

Chapter 2

The Financial Market Environment

Overview

Money and capital markets and their major components are introduced in this chapter. Firms need to raise capital in order to survive. Financial institutions give firms access to the money they need to grow. However, greed can drive financial managers and institutions to commit actions that get them into trouble and even force bankruptcy. These bankruptcies result in limited capital flows to firms and both they and the whole economy can suffer. The final section covers a discussion of the impact of taxation on the firm's financial activities.

■ Suggested Answer to *Opener in Review Question*

What role do you think market efficiency (or inefficiency) played in the 10 percent fall of JPMorgan's share price in a single day?

In an efficient market, JPMorgan's price is an unbiased estimate of its true value. The ten percent change in price reflects new information that investors learned about and acted upon. The rapid price adjustment is an indication of how efficiently the market operates. Instead of taking several days for the price to absorb the new information, there was a ten percent shift in one day. Behavioral finance advocates would assert that investor psychology resulted in a delayed response to new information that was building up over prior days, and perhaps an overreaction to events of one day.

■ Answers to Review Questions

1. The key participants in financial transactions are *individuals*, *businesses*, and *governments*. These parties participate both as suppliers and demanders of funds. Individuals are net suppliers, which means that they save more dollars than they borrow, while both businesses and governments are net demanders since they borrow more than they save. One could say that individuals provide the excess funds required by businesses and governments.

Financial institutions include commercial banks and investment banks. The former assists both individuals and companies with their banking needs, while the latter concentrates efforts in the area of assisting corporations with raising funds. Until the late 1990s, the Glass-Steagall Act created a separation between the two. A shadow banking system, where non-deposit-taking enterprises lend money to firms needing cash, has grown to be as large as the traditional banking system.

2. *Financial markets* provide a forum in which suppliers of funds and demanders of loans and investments can transact business directly.
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Primary market is the name used to denote the fact that a security is being issued by the demander of funds to the supplier of funds. An example would be Microsoft Corporation selling new shares of common stock to the public.

Secondary market refers to the trading of securities among investors subsequent to the primary market issuance. In secondary market trading, no new funds are being raised by the demander of funds. The security is trading ownership among investors. An example would be individual “A” buying common stock of Microsoft through a broker from individual “B.”

Financial institutions and financial markets are not independent of each other. It is quite common to find financial institutions actively participating in both the money market and the capital market as both suppliers and demanders of funds. Financial institutions often channel their investments and obtain needed financing through the financial markets. This relationship exists since these institutions must use the structure of the financial marketplace to find a supplier of funds.

3. The *money market* is a financial relationship between the suppliers and demanders of short-term debt securities maturing in one year or less, such as U.S. Treasury bills, commercial paper, and negotiable certificates of deposit. The *Eurocurrency market* is the international equivalent of the U.S. money market and is used for short-term bank time deposits denominated in dollars or other major currencies.
4. The *capital market* is a financial relationship created by a number of institutions and arrangements that allows the suppliers and demanders of long-term funds (with maturities greater than one year) to make transactions. The key securities traded in the capital markets are bonds plus common and preferred stock.
5. The *broker market* consists of national and regional securities exchanges. These organizations provide a location, such as the New York Stock Exchange, to bring together the buyers and sellers of debt and equity. They create a continuous market for securities, allocate scarce capital, determine and publicize security prices, and aid in new financing.

By contrast, dealer markets are electronic markets for the buyers and sellers of securities not listed on the major exchanges. In a broker market, physical trading locations are replaced by security dealers who offer to buy or sell securities at stated bid/ask prices. Dealers buy securities from clients, sell them to other dealers, who in turn sell them to their clients. A majority of shares traded in the dealer market are listed on Nasdaq, the National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotation System.

