# Economic content of macroeconomic indicators

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## Topics:

- 1. What Are Economic Indicators?
- 2. Interpreting Economic Indicators
- 3. Economic Indicators and Measurements

## References:

- R. Dornbusch, S. Fisher, Macroeconomics, 1997, chap. 1.2.
- J. Sachs, F. Larren, Macroeconomics: A Global Approach, 1995, chap. 1.2.
- M. Burda, C. Viplosh, Macroeconomics. European Text, 1998, chap. 1.
- N.G. Mankyu, Macroeconomics, 1994, chap. 1,2,3.
- Shyam Sundar Sridhar What is economic development?
- , Mercantilist and Postdevelopmentalist, https://www.quora.com/What-is-economic-development

## 1. What Are Economic Indicators?

• An economic indicator is a metric used to assess, measure, and evaluate the overall state of health of the macroeconomy. Economic indicators are often collected by a government agency or private business intelligence organization in the form of a census or survey, which is then analyzed further to generate an economic indicator.

• Leading indicators, such as the yield curve, consumer durables, net business formations, and share prices, are used to predict the future movements of an economy. The numbers or data on these financial guideposts will move or change before the economy, thus their category's name. Consideration of the information from these indicators must be taken with a grain of salt, as they can be incorrect.

• Coincident indicators, which include such things as GDP, employment levels and retail sales, are seen with the occurrence of specific economic activities. This class of metrics shows the activity of a particular area or region.

Many policymakers and economist follow this real-time data.

• Lagging indicators, such as gross national product (GNP), CPI, unemployment rates and interest rates, are only seen after a specific economic activity occurs. As the name implies, these data sets show information after the event has happened. This trailing indicator is a technical indicator that comes after large economic shifts.

• Economic indicators can be divided into categories or groups. Most of these economic indicators have a specific schedule for release, allowing <u>investors</u> to prepare for and plan on seeing certain information at certain times of the month and year.

- <u>Financial analysts</u> and investors keep track of macroeconomic indicators because the economy is a source of <u>systematic risk</u> that affects growth or decline all industries and companies.
- Which is the Primary Economic Indicator?
- Gross Domestic Product (GDP)
- The GDP is widely accepted as the primary indicator of macroeconomic performance. The GDP, as an absolute value, shows the overall size of an economy while changes in the GDP, often measured as real growth in GDP, shows the overall health of the economy.

## **KEY TAKEAWAYS**

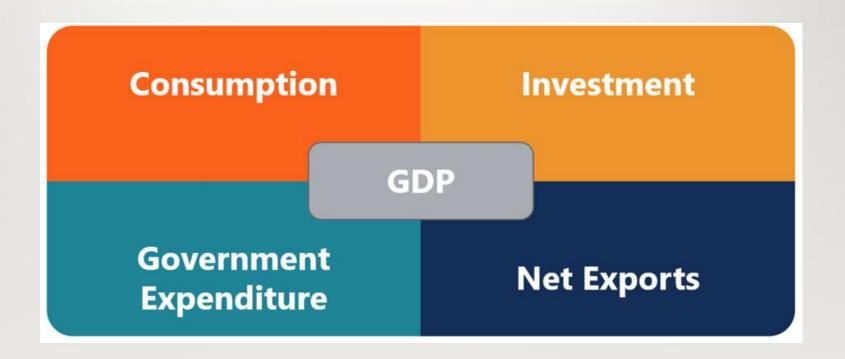
- An economic indicator is a piece of economic data, usually of macroeconomic scale, that is used by analysts to interpret current or future investment possibilities.
- Indicators also help to judge the overall health of an economy.
- Economic indicators can be anything the investor chooses, but specific pieces of data released by the government and non-profit organizations have become widely followed.
- Indicators can be leading—before events, lagging—after events, or coincident—real-time data sets.

- Interpreting Economic Indicators
- An economic indicator is only useful if one interprets it correctly. History has shown strong <u>correlations</u> between <u>economic growth</u>, as measured by GDP, and corporate profit growth. However, determining whether a specific company may grow its earnings based on one indicator of GDP is nearly impossible.

 Indicators provide signs along the road, but the best investors utilize many economic indicators, combining them to glean insight into patterns and verifications within multiple sets of data.

• There is no denying the objective importance of interest rates, gross domestic product, and existing home sales or other indexes. Why objectively important? Because what you're really measuring is the cost of money, spending, investment, and the activity level of a major portion of the overall economy.

## The GDP consists of four components:



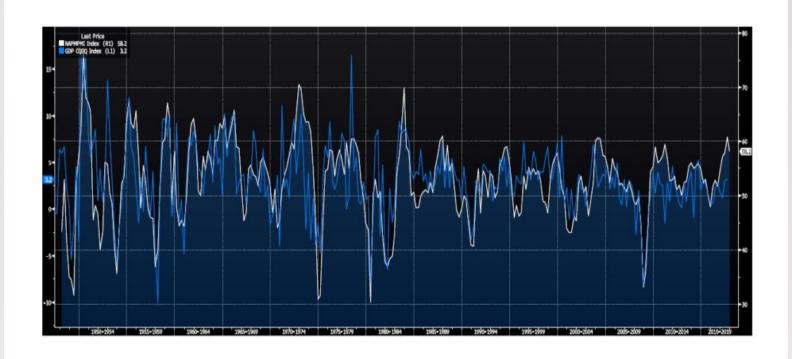
- As of this writing, the only country to not use GDP as an economic measure is the Kingdom of Bhutan, which uses the <u>Gross National Happiness index</u> as an alternative.
- However, for all its uses, GDP is not a perfect measure of the economy. It is because GDP can vary by political definition even if there is no change in the economy. For instance, the EU imposed a rule on indebtedness that a country should maintain a deficit within 3% of its GDP. By estimating and including the black market in its GDP calculations, Italy boosted its economy by 1.3% in its first year. It gave the Italian government more freedom in budgetary spending.

