



# Chronology of finance

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March 2018

<b>Year</b>	<b>Event</b>
c15000BC	Earliest evidence of barter
c12500BC	Evidence of products acquiring an established value in barter
c12000BC	Evidence of first attempt at agriculture
c9000BC	Evidence that cattle and grain were used as a form of currency
c8000BC	Possible date of earliest records of accounts found in Near East
c4000BC	Earliest evidence of gold being used as a currency
c3500BC	First currency is believed to be issued in Mesopotamia
c2500BC	Date of seals found in Indus Valley, India, which may be oldest extant coins
c2300BC	First known instance of trading outside a City, in Babylon
c2000BC	First recorded tax records, onerous taxes in Iraq
c2000BC	Assyria and Babylonia established prototype banks that made loans to farmers and traders who carried goods between cities. They required payment of up to one sixtieth of gold deposited, arguably the first bank charges
c1760BC	Code of Hammurabi formulated in Babylon contains earliest laws on money
c1550BC	Earliest known use of boxes to store wealth
c1400BC	Egyptian records of subjects paying tax to Pharaoh
c1000BC	China makes small knives and spades in bronze for use as currency
c700BC	Gold coins of Grecian age are first known manufactured coins
c650BC	Coins made from electrum, an alloy of gold and silver, in Lydia, now in Turkey
c600BC	First known graduated income tax, in Greece
c600BC	First known standards set down for standards of coins, in Asia Minor
c400BC	First known use of silver coinage
393BC	First known international transaction when a sailor deposited funds with Athenian banker Pasion and collected gold from banker's father at end of journey, avoiding cost of transporting gold, and the risk of theft or accidental loss
352BC	Rudimentary public bank was formed in Rome, allowing for lending of money

c350BC	Aristotle considered that every object has two purposes: the purpose for which it was created, and a unit of wealth to be sold or bartered
c300BC	Ptolemy dynasty of Egypt introduces multiple taxes on imports, salt, grazing rights, produce and a poll tax.
c300BC	State depositaries replace temples as places to store private wealth
221BC	Development of standard coins in China
125BC	Tax collection in Roman empire is well-established as a system.
413AD	Roman God Moneta is worshipped, from which the word "money" is derived
c640	One of the earliest forms of accounting found in Muslim civilisations
c650	Moneymen operate in London from this time
c880	Coins of Alfred the Great struck in London
976	Accounting records show an early attempt at double-entry bookkeeping to prevent subsequent alteration of records
1040	Lady Godiva rides naked through Coventry in tax protest
11 <sup>th</sup> century	China issues first paper money
1100	Knights Templar run early bank in Middle East until 14 <sup>th</sup> century
1156	First known foreign exchange contract: two brothers borrowed 115 Genoese pounds and agreed to reimburse Constantinople 460 bezants
1157	Establishment of first state-backed bank, in Venice
1162	Henry II levies tax to support the Crusades
1215	Signing of Magna Carta. Introduction of principle that only Parliament may levy tax
1255	First known banking failure, in Venice
1279	William de Turnemire appointed master moneymen in England and subordinated other mints round London. First groat minted
1282	Currency is tested by the Trial of the Pyx, which continues to this day
1290	Britain expels Jews who had been widely extorted by the king for funds
1297	King Edward forced to sign "confirmation of charters" restricting the state's right to extract funds from business
1338	Law makes distinction between able-bodied poor and impotent poor
1340	Earliest example of double-entry bookkeeping, in Genoa
1343	First regular gold coinage in Britain
1349	Law passed making vagrancy illegal

- 1378 All guilds supporting members required to make returns to the King
- 1397 Founding of Medici Bank
- 1401 Series of laws in UK and other European countries against bankers accused of usury for making profits
- 1427 Income and property taxes introduced in Florence, Italy
- 1458 Earliest known treatise on double-entry bookkeeping
- 1464 First laws to ensure workers were paid wages in legal tender  
Reduction in weight of silver coins to half that of 150 years earlier
- 1472 Founding of Banca Monte del Paschi di Siena, based in Siena, Italy. It is the oldest bank still operating.  
Mint Board formed in London comprising warden, master and comptroller
- 1494 Luca Pacioli writes definitive account of double-entry bookkeeping, *Summa Arithmetica*
- 1522 First known long-term loan by a modern country: king of France assigns tax revenues to city of Paris for 200,000 livres
- 1531 Law passed to require vagrants to be whipped and persistent vagrants to be hanged
- 1533 Organised system of relief for poor is introduced in London
- 1535 Law required part of ear to be cut off for second offence of vagrancy.  
All churches required to collect alms to be applied to (but not given to) the poor
- 1540 Few remaining ecclesiastical mints closed by Henry VIII, in effect giving monopoly to Royal Mint
- 1542 Silver content in British coins reduced to reflect their value  
First bankruptcy law passed in UK. It made bankruptcy a crime
- 1543 First book in English on double-entry bookkeeping, by Hugh Oldcastle
- 1547 First known policy of marine insurance
- 1551 End of nine-year period in which Henry VIII raised funds from seignorage of reducing precious metal content of coins
- 1553 Formation of first joint-stock company: the Company of Merchant Adventurers to New Lands.
- 1557 Spain becomes the first sovereign state to declare itself bankrupt
- 1561 Elizabeth I visits Royal Mint to see completion of recoinage after debasement of 1542
- 1562 All residents of a parish could be assessed to raise alms to help the poor