6. In addition to the U.S. capital markets, corporations can raise debt and equity funds in capital markets located in other countries. The *Eurobond market* is the oldest and largest international debt market. Corporate and government bonds issued in this market are denominated in dollars or other major currencies and sold to investors outside the country in whose currency the bonds are denominated. Foreign bond markets also provide corporations with the opportunity to tap other capital sources. Corporations or governments issue bonds denominated in the local currency and sold only in that home market. The *international equity market* allows corporations to sell blocks of stock to investors in several countries, providing a diversified investor base and additional opportunities to raise larger amounts of capital.
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7. An *efficient market* will allocate funds to their most productive uses due to competition among wealth-maximizing investors. Prices are assumed to be a function of information about the firm and economy. Only new, unexpected information will cause investors to buy or sell securities. Investors determine the price of assets through their participation in the financial markets. Changes in supply and demand continually impact prices in an efficient market.

An alternative view of market pricing is put forth by advocates of behavioral finance. This explanation of market prices combines finance and psychology. Though prices may deviate from true value for psychological and other reasons, few investors have been able to earn a risk-adjusted, positive rate of return.

8. *Securitization* is the process of pooling mortgages and then selling claims against that pool in the secondary market. Investors buying these securities extend a loan to the homeowner.
 9. *Mortgage-backed securities* represent claims on the cash flows generated by a pool of mortgages. As the homeowners pay off their mortgages, the money serves as income to the investors. The primary risk associated with mortgage-backed securities is that homeowners may not repay their loans.
 10. When a homeowner borrows money to buy a home, he borrows a fixed amount of money. As housing prices rise, the gap between what he owes and what the house is worth widens. Lenders will allow borrowers who have difficulty making mortgage payments tap this built-up equity. Therefore, mortgage default rates are relatively low.
 11. As home prices decline, the value of homes may be less than the amount owed to the bank. Hence many borrowers will simply walk away from their homes and let lenders repossess them. There will be an added supply of housing. If multiple homes in the area are facing foreclosure, the value of remaining homes will drop. At the same time, borrowers having trouble making mortgage payments will not be able to tap into any built-up equity. These homes will also be repossessed, and the number of homes for sale in an area will rise. Excess home availability will make the remaining homes less valuable, increasing the number of homeowners with houses worth less than the amount owed to the bank. It is a vicious cycle.
 12. As mortgage-backed security delinquency rates rose, the value of still solvent mortgage-back securities fell. This fall led to the questions about the solvency of investors, including financial institutions. Financial institutions cut back on the amount of lending, requiring higher standards for those borrowing money. Unable to obtain money easily in the money market, firms began to hoard cash and cut back expenditures. This decline hurt suppliers and curtailed employment at companies. Throughout the economy revenues fall as financial institutions cut back on lending.
 13. Due to their enormous impact, governments typically regulate financial institutions more than most economic sectors. Banking sector troubles and other factors contributed to the worst economic contraction in U.S. history during the Great Depression. Consequently, it is not surprising that an above-average amount of legislation was enacted in the 1930s.
 14. The Securities Act of 1933 was designed to regulate activity in the primary market, ensuring that sellers of new securities provided extensive disclosure. The Securities Exchange Act of 1934 regulates the trading of securities in secondary markets. The latter legislation also created the Securities Exchange Commission to enforce federal securities laws.
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15. The *ordinary income* of a corporation is income earned through the sale of a firm's goods or services. Taxes on corporate ordinary income have two components: a fixed amount on the base figure for its income bracket level, plus a progressive percentage, ranging from 15% to 39%, applied to the excess over the base bracket figure. A *capital gain* occurs when a capital asset is sold for more than its initial purchase price. Capital gains are added to ordinary income and taxed at the regular corporate rates. The *average tax rate* is calculated by dividing taxes paid by taxable income. For firms with taxable income of \$10 million or less, it ranges from 15% to 34%. For firms with taxable income in excess of \$10 million, it ranges between 34% and 35%. The *marginal tax rate* is the rate at which additional income is taxed.
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16. Dividends received from another corporation, in which the shareholding firm's position is less than one-fifth of outstanding shares, is subject to a 70% exclusion for tax purposes. The tax rate is only 30% of what it would be on fully taxable income.
17. The tax deductibility of corporate expenses reduces their actual after-tax cost. Corporate interest is a tax-deductible expense, while dividends are not.

