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Measuring a Nation's Income

PRINCIPLES OF

ECONOMICS

FOURTH EDITION

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Premium PowerPoint® Slides
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 2008 update

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In this chapter, look for the answers to these questions:

- § What is Gross Domestic Product (GDP)?
- § How is GDP related to a nation's total income and spending?
- § What are the components of GDP?
- § How is GDP corrected for inflation?
- § Does GDP measure society's well-being?

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Micro vs. Macro

§ **Microeconomics:**

§ **Macroeconomics:**

§ We begin our study of macroeconomics with the country's total income and expenditure.

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Income and Expenditure

§ Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

§ GDP also measures

For the economy as a whole,

The Circular-Flow Diagram

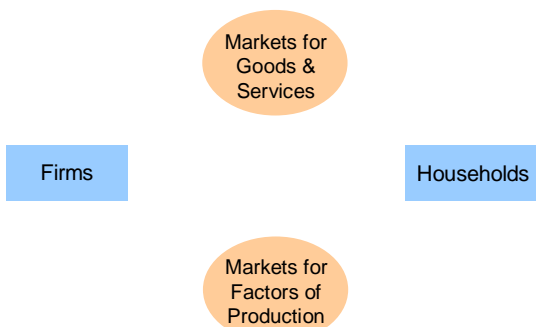
§ a simple depiction of the macroeconomy

§ illustrates GDP as spending, revenue, factor payments, and income

§ Preliminaries:

- **Factors of production**
- **Factor payments**

FIGURE 1: The Circular-Flow Diagram



What This Diagram Omits

- § The government
 - collects taxes
 - purchases g&s
- § The financial system
 - matches savers' supply of funds with borrowers' demand for loans
- § The foreign sector
 - trades g&s, financial assets, and currencies with the country's residents

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Gross Domestic Product (GDP) Is...

...the market value of all final goods & services produced within a country in a given period of time.

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Gross Domestic Product (GDP) Is...

...the market value of all final goods & services produced within a country in a given period of time.

Final goods:

Intermediate goods:

GDP only includes

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usually a year or a quarter (3 months)

The Components of GDP

§ Recall: GDP is total spending.

§ Four components:

§ These components add up to GDP (denoted Y):

Consumption (C)

§

§ Note on housing costs:

- For renters, consumption includes
- For homeowners, consumption includes

Investment (I)

§

§ includes spending on

Government Purchases (G)

§

§ G excludes **transfer payments**

Net Exports (NX)

§ NX =

§ Exports represent

§ Imports are

§ Adding up all the components of GDP gives:

U.S. GDP and Its Components, 2006

	billions	% of GDP	per capita
Y	\$13,247	100.0	\$44,244
C	9,269	70.0	30,958
I	2,213	16.7	7,390
G	2,528	19.1	8,443
NX	-763	-5.8	-2,547

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ACTIVE LEARNING 1: GDP and its components

In each of the following cases, determine how much GDP and each of its components is affected (if at all).

- A. Debbie spends \$200 to buy her husband dinner at the finest restaurant in Boston.
- B. Sarah spends \$1800 on a new laptop to use in her publishing business. The laptop was built in China.
- C. Jane spends \$1200 on a computer to use in her editing business. She got last year's model on sale for a great price from a local manufacturer.
- D. General Motors builds \$500 million worth of cars, but consumers only buy \$470 million worth of them.

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ACTIVE LEARNING 1: Answers

A.

B.

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ACTIVE LEARNING 1:

Answers

C.

D.

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Real versus Nominal GDP

§ Inflation can distort economic variables like GDP, so we have two versions of GDP: One is corrected for inflation, the other is not.

§ **Nominal GDP**

§ **Real GDP**

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EXAMPLE:

	Pizza		Latte	
year	P	Q	P	Q
2002	\$10	400	\$2.00	1000
2003	\$11	500	\$2.50	1100
2004	\$12	600	\$3.00	1200

Compute nominal GDP in each year:

2002:

2003:

2004:

Increase:

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EXAMPLE:

year	Pizza		Latte	
	P	Q	P	Q
2002	\$10	400	\$2.00	1000
2003	\$11	500	\$2.50	1100
2004	\$12	600	\$3.00	1200

Compute real GDP in each year,
using 2002 as the base year:

Increase:

2002:

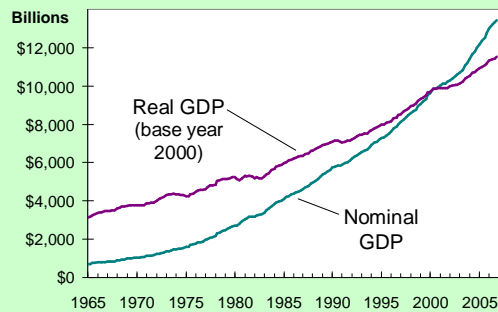
2003:

2004:

EXAMPLE:

year	Nominal GDP	Real GDP
2002		
2003		
2004		

**Nominal and Real GDP in the U.S.,
1965-2006**



The GDP Deflator

§ The GDP deflator is a measure of the overall level of prices.

§ Definition:

§ One way to measure the economy's **inflation rate** is

EXAMPLE:

year	Nominal GDP	Real GDP	GDP Deflator
2002	\$6000	\$6000	
2003	\$8250	\$7200	
2004	\$10,800	\$8400	

Compute the GDP deflator in each year:

2002:

2003:

2004:

ACTIVE LEARNING 2: Computing GDP

	2004 (base yr)		2005		2006	
	P	Q	P	Q	P	Q
good A	\$30	900	\$31	1,000	\$36	1050
good B	\$100	192	\$102	200	\$100	205

Use the above data to solve these problems:

- Compute nominal GDP in 2004.
- Compute real GDP in 2005.
- Compute the GDP deflator in 2006.

ACTIVE LEARNING 2:

Answers

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GDP and Economic Well-Being

§

§ But GDP is not a perfect measure of well-being.

§ Robert Kennedy issued a very eloquent yet harsh criticism of GDP:


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Gross Domestic Product...

“... does not allow for the health of our children, the quality of their education, or the joy of their play. It does not include the beauty of our poetry or the strength of our marriages, the intelligence of our public debate or the integrity of our public officials. It measures neither our courage, nor our wisdom, nor our devotion to our country. It measures everything, in short, except that which makes life worthwhile, and it can tell us everything about America except why we are proud that we are Americans.”

- Senator Robert Kennedy, 1968



GDP Does Not Value:

Then Why Do We Care About GDP?

- § Having a large GDP enables a country to afford better schools, a cleaner environment, health care, etc.
- § Many indicators of the quality of life are positively correlated with GDP. For example...

GDP and Life Expectancy in 12 Countries

