Comparing Real and Nominal GDP

Year
1
2
3
4

Nominal GDP tells us that production increased by 132%

Real GDP tells us that production increased by 16%

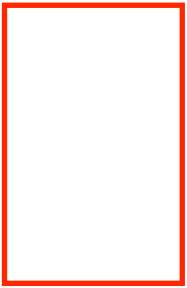
In fact, the combined increase in **both** prices and

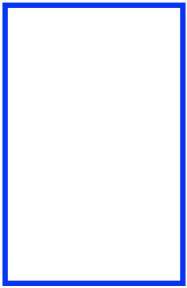
quantities was 132%

Since we keep prices the same, the increase in quantities alone was 16%

Real GDP gives us an accurate measure of the actual change in quantities without the distorting effect of prices

Changes in Nominal GDP are always larger than for Real GDP





Changes in Nominal GDP reflect the combined change in both prices and quantities

Changes in Real GDP reflect changes in quantity only

Year	r		
1			
2			
3			
4			

Nominal GDP

304

692 1,552

Year	Nominal GDP	
1	131	
2	304	
3	692	
4	1,552	

% Increase Nominal GDP 132.1 127.6 124.3

Year	Nominal GDP	% Increase Nominal GDP	
1	131		
2	304	132.1	
3	692	127.6	
4	1,552	124.3	

Real GDP

Year	Nominal GDP	% Increase Nominal GDP	Real GDP	
1	131		131	
2	304	132.1	152	
3	692	127.6	173	
4	1,552	124.3	194	

% Increase Real GDP 16.0 13.8 12.1

Year	Nominal GDP	% Increase Nominal GDP	Real GDP	% Increase Real GDP
1	131		131	
2	304	132.1	152	16.0
3	692	127.6	173	13.8
4	1,552	124.3	194	12.1

Comparing Real and Nominal GDP

Changes in Nominal GDP reflect the **combined** change in **both** prices and quantities

Changes in Real GDP reflect changes in quantity only

Year	Nominal GDP	% Increase Nominal GDP	Real GDP	% Increase Real GDP
1	131		131	
2	304	132.1	152	16.0
3	692	127.6	173	13.8
4	1,552	124.3	194	12.1

Changes in

Nominal GDP are

always larger than for Real GDP

Real GDP gives us an accurate measure of the actual change in quantities without the distorting effect of prices

200 Countries, 200 Years

Click here to view video