

HANK WITH STICKY WAGES

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Model

We consider a *closed* economy with heterogeneous agent and *flexible prices* and *sticky wages*. Time is discrete and indexed by t . There is a continuum of households indexed i .

Households. Households are *ex post* heterogeneous in terms of their time-varying stochastic productivity, z_{it} , and their (end-of-period) savings, a_{it-1} . The distribution of households over idiosyncratic states is denoted \underline{D}_t before shocks are realized and D_t afterwards. Households supply labor, ℓ_{it} , chosen by a union, and choose consumption, c_{it} , on their own. Households are not allowed to borrow. The return on savings is r_t^a , the real wage is w_t , labor income is taxed with the rate $\tau_t \in [0, 1]$, and households receive transfers, χ_t .

The household problem is

$$\begin{aligned} v_t(z_{it}, a_{it-1}) &= \max_{c_t} \frac{c_{it}^{1-\sigma}}{1-\sigma} - \varphi \frac{\ell_{it}^{1+\nu}}{1+\nu} + \beta \mathbb{E}_T [v_{t+1}(z_{it+1}, a_{it})] \\ \text{s.t. } a_{it} + c_{it} &= (1 + r_t^a) a_{it-1} + (1 - \tau_t) w_{it} \ell_{it} z_{it} + \chi_t \\ \log z_{it+1} &= \rho_z \log z_{it} + \psi_{it+1}, \psi_{it} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu_\psi, \sigma_\psi), \mathbb{E}[z_{it}] = 1 \\ a_{it} &\geq 0. \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

where β is the discount factor, σ is the inverse elasticity of substitution, φ controls the disutility of supplying labor and ν is the inverse of the Frish elasticity.

Aggregate quantities are

$$A_t^{hh} = \int a_t^*(z_{it}, a_{it-1}) dD_t \tag{2}$$

$$L_t^{hh} = \int \ell_t^*(z_{it}, a_{it-1}) z_{it} dD_t \tag{3}$$

$$C_t^{hh} = \int c_t^*(z_{it}, a_{it-1}) dD_t. \tag{4}$$

Firms. A representative firm hires labor, L_t , to produce goods, with the production function

$$Y_t = \Gamma_t L_t. \quad (5)$$

where Γ_t is the exogenous technology level. Profits are

$$\Pi_t = P_t Y_t - W_t L_t. \quad (6)$$

where P_t is the price level and W_t is the wage level. The first order condition for labor implies that the real wage is exogenous

$$w_t \equiv W_t / P_t = \Gamma_t \quad (7)$$

Inflation rates for wages and price are given by

$$\pi_t^w \equiv W_t / W_{t-1} - 1 \quad (8)$$

$$\pi_t \equiv \frac{P_t}{P_{t-1}} - 1 = \frac{W_t / \Gamma_t}{W_{t-1} / \Gamma_{t-1}} - 1 = \frac{1 + \pi_t^w}{\Gamma_t / \Gamma_{t-1}} - 1. \quad (9)$$

Union. A union chooses the labor supply of each household and sets wages. Each household is chosen to supply the same amount of labor,

$$\ell_{it} = L_t^{hh}. \quad (10)$$

Unspecified adjustment costs imply a *New Keynesian Wage Philips Curve*,

$$\pi_t^w = \kappa \left(\underbrace{\varphi \left(L_t^{hh} \right)^v}_{\text{mar. disutility of labor}} - \frac{1}{\mu} \underbrace{(1 - \tau_t) w_t \left(C_t^{hh} \right)^{-\sigma}}_{\text{marg. utility of consumption}} \right) + \beta \pi_{t+1}^w. \quad (11)$$

where κ is the slope parameter and μ is a wage mark-up.

Central bank. The central bank follows a standard Taylor rule with persistence,

$$1 + i_t = (1 + i_{t-1})^{\rho_i} \left((1 + r_{ss}) (1 + \pi_t)^{\phi_\pi} \right)^{1 - \rho_i}, \quad (12)$$

where i_t is the nominal return from period t to period $t + 1$, ϕ_π is the Taylor coefficient, and $\rho_i \in [0, 1)$ is persistence parameter.

The *ex ante* real interest rate is

$$1 + r_t = \frac{1 + i_t}{1 + \pi_{t+1}}. \quad (13)$$

Government. The government chooses spending, G_t , transfers, χ_t , and the labor income tax rate, τ_t . The total tax bill is

$$\mathcal{T}_t \equiv \tau_t w_t L_t^{hh} = \tau_t \Gamma_t L_t^{hh} = \tau_t Y_t. \quad (14)$$

The government can finance its expenses with long-term bonds, B_t , with a geometrically declining payment stream of $1, \delta, \delta^2, \dots$ for $\delta \in [0, 1]$. The bond price is q_t .

