ECN 710 : Advanced Macroeconomics

Chapter 1: Introduction to Macroeconomics Data

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1. Why Study Economic Growth?

- Economic Growth Correlates, Well-being, and Poverty
- The Question of Convergence

2. Review of Basic Statistical Calculations

- Growth Rates
- National Accounts and GDP Calculation

3. Short Term vs Long Term

- Long-Term Trends and Filtering
- Stylized Facts





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- Material well-being for billions of people is primarily determined by economic growth.
- In advanced economic countries, growth since the Industrial Revolution has allowed almost everyone to live a lifestyle that was once reserved for a privileged few a century ago.
- Growth in sectors like medicine and pharmaceuticals has enabled most people to live longer and healthier lives compared to the 19th century.
- Lack of growth in the world's poorest countries results in difficult living conditions compared to richer nations.
- To understand why humanity has become much wealthier and why this wealth is so unevenly distributed, we need to study the determinants of economic growth.





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Consumption and Economic Growth







Figure: The association between income per capita and consumption per capita in 2000

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Investment Rate and Economic Growth







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Education and Economic Growth



Average growth rate of GDP per capita, 1960-2000



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Life Expectancy and Economic Growth







Figure: The association between income per capita and life expectancy at birth in 2000

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World Income Distribution (1/2)





Figure: World income Distribution in 1970

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World Income Distribution (2/2)





Figure: World income Distribution in 2000

Reduction of Poverty in China





Figure: Distribution of income in China over time

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Increase in Poverty in Nigeria





Figure: Distribution of income in Nigeria over time

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Reduction of Poverty in India





Figure: Distribution of income in India over time





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Evolution of the Global Distribution of Income per Capita

Density of countries



Figure: Growth versus initial income.

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Global Distribution of Growth Rates







Figure: Distribution of countries according to the growth rate of GDP per worker

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Absence of Absolute Convergence



Average growth rate of GDP, 1960-2000



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Conditional Convergence



Average growth rate of GDP, 1960–2000



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Converging to Convergence





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1. Growth Rate:

The growth rate of a variable X over a period from t = 0 to t = T is given by:

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$$G_{0,T} = \frac{X_T - X_0}{X_0}$$

where X_T and X_0 are the values of X at times T and 0, respectively.

2. Annual Average Growth Rate:

Assuming a constant annual growth rate *g*, it is defined as:

$$g = \left(\frac{X_T}{X_0}\right)^{1/T} - 1$$

where T is the number of years.





Growth Rate Concepts (2/2)



3. Growth of the Product of Two Variables:

If $Z = X \cdot Y$, then the growth rate of Z is given by:

$$1 + G_Z = (1 + G_X) \cdot (1 + G_Y) \tag{1}$$

or

 $G_Z \approx G_X + G_Y$

where G_X and G_Y are the growth rates of X and Y, respectively.

Proof.

For small values of G_X and G_Y , taking the log of equation (1) and using $\ln(1+\varepsilon) \approx \varepsilon$ for small ε , one gets:

$$G_Z \approx G_X + G_Y$$

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► Value-Added Approach:

• GDP is the sum of the value-added generated by firms within the economy.

► Income Approach:

- GDP is the total income distributed in the economy over a specific period.
- ► Expenditure Approach:
 - GDP is the total value of final goods and services consumed in the economy.



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Accounting Identity:

- In a closed economy: Y = C + I + G, where Y is GDP, C is consumption, I is investment, and G is government expenditure.
- National Savings: S = (Y C G).



Example from Statistics Canada

Let us consider an economy composed of three businesses: an agricultural business (the farmer) that grows wheat, an industrial business that produces flour (the miller), and a business that produces bread sold to households (the baker).

