325
Dec-10	0.29	0.2	0.3183
Jan-11	0.27	0.19	0.3117
Feb-11	0.29	0.17	0.3067
Mar-11	0.26	0.16	0.295
Apr-11	0.25	0.13	0.2783
May-11	0.19	0.09	0.2633
Jun-11	0.18	0.11	0.2517
Jul-11	0.19	0.08	0.2433
Aug-11	0.11	0.09	0.2308
Sep-11	0.1	0.05	0.2175
Oct-11	0.11	0.06	0.2075
Nov-11	0.11	0.05	0.1958
Dec-11	0.12	0.05	0.1817
Jan-12	0.12	0.06	0.1692
Jan-12	0.12	0.06	0.1692
Feb-12	0.16	0.11	0.1583
Mar-12	0.19	0.15	0.1525
Apr-12	0.18	0.14	0.1467
May-12	0.19	0.15	0.1467
Jun-12	0.19	0.14	0.1475
Jul-12	0.19	0.15	0.1475
Aug-12	0.18	0.15	0.1533
Sep-12	0.18	0.14	0.16
Oct-12	0.18	0.15	0.1658

2. GDP & Inflation

Country Name	Indicator Name	Indicator Code	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
United States	GDP growth (annual %)	NY.GDP.MKTP.KD.ZG	1.92	-0.1	3.56	2.75	4.04	2.72	3.8	4.49	4.45	4.85	4.09
United States	Inflation, GDP deflator (annual %)	NY.GDP.DEFL.KD.ZG	3.7	3.33	2.28	2.38	2.13	2.09	1.83	1.71	1.08	1.43	2.27

Country Name	Indicator Name	Indicator Code	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
United States	GDP growth (annual %)	NY.GDP.MKTP.KD.ZG	1.78	2.79	3.8	3.35	2.67	1.79	-0.3	-2.8	2.51	1.85	2.78
United States	Inflation, GDP deflator (annual %)	NY.GDP.DEFL.KD.ZG	1.54	2	2.74	3.21	3.07	2.65	1.95	0.77	1.21	1.96	1.75