ECON 343   Final Project   Spring 2021   Hegerty

This assignment is due Thursday, May 4, before class (5:30pm). Early or late assignments will not be graded for students who have not discussed extenuating circumstances with the instructor. This assignment is worth 25% of your course grade.

Make sure your report integrates text and graphics. Upload a minimum of two files on the due date to the D2L folder. One must be a written report (.pdf format preferred), following the guidelines covered in class. Also upload an .xls (or .xlsx) file to D2L, including your new variables and any created graphs. You can make multiple worksheets in one file. This is just to show your work and does not need any special formatting or organization. I just check it to see what you have done. The report is the main product for this assignment.

Guidelines:
This assignment will require you to integrate all aspects of the course:
- Formulating a macroeconomic question
- Finding appropriate data
- Transforming data, calculating statistics, and analyzing economic relationships
- Preparing a professional-looking, well-written report
- Discussing your conclusions.

Choose a country that interests you (while this could be the United States, a different country might be easier). Think of ideas that you want to explore (economic integration, macroeconomic performance, monetary policy, virtual currencies, etc.). Remember that this course deals with macro, so don't choose a micro topic!

For your country, find relevant data on your country's central bank website. While you may use FRED or other sources for additional variables, at least one variable must come from a source based in the country you chose (including the U.S.: you must have one non-FRED source). The data appendix provides a good list of variables and transformations. **Your idea and available data might depend on each other**—in other words, don't settle on an idea without first making sure that the data you need are actually available.

Transform and plot your data, calculate statistics, and make graphs and tables in Excel (or other software). Try to use the data to explain events in your country. Then:

- Prepare a report that provides a summary of your thesis and main findings.
- Include an introduction, which clearly states your research question; a section that discusses your data-finding methodology; a section that discusses your findings; and a conclusion that summarizes results and explains actual events in your country.
- Include at least two time-series graphs and one table (which must include summary statistics such as the mean, etc.). You may also wish to include correlations or other multivariate statistics. Make sure you label your graphs and include descriptions in the footers. Use proper paragraphs and grammar.
- Follow all formatting guidelines, including text layout, charts and tables, and the proper use of colors and fonts.
- List your sources and describe specific variables (what you downloaded, plus what formulas you used for new variables) at the end. You don't need the numbers; just a description. Remember, reports rarely include large tables of raw numbers. Good luck!