

EC 210

Mini Project 2

Prof. Santetti

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PURPOSE: In this second *Mini Project*, you will have the opportunity to further apply your newly learned macroeconomic skills in a **broader context**.

In class, we have started looking more closely at **graphs**. And we will continue to do so! Visualizing macroeconomic data summarizes *dense* information in a single picture, also allowing for more meaningful interpretations, debates, and insights on the issue at hand. A fantastic source of diverse graphs is **Our World in Data**, where you can find several kinds of *socioeconomic*, *demographic*, and *environmental* data for free and with excellent *visualization tools*.

Every graph, regardless of its complexity, tells a **story**. This Project's purpose is to *unveil* some of these stories.

HOW THIS WILL WORK: You are asked to navigate the website, explore its topics, and select **at least 2 graphs** of your choice. As long as they can be related to the subjects we have seen so far (e.g., *economic growth*, *(un)employment*, *inflation*, and *well-being*), the **choice is yours** as far as the period, country(ies), and issue(s) covered.

The main interest for this project is, based on the graphs you've chosen, what are the **stories** behind the behavior(s) you observe in your figures? The graphs should be your starting point, and then you should try your best to unveil the **economic/social/political** contexts that may help to explain what you observe.

FORMAT: For this *Mini Project*, you may work either **individually** or with a **partner**. The **format** choice, once again, is up to you. Similar guidelines from *Mini Project 1* apply:

- **Video:** max. 10 minutes;
- **Podcast:** max. 15 minutes;
- **Essay:** 5–10 pages, double-spaced.

This may be a good opportunity to try a different **format** than you have used in the first *Mini Project*. This is where working in **pairs** may be helpful! In any case, be **creative** and **informative**! Your figures should tell a **story** that you will bring to life not only visually, but also in your **preferred format**.

GUIDELINES: When approaching your selected figures, **express yourself** by navigating through the following guiding questions:

1. **Why** did you choose this specific country (or group of countries), and this specific variable (or group of variables)?
2. **What** are the main *insights* that you get from your graphs?
3. **How** do your figures help to tell this story?

Of course, feel free to **expand** on these basic questions.

- **Assignment due Nov. 7 (Th), before class.**
- **Submissions on Canvas.**
- **Points Possible: 30**

QUICK RUBRIC:

- Your chosen subject(s) relate to the topics studied in class: **10 points**;
- Your submission contains the links to your chosen figures: **5 points**;
 - if you are writing an **essay**, you need *not* include the figures in your document. Just provide the link(s).
- Clear exposition of the problem at hand, including your motivation and interpretation of the figures you have selected: **15 points**.

NOTES:

- As the **COVID-19** pandemic has been explored in the first mini project, focus on **other** economic/global events this time around;
- **This page** contains useful information on citing your sources. You will **not get full credit** if the sources of your figures are not properly mentioned.