- **Farmer**: The farmer imports seeds worth \$15 and pays wages to employees amounting to \$115. He sells part of his production to the miller for \$100 and exports the remaining part for \$50.
- Miller: The miller buys wheat from the farmer for \$100 and sells part of his flour to households for \$35 and another part to the baker for \$130. The miller pays wages to employees amounting to \$45.
- **Baker**: The baker buys flour from the miller for \$130 and produces bread, which he sells entirely to households for \$200. He pays wages to his employees amounting to \$60.



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- **Baker**: The baker buys flour from the miller for \$130 and produces bread, which he sells entirely to households for \$200. He pays wages to his employees amounting to \$60.
- Total GDP: \$270.





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The distinction between long-term and short-term macroeconomics is, fundamentally, a distinction between the phenomena being studied.

- The purpose of long-term macroeconomic analysis is to:
 - Understand the trends in major variables such as GDP, consumption, investment, and unemployment.
 - Explain long-term income levels, economic growth, and structural unemployment.
- On the other hand, the purpose of short-term macroeconomic analysis is to:
 - Understand annual or quarterly fluctuations around the trends of these macroeconomic variables.
 - Explain business cycles.





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Long-Term Trends and Filtering

• We aim to express a macroeconomic time series y_t as follows:

$$y_t = y_t^x + y_t^c \tag{2}$$

where y_t^x represents the long-term component and y_t^c the cyclical component.

- A filter is applied to y_t to separate these two components.
 - A filter is an operator that extracts movements from the series occurring at specific frequency ranges.
 - In macroeconomics, frequencies typically range between 6 and 32 quarters.



Method 1: First Difference

- The cyclical component of y_t can be measured by calculating its first difference.
- This corresponds to:

$$y_t^c = \Delta y_t = y_t - y_{t-1}, \text{ and } y_t^x = y_{t-1}$$
 (3)

• If y_t grows at a constant rate g_y , then

$$y_t = (1+g_y) y_{t-1} \Longleftrightarrow y_t - y_{t-1} = g_y \cdot y_{t-1}$$

• Using the earlier expressions for the trend and cycle, we derive:

•
$$y_t^c = g_y \cdot y_t^x$$
, which implies $g_y = \frac{\mathbb{E}(y_t^c)}{\mathbb{E}(y_t^x)}$.





Method 3: Deterministic Trend

This involves specifying the order of the polynomial and estimating the coefficients using OLS:



Figure: Decomposition of Canada real GDP per capita < => < => < => > = - つ < ??

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Method 3: Hodrick-Prescott (HP) Filter (1/2)

- This is one of **the most commonly used** methods in macroeconomics.
- ▶ The trend of the series is obtained by solving the following problem:

$$\min_{y_t^{X}} \left\{ \sum_{t=1}^{T} (y_t - y_t^{X})^2 + \lambda \sum_{t=2}^{T-1} \left[\left(y_{t+1}^{X} - y_t^{X} \right) - \left(y_t^{X} - y_{t-1}^{X} \right) \right]^2 \right\}$$
(5)

- λ is a smoothing parameter.
- Common choices are $\lambda = 100$ for annual data, $\lambda = 1600$ for quarterly data, and $\lambda = 14400$ for monthly data.
- Occasionally, different λ values are used for specific data types (e.g., quarterly unemployment rates).



Method 3: Hodrick-Prescott (HP) Filter (2/2)



Figure: Trend and Cyclical Component: HP Filter

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The stylized facts of growth highlighted by Kaldor (1957)

- The shares of capital and labor income are constant in the long term. These are approximately 0.33 and 0.67, respectively.
- The growth rate of capital per capita is constant in the long term.
- The growth rate of output per worker is constant in the long term.
- The capital/output ratio is constant in the long term.
- The rate of return on investment is constant in the long term.
- There are notable variations (between 2% and 5%) in the growth rates of labor productivity and total output across countries.

Stylized Facts (2/2)





Figure: Components of Gross Domestic Product in Relative Shares

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Generally, three indicators are used to study the business cycle.