• Another issue relating to reliance on GDP as an economic indicator is that it is released every three months. In order to make timely decisions, alternative economic indicators that are released more frequently are used. The indicators, which are selected based on a high predictive value in relation to GDP, are used to forecast the overall state of the economy.

- What are Other Economic Indicators?
- Purchasing Manager's Index (PMI)
- In the US, one of the most followed economic indicators is the Institute of Supply Management's Purchasing Manager's Index or PMI for short. The ISM's PMI is a survey sent to businesses that span across all North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) categories to collect information on production levels, new orders, inventories, deliveries, backlog, and employment. The information collected can be used to forecast the overall business confidence within the economy and helps determine if it shows an expansionary or contractionary outlook.

• One of the reasons why PMI is one of the most followed economic indicators is because of its strong correlation with GDP while being one of the first economic indicators to be released monthly. The component GDP that the PMI most closely relates to is the Investment component.

NAPMPMI Index (ISM Manufacturing PMI SA)
GDP CQOQ Index (GDP US Chained 2009 Dollars QoQ SAAR)



## Consumer Purchasing Index (CPI)

• While not directly related to the GDP, inflation is a key indicator for financial analysts, because of its significant effect on company and asset performance. Inflation erodes the nominal value of an asset, which leads to a higher discount rate. Based on the fundamental principle of the Time Value of Money (TVM), it means that future cash flows are worth less in present terms.

• To measure inflation, one of the most followed indicators is the CPI. The measure of CPI is the change of prices of a basket of goods, relative to a base year. The formula is as follows:

 A basket is aggregated by the most consumed consumer goods or services. The price of the basket is then measured against the same basket in the base year. CPI includes several variants.

• Core CPI is the CPI excluding prices from energy and food-related products. It is because energy and commodity food markets experience high volatility in prices. Removing the two items provides a more stable measure of CPI.

### List of Economic Indicators

(Here is a list of the most common leading and lagging economic indicators):

- Leading Indicators
- Stock Market Performance
- Retail Sales Figures
- Building Permits and Housing Starts
- Level of Manufacturing Activity
- Inventory Balances
- Lagging Indicators
- GDP Growth
- Income and Wage Growth/Decline
- Unemployment Rate
- CPI (Inflation)
- Interest Rates (risking/falling)
- Corporate Profits

- Video Explanation of Economic Indicators
- Watch this short video to quickly understand the main concepts covered in this guide, including what economic indicators are, primary and other economic indicators, and the leading and lagging indicators.

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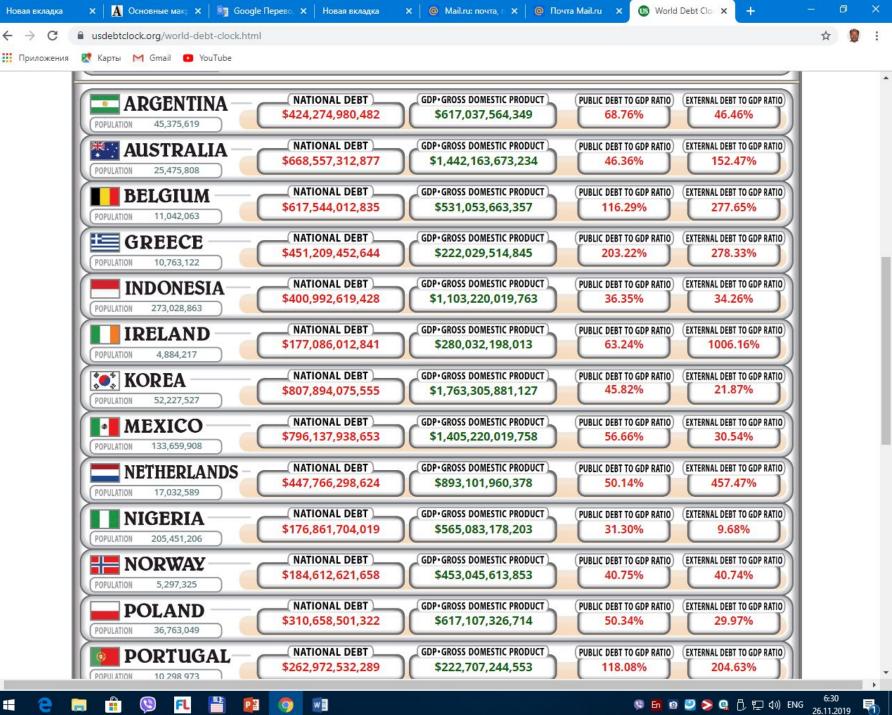
Scaffold understanding of the standard(s) and/or element(s). *Paraphrase the standard(s)* and/or element(s). *Rewrite the standard including synonyms or brief definitions in* parentheses and in a different color following the key terms found in step 1.