- Maximum wage policy introduced. Restrictions introduced on masters dismissing servants. Bread prices were controlled under laws remaining in force until 1836
- 1569 First public lottery introduced in Britain
- 1571 Fraudulent Conveyances Act voids fraudulent agreements
- 1572 All local justices compelled to find the destitute and provide for them from alms
- 1575 Law requires every town to provide wood, flax and other materials for the forced labour of vagrants in a House of Correction
- 1583 First life insurance policy
- 1591 First fire insurance policy
- 1593 Vagrancy ceased to be punishable by death, imprisonment and cutting off the ear, though whipping remained
- 1597 Introduction of Poor Law Code
- 1600 British East India Company is incorporated
- 1601 Introduction of local rates, primarily to look after the poor under Poor Law  
Portcullis money struck for East India Company, first coinage export
- 1602 First share certificates issued, by Dutch East India Company  
First stock exchange formed, in Amsterdam
- 1609 Dutch bank Amsterdam Wisselbank leads Dutch economy and is arguably the world's first central bank. Bank of England is modelled on it
- 1618 First pawn shop opened, in Brussels
- 1624 First stamp duty imposed, on legal and official documents
- 1630 Charles I publishes a Book of Orders setting out a new scheme for Commissioners for the Poor
- 1631 First employment agency opens
- 1633 Earliest known "bank note" in the form of receipt for deposited gold
- 1635 Start of postal service in Britain
- 1640 Charles I seizes private gold stored at Royal Mint as a forced loan
- 1643 Faculty tax is introduced in New Plymouth, Massachusetts, USA. It is a precursor to income tax
- 1656 First European bank to use bank notes, in Sweden
- 1657 First classified advertisement in a newspaper
- 1659 First known cheque drawn on a British bank

- 1661 All vagabonds and beggars not in London were to be sent to their last abode or birthplace. Those in London were to be whipped, children forcibly apprenticed  
First European bank notes issued, in Sweden
- 1662 Act of Settlement and Removal made further attempts to deal with vagrants  
Screw presses and horse-drawn presses introduced in Royal Mint to replace hammering by hand
- 1670 Hudson Bay Company is formed  
Bank notes amended to be payable to bearer
- 1672 Charles I suspends payment of his debts
- 1676 First modern fire insurance policy with premiums is issued
- 1680 First postage stamps issued, in London  
Britain joins the gold standard
- 1694 Stamp duty introduced. It is still charged. Board of Stamps is formed  
Bank of England is formed
- 1695 Formation of Bank of Scotland
- 1696 The first national debt  
Isaac Newton appointed warden of Royal Mint, until 1727
- 1698 Tsar Peter the Great of Russia introduces a tax on beards  
First steam pump to remove water from mines
- 1704 Statute establishes that bank notes are negotiable
- 1705 Lord Chancellor given power to discharge some debts of a bankrupt
- 1710 Louis XIV introduces income tax in France
- 1712 Invention of atmospheric engine to remove water from mines
- 1716 Heavy tax imposed on gin and other spirits, so it was no longer possible to get drunk for a penny
- 1717 Policy of Royal Mint drives out silver and leads to gold becoming the standard
- 1719 Start of silk industry in UK  
Value of the guinea is fixed at 21 shillings or £1.05
- 1720 South Sea Bubble, shares rise to ludicrous highs before bursting
- 1722 Workhouse Test Act passed to keep down population of workhouses
- 1723 Birth of economist Adam Smith

- 1724 Daniel Defoe published first of three volumes about the social and economic conditions of England
- 1725 Bank of England starts to issue notes in fixed amounts
- 1728 First overdraft facility set up, by Royal Bank of Scotland
- 1731 Jethro Tull invents seed drill to mechanise farming
- 1733 Invention of the flying shuttle which reduced the cost of weaving
- 1745 Bank of England starts to use pre-printed banknotes completed by hand
- 1751 Silver thaler of Maria Theresa first struck
- 1752 Britain moves from Julian to Gregorian calendar. Start of tax year moves from 21 March to 5 April
- 1759 Formation of Lloyds Bank, originally Birmingham Bank founded by Samuel Lloyd
- 1762 First life insurance policies based on life expectancy
- 1763 First pre-printed cheque
- 1764 Watt adapts steam pumps for mines that use half the fuel
- 1765 Britain imposes stamp duty on USA, leading to war of independence
- 1770s Extensive recoinage of gold coins to replace old clipped coins
- 1772 First travellers cheques issued, in USA
- 1775 First building society, Kettley's in Birmingham
- 1780 Josiah Wade sets up what is arguably world's first accounting firm, auditing merchants' accounts. In 1979 it merged with Deloitte.
- 1781 Watt invents more efficient steam-powered vehicle
- 1782 Gilbert's Act bans workhouses from receiving able-bodied people. It also sought to prevent children being separated from their mothers
- 1784 Launch of mail coach service. Risks of robbery were so great that bank notes had two numbers printed on them, and were sent separately in halves
- 1785 USA adopts the dollar as its currency  
Board of Taxes is formed to manage taxes in England and Wales  
First building society formed outside the Midlands
- 1786 First reliable threshing machine significantly improves efficiency of farms
- 1791 The courts rule that Bank of England notes are currency
- 1792 Money orders are introduced
- 1793 Bank of England issues its first £5 notes  
Friendly Societies given legal recognition

- First general income tax is introduced, in France
- 1794 Machines introduced into wool trade. One machine could do the work of 30 people, leading to unemployment
- 1796 Bristol accountant Edward Thomas Jones introduces English system of bookkeeping claimed to be superior to Italian double-entry. It received widespread support in UK and parts of Europe before dying out
- 1797 Bank of England protects gold supply during Napoleonic wars by declaring its notes inconvertible until 1821
- 1799 Income tax introduced for first of three times  
Industrial action is made a criminal offence
- 1800 Silver coins are made to sterling silver standard of 92.5% silver and 7.5% other metals (mainly copper). This lasted until 1920
- 1801 First national census
- 1803 Income tax introduced for second time. It introduces the Schedules used for income tax until 2005 and for corporation tax until 2010
- 1806 First Truck Act makes it illegal to pay workers other than in coins
- 1810 First savings bank formed  
New Royal Mint opens at Tower Hill
- 1812 Luddites attack wool processing machines in Yorkshire at fears of job losses
- 1813 Commodity prices rise to twice that of 20 years previously, leading to gold changing hands for more than face value  
Insolvent Debtors (England) Act 1813 gave limited rights to get out of prison
- 1815 Poet William Wordsworth is made Distributor of Stamps for Westmorland  
Royal Mint strikes medals for first time: for Battle of Waterloo
- 1816 Act of Parliament declares gold as the sole measure of monetary value
- 1817 First issue of sovereigns, gold coin as currency  
New York Stock Exchange opens
- 1818 Crown minted in this year is oldest coin that is still legal tender (for 25p)
- 1819 Issue of silver and copper currency for small transactions and to end abuse of truck tokens
- 1820 Sir Walter Scott recommends accountancy as a worthy profession for his nephew, the first such high-profile acknowledgment. (The nephew became a solicitor)
- 1821 Bank of England resumes payment in gold for its notes

