

Group Project #5: Fixed Income Research

Revised: March 22, 2010

Submit via Blackboard by 9am March 30.

You are delighted to have a summer internship in Barclay's capital markets group. Your first rotation: Fixed Income Research. On your first day, the Managing Director gives you a small project to get your feet wet. Noting that bond markets are driven largely by macroeconomic news, she asks you to write a report summarizing the near-term prospects for the US economy, specifically the first three quarters of the year.

Your report should be a professional business document, no more than 5 pages long, and include:

- A description of the most recent quarterly growth rates of US GDP — the last ten years, let us say.
- A list of what you think are the most useful indicators of future economic growth along with a short description of what they are and why you think they are useful.
- A qualitative analysis of recent behavior of the same indicators and whether they point to higher growth or something else.
- An overall assessment of the growth prospects of the US economy for the first three quarters of the year.

She hands you a spreadsheet containing a large number of economic indicators and walks away.

Keep in mind:

- If you do not recall what a professional business document looks like, review Group Project #2.
- Convenient sources of US data include the St Louis Fed's [FRED](#), the [Census Bureau](#), and the [Federal Reserve](#).