- Volatility (absolute and relative): the standard deviation of the variable in level terms, or relative to the standard deviation of GDP.
- Co-movements: cross-correlations (or lags), i.e.

$$\mathbb{C}$$
orr $\left(y_{t}^{c}, z_{t-j}^{c}\right)$ with $j = -5, -4, \dots, 0, \dots, +4, +5.$

• Persistence, measured by autocorrelation coefficients, i.e.

$$\mathbb{C}\operatorname{orr}\left(z_{t}^{c}, z_{t-j}^{c}\right)$$
 with $j = 1, 2, \dots$

For more stylized facts on the business cycle, see King and Rebelo (1999) and Stock and Watson (1999).

① Consumption

- Consumption of non-durable goods and services is less volatile than output.
- Durable goods consumption is much more volatile than output.
- Since durable goods account for only a small portion of household consumption, total consumption is less volatile than output.
- Public consumption expenditures are less volatile than output.

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② Investment

- Investment is much more volatile than output. All categories of investment are more volatile than output.
- Residential investment is the most volatile component.

④ Hours Worked, Productivity, and Wages

- Volatility in total hours worked is comparable to output volatility.
- Volatility in total hours worked is mainly due to employment volatility (extensive margin), not hours per worker (intensive margin).
- Labor productivity is about half as variable as output.
- Real wages are also less variable than output.





- ① Most macroeconomic variables (C_t , I_t , M_t , X_t , etc.) exhibit pro-cyclical behavior, i.e., positive contemporary correlation with the cyclical component of output.
- ② Public consumption expenditures are acyclical (or counter-cyclical for some public spending components).
- ^③ The correlation between output and hours worked is strongly positive.
- ④ Real wages went from counter-cyclical between the wars to pro-cyclical after World War II.



 Most macroeconomic variables are highly persistent, i.e., the first-order autocorrelation of the cyclical component is strongly positive.

This fact holds regardless of the method used to calculate the cyclical component.

- ² Growth rates of most macroeconomic variables are highly persistent.
- (4) Macroeconomic variables (Y_t, C_t, I_t, H_t) appear less persistent when measured by the autocorrelation of differenced series. The aggregate price index is an exception to this rule.



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Figure: Description of the Business Cycle according to Stock and Watson (1999)

boompare statistics for cyclical components of series, 1955–1990														
Series	Std	Cross correlations with output $(corr(x_t, y_{t+k}))$												
	dev.	-6	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Gross Domestic Product	1.66	-0.29	-0.18	0.03	0.33	0.66	0.91	1.00	0.91	0.66	0.33	0.03	-0.18	-0.29
Sectoral employment														
1. Contract and construction employment	3.75	0.02	0.20	0.39	0.58	0.73	0.80	0.77	0.65	0.44	0.19	-0.04	-0.23	-0.35
2. Manufacturing employment	2.61	0.06	0.14	0.40	0.67	0.87	0.94	0.84	0.59	0.26	-0.06	-0.30	-0.43	-0.45
3. Finance, insurance and real estate employment	1.01	0.25	0.35	0.43	0.49	0.50	0.46	0.38	0.28	0.15	0.02	-0.10	-0.20	-0.28
4. Mining employment	3.79	0.13	0.19	0.25	0.28	0.25	0.16	-0.00	-0.20	-0.40	-0.53	-0.58	-0.55	-0.45
5. Government employment	0.82	0.51	0.53	0.49	0.43	0.35	0.29	0.23	0.15	0.04	-0.08	-0.21	-0.31	-0.37
6. Service employment	0.83	0.20	0.33	0.49	0.63	0.71	0.69	0.55	0.34	0.08	-0.15	-0.33	-0.44	-0.50
7. Wholesale and retail trade employment	1.20	-0.01	0.21	0.45	0.68	0.83	0.87	0.79	0.60	0.35	0.10	-0.10	-0.24	-0.32
8. Transportation and public utility employment	1.54	0.23	0.42	0.61	0.77	0.83	0.76	0.56	0.26	-0.06	-0.33	-0.49	-0.53	-0.50

