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Z.1

Flow of Funds Accounts of the United States

*Flows and Outstandings
Third Quarter 2008*

Flow of Funds Summary Statistics

Third Quarter 2008

Debt of the domestic nonfinancial sectors is estimated to have expanded at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 7¼ percent in the third quarter of 2008, more than twice as fast as in the previous quarter. The acceleration reflected a pickup in borrowing by the federal government.

Household debt contracted at an annual rate of ¾ percent in the third quarter, after having posted a small increase in the previous quarter. In the third quarter, home mortgage debt decreased at an annual rate of 2½ percent, and consumer credit rose only at an annual rate of 1¼ percent.

Nonfinancial business debt rose at an annual rate of 3 percent in the third quarter, 2¾ percentage points less than in the previous quarter. The slowdown was concentrated in net bond issuance and commercial mortgage borrowing.

State and local government debt increased at an annual rate of 3 percent in the third quarter, about 2 percentage points faster than in the previous quarter. Federal government debt surged at an annual rate of 39¼ percent in the third quarter, the largest quarterly growth rate recorded in the flow of funds accounts.

At the end of the third quarter of 2008, the level of domestic nonfinancial debt outstanding was \$33.0 trillion; household debt was \$13.9 trillion, nonfinancial business debt was \$11.0 trillion, and total government debt was \$8.1 trillion.

Household net worth—the difference between the value of assets and liabilities—was an estimated \$56.5 trillion at the end of the third quarter of 2008, \$2.8 trillion dollars less than in the preceding quarter.

Growth of Domestic Nonfinancial Debt¹

Percentage changes; quarterly data are seasonally adjusted annual rates

	Total	Households	Business	State and local govts.	Federal
1998	6.6	7.8	11.7	6.2	-1.4
1999	6.4	8.4	10.8	3.3	-1.9
2000	5.0	9.1	9.3	1.4	-8.0
2001	6.3	9.6	5.8	8.8	-0.2
2002	7.3	10.8	2.6	11.1	7.6
2003	8.1	11.6	2.5	8.3	10.9
2004	8.9	11.1	6.2	7.4	9.0
2005	9.5	11.0	8.7	10.2	7.0
2006	9.0	10.2	10.5	8.1	3.9
2007	8.6	6.8	13.1	9.3	4.9
2007:Q1	8.3	7.3	10.5	10.9	5.5
Q2	8.1	7.2	12.9	10.0	0.3
Q3	9.1	6.1	14.3	7.2	8.0
Q4	8.0	5.9	12.2	7.7	5.3
2008:Q1	5.3	3.2	7.2	3.4	8.1
Q2	3.1	0.6	5.6	0.8	5.9
Q3	7.2	-0.8	2.9	2.9	39.2

1. Changes shown are on an end-of-period basis.

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Flow of Funds Accounts, Third Quarter 2008

This publication presents the flow of funds accounts for 2008:Q3.

Data revisions and other changes. The statistics in the attached tables reflect the use of new or revised source data. Most significant revisions appear in recent quarters; however, new source information resulted in changes to data for earlier periods.

1. In the nonfarm noncorporate business sector (tables F.103 and L.103), data have been revised from 2006:Q1 onward, owing to benchmark statistics available from the IRS/SOI for 2006.

2. The monetary authority sector (tables F.108 and L.108) has been expanded to show new asset and liability detail related to recent Federal Reserve actions.

3. The monetary authority sector (tables F.108, and L.108) was modified to include two new additional liability categories: security RPs and deposits due to government-sponsored enterprises.

4. The funding corporation sector (tables F.130, F.215, L.130, and L.215) was modified to include loans extended by the Federal Reserve to American International Group (AIG) in the liability category bank loans n.e.c.

5. Due to the purchase of a large savings institution by a commercial banking organization in 2008:Q3, the U.S.-chartered commercial banks sector (table F.110) reports larger than usual positive flows in certain instrument categories last quarter, while the savings institutions sector (table F.114) reports some larger than usual negative flows. The asset category most affected by these reclassifications is mortgages; the liability categories most affected are time and savings deposits and other loans and advances.

6. The market value of corporate equities for domestic firms (table L.213, lines 2 and 4) has been revised from 1996:Q4 forward to reflect improved data sources and methods: the value of common shares of publicly traded firms is estimated from quarterly aggregates of micro-data from the Center for Research in Security Prices; the value of preferred shares of publicly traded firms is estimated using a perpetual inventory method based on data from Standard and Poor's and Thomson Financial Services; and the value of closely held firms is estimated using data from the

Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Compustat, and *Forbes*.

7. The market value of residential real estate (B.100, B.102, and B.103) has been revised from 2000:Q1 forward to reflect improved data sources. The value of owner-occupied housing in 2001:Q3, 2003:Q2, and 2005:Q2 is now benchmarked to data from the American Housing Survey, and changes in the value of single-family homes in non-benchmark quarters are now estimated using a repeat-sales house-price index from LoanPerformance (a division of First American CoreLogic). Previously we used a price index from the Federal Housing Finance Agency (formerly the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight).

