

Understanding the Economy

Course Description

Understanding the economy and coping with the economic environment is critical in today's business performance, which is a major concern for managers and investors. The course will address macro-economic factors that may affect the performance of the business. Macro-economic factors include business cycles, interest rates, economic policy, inflation, unemployment, housing starts, money supply, and foreign exchange rates. For example, how the Fed's monetary policy affects corporate earnings is stressed. A variety of economic statistics and indicators are also explained in depth.

Completion Deadline & Exam: This course, including the examination, must be completed within one year of the date of purchase. In addition, unless otherwise indicated, no correct or incorrect feedback for any exam question will be provided.

Course Level: Overview. This program is appropriate for professionals at all organizational levels.

CPE Credits: 8 (CPA)

Category: Finance and Economics

Prerequisite: Basic Accounting

Advanced Preparation: None

Course Learning Objectives

Module 1: Understanding Economic Data and Indicators

After studying this module you will be able to:

1. Identify economic trends and indicators.
2. Recognize sources of economic data/variables to be analyzed.

Module 2: The Scope of Economics

After studying this module you will be able to:

1. Distinguish between the private and public sector of the economy.
2. Recognize elements of economic systems.
3. Identify the goals of economic policies.

Module 3: Basic Concepts in Economics

After studying this module you will be able to:

1. Recognize the relationship between economic decisions and marginal measures.
2. Identify and apply different economic concepts and decisions.

Module 4: Fundamental Macroeconomic Concepts

After studying this module you will be able to:

1. Identify economic issues of unemployment and inflation.
2. Recognize the factors of unemployment and the business cycle.

Module 5: Measuring Economic Activity

After studying this module you will be able to:

1. Recognize key elements in the money supply and GDP.
2. Identify different measures of inflation.

Module 6: Equilibrium Output and Income

After studying this module you will be able to:

1. Recognize equilibrium outputs and income and natural interest rates.
2. Identify the components of investment.
3. Recognize and calculate the marginal propensity to save.

Module 7: Fiscal Policy

After studying this module you will be able to:

1. Recognize the elements of fiscal policy and the components of aggregate demand.

Module 8: Money, Financial Markets, and the Banking System

After studying this module you will be able to:

1. Recognize the primary function of money and the role of financial institutions.
2. Identify the role of the interest rates and the money supply.

Module 9: Monetary Policy

After studying this module you will be able to:

1. Recognize the relationship between investment and interest rates.

Module 10: The Full Macroeconomic Model

After studying this module you will be able to:

1. Recognize the value of the Phillips curve and its application to monetary policy for price stability and employment.
2. Identify the cause of stagflation and some potential solutions.

Module 11: International Trade and Finance

After studying this module you will be able to:

1. Recognize some key attributes of the international trade and the foreign exchange market.
2. Calculate exchange rates.

Module 12: Issues in Macroeconomics

After studying this module you will be able to:

1. Recognize monetarism theory and Keynesian economics.