Table 2 Descriptive statistics for cyclical components of series, 1953–1996

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Description of the Business Cycle (2/6)



Figure: Description of the Business Cycle according to Stock and Watson (1999)

Series	Std	d Cross correlations with output $(corr(x_t)$						$orr(x_t, y)$	(_{t+k}))					
	dev.	-6	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Gross Domestic Product	1.66	-0.29	-0.18	0.03	0.33	0.66	0.91	1.00	0.91	0.66	0.33	0.03	-0.18	-0.29
NIPA components														
9. Consumption (total)	1.26	-0.39	-0.28	-0.07	0.21	0.51	0.76	0.90	0.89	0.75	0.53	0.29	0.09	-0.06
10. Consumption (nondurables)	1.11	-0.36	-0.24	-0.02	0.25	0.52	0.74	0.83	0.80	0.65	0.43	0.21	0.02	-0.12
11. Consumption (services)	0.64	-0.13	-0.00	0.14	0.31	0.49	0.66	0.78	0.80	0.70	0.51	0.27	0.05	-0.12
12. Consumption (nondurables + services)	0.78	-0.28	-0.15	0.05	0.29	0.55	0.75	0.87	0.85	0.71	0.49	0.25	0.03	-0.13
13. Consumption (durables)	4.66	-0.46	-0.38	-0.19	0.09	0.42	0.70	0.85	0.86	0.73	0.53	0.32	0.15	0.03
14. Investment (total fixed)	4.97	-0.34	-0.19	0.04	0.32	0.61	0.82	0.89	0.83	0.65	0.41	0.18	-0.00	-0.13
15. Investment (equipment)	5.25	-0.06	0.16	0.41	0.65	0.84	0.92	0.88	0.73	0.49	0.23	-0.01	-0.20	-0.31
16. Investment (nonresidential structures)	4.67	0.20	0.40	0.58	0.70	0.74	0.67	0.52	0.30	0.07	-0.14	-0.30	-0.40	-0.44
17. Investment (residential structures)	10.04	-0.49	-0.48	0.37	-0.18	0.09	0.38	0.62	0.77	0.78	0.69	0.53	0.36	0.20
18. Change in bus. inventories (rel. to trend GDP)	0.38	-0.58	-0.50	-0.32	-0.04	0.28	0.57	0.73	0.72	0.56	0.32	0.08	-0.08	-0.15
19. Exports	4.76	0.33	0.42	0.47	0.50	0.48	0.40	0.27	0.09	-0.11	-0.29	-0.43	-0.50	-0.51
20. Imports	4.42	-0.45	-0.28	-0.03	0.27	0.54	0.72	0.78	0.70	0.53	0.34	0.17	0.05	-0.02
21. Trade balance (relative to trend GDP)	0.38	0.54	0.45	0.30	0.10	-0.11	-0.29	-0.42	-0.48	-0.49	-0.48	-0.45	-0.41	-0.35
22. Government purchases	2.49	0.30	0.25	0.22	0.21	0.21	0.19	0.15	0.03	-0.10	-0.20	-0.23	-0.19	-0.09
23. Government purchases (defense)	4.66	0.21	0.18	0.15	0.14	0.12	0.09	0.05	-0.06	-0.18	-0.26	-0.27	-0.20	-0.08
24. Government purchases (non-defense)	1.35	0.21	0.12	0.07	0.08	0.13	0.19	0.22	0.23	0.21	0.18	0.13	0.08	0.01