■ Suggested Answer to *Focus on Practice Box: Berkshire Hathaway—Can Buffet Be Replaced?*

The share price of BRKA has never been split. Why might the company refuse to split its shares to make them more affordable to average investors?

The primary reason that Berkshire Hathaway does not split the price of its common stock is because Warren Buffett's philosophy is that a stock split is meaningless financially and only serves as a way to lower the stock price so that more investors are able to purchase the stock. Mr. Buffett has stated his belief that true investors are long-term investors who hold a stock through thick and thin. With fewer shareholders, there are less people that the company management must answer to, and investors who can afford the steep price of the Berkshire Hathaway stock are likely to be serious individual investors or institutional investors such as mutual funds.

■ Suggested Answer to *Focus on Ethics Box: The Ethics of Insider Trading*

If efficiency is the goal of financial markets, is allowing or disallowing insider trading more unethical?

Price efficiency does not necessarily imply that insider trading is either ethical or unethical. The EMH suggests that stock prices reflect all publicly available information. Those in favor of allowing insider trading argue that it will allow private information to become public faster, allowing prices to more rapidly adjust to this information.

Does allowing insider trading create an ethical dilemma for insiders?

It certainly could. Consider Fama's point discussed in the case. If insider trading is allowed, insiders might have the incentive to hold back information in order to profit from the information before releasing it to the public. If this were the case, stock prices could impound information more slowly when insider trading is permitted.

■ Answers to Warm-Up Exercises

E2-1. Suppliers and demanders of funds

Answer: Individuals as a whole spend less than they consume. The excess is invested, making it available for businesses. If individuals consume more, fewer dollars will be available for investment. This would reduce the amount of money available for new projects and drive up the required return (i.e., required return of investors buy bonds). Over time, employment, salaries, and gross domestic product would decline.

E2-2 Raising funds

Answer: Financial institutions, such as investment banks, provide expertise in the acquisition of funds. Investment banking institutions are able to use the expertise developed through the acquisition of funds for many firms to reduce the effort and cost of acquiring funds for any single business. The investment banking institution will allow the Gaga Enterprises CFO to raise more money at a lower cost per dollar raised.

E2-3 Money market vs. capital market

Answer: Money markets are short-term markets, so firms using these would be in need of funds for less than a year. Perhaps the business needs to increase inventory for a season, such as RV dealerships building inventory prior to the spring/summer sales period. Immediately after a large sale, a business may need to finance the presence of accounts receivable on their balance sheet. Capital markets, by contrast, are typically used for fixed assets, which a company will use over several years.

E2-4 Mortgage-backed securities

Answer: Questions you would ask include:

- a. Real estate location (after all, the three most important determinants of real estate price are “location, location, location”)
- b. Percentage of properties in the region that are “under water” (homeowners owe more than they borrowed) or in foreclosure
- c. Type of real estate (commercial properties offer less liquidity if the market turns sour, because empty homes can be rented for revenue)
- d. Precedence in bankruptcy (would other lenders have a senior claim to properties in bankruptcy?)
- e. Quality of real estate (is it in good condition, or would there need to be repairs prior to sale?)
- f. Creditworthiness of borrowers (how likely is it that borrowers will lose their job and be unable to make payments on a timely basis?)
- g. What percentage of borrowers are behind on their mortgage payments
- h. Will borrowers soon be experiencing an interest rate increase because they took out a mortgage with a low initial rate that was adjustable after a period of time

E2-5. Dividends received exclusion

Answer: While 100% of corporate interest income is taxed at ordinary tax rates, only 30% of corporate dividend income is treated as taxable income. This would be the equivalent of recognizing only 1.5% [$5\% (1-0.7)$] of the 5% annual dividend for tax purposes. Based solely on the tax treatment of corporate dividend income vs. interest income, Pruro, Inc. would have greater after-tax income if it chooses the Reston stock paying 5% dividends over the promissory note paying 5% interest.

