



ABOUT A DEGREE IN ECONOMICS

Economists study how society distributes resources, such as land, labor, raw materials, and machinery, to produce goods and services. They may conduct research, collect and analyze data, monitor economic trends, or develop forecasts. Economists research a wide variety of issues including energy costs, inflation, interest rates, exchange rates, business cycles, taxes, and employment levels, among others.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Economist	Budget Control Analyst	Commercial Banker
Accounting Firms	Public Policy Consultant	Credit Manager
Financial Analyst	Market Analyst	Bank Officer
Purchasing Manager	Research Analyst	Professor

RELATED SKILLS

Analytical	Research	Communication
Problem solving	Interpersonal	Critical thinking
Ability to multi-task	Organized	Attention to detail
Independent	Focused	Management

HIRING INSTITUTIONS

Banking Institutions	Business Corporations	Investment Companies
Colleges and Universities	Political Consulting	Non-Profit Organizations
Manufacturing Industries	Social Service Agencies	Government Agencies
Research Institutes	Retail Companies	Insurance Companies
Agriculture Agencies		

JOB OUTLOOK

Employment of economists is expected to grow about as fast as the average for all occupations. The demand for workers who have knowledge and skill in economics is projected to grow faster, but these workers are often in occupations other than economist. Job prospects will be best for those with graduate degrees in economics. Economists held about 15,000 jobs in 2006. Government employed 52 percent of economists, in a wide range of agencies, with 32 percent in Federal Government and 20 percent in State and local government. The remaining jobs were spread throughout private industry, particularly in scientific research and development services and management, scientific, and technical consulting services. A number of economists combine a full-time job in government, academia, or business with part-time or consulting work in another setting.

Employment of economists is concentrated in large cities. Some work abroad for companies with major international operations, for U.S. Government agencies, and for international organizations, such as the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, and United Nations. (Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics)

WORK ENVIRONMENT

Economists have structured work schedules. They often work alone, writing reports, preparing statistical charts, and using computers, but they also may be an integral part of a research team. Most work under pressure of deadlines and tight schedules, which may require overtime. Their routine may be interrupted by special requests for data and by the need to attend meetings or conferences. Frequent travel may be necessary. (Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics)