## •SSEMA1b

- The student will illustrate (draw) the means by which economic activity is measured (dignified).
  b. Define GDP (Gross Domestic Product), as the sum of Consumer Spending, Investment, Government Spending, and Net Exports (output expenditure model).
- https://www.usdebtclock.org/world-debt-clock.html

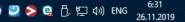












## 2.Economic Indicators and Measurements

## **GDP**

THE STUDENTS WILL ILLUSTRATE THE MEANS BY WHICH ECONOMIC ACTIVITY IS MEASURED. DEFINE GDP (GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT), AS THE SUM OF CONSUMER SPENDING, INVESTMENT, GOVERNMENT SPENDING, AND NET EXPORTS (OUTPUT EXPENDITURE MODEL).

## **Key Economic Indicators**

- 1. Gross Domestic Product (GDP)
- 2. The Business Cycle
- 3. The Unemployment Rate
- 4. Inflation
- 5. Consumer Price Index (CPI)

## **Economic Indicators and Measurements**

- KEY CONCEPT
  - National income accounting uses statistical measures of income, spending, and output to help people understand what is happening to a country's economy.
- WHY THE CONCEPT MATTERS
  - The economic <u>decisions</u> of millions of individuals determine the fate of the <u>nation's</u> economy.

    Understanding the country's economy will help you make better personal economic decisions.

- Microeconomics examines actions of individuals and single markets
- <u>Macroeconomics</u> examines the economy as a whole and how healthy the economy is.
- Macroeconomists use <u>national income accounting</u>:
  - statistical measures that track nation's income, spending, output
  - <u>Gross Domestic Product</u> (GDP) is most important investors measure

- The Components of GDP
  - GDP
    - market value of <u>final goods & services</u> produced in a set time period (usually quarterly)
  - To be included in <u>GDP</u>, product must fulfill three requirements:
    - 1. must be **final**, not intermediate product
    - 2. must be produced during the <u>time period</u>, regardless of when sold
    - 3. must be produced within <u>nation's</u> borders

- Calculating GDP
  - Output Expenditures Model
    - often used to measure GDP; tracks <u>four</u> sectors
    - 1. Consumer Spending household spending on durable, nondurable goods, services
    - <u>2. Investment</u>—measures what <u>businesses</u> spend on capital goods, inventory
    - <u>3. Government Spending</u>—federal, state, local; not transfer payments
    - 4. Net Exports value of exports minus value of imports
       \*Subtracting imports because it takes money out of our country

$$\bullet GDP = C + I + G + X - M$$

- (C) Consumer Spending +
- (I) Gross Domestic <u>Investment</u> +
  - (G) Government Purchasing of Goods & Services +
- (X) Exports (M) Imports (X-M)
  - \*Subtracting imports because it takes money out of our country.

- Two Types of GDP
  - When GDP grows, economy creates more jobs and business opportunities
  - 1. Nominal GDP—price levels for the year in which GDP is measured
    - states GDP in terms of <u>current value</u> of goods and services
  - 2. **Real GDP**—GDP adjusted for changes in prices
    - estimate of GDP if <u>prices</u> were to remain <u>constant</u>

## What GDP Does Not Measure?

- KEY CONCEPTS
  - GDP does not measure <u>all output</u>, such as
    - 1. Nonmarket activities—<u>free services</u> with potential economic value
    - 2. Underground economy—<u>unreported</u> market <u>activities</u>
  - GDP also does not measure:
    - 3. Quality of life- has **standard** of **living**

#### What GDP Does Not Measure?

- Nonmarket Activities
  - Some productive activities outside of economic markets and do not involve money.
    - Examples: performing own <u>home</u>
       repairs, volunteer work
  - Biggest nonmarket activity is homemaking

#### What GDP Does Not Measure

- Underground Economy
  - <u>Illegal</u> activities are unreported
    - when goods are rationed or restricted,
       <u>black market</u> arises
  - <u>Legal</u> activities paid for in <u>cash</u> not always declared
    - Estimates suggest underground economy
       8 to 10 percent of U.S. GDP

#### What GDP Does Not Measure?

- Quality of Life
  - Countries with high GDPs have <u>high</u>
     <u>living standards</u>
  - GDP does not show how goods and services are <u>distributed</u>
  - GDP does not show what goods are being made or services <u>offered</u>

#### Review

- Gross Domestic Product (GDP)
- The most important measure of an economy is the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the market value of all goods and services produced within a nation in a given time period. GDP includes spending by households, on durable and nondurable goods and on services; business investment, both fixed investment in capital goods and inventory investment in unsold goods; government spending; and net exports, the value of all exports minus the cost of all imports. Nominal GDP is GDP expressed in prices for the year it was measured. Real GDP is GDP adjusted for changes in the value of currency over time. GDP fails to measure some important things, though. It cannot track nonmarket activities, such as that provided by homemakers, underground economy, and it does not measure quality of life.

