

What Can You Do with an Economics Degree?

When do new companies start up? Why is unemployment so high? What determines interest rates or inflation or stock prices? Economics answers questions like these, but economics is far broader than many would guess. Sure, we study inequality and exchange rates, but we also have classes on when and why people decide to get married and have children and on underground economies. Bottom line: economics is the study of how individuals, businesses, and governments make decisions and how the market mediates those decisions across a wide range of domains.

Economics being a multi-faceted field allows those pursuing it to have many career options. Currently, the top five industries for employment are **Financial Services, Banking, IT Services, Management,** and **Insurance.**

The following are just a sample of entry-level positions that someone with an economics degree may obtain:

Data Analyst

Using analytical and logical reasoning to examine components of data is just one of the many steps that must be completed when conducting a research experiment. Data from various sources is gathered, reviewed, and then analyzed to form some finding or conclusion. There are a variety of specific data analysis methods, some of which include data mining, text analytics, business intelligence, and data visualizations.

Consultant

Economic consultants conduct research, survey business conditions, and analyze policies to provide expert advice to businesses on the complexity of economic problems. They work in an advisory capacity and are usually not accountable for the outcome of a consulting exercise.

Risk Manager

A risk analyst, also known as a risk manager, is responsible for evaluating and reducing potential risks to the financial well-being of a company or other organization. Analysts are responsible for protecting a company from any potentially harmful situations.

Research Analyst

Economic analysts research significant trends in commerce and business. From their research, they forecast the effects of these trends on a company or industry. They often work for privately held companies, financial institutions or state and federal government entities.

Financial Advisor

Working with clients to set financial goals and plans on how to achieve them can lead financial advisors to provide advice on investments, insurance, mortgages, taxes, and more. They educate clients about anything from budgets and savings plans to investment and tax issues.

Healthcare Analytics Specialist

Analyzing the performance patterns of different hospital departments to recommend ways to streamline and improve processes is an area that many informatics companies have a need for. These professionals analyze data from patient files, billing records, and hospital inventories to make projections and find inefficiencies.

Financial Examiner

Examining finances allows you to help keep the world's financial systems on track by making sure that banks, credit unions, brokerage firms, and other financial institutions comply with applicable laws and regulations. You would help ensure that borrowers are treated fairly and that financial institutions are prepared to manage any unexpected losses.

Insurance Underwriter

By evaluating the risks involved in insuring a person or company, an insurance underwriter needs to understand the economic background of a client and determine appropriate insurance coverage amounts and premiums; high premiums may lead to a loss of customers, but low premiums may lead to a risk of paying more claims than are affordable.

Environmental Economist

Environmental economists collect and analyze data to study the environmental implications of government policies on issues like alternative fuel use, soil conservation, and climate change. Their work helps decision makers plan activities related to environmental protection.

Securities Trader

You need to keep up to date with happenings in the financial markets to be a successful securities trader. They buy and sell stocks, derivatives, and commodities to make money for their companies' clients. Traders must have a license from the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA), which requires passing some exams.

Investor Relations Associate

Investor relations associates communicate the value of their company's financial services to the public. They analyze market events and their impact on potential investors. To be able to pitch investment opportunities, you need a solid grasp of the financial world to sell would-be investors on your firm's offerings.

Pricing Analyst

By looking at market data to determine an appropriate, competitive price for products and services, pricing analysts find an optimum price that will boost sales and increase profits. They gather estimates for labor and materials, build pricing models, and evaluate consumer perception of different price points.

Account Manager

Account managers connect a company and its customers. Once a salesperson brings a new client on board, an account manager collaborates with that client to achieve their goals, resolve their concerns, and maintain a positive relationship. The job also involves generating new business from existing clients.

Business Journalist

If you have solid oral and written communication skills and enjoy explaining complex concepts in plain language, you may find success as a business journalist. Your job is to make the worlds of economics and commerce understandable to the average person.

Have questions? The Department has its own Career Services Coordinator, Amy Louise (ASC-Econ-CareerSvc@osu.edu), who works exclusively with economics students! Amy can help with job searching, internships, resume revisions, mock interviews, etc. Don't wait until you're graduating to reach out!