- 1823 Debtors' prisons allowed to have priests. Jailers put on state payroll
- 1825 Repeal of Combination Act which had made trade unions and industrial action illegal
- Financial crisis leads to many small banks collapsing and promotion of larger banks
- Bankrupts (England) Act allows people to start proceedings against themselves
- 1826 Country Bankers Act allows provincial banks to be established provided they have at least six partners and are at least 65 miles from Bank of England
- 1831 Formation of first building society, in USA
- 1833 Factory Act bans children under 9 from working in factory, limits working day for children up to 12 to eight hours, limits working day for those up to 18 to twelve hours, and requires children to have two hours' education a day
- There are now 430 country banks issuing notes
- Formation of London and Westminster Bank and National Provincial Bank of England, both now part of NatWest
- 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act is first attempt at national laws to deal with the poor
- Silver threepence coins minted. They are still legal tender for 3p
- Abolition of inhabited houses duty
- 1835 Formation of Birmingham and Midland Bank, now part of HSBC
- 1837 Start of 6-year American depression when 343 of 850 banks close
- 1838 Gold coins minted from this date remain legal tender
- 1840 First stamps go on sale for general postal use
- Outdoor relief was widely paid. It was an early form of social security benefit to those who would otherwise be in the workhouse
- Start of the penny post
- 1841 Formation of Heart of Oak friendly society which lasted until 1999
- 1842 Income tax re-introduced as a permanent "temporary" measure
- Parliament passes law banning boys under 10 and all women from working in mines
- 1843 First telegram sent in Britain
- 1844 Bank Charter Act restricts rights to issue bank notes to Bank of England and other banks who were already issuing them. Some Scottish and Irish banks still do.
- Railway Act requires all train companies to run at least one train a day that charged only one (old) penny a mile



Factory Act reduces minimum working age from 9 to 8, and reduces daily hours from 8 to 6½. Women restricted to 12-hour working day. Dangerous machinery had to be fenced.

- 1845 Bank Notes (Scotland) Act passed which allowed the 19 Scottish banks already issuing notes to continue doing so if they deposited their circulation value with Bank of England. Three Scottish banks still issue bank notes
- 1847 Factory Act reduces working hours for women and young people from 12 to 10
- 1848 Gold is discovered in California, leading to a gold rush  
Opening of world's first multiple retailer, W H Smith  
End of four-year period of "railway mania" when Parliament passed Acts to allow 12,000 miles of railway
- 1849 Inland Revenue is formed from Board of Stamps and Taxes, and Board of Excise  
Henry Mayhew starts survey into sweated work conditions
- 1850 Founding of American Express  
Law bans insuring children under 6 for fear of them being murdered
- 1851 Great Exhibition at Crystal Palace is visited by six million people
- 1852 Credit unions start in Europe, in Lower Saxony
- 1855 Pillar boxes introduced in London  
First time Bank of England note is signed by a cashier  
First overseas branch of Royal Mint: Sydney, Australia
- 1856 Bessemer process allows for large-scale manufacture of wrought iron  
Joint Stock Companies Act includes model set of articles which require company to keep records using double-entry bookkeeping
- 1858 Salvage of Lutine Bell which now hangs in Lloyd's of London
- 1860 Copper coins are made of bronze  
Minimum age for a miner increased from 10 to 12
- 1861 Introduction of Post Office Savings Bank  
Bankruptcy Act extends bankruptcy to all people, not just traders
- 1862 President Abraham Lincoln of USA authorises issue of "greenback" dollars as currency  
Companies Act introduced, requiring seven shareholders
- 1868 Japan develops banking systems later copied by other countries
- 1870 Institute of Accountants of London, first accounting body, held its first meeting

- Law introduced allowing foreign coins to be British legal tender under royal proclamation. The provision was never used and repealed in 1971
- End to practice of using freelances surveyors and assessors to collect tax
- Chancellor of the Exchequer becomes master of the mint (which he still is). Day-to-day administration devolved to deputy master
- 1871 First bank holiday, Whit Monday
- First mail order business
- Law codifies a distinction between friendly societies and trade unions, though there was (and still is) some overlap
- 1872 Institute of Accountants of London, drop London from their name.
- 1874 First publication of *The Accountant*
- 1875 Use of autolathe leads to sixfold increase in output per man hour
- 1876 First gift coupons offered in Britain
- 1877 Formation of Sheffield Institute of Accountants, first accountancy body
- Exchequer bills of government replaced by simpler Treasury bills
- 1879 Patent granted for the cash register
- Institute of Accountants rejects idea of admitting non-practising accountants (until 1942)
- 1880 Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales is formed by royal charter
- Britain adopts Greenwich Mean Time as the standard for time
- 1881 Introduction of postal orders
- 1882 Bills of Exchange Act passed. It is still law
- 1883 Start of parcel post
- Various bodies of chartered accountants are formed
- Bankruptcy Act establishes office of Official Receiver
- 1884 US Supreme Court rules that paper money may be legally issued
- 1885 Formation of the Corporate Treasurers' and Accountants' Institute, now CIPFA
- 1886 First box numbers used in advertisements
- President of Local Government Board issues a circular that working classes should not be allowed to become too familiar with the poor law