### Closure Activity #26

- Using the formula C + I + G + (X M) = GDP
- Calculate each nation's gross domestic product (GDP) and answer which one has the greatest GDP for Q1 (Quarter 1)?
- 1. U.S.- C= 11.2B, I= 2.9B, G= 5B, X= 2.2B, M= 2.8B
- 2. U.K.- C= 3B, I= 2B, G= 2B, X= 1B, M= 3B
- 3. China- C= 241B, I= 1B, G= 1B, X= 1.9B, M= 1.3B
- 4. Japan- C= 308B, I= 17B, G= 102B, X= 5.7B, M= 5.9B

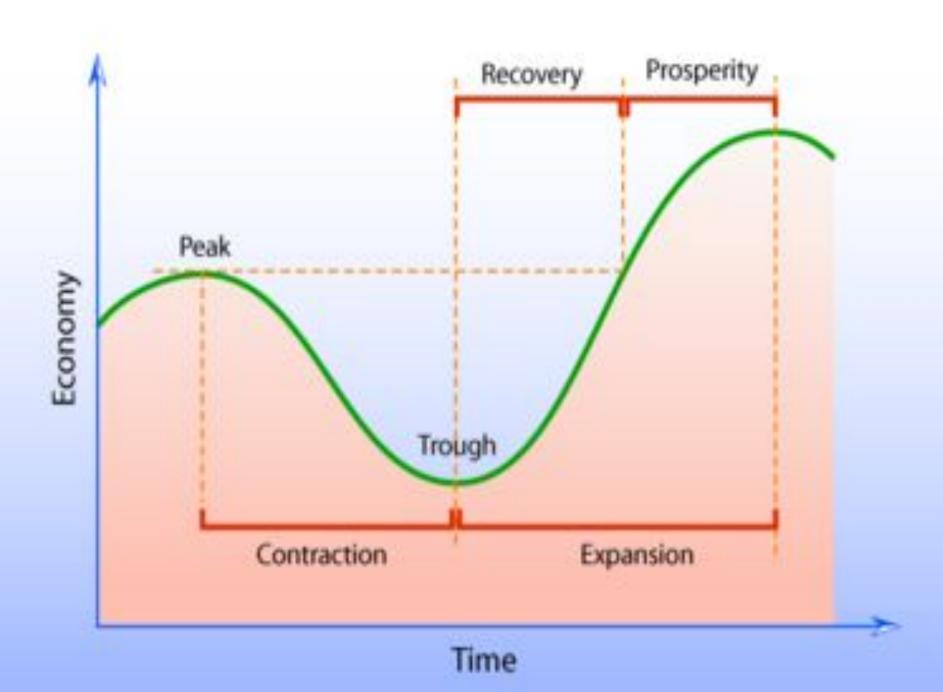
# Closure Activity #26

- 1. U.S. 18.5 Billion
  - 2. U.K. 5 Billion
- 3. China 243.6 Billion
- 4. Japan 426.8 Billion

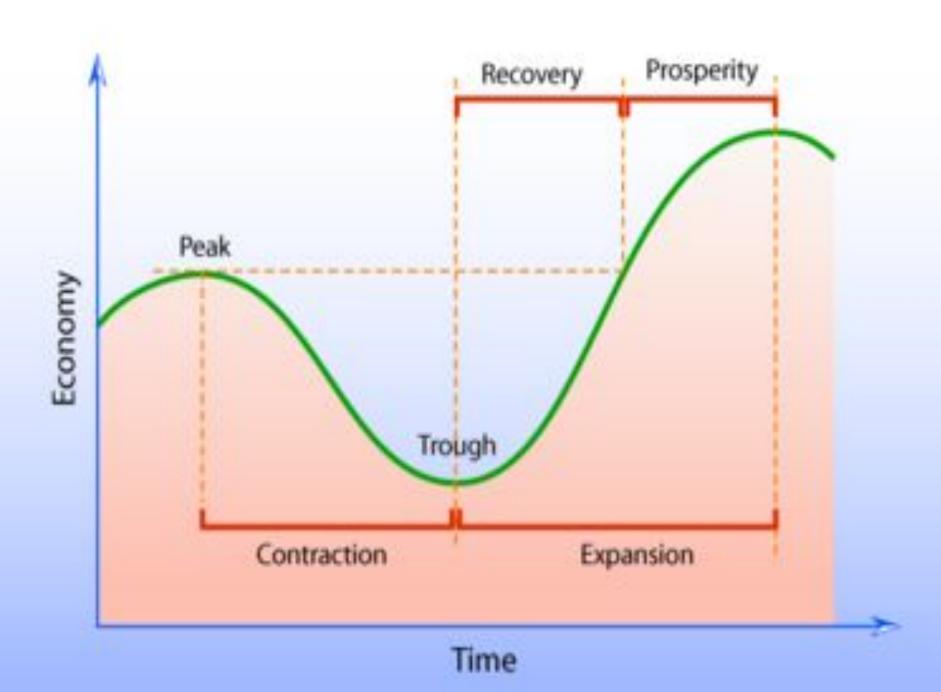
# Economic Indicators and Measurements

- Business Cycle
  - SSEMA1f
- Define the stages of the business cycle, include peak, contraction, trough, recovery, expansion as well as recession and depression.

