Country Report Requirements

Intermediate Macroeconomics (ECO 3203)

University of Florida

Spring 2026

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Goal. Policy organizations and think tanks regularly publish reports on the state of the economy in various contexts. Your assignment is to write such a report in the context of your assigned country. The report is targeted both at the general public (e.g., media workers or citizens seeking information) as well as a technical audience (e.g., policymakers or private investors).

Details.

Structure. The report should follow this structure:

- Press release and executive summary
1. Macroeconomic fundamentals: provide a snapshot of output and its composition, and price and wage dynamics.
2. Production structure: describe capital and labor markets; show the relationship between investment/savings and the real interest rate; calculate the labor share (the share of output accrued to labor inputs).
3. International exposure: comment on the country's trade dynamics; show the relationship between trade surplus and the real exchange rate.
4. Economic outlook: comment on the country's technological progress and its growth path; provide forecasts of the economy on 6 and 12 month horizons.
5. Policy recommendations
   5.a. Fiscal policy: describe the country's exposure to external shocks and recommend fiscal policies to best weather them.
   5.b. Monetary policy: describe the country's monetary authority and remark on its independence and credibility; show the relationship between inflation and money supply.
- Appendices
   A. Data appendix: describe the raw data and your data cleaning process.
   B. Technical appendix: include the details of your statistical and econometric analyses; include inputs to generative AI models (if used).

This structure is the minimum requirement. You can add more sections as you see fit.

Data and empirics. The analyses in your report will be rooted in data. First, you need to find publicly available data on the country's economic indicators (output, consumption, investment, price index, wage index, capital and labor inputs and so on). The data should be as recent and as granular as possible. Second, you need to use statistical and econometric methods that are appropriate for your data. Justify your modeling choices in the technical appendix.

Sources. You are required to cite your sources. This extends to your data as well: each graph and table in your report that has empirical content needs to cite its sources.

Formatting. Your report should consist of a single PDF file, and a compressed file folder that contains the code for your empirical analyses. For the report, be as creative with formatting as you can: the more colorful and engaging your report is, the better. For the code, I expect it to be clearly structured and documented. You can use any programming language and computer tools you like, but your workflow must be reproducible.

Logistics.

Group members. Each group consists of at most 6 people, one of whom is the team leader. The team leader is responsible for communicating with me. Groups will be formed and countries will be assigned to groups once the class roll is finalized. I allow bilateral swapping of group members during the semester, but you need to ask for my permission in writing.

Deadline. The country report is due on April 19, 2026, 11:59pm (the day before the third review lecture). Late submissions will not be accepted.

Scoring. The overall score will reflect how appropriate the report is to its intended audiences. For a general audience, I will reward clear writing, an engaging press release/execute summary, and creative formatting. For a technical audience, I will reward the quality of the empirical analyses and the clarity of your computer code. All group members will receive the same score.

Use of generative AI. You are allowed to use generative AI tools, but you must do so in a transparent way. You must list all the tools used in the acknowledgments of your report. The appendix of your report also must include the model inputs you submitted. Do not include the raw model output or your modifications to them, only the inputs.

Throughout the semester. Creating these country reports is a large task. I suggest working on it throughout the semester, in tandem with the material covered in class. Help is available (see the syllabus for details). I will monitor your progress during the review lectures after the first two modules.