

Learning Objectives

- Identify the types of economic indicators that exist, and recognize the unique characteristics of each type.
- Recognize the characteristics and economic impact of key economic indicators, including those related to unemployment, consumer sentiment and confidence, inflation, productivity, housing, manufacturing, and international trade.
- Identify the components of gross domestic product (GDP), and recognize how economic indicators impact these components.
- Recognize how changes in economic indicators and the actions of the Federal Reserve impact financial market activity.

CHAPTER 1 – ECONOMIC INDICATORS AND BUSINESS CYCLES

- THE BUSINESS CYCLE
- INTRODUCTION TO ECONOMIC INDICATORS

CHAPTER 2 – FINANCIAL MARKETS AND INTEREST RATES

- STRUCTURE OF FINANCIAL MARKETS
- KEY FINANCIAL MARKETS
- OVERVIEW OF INTEREST RATES
- DETERMINATION OF INTEREST RATES

CHAPTER 3 – GDP AND MONTHLY INDICATORS

- GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP)
- ECONOMIC INDICATORS AND GDP COMPONENTS

CHAPTER 4 – FEDERAL RESERVE AND MONETARY INDICATORS

- THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM
- MONETARY POLICY
- THE MONEY SUPPLY
- FOLLOWING THE FED

CHAPTER 5 – UNEMPLOYMENT AND CONSUMER INDICATORS

- THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
- THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION REPORT
- CONSUMER SENTIMENT AND CONFIDENCE
- PERSONAL INCOME AND OUTLAYS

CHAPTER 6 – INFLATION AND PRODUCTIVITY INDICATORS

- TRACKING INFLATION
- INFLATION MEASURES
- INFLATION AND COMMODITIES
- PRODUCTIVITY AND ECONOMIC GROWTH
- PRODUCTIVITY INDICATORS

CHAPTER 7 – INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL INDICATORS

- INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION
- HOUSING AND CONSTRUCTION

CHAPTER 8 – INTERNATIONAL TRADE INDICATORS

- INTERNATIONAL TRADE REPORT
- MEASURING TRADE BALANCES