- 1887 Double florins of four shillings are minted for three years. They remain legal tender for 20p
- 1888 Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland is formed  
First credit union in England
- 1889 First edition of *Wall Street Journal*
- 1890 Double florins are no longer minted  
Partnership Act passed. It is still law
- 1891 World's first old age pensions paid, in Germany  
Patent issued for travellers cheques  
First street collection for charity  
Law passed making it illegal to scrape or clip coins  
Formation of Glasgow Corporation of Accountants
- 1894 Britain introduces death duties
- 1896 First motor insurance policy written in Britain  
First trading stamps, Sperry & Hutchinson in USA  
Barclays Bank formed from merger of 15 private firms
- 1898 Formation of Association of Scottish Chartered Accountants in London
- 1899 First time Royal Mint produced 100 million coins in one year
- 1900 USA joins the gold standard  
Age threshold for boys working in mines increased from 12 to 13  
Formation of Labour Party
- 1901 Incorporation of Institute of Municipal Treasurers and Accountants  
First billion-dollar deal: J Pierpont Morgan buys US mines and steel mills
- 1902 Income tax now generating same yield as excise duties
- 1903 Ford Motor Company is formed  
Institute of Certified Public Accountants is formed (now part of ACCA)
- 1904 First disregard in social security legislation: the first five shillings from a friendly society could be ignored when considering poor relief
- 1905 Unemployed Workmen Act passed to provide them with an income
- 1906 London and Central Associations of Accountants are formed
- 1907 Higher rates of income tax are introduced for higher incomes  
US banking panic as customers all try to get money out of banks

- 1909 First old age pensions paid  
David Lloyd George introduces “People’s Budget” and triggers a constitutional crisis with the House of Lords  
Supertax is introduced  
First credit unions formed, in USA  
USA passes 17<sup>th</sup> amendment to introduce income tax  
Selfridge’s and Woolworth’s open their first stores  
First travellers cheques generally issued  
Responsibility for excise duties passes from Inland Revenue to HM Customs, which is renamed HM Customs and Excise
- 1910 First labour exchanges opened
- 1911 US Supreme Court orders the break-up of Standard Oil as a monopoly  
Capital was considered in payment of old age pensions, the first time that capital is considered in a social security payment  
National Insurance Act passed, introducing or formalising benefits for unemployment, sickness and maternity, and providing health cover
- 1912 Introduction of national insurance
- 1913 First sickness and maternity benefits paid  
USA introduces the Federal Reserve, and federal income tax  
Provisional Collection of Taxes Act passed to allow taxes to continue to be collected while Finance Bill is still before Parliament
- 1914 Start of first world war  
Post Office controls all telephone companies except in Hull  
First flag day in Britain, for Belgian Relief Fund  
Income tax is increased to 1s 6d (7½%) in the pound  
Treasury introduces £1 and 10-shilling (50p) notes to conserve gold  
Federal Reserve Bank is created in USA
- 1915 It becomes illegal to buy a round of drinks in a pub  
Army pay becomes subject to a special rate of income tax
- 1916 National Savings certificates go on sale
- 1917 Government starts selling war loan, consolidating three loans  
Ministry of Reconstruction formed to build “homes for heroes” after the war
- 1918 End of first world war

- Westminster Bank is formed from merger
- First rationing of meat and butter. Penny post is abolished
- National Savings certificates go on sale
- First oilwell in Britain, in Derbyshire
- First consolidation of UK income tax law since 1842
- 1919 Law allows women to become members of professional bodies
- 1920 Silver content in silver coins reduced from 92.5% to 50%, until 1947
- Mary Harris becomes first woman chartered accountant, on basis of continuous practice since 1878
- Unemployment Insurance Act extends scope of unemployment benefit
- 1920s Royal Mint starts actively to seek orders from overseas countries
- 1921 Lloyds takes over Fox, Fowler & Co, the last independent English bank that issued its own banknotes
- First poppy day
- First charge cards introduced, Western Union in USA
- Unemployment benefit replaces previous social security provisions
- Tax relief introduced for pension contributions
- 1922 World's first shopping centre opens, in USA
- Franking machines are authorised for use
- Publication of Sir Gilbert Garnsey's definitive work on consolidated accounts
- Irish Republic gains independence from Britain
- 1923 German mark collapses to £1 = 183 billion marks
- 1924 Ethel Watts becomes first woman to qualify as a chartered accountant
- 1925 Britain rejoins the gold standard
- Summer time is introduced
- 1926 First payment of war widows pensions
- Cash on delivery parcel service introduced
- Betting tax is introduced
- General strike
- Qualifying age of state pensions reduced from 70 to 65. Means-testing of state pensions is abolished for those over 70.
- Formation of ICI from merger

- 1927 First employee shareholding scheme introduced  
New York Stock Exchange starts trading foreign shares
- 1928 Bank of England issue their first £1 and 10-shilling notes  
First charge cards (metal plates) with embossed numbers from which an image could be obtained on a carbonised form using a roller device
- 1929 Wall Street crash  
First telephone boxes  
Lundy, an island in Bristol Channel, mints the puffin coin — the only prosecution for issuing an illegal currency.  
Over four years, US Federal Reserve reduces money supply by 33%
- 1930 All Russian farms are declared to be collectives  
Trade unions protest at women taking men's jobs in industry  
First supermarket opens, in USA  
Certified accountants gain the right to audit municipal authorities  
Major reforms to poor law, including greatly increasing the area that was responsible for supporting the poor
- 1931 Bankruptcy of Creditanstalt, Austria's largest bank  
Britain comes off the gold standard for good  
Prince of Wales launches a "Buy British" campaign  
Britain imposes 100% duty on all imports  
The case *R v Kylsant* sees the director and auditor go to prison for issuing a false prospectus, hiding the existence of secret reserves in the accounts.
- 1932 Business reply-paid cards introduced  
Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg create a customs union  
Dow Jones share index hits a record low of 41.22  
5% war loan of 1917 converted to new 3½% war loan
- 1933 Great depression in USA. US President Franklin D Roosevelt prohibits private ownership of gold coin, gold bullion and gold certificates
- 1934 Securities and Exchange Commission formed in USA  
Germany imposes a six-month moratorium on loan repayments  
Train fares are cut to one penny (0.4p) per mile  
Unemployment assistance introduced for unemployed people who have insufficient national insurance record