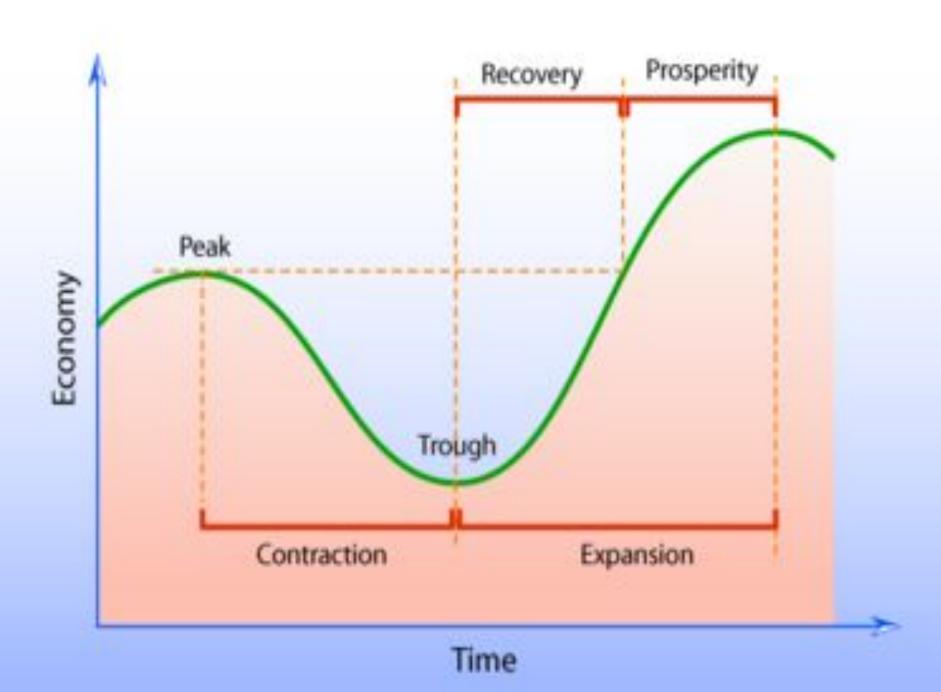
- KEY CONCEPTS
  - Changes in the <u>economy</u> often follow a broad <u>pattern</u>:
  - <u>Business</u> <u>cycle</u>—series of periods of expanding and contracting activity
    - Measured by increases or decreases in real GDP
    - Has **four** phases:
      - 1. Expansion
      - 2. Peak
      - 3. Contraction
      - 4. Trough (length can vary)



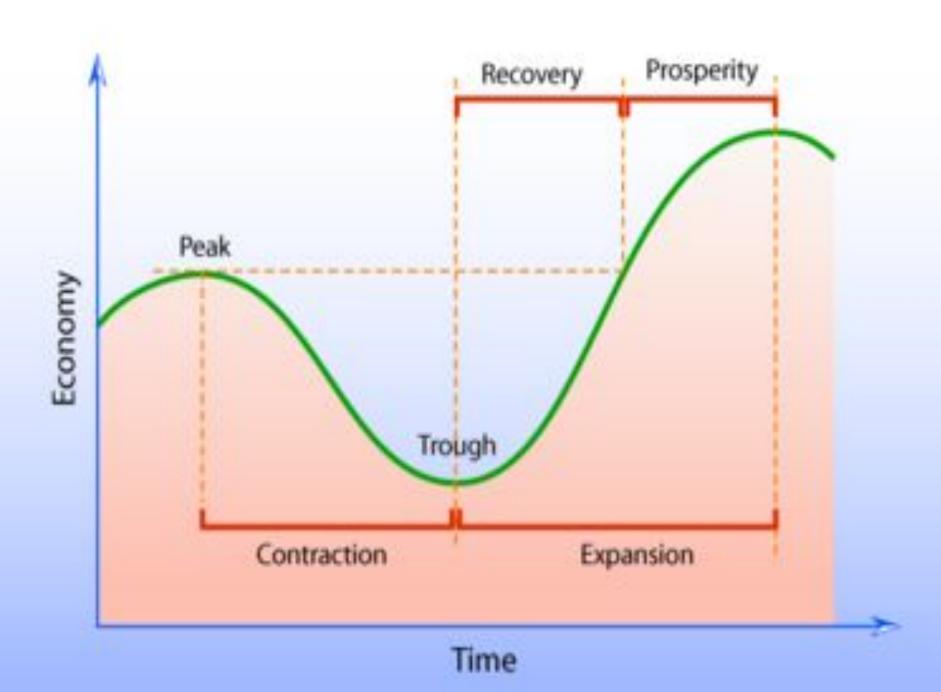
- Stage 1: Expansion/Recovery
  - Expansion is a period of <u>Economic</u>
     <u>Growth</u>—increase in real GDP
    - real GDP grows from a low point, or trough
  - During an expansion
    - **Jobs** easier to find; unemployment drops
    - More <u>resources</u> needed to keep up with spending demand
    - as resources become scarce, their **prices** rise



- Stage 2: Peak
  - Peak is point at which real GDP is highest
  - As prices rise and resources <u>tighten</u>, businesses become less profitable
    - businesses cut back production and real GDP drops



- Stage 3: Contraction
  - During <u>contraction</u>, producers cut back and <u>unemployment increases</u>
    - resources become less scarce, so prices tend to stabilize or fall
  - **Recession**—contraction lasting two or more quarters
  - Depression—long period of high unemployment and limited business activity
  - <u>Stagflation</u>—stagnation in business activity with inflation of prices



- Stage 4: Trough
  - Trough is point at which real GDP and employment stop declining

• A business cycle is **complete** when it has gone through **all** four **phases** 

### Recession versus Depression

So what's the difference?

#### Recession

• Is an economic downturn that usually lasts for six to eight months. i.e. Great Recession 2008-2013

#### Depression

• Is an extended period in which a nation's economy slows severely, causing hardship for households, businesses and the government.

i.e. Great Depression 1929-1939

# Review of Business Cycles

• The economy goes through somewhat predictable business cycles of expansion (when GDP increases), peak (the highest level of GDP), contraction (declining real GDP and employment), and trough (the lowest level of GDP and employment). Then the cycle begins again.



