

A History of Share Prices

Chronology of financial crises and market panics from the Middle Ages to the present:

- 1255 “Overexpansion of credit led to banking failures in 1255-62” in Italy
- 1294 Edward I default to the Ricciardi of Luca during war with France
- 1298 Seizure of the Gran Tavola of Sienna by Philip IV of France
- 1307 Liquidation of the Knights Templar by Philip IV
- 1311 Edward II default to the Frescobaldi of Florence
- 1326 Bankruptcy of the Scali of Florence and Asti of Sienna
- 1342 Edward III default to the Florentine banks during the Hundred Years’ War
- 1345 Bankruptcy of the Bardi and Peruzzi; depression, “Great crash of the 1340s”
- 1380 Ciompi Revolt in Florence. “Crash of the early 1380s”
- 1401 Italian bankers expelled from Aragon in 1401, England in 1403, France in 1410
- 1433 Fiscal crisis in Florence after wars with Milan and Luca
- 1464 Death of Cosimo de Medici: loans called in; wave of bankruptcies in Florence
- 1470 Edward IV default to the Medici during the Wars of the Roses
- 1478 Bruges branch of the Medici bank liquidated on bad debts
- 1494 Overthrow of the Medici after the capture of Florence by Charles VIII of France
- 1525 Siege of Genoa by Imperial troops; coup in 1527
- 1557 Philip II of Spain restructuring of debts inherited from Charles V
- 1566 Start of the Dutch Revolt against Spain: disruption of Spanish trade
- 1575 Philip II default: “Financial crisis of 1575-79” affected Genoese creditors
- 1596 Philip II default: “Financial crisis of 1596 severely affected Genoese businessmen”
- 1607 Spanish state bankruptcy: failure of Genoese banks
- 1619 *Kipper-und-Wipperzeit*: “Monetary crisis at the outbreak of the Thirty Years’ War”
- 1627 Spanish bankruptcy: collapse of Genoese banks and the Fugggers
- 1637 End of the Dutch Tulipmania; also, “Dutch East India Company shares, canals”
- 1648 French state bankruptcy, “eliminated the Italian bankers”
- 1652 Outbreak of the First Anglo-Dutch War: attacks by Britain on Dutch shipping
- 1666 Second Anglo-Dutch War: disruption to the Dutch spice fleet
- 1672 *Rampjaar* (Disaster Year) in Holland: French/English invasion
- 1696 English government debt crisis during the Nine Years’ War against France
- 1705 English crisis during the War of the Spanish Succession against France
- 1720 Collapse of the South Sea Bubble in England and Mississippi Bubble in France
- 1761 English government debt crisis over the Seven Years’ War against France
- 1769 Collapse of the Bengal Bubble in East India Company stock
- 1772 Credit Crisis in London and the American colonies
- 1783 Economic depression in Britain and America after the Revolutionary War
- 1792 Boom and bust in the First Bank of the United States after Hamilton’s refunding
- 1797 Land speculation bubble burst. Bank run in England on fear of French invasion
- 1802 Boom and bust after the Peace of Amiens between Britain and France
- 1807 Jefferson’s Embargo Act: restriction of trade with Britain
- 1812 Outbreak of the War of 1812 against Britain
- 1819 Land bubble burst; bank failures. Tightening by the Second Bank of the U.S.
- 1825 Emerging market (Latin America) bubble burst in London
- 1837 Collapse of bubbles in canals, cotton and land; run on banks
- 1847 Collapse of railway boom in London (following Bank Charter Act)
- 1857 Global market panic; railway bubble; failure of Ohio Life Co
- 1866 Failure of Overend Gurney and Co. in London; banking crisis
- 1869 Black Friday in NY: collapse of Gould and Fisk gold speculation
- 1873 Railroad bubble; Jay Cooke failure; end of silver coinage
- 1877 Great Railroad Strike: deflation and wage cuts following the Panic of 1873
- 1884 Tightening by NYC national banks; bank failures in NY
- 1893 Railroad bubble burst, bank failures, run on gold reserves; Sherman Silver Act
- 1896 Run on silver reserves; commodity price declines; National Bank of Illinois failure
- 1901 Cornering of Northern Pacific Railway stock
- 1907 Bankers’ Panic: cornering of United Copper Co; failure of Knickerbocker Trust Co
- 1910 Enforcement of Sherman Anti-trust Act: breakup of Standard Oil Co
- 1913 Drain of gold reserves to Europe in lead-up to WWI
- 1921 Depression of 1920-21: demobilisation, monetary tightening; severe deflation
- 1929 Wall Street Crash/Black Tuesday: collapse of 1920’s boom
- 1932 Great depression trough: widespread bank failures
- 1938 Monetary and fiscal tightening following New Deal: Roosevelt Recession
- 1942 Response to Japanese/German successes in WWII
- 1948 Monetary tightening by the Federal Reserve; recession of 1949
- 1953 Monetary tightening to combat post-Korean War inflation in 1952
- 1957 Eisenhower Recession: monetary tightening to combat inflation
- 1962 Kennedy Slide/Flash Crash; Cuban Missile Crisis
- 1969 Nixon Recession: monetary and fiscal tightening to combat inflation and deficit
- 1974 Oil crisis (OPEC embargo). Rising inflation and unemployment: stagflation
- 1979 Energy crisis (Iranian Revolution): monetary tightening under Paul Volcker
- 1982 Continued Fed tightening on energy crisis. Defaults by Mexico, Brazil, Argentina
- 1984 Continental Illinois bank failure and seizure by the FDIC
- 1987 Black Monday: global market crash, collapse of speculative boom
- 1990 Gulf War: spike in oil price; recession of 1990-92
- 1994 Tequila Crisis: Mexico peso devaluation. Federal Reserve rate hikes
- 1998 Asia crisis (began 1997), Russia default, LTCM failure
- 2001 Collapse of dotcom bubble; 9/11 attacks; corporate accounting scandals
- 2008 Collapse of housing bubble; Global Financial Crisis; Lehman, AIG etc. failures
- 2011 US debt ceiling crisis and credit rating downgrade. Eurozone sovereign debt crisis
- 2015 End of the Federal Reserve’s zero interest rate policy (Q.E. ended 2014)