■ Solutions to Problems

P2-1. Corporate taxes

LG 6; Basic

- a. Firm's tax liability on \$92,500 (from Table 2.1):

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Total taxes due} &= \$13,750 + [0.34 \times (\$92,500 - \$75,000)] \\ &= \$13,750 + (0.34 \times \$17,500) \\ &= \$13,750 + \$5,950 \\ &= \$19,700\end{aligned}$$

- b. After-tax earnings: $\$92,500 - \$19,700 = \$72,800$

- c. Average tax rate: $\$19,700 \div \$92,500 = 21.3\%$

- d. Marginal tax rate: 34%

P2-2. Average corporate tax rates

LG 6; Basic

- a. Tax calculations using Table 2.1:

\$10,000:

Tax liability:	$\$10,000 \times 0.15 = \$1,500$
After-tax earnings:	$\$10,000 - \$1,500 = \$8,500$
Average tax rate:	$\$1,500 \div \$10,000 = 15\%$

\$80,000:

Tax liability:	$\$13,750 + [0.34 \times (\$80,000 - \$75,000)]$
	$\$13,750 + (0.34 \times \$5,000)$
	$\$13,750 + \$1,700$
	$\$15,450 = \text{Total tax}$
After-tax earnings:	$\$80,000 - \$15,450 = \$64,550$
Average tax rate:	$\$15,450 \div \$80,000 = 19.3\%$

\$300,000:

Tax liability:	$\$22,250 + [0.39 \times (\$300,000 - \$100,000)]$
	$\$22,250 + (0.39 \times \$200,000)$
	$\$22,250 + \$78,000$
	$\$100,250 = \text{Total tax}$
After-tax earnings:	$\$300,000 - \$100,250 = \$199,750$
Average tax rate:	$\$100,250 \div \$300,000 = 33.4\%$

\$500,000: Tax liability: $\$113,900 + [0.34 \times (\$500,000 - \$335,000)]$
 $\$113,900 + (0.34 \times \$165,000)$
 $\$113,900 + \$56,100$
 $\$170,000 = \text{Total tax}$

After-tax earnings: $\$500,000 - \$170,000 = \$330,000$

Average tax rate: $\$170,000 \div \$500,000 = 34\%$

\$1,500,000: Tax liability: $\$113,900 + [0.34 \times (\$1,500,000 - \$335,000)]$
 $\$113,900 + (0.34 \times \$1,165,000)$
 $\$113,900 + \$396,100$
 $\$510,000 = \text{Total tax}$

After-tax earnings: $\$1,500,000 - \$510,000 = \$990,000$

Average tax rate: $\$510,000 \div \$1,500,000 = 34\%$

\$10,000,000: Tax liability: $\$113,900 + [0.34 \times (\$10,000,000 - \$335,000)]$
 $\$113,900 + (0.34 \times \$9,665,000)$
 $\$113,900 + \$3,286,100$
 $\$3,400,000 = \text{Total tax}$

After-tax earnings: $\$10,000,000 - \$3,400,000 = \$6,600,000$

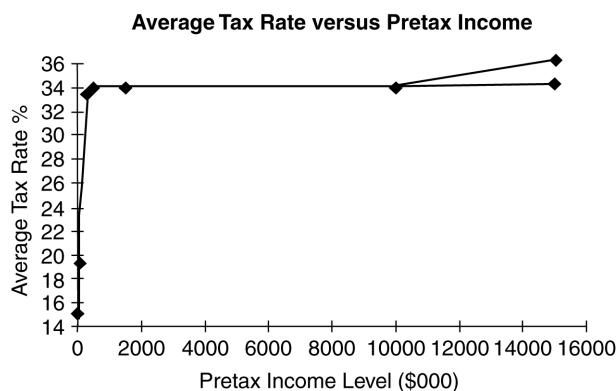
Average tax rate: $\$3,400,000 \div \$10,000,000 = 34\%$

\$20,000,000: Tax liability: $\$6,416,667 + [0.35 \times (\$20,000,000 - \$18,333,333)]$
 $\$6,416,667 + (0.35 \times \$1,666,667)$
 $\$6,416,667 + \$583,333$
 $\$7,000,000 = \text{Total tax}$

After-tax earnings: $\$20,000,000 - \$7,000,000 = \$13,000,000$

Average tax rate: $\$7,000,000 \div \$20,000,000 = 35\%$

b.



