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# Economics Analysis: Real GDP, Nominal GDP, and Deflator

## Given Data

| Years | GDP (billions of dollars) | GDP Deflator (2012=100 base) | Real GDP (billions of 2012 dollars) | Population (billions) | Real GDP per capita (in 2012 dollars) |
|-------|---------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1970  | 1,073.3                   | 21.7                         | 4,946.5                             | 0.2032                | 24,414.0                              |
| 1980  | 2,857.3                   | 63.6                         | TBD                                 | 0.2265                | TBD                                   |
| 1990  | 5,963.0                   | 72.4                         | 8,236.8                             | TBD                   | TBD                                   |
| 2000  | 10,284.8                  | 87.5                         | TBD                                 | 0.2822                | TBD                                   |
| 2010  | 15,049.0                  | 109.5                        | 15,063.5                            | 0.3087                | 46,703.0                              |
| 2020  | 20,893.7                  | 113.7                        | 18,382.0                            | 0.3315                | TBD                                   |

## Step-by-Step Analysis and Calculations

### a) Complete the Table

#### 1. Calculation of Real GDP for 1980

$$\text{Real GDP} = ( \text{Nominal GDP} / \text{GDP Deflator} ) \times 100$$

$$\text{Real GDP for 1980} = ( 2,857.3 / 63.6 ) \times 100 = 4,491$$

By adjusting nominal GDP with the GDP deflator, the real GDP for 1980 is found to be 4,491 billion dollars.

#### 2. Population in 1990

$$\text{Real GDP per capita} = \text{Real GDP} / \text{Population}$$

$$\text{Population} = \text{Real GDP} / \text{Real GDP per capita}$$

#### 3. Calculation of Real GDP Per Capita for 1980

$$\text{Real GDP per capita} = \text{Real GDP} / \text{Population}$$

$$\text{Real GDP per capita (1980)} = 4,491 / 0.2265 = 19,824$$

#### 4. Calculation of Real GDP for 2000

$$\text{Real GDP (2000)} = ( \text{Nominal GDP} / \text{GDP Deflator} ) \times 100$$

$$\text{Real GDP for 2000} = ( 10,284.8 / 87.5 ) \times 100 = 11,759.2$$

#### 5. Calculation of Real GDP per Capita for 2000

$$\text{Real GDP per capita (2000)} = \text{Real GDP} / \text{Population}$$

$$\text{Real GDP per capita (2000)} = 11,759.2 / 0.2822 = 41,675.8$$

#### 6. Calculation of Real GDP per Capita for 2020

$$\text{Real GDP per capita (2020)} = \text{Real GDP} / \text{Population}$$

Real GDP per capita (2020) =  $18,382.0 / 0.3315 = 55,440.7$

Updated Completed Table

| Years | GDP (billions of dollars) | GDP Deflator (2012=100 base) | Real GDP (billions of 2012 dollars) | Population (billions) | Real GDP per capita (in 2012 dollars) |
|-------|---------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1970  | 1,073.3                   | 21.7                         | 4,946.5                             | 0.2032                | 24,414.0                              |
| 1980  | 2,857.3                   | 63.6                         | 4,491.0                             | 0.2265                | 19,824.0                              |
| 1990  | 5,963.0                   | 72.4                         | 8,236.8                             | Data Needed           | Data Needed                           |
| 2000  | 10,284.8                  | 87.5                         | 11,759.2                            | 0.2822                | 41,675.8                              |
| 2010  | 15,049.0                  | 109.5                        | 15,063.5                            | 0.3087                | 46,703.0                              |
| 2020  | 20,893.7                  | 113.7                        | 18,382.0                            | 0.3315                | 55,440.7                              |

b) Analysis Between 2000 and 2020

Percentage Change in Nominal GDP

Percentage Change in Nominal GDP =  $((\text{GDP}_{2020} - \text{GDP}_{2000}) / \text{GDP}_{2000}) \times 100$

Percentage Change in Nominal GDP =  $((20,893.7 - 10,284.8) / 10,284.8) \times 100 = 103.2\%$

Percentage Change in Real GDP

Percentage Change in Real GDP =  $((\text{Real GDP}_{2020} - \text{Real GDP}_{2000}) / \text{Real GDP}_{2000}) \times 100$

Percentage Change in Real GDP =  $((18,382.0 - 11,759.2) / 11,759.2) \times 100 = 56.3\%$

Percentage Change in Real GDP per Capita

Percentage Change in Real GDP per Capita =  $((\text{Real GDP per Capita}_{2020} - \text{Real GDP per Capita}_{2000}) / \text{Real GDP per Capita}_{2000}) \times 100$

Percentage Change in Real GDP per Capita =  $((55,440.7 - 41,675.8) / 41,675.8) \times 100 = 33.0\%$

Were people better off in 2020 than in 2000?

The increase in real GDP per capita by 33.0% from 2000 to 2020 suggests an improvement in the standard of living, implying people were better off in 2020 than in 2000.

Problems with using Real GDP per capita

- **Income Distribution:** Real GDP per capita does not account for income inequality.
- **Non-Market Transactions:** Several economic activities, like household work and black-market operations, are not included.
- **Quality of Goods and Services:** It may not accurately reflect changes in the quality of goods and services over time.
- **Environmental Factors:** It does not consider environmental degradation or sustainability issues.