- 1935 House of Lords declares tax avoidance is legal in *Duke of Westminster* case  
The right to demand gold against a bank note is abolished
- 1936 Formation of Building Societies Association  
Jarrow March to London in protest at lack of jobs
- 1937 German police seize Jewish bank accounts  
Silver threepence replaced by 12-sided brass coin
- 1938 Oil is discovered in Saudi Arabia  
Income tax is increased to 5 shillings in the pound (25%)  
USA establishes a minimum wage  
First time retailers agree to accept cards not issued by them
- 1939 Government guarantees that mothers can buy milk for no more than 2d (0.8p) a pint  
War is declared, and leads to food rationing  
Association of Certified and Corporate Accountants formed by merger
- 1940 Bank of England introduces metal strips into bank notes  
Purchase tax is introduced as temporary measure, until replaced by VAT in 1973  
State retirement age for women “temporarily” reduced from 65 to 60 for women (and not reversed until 2018)  
Government makes clear that parents must contribute to the costs of their evacuated children. Many children are then taken back  
Government introduces scheme to allow workers to pay income tax in weekly instalments over six months. Scheme fails, leading to PAYE in 1944.
- 1941 Income tax is raised to record level of 10 shillings in the pound (50%)  
Clothes and coal are rationed  
Government cuts price of potatoes to 1d (0.4p) a pound to encourage people to eat them  
Association of Certified and Corporate Accountants absorbs the Institute of Certified Public Accountants
- 1942 Government fixes maximum prices for clothes. Soap and sweets are rationed  
Formation of Oxfam  
Coffee and petrol are rationed. Icing on cakes is banned

Publication of Beveridge Report on post-war social security, with all-party support. It rationalises existing benefits into those funded by national insurance contributions and those provided as national assistance

Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales introduces *Recommendations of Accounting Principles*, early form of accounting standard

Institute of Chartered Accountants admits non-practising accountants

1943

Purchase tax is increased to 100% on luxury items

House of Lords rules that savings from housekeeping belong to the wife

All bank notes for amounts above £50 are demonetised except for interbank purposes

German Nazi government tries to wreck British economy by mass counterfeiting of British banknotes

1944

Pay As You Earn is introduced to collect tax at source on wages

First prefabricated houses go on display

Bretton Woods conference opens

Act passed to require 3% of workforce to be drawn from disabled. The scheme soon broke down with no prosecutions after 1974

1945

Family allowance introduced, first social security payment for children. Series of laws passed to introduce Beveridge proposals

End of second world war. Income rate reduces from 50% to 45%

Establishment of World Bank and International Monetary Fund

First UK tax treaty with non-empire country, USA

1946

Bread is rationed

Ballpoint pens, invented by Biro, go on sale in Britain for £2 15s (£2.75)

Luncheon vouchers introduced

Bank of England is nationalised. It moves away from commercial business to being a central bank

1947

Formation of private medical company BUPA

As austerity measures, the government bans use of coal and gas fires before September, pleasure motoring and foreign holidays, and rules that the Midlands must not use any power one day every week

Marshall Aid plan under which USA helps Europe

Founding of General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)

Silver is no longer used in silver coins, but replaced by cupro-nickel



- Accounts required to be “true and fair” rather than true and correct
- 1948 First full-size supermarket opens in Britain, Co-op at Manor Park
- Nationalisation of coal and electricity industries
- Higher rates of income tax introduced for investment income (until 1984)
- Germany adopts the Deutschemark as its currency
- End of rationing for bread, footwear and jam
- Bank notes for amounts between £25,000 and £100 million were produced for interbank use.
- New Companies Act introduces exempt private companies, and requires all companies to keep “proper books of account”
- Introduction of National Health Service and reform of social security
- Formation of European Economic Community, becomes the European Union
- 1949 Formation of Tokyo Stock Exchange
- Gas industry is nationalised
- First self-service laundrette is opened
- Pound is devalued from \$4.03 to \$2.80
- 1950 End of rationing for petrol and soap
- First six-figure win on football pools
- Death of Edward Hart, making the category of founder member extinct in the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales
- 1951 Europe’s largest oil refinery opens in Fawley
- End of US Marshall Aid Plan in Europe
- Start of four years of “Butskellism” where economic policies of Labour Chancellor Hugh Gaitskell were seen as the same as his Conservative successor Rab Butler
- 1952 Government ends wartime utility scheme that determines prices and standards of consumer goods
- 1953 End of rationing of sweets and tea
- 1954 End of rationing of meat and most other goods
- British Petroleum Company is formed
- Bank of England £1 and 10-shilling note becomes legal tender in Scotland until 1988
- Comedy film *The Million Pound Note* is released starring Gregory Peck

- Married women allowed to pay class 3 national insurance to establish an entitlement to state pension
- 1955 General Motors becomes first corporation to make more than \$1 billion profit
- 1956 Premium bonds introduced
- 1957 Diesel and petrol are last items to be de-rationed  
Royal Society of Accountants merges with chartered accountants
- 1958 Midland Bank becomes first bank to offer personal loans  
First credit card (with revolving credit) issued, by Bank of America
- 1959 Barclays is first bank to buy a computer  
Bank of England reintroduces £10 note  
European Free Trade Area (EFTA) comes into existence  
Deferment of state pension becomes possible  
Banks agree on a common form of machine-readable characters for cheques
- 1960 France adopts new franc as its currency, worth 100 old francs  
New pound notes go into circulation  
Farthing is demonetised  
OECD is formed  
Blind person's allowance introduced for income tax
- 1961 White fivers and other value white notes cease to be legal tender. New smaller ten-shilling notes goes into circulation.  
Graduated pension scheme introduced to supplement state pension
- 1962 Members of the European Economic Community agree first Common Agricultural Policy  
Opening of first legal casino in Britain  
Diner Club card launched in Britain  
Schedule D Case VII introduced to tax short-term capital gains
- 1963 American Express card launched in Britain  
Green Shield Stamps, trading stamps, become popular when provided by Tesco  
Law changed to allow wages to be paid using bank notes
- 1964 Royal Mint output exceeded 1 billion coins in a year for first time
- 1965 Corporation tax and capital gains tax introduced
- 1966 Parliament agrees to switch to decimal currency