As income increases, the rate reaches 35%.

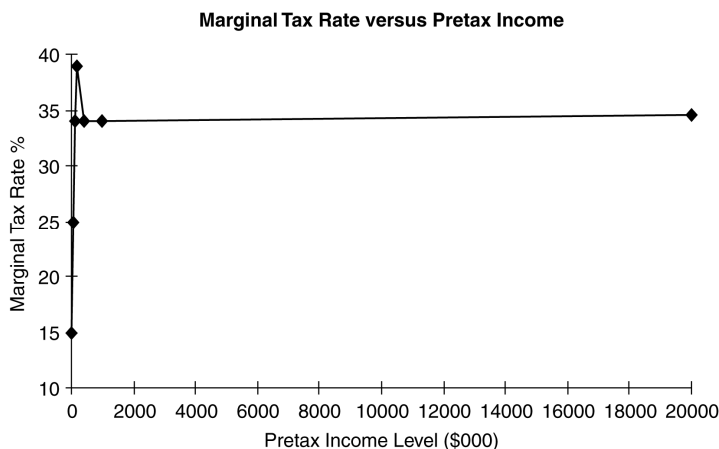
P2-3. Marginal corporate tax rates

LG 6; Basic

a.

Pre-tax Income	Tax Calculation					Total Tax	Marginal Rate
	Base Tax	+	%	×	Amount over Base		
\$ 15,000	\$ 0		(0.15		15,000)	\$ 2,250	15.0%
60,000	7,500		(0.25		10,000)	10,000	25.0%
90,000	13,750		(0.34		15,000)	18,850	34.0%
200,000	22,250		(0.39		100,000)	61,250	39.0%
400,000	113,900		(0.34		65,000)	136,000	34.0%
1,000,000	113,900		(0.34		665,000)	340,000	34.0%
20,000,000	6,416,667		(0.35		1,666,667)	7,00,0000	35.0%

b.



As income increases to \$335,000, the marginal tax rate approaches and peaks at 39%. For income in excess of \$335,000, the marginal tax rate declines to 34%, and after \$10 million the marginal rate increases slightly to 35%.

P2-4. Interest vs. dividend income

LG 6; Intermediatea. Tax on operating earnings: $\$490,000 \times 0.40$ tax rate = \$196,000

b. and c.

	(b) Interest Income	(c) Dividend Income	
Before-tax amount	\$20,000	\$20,000	
Less: Applicable exclusion	0	14,000	(0.70 × \$20,000)
Taxable amount	20,000	6,000	
Tax (40%)	8,000	2,400	
After-tax amount	12,000	17,600	

- d. The after-tax amount of dividends received, \$17,600, exceeds the after-tax amount of interest, \$12,000, due to the 70% corporate dividend exclusion. This increases the attractiveness of stock investments by one corporation in another relative to bond investments.
- e. Total tax liability:

Taxes on operating earnings (from a.)	\$196,000
+ Taxes on interest income (from b.)	8,000
+ Taxes on dividend income (from c.)	<u>2,400</u>
Total tax liability	<u>\$206,400</u>

P2-5. Interest vs. dividend expense

LG 6; Intermediate

a. EBIT	\$40,000
Less: Interest expense	<u>10,000</u>
Earnings before taxes	\$30,000
Less: Taxes (40%)	<u>12,000</u>
Earnings after taxes *	<u>\$18,000</u>

*This is also earnings available to common stockholders.

b. EBIT	\$40,000
Less: Taxes (40%)	<u>16,000</u>
Earnings after taxes	\$24,000
Less: Preferred dividends	<u>10,000</u>
Earnings available for common stockholders	<u>\$14,000</u>

P2-6. Capital gains taxes

LG 6; Basic

- a. Capital gain:
 Asset X = \$2,250 – \$2,000 = \$250
 Asset Y = \$35,000 – \$30,000 = \$5,000
- b. Tax on sale of asset:
 Asset X = \$250 × 0.40 = \$100
 Asset Y = \$5,000 × 0.40 = \$2,000

P2-7. Capital gains taxes

LG 6; Basic

- a. and b.