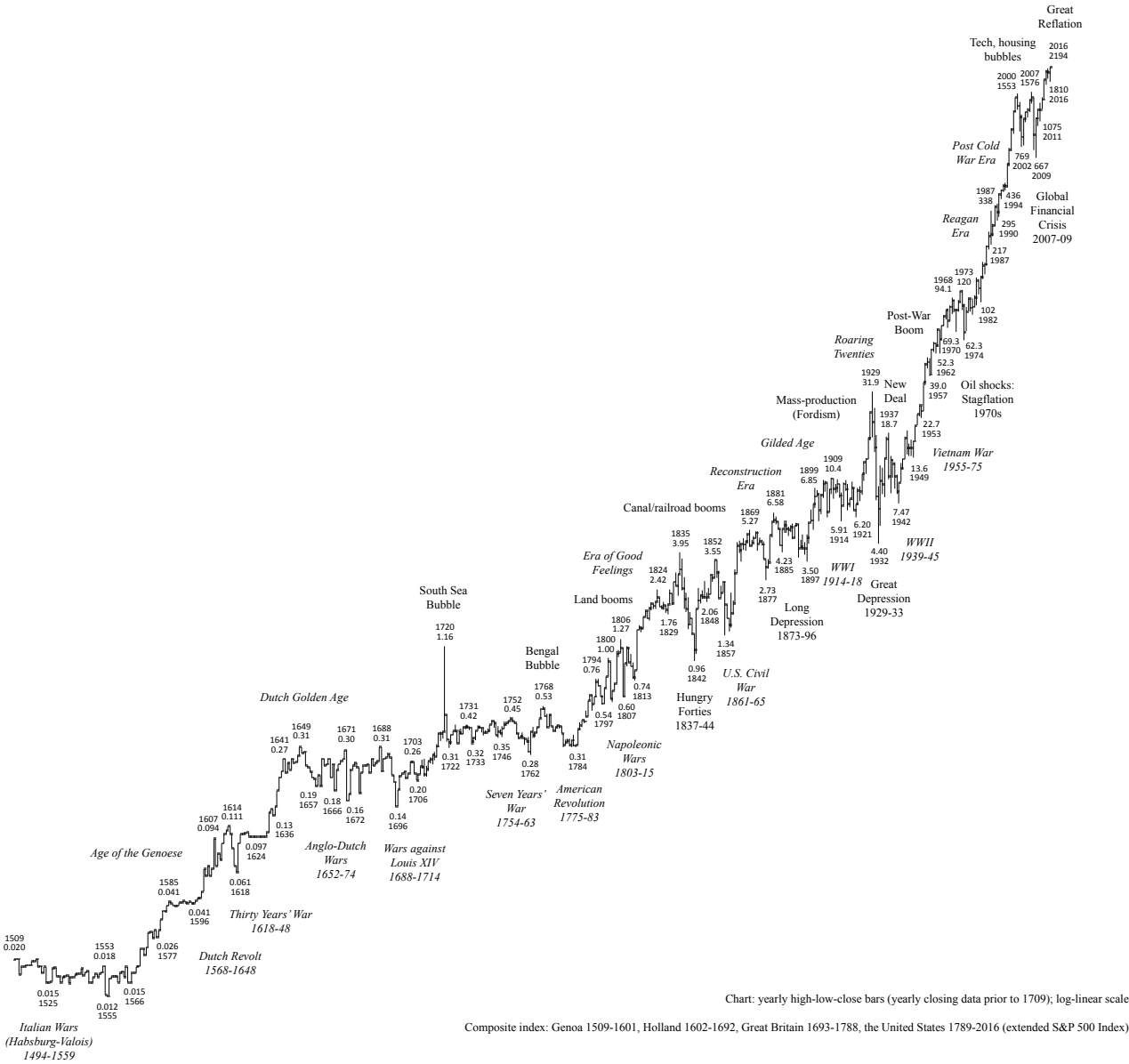


Chart: yearly high-low-close bars (yearly closing data prior to 1709); log-linear scale

Composite index: Genoa 1509-1601, Holland 1602-1692, Great Britain 1693-1788, the United States 1789-2016 (extended S&P 500 Index)