Explanatory notes for tables D.1, D.2, and D.3.

Domestic debt comprises credit market funds borrowed by U.S. entities from both domestic and foreign sources, while foreign debt represents amounts borrowed by foreign financial and nonfinancial entities in U.S. markets only. Financial sectors consist of government-sponsored enterprises, agency- and GSE-backed mortgage pools, and private financial institutions. Credit market debt consists of debt securities, mortgages, bank loans, commercial paper, consumer credit, U.S. government loans, and other loans and advances; it excludes trade debt, loans for the purpose of carrying securities, and funds raised from equity sources.

Growth rates in table D.1 are calculated by dividing seasonally adjusted flows from table D.2 by seasonally adjusted levels at the end of the previous period from table D.3. Seasonally adjusted levels in flow of funds statistics are derived by carrying forward year-end levels by seasonally adjusted flows. Growth rates calculated from changes in unadjusted levels printed in table L.2 can differ from those in table D.1.

Relation of Flows to Outstandings. Estimates of financial assets and liabilities outstanding are linked to data on flows. However, figures on outstandings contain discontinuities or breaks in series that could affect analysis of particular relationships over time. Specifically, outstanding in the flow of funds accounts are related to the flows in the following way:

Outstanding_t = Outstanding_{t-1} + Flow_t + Discontinuity_t
 where "t" is the time period.

Discontinuities result from changes in valuation, breaks in source data, and changes in definitions. For most series, the value of the discontinuity is zero for nearly all time periods. However, in a few instances, the discontinuity is nonzero for almost all time periods, or is quite large in a particular quarter, such as a period when there is a sharp increase or decrease in equity prices or a major break in source data.

The discontinuities in a series can distort estimated rates of growth in assets and liabilities between periods. In order to minimize these distortions, percentage changes in assets and liabilities in flow of funds releases should be calculated as:

$$\text{Percentage change}_t = (\text{Flow}_t / \text{Outstanding}_{t-1}) * 100$$

Preliminary Estimates. Figures shown for the most recent quarter in these tables are based on preliminary and incomplete information. A summary list of the principal sources of information available when the latest quarter's data were compiled is provided in a table following this introduction. The distinction between "available" data and "missing" data is not between final and preliminary versions of data, but rather between those source estimates that are fully ready when the latest quarterly publication is compiled and those that are not yet completed. However, the items that are shown as available are, in general, also preliminary in the sense that they are subject to revision by source agencies.

Margins of Uncertainty. Flow of funds statistics are subject to uncertainties resulting from measurement errors in source data, incompatibilities among data from different sources, potential revisions in both financial and nonfinancial series, and incomplete data in parts of the accounts. The size of these uncertainties cannot be quantified in precise statistical terms, but allowance for them is explicitly made throughout the accounts by the inclusion of "discrepancies" for various sectors and instrument types. A discrepancy for a sector is the difference between its measured sources of funds and its measured uses of funds. For an instrument category, a discrepancy is the difference between measured funds borrowed through the financial instrument and measured funds lent through that instrument. The size of such discrepancies relative to the main asset or liability components is one indication of the quality of source data, especially on an annual basis. For quarterly data, differences in seasonal adjustment procedures for financial and nonfinancial components of the accounts sometimes result in discrepancies that cancel in annual data.

Availability of Data. Flow of funds statistics are updated about ten weeks following the end of a quarter. This publication — the Z.1 release — is available from the Board's Publications Services. Flow of funds data are also available electronically through the Internet at the following location:

www.federalreserve.gov/releases/Z1

The Internet site also provides quarterly data beginning in 1952, organized in compressed files that correspond to the tables published in this release. There are files for quarterly data for seasonally adjusted flows, unadjusted flows, outstandings, balance sheets, and debt (tables D.1, D.2, and D.3). This data is also available as a customizable download dataset through the Data Download Program (DDP) at the following location:

www.federalreserve.gov/datadownload/Choose.aspx?rel=Z.1

A *Guide to the Flow of Funds Accounts* is available. The 1,200-page *Guide*, published in two volumes in January 2000, explains in detail how the U.S. financial accounts are prepared and the principles underlying the accounts. The *Guide* can be purchased for \$20.00 from the Board's Publications Services. Publications Services accepts orders accompanied by checks as well as credit card orders.

The Internet site for this release at the location shown above contains a link to an order form for the *Guide* that can be mailed or faxed to Publications Services. In addition, the Internet site includes a link to the *Guide's* descriptions of the tables in the flow of funds accounts.