- Georgia Milestone Ouestions
- During the contraction phase of the
- business cycle
- Prices rise
- Resources become less scarce
- Resources become more scarge
- Unemployment declines



- Georgia Milestone Questions
- A recession is different from a depression
- because depressions
- Increases employment
- Causes severe hardships for households, businesses and the government
- Negative economic growth for 6 months or two quarters
- Increases expansions



- Georgia Milestone Questions
- Which of the following is a microeconomic calculation?
- Calculating the GDP
- Calculating the unemployment rate
- Calculating the interest due on a loan
- Calculating the consumer price index



- Georgia Milestone Questions
- GDP is an especially good estimate of
- Nonmarket activities
- Quality of life
- The economy's performance
- Underground economy

# Warm Up #33

BASED ON THINGS THAT ARE CURRENTLY GOING ON ARE WE STILL IN THE GREAT RECESSION, IF SO WHICH PART OF THE BUSINESS CYCLE DO YOU BELIEVE WE ARE IN? EXPLAIN.

**5 MINUTES** 

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#### •SSEMA1c

• C. Define unemployment rate, Consumer Price Index (CPI), inflation (increase in prices), real GDP, aggregate (cumulative) supply and aggregate (cumulative) demand and explain how each is used to evaluate the macroeconomic goals from SSEMA1a.

# Economic Indicators and Measurements

- Aggregate Demand & Aggregate Supply
  - SSEMA1c
- •Define...aggregate supply and aggregate demand and explain how each is used to evaluate the macroeconomic goals from SSEMA1a.

Now to further understand the Business Cycle, we need to look at changes in a nation's Aggregate Demand and Aggregate Supply.

AGGREGATE DEMAND

&

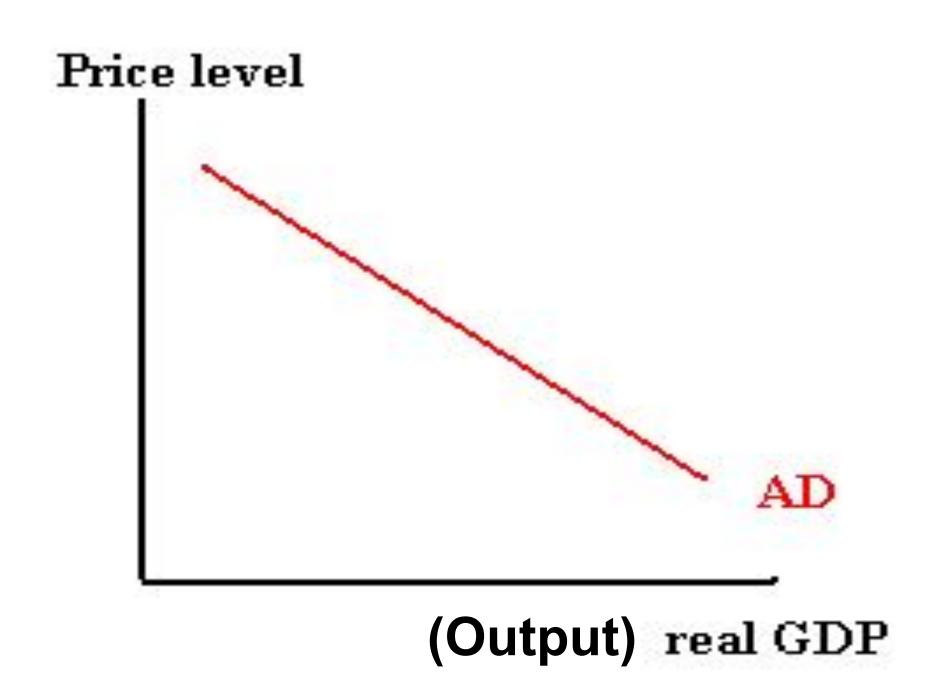
AGGREGATE SUPPLY

# Aggregate Demand and Aggregate Supply

- KEY CONCEPTS
  - Business <u>cycles</u> can be explained through concept of <u>supply</u> and <u>demand</u>
  - Apply concept to the economy as a <u>whole</u>

