Some Facts About Business Cycles
Real GDP p.c. in the U.S. 
(100*log, 1955:1=0)

Source: BEA
Cyclical component of GDP p.c. in the U.S. (100*log deviations from trend)

Source: BEA
## Stylized facts about the U.S. economy

*(based on HP-detrended variables)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Volatility (St. Dev.)</th>
<th>Persistence (autocorrelation)</th>
<th>Correlation with output</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Output</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>0.84</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consumption</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>0.85</td>
<td>0.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private investment</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>0.80</td>
<td>0.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government spending</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>0.80</td>
<td>0.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hours</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>0.87</td>
<td>0.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment rate</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>0.89</td>
<td>-0.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labour productivity</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>0.61</td>
<td>0.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Real wage</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>0.80</td>
<td>0.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Real interest rate</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>0.74</td>
<td>0.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nominal wage</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>0.87</td>
<td>-0.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inflation (GDP def.)</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>0.90</td>
<td>-0.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nominal interest rate</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>0.83</td>
<td>0.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exports</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>0.67</td>
<td>0.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imports</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>0.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade balance (% GDP)</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.76</td>
<td>-0.38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: BEA, BLS, FED*
Output and consumption in the U.S.
(HP-detrended variables)

Source: BEA
Household expenditures in the U.S.

(HP-detrended variables)

Source: BEA
Output and private investment in the U.S.
(HP-detrended variables)

Source: BEA
Output and hours worked in the U.S.
(HP-detrended variables)

Source: BEA, BLS
Output and unemployment in the U.S.
(HP-detrended variables)

Source: BEA, BLS
Output and imports in the U.S.
(HP-detrended variables)

Source: BEA
Output and trade balance in the U.S.
(HP-detrended variables)

Source: BEA
Output and inflation in the U.S.
(HP-detrended variables)

Source: BEA
Output and short-term interest rates in the U.S.
(HP-detrended variables)

Source: BEA, FED
Output and nominal wages in the U.S.
(HP-detrended variables)

Source: BEA, BLS
Output and real wages in the U.S.
(HP-detrended variables)

Source: BEA, BLS
Unemployment and wages in the U.S.
(HP-detrended variables)

Source: BLS
Output and government expenditures in the U.S.

(HP-detrended variables)

Source: BEA
Output and financial variables in the U.S.
(HP-detrended, deflated with the GDP deflator)

Source: BEA, FED, S&P
Inflation and short-term interest rates in the U.S.

Source: BEA, FED
GDP in traditional industries in the U.S. (HP-detrended)

Source: BEA
Cross-country output comovement 1
(annual GDP growth rates)

Correlation: 0.59

Source: OECD
Cross-country output comovement 2
(annual GDP growth rates)

Source: OECD

Correlation: 0.29
Cross-country output comovement 3
(annual GDP growth rates)

Source: OECD

Correlation: 0.79
Cross-country output comovement 4
(annual GDP growth rates)

Source: OECD

Correlation: 0.73
Short-term (1-month) interest rates

Source: Eurostat
GDP and domestic demand in the euro area
(YoY growth rates)

Source: Eurostat
GDP and foreign trade of the euro area
(YoY growth rates)

Source: Eurostat
GDP and unemployment in the euro area

Source: Eurostat
GDP, inflation and short-term interest rates in the euro area

Source: Eurostat