

ECONOMICS

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
Accounting Firms
Financial Analyst
Purchasing Manager

Budget Control Analyst
Public Policy Consultant
Market Analyst
Research Analyst

Commercial Banker
Credit Manager
Bank Officer
Professor

RELATED SKILLS

Analytical
Problem Solving
Ability to Multi-task
Independent

Research
Interpersonal
Organized
Focused

Communication
Critical Thinking
Attention to Detail
Management

HIRING INSTITUTIONS

Banking Institutions
Colleges and Universities
Manufacturing Industries
Research Institutes
Agriculture Agencies

Business Corporations
Political Consulting
Social Service Agencies
Retail Companies

Investment Companies
Non-profit Organizations
Government Agencies
Insurance Companies

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)

COMPANIES THAT HIRED TU STUDENTS

BizJet International, Dollar Thrifty Automotive Group, MassMutual Asia, Paul Law Firm, Waddell and Reed, Williams
(Source: Surveys with the Business Career Center)

DISCLAIMER: These companies are not associated with, sponsored, or endorsed by The University of Tulsa. This sheet is provided simply as a suggestion for students conducting their own job search, not as a decision-making aid. Students should consult with counselors, parents, and/or other trusted sources before making a decision regarding a job or internship acceptance.