Asset	Sale Price (1)	Purchase Price (2)	Capital Gain (1)–(2) (3)	Tax (3) × 0.40 (4)
A	\$3,400	\$3,000	\$400	\$160
B	12,000	12,000	0	0
C	80,000	62,000	18,000	7,200
D	45,000	41,000	4,000	1,600
E	18,000	16,500	1,500	600

P2-8. Ethics problem

LG 5; Intermediate

The primary ethical issue is whether the insider is basing his buy or sale of company shares on internal information. If he is basing his decisions on information not available to the general public, he would be making decisions in an unethical manner. The insider may for instance be aware of the likelihood of a favorable acquisition, and unethically buy company shares on that knowledge. On the other hand, insider sales based upon soon-to-be-released information about the loss of an important contract to a competitor, would also be unethical.

■ Case

Case studies are available on www.myfinancelab.com.

The Pros and Cons of Being Publicly Listed

- a. Being a publicly-listed company provides access to the money it needs to grow. Shareholders also provide cash without having an ability to take the company to bankruptcy court if a payment is not made. Going public gives the owner the chance to get a return for his or her hard effort. By going public, the owner can diversify his or her portfolio. In fact, without going public, it is difficult to determine the value of the firm.
- b. There are many disadvantages to going public. One, there is not guarantee that shareholders will want to invest in one's firm. If they avoid its shares, it will be priced below expected value. There also may be low trading volume. Another disadvantage is that going publicly leaves the owner open to the potential that an individual or firm might purchase all the publicly available shares, or at least enough to control the board of directors, and remove the founder from the management team.
- c. Not enough information is provided to determine whether Robo-Tech meets the listing requirements to be on the NYSE Euro next. That would be the goal because it is the largest and has the largest number of potential investors.
- d. Capital market efficiency is important for many reasons. If the market is efficient, prices are an unbiased estimate of firm value. The better the estimate of fair value the more confidence investors have in the market place. Having an increased number of potential investors helps Robo-Tech sell shares now and in the future, as it continues to need funds to finance expansions.

(Students may expand on these answers.)

■ Spreadsheet Exercise

The answer to Chapter 2's Monsanto spreadsheet problem is located on the Instructor's Resource Center at www.pearsonhighered.com/irc under the Instructor's Manual.

■ Group Exercise

There is no group exercise for Chapter 2.

■ Integrative Case 1: Merit Enterprise Corp.

- a. There are limited benefits and risks with Option 1. With the loan, Merit will obtain the money needed and will have to make periodic reports regarding its financial condition to the lenders. Option 1 results in an interest expense and fixed date for the repayment of principal. As a sole proprietorship, however, Merit would have less access to capital markets when it apparently needs a large cash infusion to enable a large production expansion.
- b. Option 2 has a much greater potential to impact Merit. If the firm's recent financial performance has resulted in this being an ideal time to go public, simply borrowing the needed funds would hold back the wealth that could be amassed by Merit's owners. As shareholders, the new owners would not be able to force Merit into bankruptcy. In fact, the new owners may not be paid a dividend at all for several years. Furthermore, being public allows employees to benefit if their firm succeeds.

Other benefits include the fact that in corporations, owners have limited liability. This would allow the current owners to only have their remaining investment at risk of complete loss. Stock sales may allow Merit to become larger. The corporate form of business also extends Merit's life beyond the lifetime of the current owner(s).

On the other hand, going public opens Merit up to a variety of issues. There is the cost of the initial public issue and the subsequent reporting to the public. This reporting will give competitors more insight into the company. Also, a majority of shares might be obtained by a single individual or business, effectively acquiring Merit.

Of course, the typical disadvantages of the corporate form of ownership would apply. Merit would pay corporate tax. There also tends to be greater governmental regulation of corporations.

- c. Sara Lehn should make her decision on the basis of which option will maximize the wealth of the current owners. Merit's fine financial performance will reportedly command a high price and make it possible to offer incentives to employees. The risks would be spread out between the current owners and new owners. Therefore, Sara should propose that Merit goes public at the upcoming meeting of the board of directors.
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