EFFECTS OF FISCAL SHOCKS IN A GLOBALIZED WORLD

Alan Auerbach & Yuriy Gorodnichenko UC Berkeley

Key policy questions

- What is the size of the government spending multiplier?
 - Previous work: multiplier ≈ 1 (wide "confidence" bands)
- Does the size vary with the state of the economy?
 - Previous work: likely larger (> 1) in recessions & smaller (≈ 0) in expansions

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Evidence:

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OUR SOLUTION: USE DAILY INNOVATIONS IN GOVERNMENT SPENDING.

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- Daily announcements of the U.S. Department of Defense about new contracts.

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We focus on military spending:

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- Smaller predictable component (e.g., seasonality) at daily frequency
- Major source of variation



DAILY TREASURY STATEMENT

Cash and debt operations of the United States Treasury Friday, November 7, 2014 (Detail, rounded in millions, may not add to totals)

TABLE I - Operating Cash Balance									
Opening balance									
Type of account	Closing balance today			Today		This month		This fiscal year	
Federal Reserve Account Supplementary Financing Program Account Short-Term Cash Investments (Table V)	\$	107,194 0 0	\$	110,284 0 0	\$	117,403 0 0	\$	158,302 0 0	
Total Operating Balance	\$	107,194	\$	110,284	\$	117,403	\$	158,302	

TABLE II - Deposits and Withdrawals of Operating Cash									
Deposits	Today	This month to date	Fiscal year to date	Withdrawals	Today	This month to date	Fiscal year to date		
Federal Reserve Account: Agriculture Loan Repayments (misc) Air Transport Security Fees Cash FTD's Received (Table IV) Commodity Credit Corporation programs Customs and Certain Excise Taxes Deposits by States:	\$ 24 1 6,257 13 78	\$ 151 4 47,481 38 388	\$ 934 329 229,586 229 4,560	Federal Reserve Account: Commodity Credit Corporation programs Defense Vendor Payments (EFT) Education Department programs Energy Department programs Federal Employees Insurance Payments Fed. Highway Administration programs Federal Salaries (EFT)	\$ 115 897 561 121 188 134 3.083	\$ 596 4,740 2,557 611 1,075 752 3,889	\$ 4,477 29,548 17,630 3,571 7,809 5,127 17,791		
Unemployment Education Department programs Energy Department programs Estate and Gift Taxes	283 188 10 78	3,157 910 38 302	5,796 4,806 566 1,830	Food and Nutrition Service (misc) GSA programs Health and Human Services Grants (misc) Housing and Urban Development programs	141 24 383 192	537 695 1,748 3,575	2,947 2,328 9,652 10,615		



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Air Transport Security Fees	1	4	329	Defense Vendor Payments (EFT)	897	4,740	29,548		
Cash FTD's Received (Table IV)	6,257	47,481	229,586	Education Department programs	561	2,557	17,630		
Commodity Credit Corporation programs	13	38	229	Energy Department programs	188	1075	7 809		
Customs and Certain Excise Taxes Deposits by States:	78	388	4,560	Fed. Highway Administration programs	134	752	5,127		
Supplemental Security Income	2	17	334	Federal Salaries (EFT)	3,083	3,889	17,791		
Unemployment	283	3,157	5,796	Food and Nutrition Service (misc)	141	537	2,947		
Education Department programs	188	910	4,806	GSA programs	24	695	2,328		
Energy Department programs	10	38	566	Health and Human Services Grants (misc)	383	1,748	9,652		
Estate and Gift Taxes	78	302	1,830	Housing and Urban Development programs	192	3,575	10,615		

DAILY DEFENSE VENDOR PAYMENTS



QUARTERLY TOTALS OF DAILY DEFENSE VENDOR PAYMENTS



Almost every day at 5pm, DoD announces new contract awards greater than \$6.5 mil. <u>http://www.defense.gov/contracts/</u>

	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE	rch	٩
HOME TOD.	AY IN DOD ABOUT DOD TOP ISSUES NEWS PHOTOS/VIDEOS DOD SITES	CONTACT US	RESOURCES
News	Contracts Press Operations	Most Recent Contracts	014
Releases	CONTRACTS E-MAIL A COPY PRINTER FRIENDLY LATEST CONTRACTS	Contracts for November 17, 20	014
> Press Advisories		Contracts for wovember 07, 20	J14
>News Transcripts	No: CR-216-14	Contracts for November 06, 20	014
> Publications	November 10, 2014	Contracts for November 05, 20	014
Speeches		Contracts for November 04, 20	014
> Contracts	CONTRACTS	Contracts for November 04, 20	J14
Testimony		Contracts for November 03, 20	014
Messages	ARMY	Contracts for October 31, 2014	1
> Special Reports		Contracto for Ortobar 20, 201	
Secretary of Defense	Great Lakes Dredge & Dock Co. Oak Brook Illinois, was awarded a \$57,600,736 firm fived price contract	Contracts for October 30, 2014	•
Biography	with options for initial construction and beach nourishment at Great Egg Harbor Inlet to Townsends Inlet	Contracts for October 29, 2014	1
Speeches	Ocean City and Sea Isle City, Cape May County, New Jersey. Work will be performed in Sea Isle City, New	Contracts for October 28, 2014	1
Messages	Jersey, with an estimated completion date of Jan. 18, 2016. Bids were solicited via the Internet, with two		
Testimony	received. Fiscal 2015 operations and maintenance (Army) funds in the amount of \$57,609,736 are being		
Travels	obligated at the time of the award. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Philadelphia District, Philadelphia, Representation activity (W012RL 15 C 0002)		
>News Photos			
Deputy Secretary of Defense > Biography > Speeches	Walsh Group Ventures, Chicago, Illinois, was awarded a \$50,930,542 firm-fixed-price contract, with options, to construct a new high school on Fort Campbell, Kentucky, with an estimated completion date of Dec. 31, 2016. Bids were solicited via the Internet, with four received. Fiscal 2015 military construction funds in the amount of \$50,930,542 are being obligated at the time of the award. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Louisville District. Louisville, Kentucky, is the contracting activity (W912QR-15-C-0001)		

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (DOD) ANNOUNCEMENTS: DAILY TOTALS



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (DOD) ANNOUNCEMENTS: MONTHLY TOTALS



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Question: Information content of innovations in actual and announced defense spending? Strategy: Examine responses of stock prices of defense contractors to these innovations.

Responses of Defense/Aerospace index to a shock in spending

DOD ANNOUNCEMENTS

DAILY PAYMENTS TO DEFENSE CONTRACTORS



Response of trade-weighted exchange rate

DOD ANNOUNCEMENTS

DAILY PAYMENTS TO DEFENSE CONTRACTORS



Response of trade-weighted exchange rate

DOD ANNOUNCEMENTS

DAILY PAYMENTS TO DEFENSE CONTRACTORS



Economic magnitude:

Double defense contracts (+2% of GDP) \Rightarrow the dollar appreciates by 12%.

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TIME VARIATION IN THE RESPONSE OF THE EXCHANGE RATE

PRE-GREAT RECESSION

BINDING ZERO LOWER BOUND





TIME VARIATION IN THE RESPONSE OF THE EXCHANGE RATE

Rolling regressions, window = 24 months (\approx 500 observations).

STATE-DEPENDENT RESPONSE OF THE EXCHANGE RATE



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 Improve timing of shocks and responses to shocks
 Distinguish between actual spending and announced spending
- The transmission is tentatively in line with the predictions of modern and classical models.
- There is some evidence that the response of the exchange rate to government spending shocks is time-varying and state-dependent.