The budget constraint for the government then is

$$q_t(B_t - \delta B_{t-1}) = B_{t-1} + G_t + \chi_t - \tau_t Y_t. \quad (15)$$

Spending, G_t , and transfers, χ_t , are chosen exogenously. The labor income tax follows the rule

$$\tau_t = \tau_{ss} + \omega q_{ss} \frac{B_{t-1} - B_{ss}}{Y_{ss}}. \quad (16)$$

where ω controls the sensitivity of the tax rate to public debt.

Market clearing. Arbitrage implies that all assets must give the same rate of return. A bond with a unit return bought in period t at price q_t can be sold in period $t + 1$ for δq_{t+1} , so we specifically have

$$\frac{1 + \delta q_{t+1}}{q_t} = 1 + r_t. \quad (17)$$

The *ex post* return on savings (all in government bonds) from period $t - 1$ to t then is

$$1 + r_t^a = \frac{1 + \delta q_t}{q_{t-1}}. \quad (18)$$

Market clearing implies

1. Asset market: $q_t B_t = A_t^{hh}$
2. Labor market: $L_t = L_t^{hh}$
3. Goods market: $Y_t = C_t^{hh} + G_t$

Calibration

The parameters and steady state government behavior are as follows:

1. **Preferences and abilities:** $\sigma = 2, \nu = 1.0$
2. **Income:** $\rho_z = 0.95, \sigma_\psi = 0.10$

3. **Production:** $\Gamma_{ss} = 1$
4. **Union:** $\kappa = 0.1, \mu = 1.2$
5. **Central bank:** $r_{ss} = 1.02^{\frac{1}{4}} - 1, \phi^{\pi} = 1.5, \rho_i = 0.90$
6. **Government:** $G_{ss} = 0.20, \chi_{ss} = 0, q_{ss}B_{ss} = 1.0, \delta = 0.8, \omega = 0.1$

We let β and φ be unspecified and adjust those to obtain the steady state we want.

Finding the steady state

1. Guess on β
2. Set $\Gamma_{ss}, r_{ss}, G_{ss}, \chi_{ss}$ and $q_{ss}B_{ss}$ as specified in the calibration
3. Set aggregate labor supply to, $L_{ss} = 1$
4. Set steady state inflation to zero, $\pi_{ss} = \pi_{ss}^w = 0$
5. Calculate the value of all other aggregate steady state variables
6. Solve for and simulate household behavior
7. Calculate $\varphi = \frac{\frac{1}{\mu}(1-\tau_{ss})w_{ss}(C_{ss}^{hh})^{-\sigma}}{(L_{ss}^{hh})^v}$
8. Check a remaining market clearing condition

Equation system

The model can be summarized by the following equation system

$$H(\pi^w, L; G, \chi, \Gamma) = \begin{bmatrix} w_t - \Gamma_t \\ 1 + \pi_t - \frac{1 + \pi_t^w}{\Gamma_t / \Gamma_{t-1}} \\ Y_t - \Gamma_t L_t \\ 1 + i_t - (1 + i_{t-1})^{\rho_i} \left((1 + r_{ss}) (1 + \pi_t)^{\phi_\pi} \right)^{1 - \rho_i} \\ 1 + r_t - \frac{1 + i_t}{1 + \pi_{t+1}} \\ \frac{1 + \delta q_{t+1}}{q_t} - (1 + r_t) \\ 1 + r_t^a - \frac{1 + \delta q_t}{q_{t-1}} \\ \tau_t - \left[\tau_{ss} + \omega q_{ss} \frac{B_{t-1} - B_{ss}}{Y_{ss}} \right] \\ q_t (B_t - \delta B_{t-1}) - [B_{t-1} + G_t + \chi_t - \tau_t Y_t] \\ q_t B_t - A_t^{hh} \\ \pi_t^w - \left[\kappa \left(\varphi (L_t^{hh})^\nu - \frac{1}{\mu} (1 - \tau_t) w_t (C_t^{hh})^{-\sigma} \right) + \beta \pi_{t+1}^W \right] \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

$$= \begin{bmatrix} q_t B_t - A_t^{hh} \\ \pi_t^w - \left[\kappa \left(\varphi (L_t^{hh})^\nu - \frac{1}{\mu} (1 - \tau_t) w_t (C_t^{hh})^{-\sigma} \right) + \beta \pi_{t+1}^W \right] \end{bmatrix}$$

where

1. **Shocks:** G, χ, Γ
2. **Unknowns:** π^w, L
3. **Targets:** Asset market clearing and NKWC

The DAG is the one below.