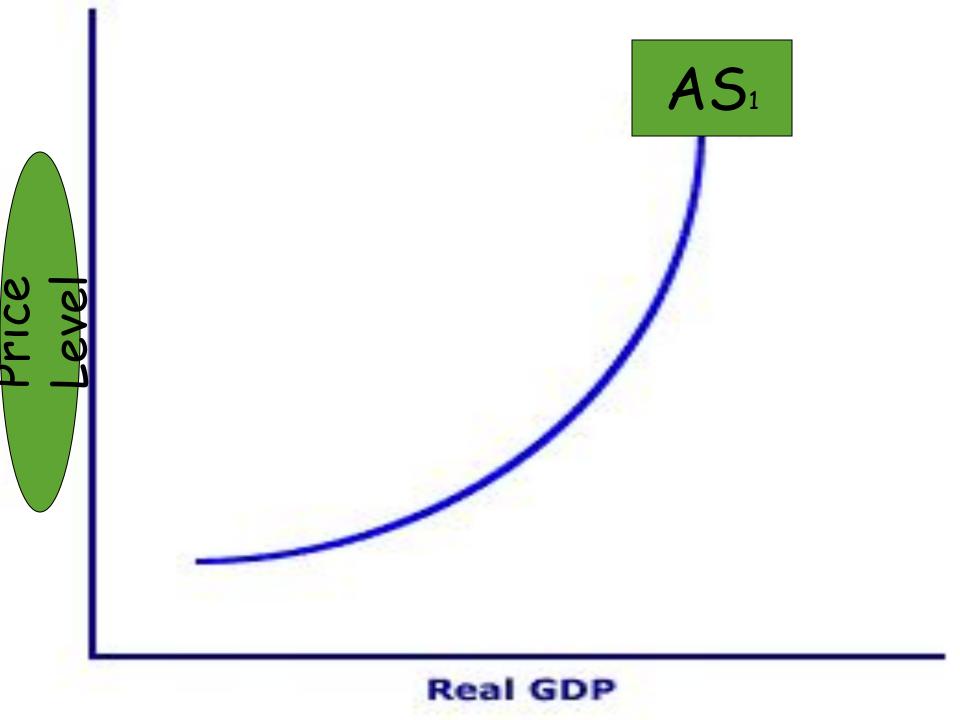
# Aggregate Demand and Supply p. 360

- Aggregate demand—is the total amount of goods and services that households, businesses, government, and foreign purchasers will <u>buy at each</u> and <u>every price level</u>
  - includes all goods and services, all purchasers
  - Aggregate demand curve is <u>downward</u> sloping
  - vertical axis shows average <u>price</u> of all goods and services
  - horizontal axis shows the economy's total output



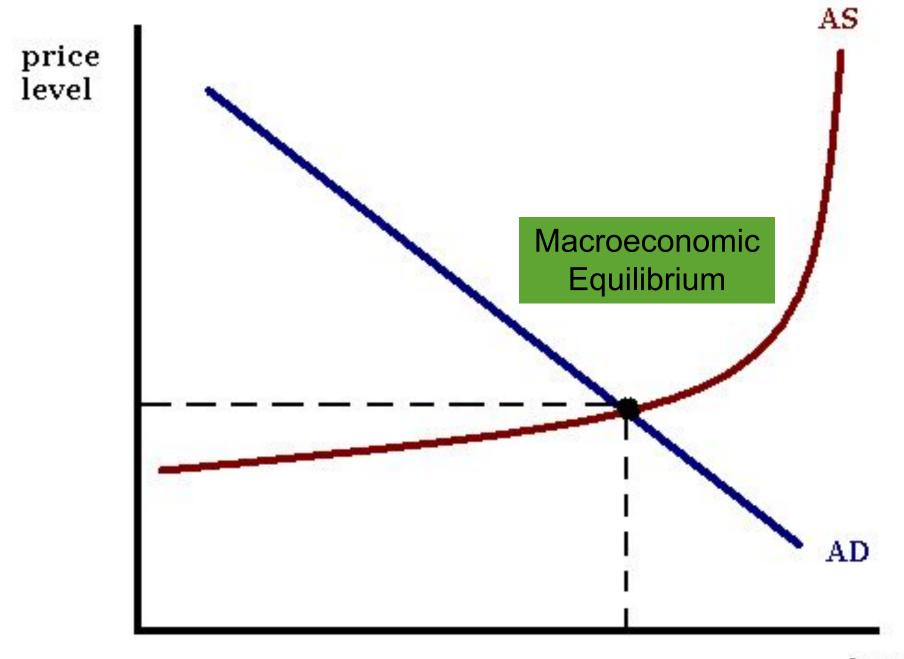
# Aggregate Demand and Supply p. 360

- Aggregate supply— is the total of all goods and services that <u>producers</u> will provide at every <u>price level</u>
  - Aggregate supply curve almost <u>horizontal</u> when real GDP is low
    - Businesses do not raise prices when economy is weak
  - Curve slopes upward as prices increase with rise in real GDP
  - Curve almost vertical with inflation—no rise in real
     GDP



# Aggregate Demand and Supply p. 361

- Macroeconomic Equilibrium
  - Macroeconomic equilibrium aggregate demand equals aggregate supply
    - aggregate demand curve intersects aggregate supply curve
  - Figures 12.9, 12.10: P1 is equilibrium price level; Q1 equilibrium real GDP
    - <u>increase in aggregate demand</u> shifts AD curve to right (recovery or expansion)
    - decrease in aggregate supply shifts AS curve to left (contraction)



real GDP

Review for Aggregate Demand and Aggregate Supply Changes in aggregate demand and supply can be brought on by business decisions, changes in the interest rate, consumer expectations, and external issues, such as natural disasters.

### Closure Activity #27

- Figure 12.7 & 12.8 Aggregate Demand and Supply Curves p.360
- 1. Analyze Graphs 1 & 2

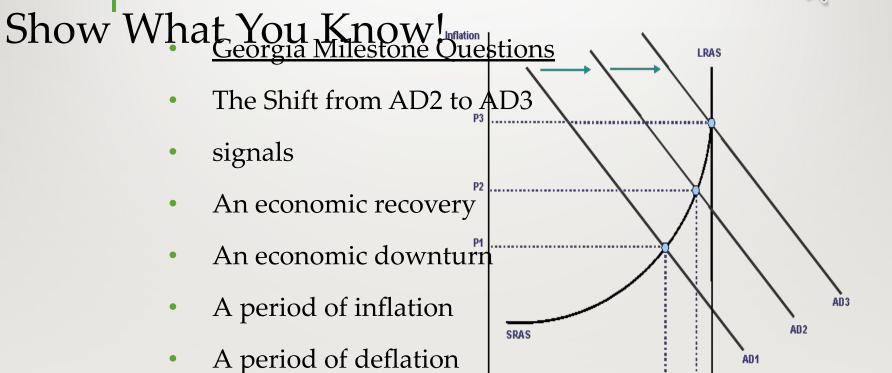
Figure 12.9 & 12.10 Aggregate Demand and Supply Curves and Application Analyzing Cause and Effect p. 361

