

The Money Supply Measuring M1 & M2

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Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco
Economic Education

Money Supply – Did You Know?

M1 and M2
(\$trillions, non-seasonally adjusted)

Used

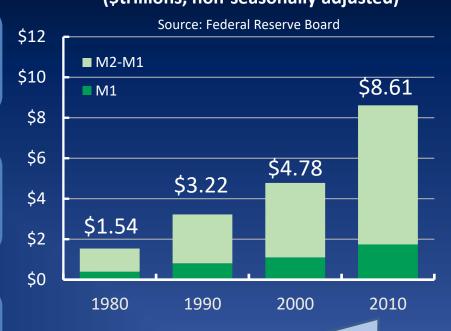
- By households and businesses
- To make payments and to be held as short-term investments

Components

- M1 = coin and currency in circulation, plus checking accounts
- M2 = M1 plus short-term liquid assets

Context

 The Fed uses M1 and M2 as a standardized way of defining money in the economy



As a share of the total values shown above, M1 dropped from 26% in 1980 to 20% in 2010.1

1. See PowerPoint file for technical note.



Money Supply – Components

M2

- Savings Deposits
- Time Deposits
- Certain CDs
- Money Market
 Deposit Accounts
- Money Market
 Mutual Funds
- Includes M1

M1

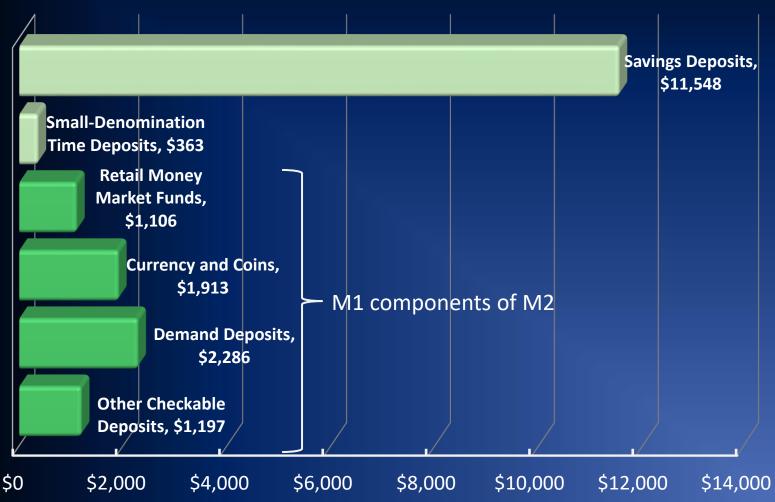
- Coin
- Currency
- Demand Deposits
- Travelers Checks





M2 in Detail

August 2020 (\$billions, seasonally adjusted)

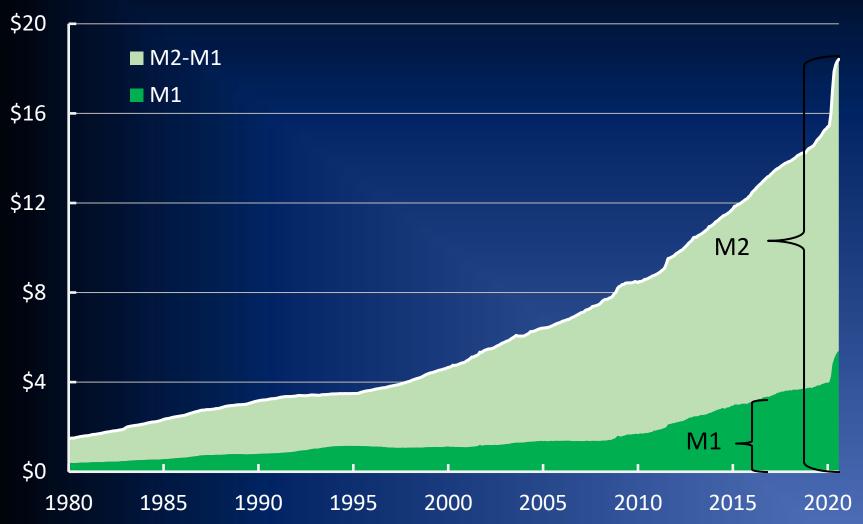


Source: Federal Reserve Board 9/10/20 data release Note: Components may not add to totals due to rounding



Trends — M1 and M2

Jan. 1980 to Aug. 2020 (\$trillions, seasonally adjusted)



Source: Federal Reserve Board 9/10/20 data release



What Do You Think?

- 1. How much cash (coin + currency) do you currently have in your pocket, wallet, or purse? Is this cash part of M1 or M2?
- 2. Do you have a checking account? Is the balance in your checking account part of M1?
- 3. Do you have a savings account? Is your savings account balance part of M1?
- 4. How would you describe the trends of M1 and M2 since 1980? (See slide 5)