Series	Std	Cross correlations with output $(corr(x_t, y_{t+k}))$												
	dev.	-6	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Aggregate employment, productivity and utilization														
25. Employment (total employees)	1.39	0.07	0.26	0.49	0.72	0.89	0.92	0.81	0.57	0.24	-0.07	-0.31	-0.44	-0.49
26. Employment (total hours)	1.61	-0.06	0.13	0.37	0.63	0.85	0.94	0.88	0.67	0.36	0.03	-0.23	-0.39	-0.45
27. Employment (average weekly hours)	0.37	-0.51	-0.44	-0.24	0.05	0.38	0.66	0.82	0.80	0.64	0.40	0.16	-0.03	-0.15
28. Unemployment rate	0.76	0.13	-0.03	-0.27	-0.55	-0.80	-0.93	0.89	-0.69	-0.39	-0.07	0.19	0.33	0.37
29. Vacancies (Help Wanted index)	14.52	-0.25	-0.09	0.15	0.43	0.71	0.89	0.93	0.80	0.54	0.23	-0.06	-0.26	-0.38
30. New Unemployment claims	13.19	0.47	0.43	0.27	-0.00	-0.35	-0.67	-0.86	-0.87	-0.71	-0.43	-0.14	0.08	0.21
31. Capacity utilization	3.07	-0.37	-0.23	0.01	0.31	0.63	0.86	0.93	0.83	0.59	0.29	0.02	-0.16	0.25
32. Total factor productivity	2.29	-0.54	-0.46	-0.29	-0.03	0.27	0.56	0.77	0.86	0.82	0.68	0.50	0.31	0.16
33. Average labor productivity	1.05	-0.49	-0.60	-0.58	-0.41	-0.11	0.24	0.53	0.70	0.72	0.62	0.47	0.32	0.21



Series	Std	Cross correlations with output $(corr(x_t, y_{t+k}))$												
	dev.	-6	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Prices and wages														
34. Consumer price index (level)	1.35	0.34	0.24	0.12	-0.04	-0.21	-0.38	-0.51	-0.62	-0.68	-0.67	-0.59	-0.48	-0.34
35. Producer price index (level)	2.26	0.36	0.33	0.27	0.18	0.05	-0.09	-0.24	-0.37	-0.47	-0.54	-0.56	-0.55	-0.50
36. Oil prices	11.12	0.22	0.16	0.09	0.01	-0.08	-0.17	-0.26	-0.35	-0.41	-0.44	-0.42	-0.36	-0.28
37. GDP price deflator (level)	0.91	0.23	0.12	-0.02	-0.18	-0.33	-0.46	-0.54	-0.60	-0.61	-0.59	-0.52	-0.42	-0.30
38. Commodity price index (level)	7.43	0.18	0.28	0.36	0.41	0.41	0.38	0.30	0.18	0.04	-0.11	-0.26	-0.36	-0.43
39. Consumer price index (inflation rate)	1.44	0.34	0.47	0.58	0.64	0.62	0.52	0.35	0.14	-0.08	-0.27	-0.40	-0.48	-0.51
40. Producer price index (inflation rate)	2.64	0.10	0.21	0.33	0.43	0.49	0.49	0.43	0.34	0.21	0.07	-0.05	-0.17	-0.27
41. GDP price deflator (inflation rate)	0.96	0.45	0.55	0.61	0.58	0.48	0.32	0.15	-0.01	-0.14	-0.25	-0.34	-0.41	-0.47
42. Commodity price index (inflation rate)	10.55	-0.28	-0.23	-0.15	-0.03	0.09	0.22	0.33	0.41	0.44	0.39	0.28	0.14	-0.01
43. Nominal wage rate (level)	0.94	0.22	0.13	0.02	-0.09	-0.21	-0.34	-0.45	-0.56	-0.62	-0.62	-0.54	-0.42	-0.27
44. Real wage rate (level)	0.64	-0.16	-0.13	-0.07	0.00	0.08	0.14	0.16	0.14	0.10	0.07	0.05	0.05	0.07
45. Nominal wage rate (rate of change)	1.14	0.31	0.35	0.38	0.41	0.42	0.38	0.29	0.14	-0.05	-0.24	-0.39	-0.47	-0.49
46. Real wage rate (rate of change)	1.10	-0.05	-0.13	-0.18	-0.18	-0.13	-0.05	0.04	0.08	0.08	0.04	-0.00	-0.04	-0.05