- 1. Analyze Graphs 1 & 2
- 2. Application Analyzing Cause and Effect B



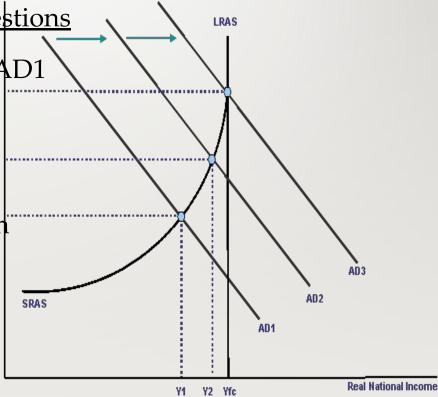
Real National Income

Y2 Yfc





- The shift from AD2 to AD1
- signals
- An economic recovery
- An economic downturr
- A period of inflation
- A period of deflation



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### •SSEMA1a

•a. Identify (classify) and describe (explain) the macroeconomic goals of steady Economic Growth, stable prices, and full employment.

# Economic Indicators and Measurements

**ECONOMIC GROWTH** 

SSEMA1A

IDENTIFY AND DESCRIBE THE MACROECONOMIC GOALS OF STEADY ECONOMIC GROWTH, STABLE PRICES, AND FULL EMPLOYMENT.

### **Stimulating Economic Growth**

- KEY CONCEPTS
  - Business cycle is pattern of expansion and contraction in economy
  - Economic growth can be measured by changes in real GDP

### What Is Economic Growth?

- Gauging Economic Growth
  - Early theories held that economic growth resulted from:
    - collecting <u>high taxes</u> from growing population
    - exporting more than importing
       Adam Smith argued "wealth of nations" came from productive capacities
  - But really the <u>BEST</u> measure of growth is increase in real GDP
    - rate of real GDP change is good <u>indicator</u> of how well resources used

### Class Assignment

- Do page 369 Figure 12.13 U.S. Real GDP
  - Per Capita
  - Analyze Graphs

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

### What Is Economic Growth?

- Population and Economic Growth
  - **Population** influences economic growth
    - if population grows faster than real GDP, growth may mean <u>more workers</u>
  - Real GDP per capita real GDP divided by total population
  - Real GDP per capita is a measure of <u>standard of living</u>
    - everyone does not actually have that amount; does not measure quality of life

- KEY CONCEPTS
  - Four factors influence <u>Economic</u><u>Growth</u>:
    - 1. Natural resources
    - 2. Human resources
    - 3. Capital
    - 4. **Technology** and Innovation

- Factor 1: Natural Resources
  - Access to natural resources is <u>important</u>
    - arable land, water, forests, oil, mineral resources
  - Resources not enough; also need free market, effective government
    - Nigeria has oil but low GDP per capita, widespread <u>poverty</u>
    - Japan has few resources but high GDP per capita from <u>industry</u> and <u>trade</u>

- Factor 2: <u>Human Resources</u>
  - Labor input—size of <u>labor force</u> multiplied by length of work week
  - <u>Population</u> growth made up for shorter work week since early 1900s
  - More important than size of labor force is its level of <u>human capital</u>

- Factor 3: <u>Capital</u>
  - More and better capital goods <u>increase</u>
     <u>output</u>
    - more and better machines can produce more goods
  - <u>Capital deepening</u>—increase in the capital to labor ratio
    - providing more and **better equipment** to each worker increases **production**

- Factor 4: <u>Technology and Innovation</u>
  - Technology, innovation make <u>efficient use of</u>
     <u>resources</u>, raise output
  - Innovations can increase economic growth
    - examples: reduce time needed to complete task; improve customer service
  - Information technology has had strong impact on economic growth
    - advances in production lower prices, make capital deepening cheaper (Wal-Mart self checkout)

#### Review for Economic Growth

• Economic growth takes place from year to year if the real GDP rises. Factors affecting economic growth include natural and human resources, a relatively high capital to labor ratio, and technology and innovation. An increase in productivity leads to an increase in GDP. Economic growth sometimes comes with a cost, especially pollution

### Closure Activity #28

- Do Figure 12.15 on page 373
  - Analyze Graphs

1. \_\_\_\_\_

•

• 2. \_\_\_\_\_

•



- Georgia Milestone Questions
- Economic growth depends on
- Building up the national treasury
- Efficient and productive use of resources
- Exporting more than importing
- Growing populations



- Georgia Milestone Questions
- Which of the following factors may <u>NOT</u> be
- essential for economic growth?
- Capital deepening
- Human capital
- Natural resources
- Technology and innovation



- Georgia Milestone Questions
- Which of the following is MOST important
- for economic growth?
- Efficient use of resources
- Ample tax revenues
- Availability of resources
- A large labor force

### Chapter 12 Tomorrow Definitions and TEST!

- GDP
- Nominal GDP
- Real GDP
- Economic growth
- Aggregate supply
- Aggregate demand
- Business cycle
- Peak
- Contraction
- Trough
- Expansion
- Productivity
- Macroeconomics

- Macroeconomic equilibrium
- Capital deepening
- Human capital
- National income accounting
- Consumption
- Investment
- Government spending
- Net exports
- Nonmarket activity
- Underground economy
- Quality of life
- Output Expenditure Model