Subscription Information. The Federal Reserve Board charges for subscriptions to all statistical releases. Inquiries for releases should be directed to:

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Availability of Data for Latest Quarter

	<u>Available at time of publication</u>	<u>Major items missing</u>
1. National income and product accounts (NIPA)	Preliminary estimates, seasonally adjusted, for 2008:Q3.	Unadjusted flows since 2007 for the government sectors. Unadjusted flows since 2006 for all other sectors.
2. Households and nonprofit organizations sector (tables F.100 and L.100)	Estimates for this sector are largely residuals and are derived from data for other sectors. Availability of data depends on schedules for other sectors. Data for consumer credit, which are estimated directly, are available through 2008:Q3. The source for nonprofit organizations data (tables F.100.a and L.100.a) is the Internal Revenue Service <i>Statistics of Income</i> . Data for nonprofit organizations are available for 1987 through 2000.	
3. Nonfarm nonfinancial corporate business (tables F.102 and L.102)	<i>Quarterly Financial Report</i> (QFR) of the Census Bureau through 2008:Q3; Internal Revenue Service <i>Statistics of Income</i> (IRS/SOI) preliminary data through 2006; securities offerings, mortgages, bank loans, commercial paper, and other loans through 2008:Q3.	<i>Statistics of Income</i> data since 2006.
4. Nonfarm noncorporate business (tables F.103 and L.103)	IRS/SOI data through 2006; bank and finance company loans and mortgage borrowing through 2008:Q3.	<i>Statistics of Income</i> data since 2006.
5. Farm business (tables F.104 and L.104)	Mortgages, bank loans, loans from government-sponsored enterprises, U.S. government loans to farms, and equity in government-sponsored enterprises through 2008:Q3; preliminary data for checkable deposits and currency and trade payables through 2007.	Consumption of fixed capital and undistributed profits since 2006.
6. State and local governments (tables F.105 and L.105)	Gross offerings and retirements of municipal securities, deposits at banks, and nonmarketable U.S. government security issues through 2008:Q3; total financial assets through 2006:Q2 from the Census Bureau; breakdown of financial assets through 2004:Q2 from the comprehensive annual financial reports of state and local governments.	Total financial assets since 2006:Q2 and selected financial asset detail since 2004:Q2.
7. Federal government (tables F.106 and L.106)	Data from the <i>Monthly Treasury Statement of Receipts and Outlays</i> and Treasury data for loan programs through 2008:Q3.	None.

8. Rest of the world (U.S. international transactions) (tables F.107 and L.107)	Balance of payments data through 2008:Q2. NIPA estimates; data from bank Reports of Condition and from Treasury International Capital System through 2008:Q3.	Balance of payments data for 2008:Q3.
9. Monetary authority (tables F.108 and L.108)	All data through 2008:Q3.	None.
10. Commercial banking (tables F.109 through F.113 and tables L.109 through L.113)	All data through 2008:Q3 for U.S.-chartered commercial banks, foreign banking offices in the U.S., bank holding companies, and commercial banks in U.S.-affiliated areas.	Data since 2007 for branches of domestic commercial banks located in U.S.-affiliated areas.
11. Savings institutions (tables F.114 and L.114)	All data through 2008:Q3.	None.
12. Credit unions (tables F.115 and L.115)	All data through 2008:Q3.	None.
13. Property-casualty insurance companies (tables F.116 and L.116)	All data through 2008:Q2.	Data for 2008:Q3.
14. Life insurance companies (tables F.117 and L.117)	All data through 2008:Q2.	Data for 2008:Q3.
15. Private pension funds (tables F.118 and L.118)	Quarterly data through 2008:Q3; Internal Revenue Service/Department of Labor/Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation Form 5500 data through 2005.	Form 5500 data since 2005.
16. State and local government employee retirement funds (tables F.119 and L.119)	Detailed data through 2006:Q2 from the Census Bureau; sample data through 2008:Q2 from the Census Bureau.	Detailed data since 2006:Q2 and sample data for 2008:Q3.
17. Federal government retirement funds (tables F.120 and L.120)	Data from the <i>Monthly Treasury Statement of Receipts and Outlays</i> , the Thrift Savings Plan, and the National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust through 2008:Q3.	None.
18. Money market mutual funds (tables F.121 and L.121)	All data through 2008:Q3.	None.
19. Mutual funds (tables F.122 and L.122)	All data through 2008:Q3.	None.
20. Closed-end funds (tables F.123 and L.123)	All data through 2008:Q3.	None.
21. Exchange-traded funds (tables F.123 and L.123)	All data through 2008:Q3.	None.

22. Government-sponsored enterprises (tables F.124 and L.124)	Data for Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, FHLBs, Farmer Mac, FCS, FICO and REFCORP through 2008:Q3.	None.
23. Agency- and GSE-backed mortgage pools (tables F.125 and L.125)	All data through 2008:Q3.	None.
24. Issuers of asset-backed securities (ABSs) (tables F.126 and L.126)	All data for private mortgage pools, consumer credit, business loans, student loans, consumer leases, and trade credit securitization through 2008:Q3.	None.
25. Finance companies (tables F.127 and L.127)	All data through 2008:Q3.	None.
26. Real estate investment trusts (REITs) (tables F.128 and L.128)	Data from SNL REIT DataSource through 2008:Q3.	None.
27. Security brokers and dealers (tables F.129 and L.129)	Data for firms filing FOCUS and FOGS reports through 2008:Q3.	None.
28. Funding corporations (tables F.130 and L.130)	Estimates for this sector are largely residuals and are derived from data for other sectors.	