- Barclaycard and MasterCard are introduced
- Government introduces a freeze on prices and incomes
- Shell announces a large fund of natural gas in North Sea
- Supplementary benefit replaces national assistance
- 1967 First natural gas pumped ashore from North Sea
- First cash dispenser introduced, by Barclays Bank
- Pound is devalued from \$2.80 to \$2.40
- First use of computer by Inland Revenue
- 1968 Start of popular but largely ineffective “I’m Backing Britain” campaign
- British Leyland formed from merger
- National Westminster Bank formed from merger. Barclays takes over Martin’s Bank
- First British cheque written in decimal currency. 5p and 10p coins issued
- London Bridge is sold to an American tycoon for £1 million
- Last Customs barriers removed between EEC countries
- Introduction of first and second class post
- Banks stop opening on Saturday mornings
- Family allowance could be clawed back by an income tax charge
- Formation of the Panel on Takeovers and Mergers
- First coins struck at new Royal Mint premises in Llantrisant, South Wales
- 1969 Pre-decimal halfpenny ceases to be legal tender
- First discovery of North Sea oil.
- 50p coin goes into circulation
- Cheque guarantee cards are introduced
- 1970 Lloyd’s allows women to become members. Equal Pay Act is passed, effective from 1975
- Ten-shilling note is demonetised, replaced by 50p coin. Bank notes include a portrait of the Queen. Half crown (12½p) is demonetised
- Banks are no longer allowed to mass-mail unrequested credit cards
- Chartered accountants and certified accountants vote against merger
- Non-contributory Category C pensions introduced for those who had reached state pension age by 1948

- Accounting bodies form the Accounting Standards Committee to draft Statements of Standard Accounting Practice (SSAPs)
- 1971 Britain adopts decimal currency. Threepenny bit and old pennies are demonetised
- Rolls-Royce goes bankrupt and is nationalised
- All restrictions lifted on Britons owning gold. Pound allowed to float freely against other currencies
- USA ends its trade embargo with China
- Stamp duty abolished on cheques and receipts
- Non-contributory Category D pensions introduced for those aged 80
- 1972 Unemployment exceeds one million
- First financial derivatives exchange is opened
- Access cards introduced
- Cash dispensers use data stored in magnetic stripe on cards
- Government imposes a 90-day freeze on wages, prices and rents
- Government introduces 25p bonus for pensions over 80, and a £10 Christmas bonus. Both are still paid at the same amounts
- 1973 UK joins what becomes the European Union
- VAT replaces purchase tax and selective employment tax
- Women are allowed on the floor of the London Stock Exchange
- Government introduces a largely ineffectual counter-inflation bill
- Prime minister Edward Heath talks of “unacceptable face of capitalism”
- Britain goes on to a three-day week because of miners’ strike
- Formation of International Accounting Standards Committee
- 1974 Government ends its statutory incomes policy
- Capital transfer tax replaces estate duty
- Wealth tax is proposed but not introduced
- 1975 Founding of Microsoft
- British Leyland is nationalised
- Britain asks IMF for a £1 billion loan
- It becomes illegal to pay women less than men
- National insurance ceases to be a fixed weekly amount, and is calculated as a percentage of earnings. Class 4 is introduced for self-employed

- Referendum confirms UK membership of what became European Union
- Last coin struck at Tower Hill mint: a gold sovereign
- 1976 Pound falls below \$2, reaching \$1.73
- 1977 Tesco stops issuing Green Shield Stamps, which soon disappear
- Visa card system developed from Barclaycard
- Married women lose the right to elect to pay a lower rate of national insurance for lower pension and reduced benefit entitlement, but those who have already elected may continue
- Child benefit as a cash benefit replaces child allowance for income tax
- 1978 Californian voters pass proposition 13 reducing their taxes
- Government abandons policy of blacklisting firms that breaches its incomes policy
- State Earnings Related Pension Scheme introduced with all-party approval
- EU Fourth Directive on company law adopts UK requirement that accounts must be "true and fair"
- 1979 Margaret Thatcher becomes prime minister and replaces Keynesian economics with monetarism. She demands a rebate from Europe
- Start of European Monetary System
- Mortgage rates rise to record 15%
- Insider dealing becomes a criminal offence
- Child relief against income tax abolished after two-year phasing out
- Visicalc is introduced, arguably first accounting software package
- 1980 Sixpence (2½p) ceases to be legal tender
- Government cuts benefits to strikers by half
- Inflation goes above 20%
- Unemployment exceeds 2 million for first time since 1935
- New Companies Act gives shareholders greater rights, and requires maintenance of capital
- 1981 IBM launches first personal computer
- President Reagan sacks all air traffic controllers when they refuse to end strike
- Budget raises taxes in a recession, successfully defying Keynesian economics
- Companies Act classifies companies according to size, and allows companies to buy back or redeem shares

- 1982 US authorities divest AT&T of 22 Bell Systems companies  
 Laker Airways goes bust. De Lorean cars go into receivership  
 Mexico announces it cannot repay its debts, triggering Latin American debt crisis  
 20p coin goes into circulation  
 Cork Report published. It leads to reforms of insolvency law
- 1983 Unemployment reaches record high of 3,224,715  
 £1 coins introduced  
 Introduction of statutory sick pay
- 1984 FT-SE 100 index introduced with a base of 1000  
 Start of miners' strike which the miners lose  
 Tax relief for life assurance premiums is abolished  
 Privatisation of British Telecom  
 Decimal halfpenny is demonetised  
 Abolition of investment income surcharge
- 1985 Amstrad launches PCW 8256, widely seen as first domestic computer. Microsoft releases Windows 1.0  
 LINK cash machine system established so banks' machines recognise each other's cards  
 Ultra vires doctrine repealed for contracts between companies and customers, but retained for contracts between companies and shareholders  
 Companies Act consolidates laws from 1948 and addresses many outstanding issues of company law
- 1986 Stock Exchange radically reformed under Big Bang  
 Inheritance tax replaces capital transfer tax  
 Period of statutory sick pay extended from 8 weeks to 28 weeks  
 It becomes possible to disqualify people from being company directors  
 Insolvency law reformed in new Insolvency Act
- 1987 FT-SE 100 index falls to record low of 978.7. Stock market crash.  
 50p coin is replaced by one of a smaller size  
 Gold Britannia bullion coins are minted in four denominations  
 First debit cards introduced  
 Differential rates of unemployment benefit end

