EC 210

Mini Project 2

Prof. Santetti

Spring 2025

`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.

To keep ourselves `on track`, we will set a `deadline` to decide on your graphs. You have until **March 18** to communicate Prof. Santetti about the two (or more) graphs you will be exploring.

- There is a `separate` Canvas assignment for this purpose. You simply have to tell (*i*) whether you will be working *individually* or in *pairs*; (*ii*) what will be the format of your project (video, essay, podcast, etc.); and (*iii*) links to your chosen graphs. A brief `1-page document` suffices.
- *Failing to submit* this portion of the assignment will imply `point deductions`.

`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 `with a partner` 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 though 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.

→ `Preliminary sumbissions due March 18 (Tu), before class`.
→ `Final sumbissions due March 27 (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.