



Economics Study Guide and Resources for Students

Economics is a diverse and involved subject that includes the actions of individuals, businesses, and municipalities on the local, national, and international level. When you take an economics course, you will learn valuable information about managing money, investing, and business topics such as supply and demand. It's important to understand how to use bank credit services and online banking as you manage your finances. A thorough understanding of personal and professional economics will help you manage your personal finances and conduct business professionally.

Humans attach value to many different things. People value time, resources, and commodities. The value placed on items can be subjective. With the determination of value, other economic questions and decisions arise. Individuals and business entities must weigh values as they set policies. Knowing the intricacies of a competitive market will enable you to understand how prices are set and what influences the market economy. With this knowledge, you won't necessarily like or be able to change prices, but you will understand how and why they go up and down periodically.

Understanding monetary policy is another integral part of a comprehensive economics education. The Federal Reserve is this country's central bank. Operating as such, the Federal Reserve is responsible for influencing the amount of money and the amount of credit available for the nation's economy. Fluctuations will have a direct impact on interest rates and the overall strength of the economy. As the Federal Reserve manages monetary policy, it strives to create stability in employment, interest rates, and prices.

Being informed about economics enables people to make wise decisions about personal finance. As an informed citizen, you will be able to contribute your thoughts and opinions about the society in which you live. You will also be able to apply your economic knowledge and skills to your personal and professional life. You will have the ability to manage your finances, budget for expenses, and set aside money for savings. Investing your money is another option, which enables you to use your money to make a profit. Some investments are relatively safe, while others involve more risk. Generally, safer investments have a lower return on investment, while riskier ventures would net you a higher profit if they are successful. Financing purchases is another aspect of managing personal finances. Some purchases, such as real estate or automobiles, are too expensive to pay for in full at the time of purchase. Consumers can choose to finance these purchases to pay for them over time. Banks will charge consumers interest for the luxury of paying over time. Before moving forward with a financed purchase, it's wise to calculate the total price you will pay by adding the cost of the item and the full amount of interest charged. Consumer credit scores are also important because these numbers indicate how well you manage your personal finances and can determine whether you can finance purchases and on what terms.

Basic Concepts

- [Division of Labor, Economic Specialization, and the Evolution of Social Stratification](#) (PDF)
- [Economic Institutions, Behavior, and Performance](#)
- [The Economics of Incentives](#) (PDF)
- [Property Rights](#)
- [Overview of Global Interdependence](#)

- [Scarcity: Why Having Too Little Means So Much](#)
- [Opportunity Cost](#)
- [Productive Resources](#) (PDF)
- [Understanding Basic Economic Concepts](#)
- [Why It's Important to Understand Economics](#)
- [What American Teens and Adults Know About Economics](#) (PDF)

Microeconomics

- [Micro and Macro: The Economic Divide](#)
- [An Introduction to Market Failures](#) (PDF)
- [Competition and Market Structures](#) (PDF)
- [Elasticity of Demand](#) (PDF)
- [The Future of Entrepreneurship](#) (PDF)
- [A Guide to Statistics on Historical Trends in Income Inequality](#)
- [Price Floors and Ceilings](#)
- [What Are the Economic Functions of Government?](#)
- [Economic Supply and Demand](#) (PDF)

Macroeconomics

- [Aggregate Demand](#)
- [The Aggregate Supply](#) (PDF)
- [Debt Versus Deficit: What's the Difference?](#)
- [What Are Business Cycles and How Do They Affect the Economy?](#)
- [What is Economic Growth?](#)
- [Employment, Unemployment, and Underemployment](#)
- [Domestic Product](#)
- [Inflation Nowcasting at the Cleveland Fed](#) (video)
- [Monetary Policy Basics](#)
- [Economic Snapshot: Nominal vs. Real Oil Prices](#)
- [What's the Difference Between Microeconomics and Macroeconomics?](#)

Personal Finance

- [Compound Interest Calculator](#)
- [What is a Credit Score and Why Does it Matter?](#)
- [The Basic Theory of Human Capital](#) (PDF)
- [The Economics of Insurance](#) (PDF)
- [The Investment Principle: Risk and Return Models](#) (PDF)
- [Personal Finance Project Resource Book](#) (PDF)
- [Building Wealth](#) (PDF)
- [Five Tips for Protecting Your Checking Account](#)
- [Savings Fitness](#) (PDF)
- [Budget Calculator](#)
- [Student Loan Repayment Estimator](#)
- [The ABCs of Figuring Interest](#) (PDF)
- [Save and Invest](#)

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