- Statutory maternity pay is introduced
- Social Fund introduced as a long-stop social security benefit to meet needs not otherwise covered
- 1988 Bank of England ends attempt to link sterling to the Deutschemark
- Lloyds Bank becomes first bank to pay interest on current accounts
- British Steel is privatised
- Shops allowed to sell postage stamps
- Bank of England £1 and 10-shilling note cease to be legal tender in Scotland.
- Pound note ceases to be legal tender in England and Wales.
- First smart card, including computer chip, is tested in Japan
- Income support and Social Fund replaces supplementary benefit
- Cold weather payments are introduced
- 1989 Community charge (poll tax) introduced in Scotland
- Abolition of the dock labour scheme
- Abbey National votes to convert to a bank
- Water industry is privatised
- Midland Bank becomes first major company to run a workplace creche
- 1990 Time Warner is formed by a merger
- Community charge (poll tax) introduced in England and Wales, leading to widespread protest and disobedience campaigns
- 10p coin is replaced by one of a smaller size. Commemorative crowns (25p) are replace by commemorative £5 coins
- Retailers start offering cashback on debit cards
- Income tax relief given on private medical insurance for those over 60. It was repealed in 1997.
- Accounting Standards Committee is replaced by Accounting Standards Board which has statutory authority and greater powers. Financial Reporting Review Panel and Urgent Issues Task Force also set up
- Auditing Practices Board comes into being
- 1991 Pan Am airline ceases trading
- It is discovered that Robert Maxwell had raided his employees' pension funds to prop up his ailing companies. This leads to Pension Act 1995
- 1992 Bank of Credit and Commerce International is put into liquidation

- HSBC takes over Midland Bank
- Black Wednesday when sterling lost 16% of its value, interest rates were briefly raised to 15% and Britain left the Exchange Rate Mechanism for good
- 1p and 2p coins are minted from copper-plated steel
- Trading floor of London Stock Exchange is used for the last time
- 1993 First "booze cruise" to buy cheaper liquor in France
- IBM announces then record loss of \$4.97 billion
- Railways are privatised
- The Queen agrees to pay tax
- Lloyd's insurance market loses £6 billion, and announces radical changes
- Exchange Rate Mechanism is in effect abandoned when trading bands widened to 15%
- Bank notes have different coloured shapes to assist the partially sighted
- 5p coin is replaced by one of a smaller size
- Council tax replaces ill-fated community charge (poll tax)
- 1994 Launch of National Lottery
- 1995 World Trade Organisation comes into being
- Barings Bank collapses because of rogue trader Nick Leeson
- Founding of eBay
- Lloyds Bank takes over TSB
- Gold cards issued as a status symbol
- Disability Discrimination Act becomes law
- Statutory sick pay is paid at a fixed amount, unrelated to earnings
- Alternative Investment Market (AIM) comes into being
- 1996 Schedule C income tax is abolished
- Jobseeker's allowance replaces unemployment and is paid for six months instead of 12
- 1997 Bank of England is given independence to set interest rates
- Silver Britannia bullion coins are minted in four denominations
- Internet payments become possible, Barclaycard first to offer it
- 1998 Russia defaults on short-term bonds. Rouble loses 70% of its value
- £2 coin goes into circulation



- 1999
  - Bank Machine becomes first non-bank company to install cash dispensers
  - Euro is introduced as a banking currency, by eleven EU members
  - Dow Jones share index exceeds 10,000
  - FT-SE reaches then record 6930.2 before crashing
  - Internet banks start to issue cards
  - National minimum wage introduced
  - Minimum income guarantee introduced for pensioners until 2003
  - Tax credits introduced as new form of means-tested benefits
- 2000
  - Fuel depots are blockaded in protest at petrol prices
  - Stock Exchange issues new listing rules, replacing the yellow book
- 2001
  - Enron files for world's biggest bankruptcy
  - Debit and credit cards exceed cash for retail purchase amounts
  - International Accounting Standards Board started issuing international accounting standards
- 2002
  - Introduction of first money laundering laws
  - Plastic cards move from signature authorisation to chip and pin
  - Launch of Nectar card which accumulates points from shopping at certain stores, originally just Sainsbury's
  - UK average house price exceeds £100,000
  - Enterprise Act ring fences some assets of insolvent company for unsecured creditors
  - Accounting firm Arthur Andersen collapses in wake of Enron scandal
  - USA passes Sarbanes-Oxley Act to clamp down on corporate fraud
- 2003
  - SERPS is replaced by state second pension
  - Statutory paternity pay and statutory adoption pay introduced
  - Pension credit replaces minimum income guarantee
  - Existing tax credits replaced by child tax credit and working tax credit
  - International Accounting Standards Board starts to issue International Financial Reporting Standards rather than International Accounting Standards
- 2005
  - Bill Gates makes world's largest charitable donation of \$750 million
  - Merger of Inland Revenue and HM Customs and Excise to form HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC)
  - Listed companies are required to use international accounting standards

- 2006 Britain adopts droit de suite, payment to artists when pictures are resold  
Postal rates amended to reflect size as well as weight  
New Companies Act marks major reform of company law
- 2007 Run on Northern Rock signals start of banking crisis  
Nil rate band for inheritance tax becomes transferable between spouses  
Petrol price reaches £1 a litre  
HMRC loses details of 25 million people on discs. They are never found  
New requirement for people coming to UK to declare cash above €10,000  
Contactless payments offered for credit and debit cards up to £20  
Alternative Investment Market listed companies are required to use International Accounting Standards
- 2008 US government bails out Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae. UK government nationalises Northern Rock. Start of banking crisis  
Tightening up of money laundering laws  
Lehman Brothers, once the fourth largest bank in USA, files for bankruptcy.  
Bitcoin and blockchain are invented
- 2009 Bank rate reduced to (then) record low of 1%, and then 0.5%.  
Supreme Court rules against Office of Fair Trading in case about bank charges  
Quarter sovereign is first minted  
Royal Mint becomes a government-owned company
- 2010 BP loses £6.5 billion when it struggles to stop an oil leak in Gulf of Mexico  
Audit Commission is closed down  
Blockbuster video store files for bankruptcy  
Goldman Sachs is charged with \$1 billion fraud  
Limits introduced on amount of tax relief for pension contributions
- 2011 Standard rate of VAT increased from 17.5% to 20%  
European Court allows different rates of motor insurance for men and women  
Special one kilogram gold and silver coins are minted to mark 2012 London Olympics  
Cheques can no longer be guaranteed by a card  
Launch of Bitcoin, a virtual currency unsupported by assets and not regulated by any country

State pensions subject to “triple lock” of rising by highest of wage inflation, price inflation and 2.5%

2012

National debt reaches £1 trillion

Real time information is introduced for PAYE

5p and 10p coins are minted from nickel-plated steel. Commemorative £20 coins are minted

Kodak files for bankruptcy. Clinton’s Cards go into administration

Britain has a double-dip recession

Kwene Adroboli gambles away \$12 billion, nearly collapsing UBS Bank

Last typewriter made in Britain

Welfare Reform Act introduced, capping social security benefits

Workplace pensions introduced, phased in over five years

End of contracting-out for national insurance by defined contribution schemes

New drawdown rules for pension

Financial Reporting Council takes over Accounting Standards Board and Auditing Practices Committee, and issues standards directly

2013

Disincorporation relief introduced for corporation tax

Statutory residence test introduced for tax purposes

EU breaches its own rules to give a €10 billion bail-out to Cyprus

Tax relief abolished for luncheon vouchers

General Anti-Abuse Rule is introduced for tax avoidance

Square payment introduced, allowing bills to be paid automatically from data held on a mobile phone

TSB Bank is hived off from Lloyds

Universal credit is progressively introduced to replace existing means-tested benefits

High income child benefit charge introduced to clawback child benefit for high earners through income tax

Council tax benefit replaced by local authority schemes. Bedroom tax introduced. Housing benefit restricted. Social Fund replaced by local schemes. Disability living allowance replaced by personal independence payments

Deduction of earnings orders introduced by Department of Work and Pensions

Financial policy committee established at Bank of England

- 2014
- Fees are introduced for using employment tribunals (held to be illegal in 2017)
  - Real Time Information from PAYE returns is used to calculate tax credits
  - Employment allowance introduced for employer's national insurance
  - First "name and shame" list of employers not paying national minimum wage
  - First accelerated payment notices (APNs) issued for tax
  - End of any government reimbursement for statutory sick pay
  - National insurance thresholds cease to be linked to state pension
  - Stamp duty land tax moves from slab basis to slice basis
  - US introduces Financial Account Tax Compliance Act 2010
  - Tax discs are abolished for road vehicles
  - Same sex marriage is legalised
  - Scotland votes in a referendum to remain in the UK
- 2015
- Corporation tax rates reduced to a single rate of 20%
  - Introduction of marriage allowance for income tax
  - Final period rule for capital gains tax reduced from 36 months to 18
  - Class 3A national insurance is introduced
  - Taxpayers given greater freedom to draw funds from pension pot
  - EU forces Greece into extreme austerity measures to remain in euro
  - Contactless payment card limit increased from £20 to £30
  - All extant UK accounting standards replaced by new FRS series
  - Restrictions removed on drawing money from a pension fund
  - Scotland replaces SDLT with land and buildings transaction tax
  - Modern Slavery Act is passed
- 2016
- Scotland is given power to introduce Scottish rate of income tax
  - UK votes in a referendum to leave the European Union
  - Bank rate reduced to record low of 0.25%
  - Bank of England introduces first polymer plastic note, £5 note
  - State second pension is replaced by single tier pension
  - National living wage introduced as higher rate of national minimum wage
  - Auditing standards are rewritten and a new ethical code is introduced
  - FRSSE is replaced by accounting standard FRS 102 section 1A

- 2017
- Public bodies must collect tax and NI from IR35 contractors
  - It becomes a criminal offence to allow employees to help evade tax
  - Unexplained wealth orders may be issued to those suspected of living off crime
  - Fees for employment tribunals are ruled illegal
  - Tax-free childcare is introduced
  - Salary sacrifice schemes are largely negated as benefit can be taxed on amount of salary sacrificed
  - Certificates of tax deposit are discontinued
  - Budget date moves to November
  - Supreme Court rules that interest on tax refunds is calculated as simple interest and not compound interest
  - HMRC issues first simple assessments on information it holds where taxpayer has not completed a tax return
  - GAAR Panel gives its first ruling on artificial tax avoidance.
  - Taylor Report published on gig economy
  - Round pound coin is replaced by 12-sided coin. New polymer £10 note issued
- 2018
- International Financial Reporting Standard IFRS 15 on profit recognition becomes compulsory. It is the first international accounting standard to apply to USA.
  - General Data Protection Regulations come into force in May
  - It becomes illegal to make a charge for accepting a credit or debit card. HMRC refuses to accept payment by personal credit card
  - Carillion goes into liquidation
  - In Wales, land transaction tax replaces stamp duty land tax and landfill disposals tax replaces landfill tax
  - Scotland introduces 19% starting rate and 21% intermediate rates of income tax
  - Soft drinks industry levy is introduced
  - Paper £10 notes cease to be legal tender