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Series	Std	Cross correlations with output $(corr(x_t, y_{t+k}))$													
	dev.	-6	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Interest rates and stock prices	-	_													
47. Federal funds rate	1.47	0.26	0.38	0.50	0.60	0.63	0.56	0.38	0.13	-0.16	-0.41	-0.60	-0.69	-0.71	
48. Treasury Bill rate (3 month)	1.09	0.20	0.29	0.40	0.50	0.57	0.54	0.41	0.18	-0.10	-0.38	-0.58	-0.69	-0.71	
49. Treasury Bond rate (10 year)	0.71	0.03	0.03	0.07	0.13	0.17	0.16	0.08	-0.07	-0.24	-0.39	-0.49	-0.52	-0.48	
50. Real Treasury Bill rate (3 month)	0.71	-0.02	-0.04	-0.05	-0.07	-0.12	-0.19	-0.28	-0.35	-0.38	-0.36	-0.29	0.20	-0.11	
51. Yield curve spread (long-short)	0.76	-0.29	-0.40	-0.52	-0.61	-0.66	-0.64	-0.52	-0.32	-0.07	0.17	0.38	0.52	0.59	
52. Commercial paper/Treasury Bill spread	0.32	0.44	0.58	0.66	0.65	0.54	0.33	0.06	-0.20	0.41	-0.53	-0.54	-0.49	-0.40	
53. Stock prices	8.28	-0.23	-0.32	-0.35	-0.28	-0.12	0.10	0.34	0.51	0.57	0.49	0.32	0.11	-0.08	
Money															
54. Money stock (M2, nominal level)	1.48	-0.39	-0.35	-0.27	-0.15	0.03	0.22	0.39	0.53	0.59	0.58	0.51	0.40	0.27	
55. Monetary base (nominal level)	1.12	-0.06	-0.05	-0.03	0.01	0.07	0.13	0.18	0.19	0.18	0.16	0.13	0.10	0.07	
56. Money stock (M2, real level)	2.00	-0.39	0.30	-0.17	0.00	0.20	0.40	0.57	0.69	0.73	0.71	0.62	0.49	0.33	
57. Monetary base (real level)	1.53	-0.18	-0.11	-0.01	0.12	0.25	0.36	0.45	0.49	0.50	0.46	0.40	0.32	0.23	
58. Money stock (M2, nominal rate of change)	2.07	-0.08	-0.22	-0.36	-0.48	-0.54	-0.50	-0.38	-0.19	0.01	0.19	0.31	0.37	0.38	
59. Monetary base (nominal rate of change)	1.38	-0.01	-0.07	-0.14	-0.18	-0.19	-0.16	-0.08	-0.01	0.05	0.10	0.14	0.17	0.18	
60. Consumer credit	3.29	0.30	0.50	0.67	0.75	0.74	0.63	0.46	0.25	0.06	-0.08	-0.15	-0.18	0.18	



Series	Std	Cross correlations with output $(corr(x_l, y_{l+k}))$												
	dev.	-6	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Miscellaneous leading indicators														
61. Consumer expectations	9.15	-0.61	-0.64	-0.59	-0.46	-0.25	0.00	0.25	0.44	0.54	0.53	0.44	0.32	0.20
62. Building permits	16.19	-0.51	-0.54	-0.51	-0.41	-0.21	0.07	0.36	0.60	0.74	0.75	0.67	0.52	0.36
63. Vendor performance	10.87	-0.40	-0.40	-0.32	-0.14	0.09	0.34	0.53	0.61	0.58	0.43	0.23	0.04	-0.11
64. Mfrs' unfilled orders, durable goods industry	6.73	0.48	0.60	0.69	0.72	0.70	0.61	0.47	0.28	0.06	0.15	-0.32	-0.45	-0.50
65. Mfrs' new orders, non-defense capital goods	8.11	-0.09	0.09	0.30	0.53	0.72	0.83	0.83	0.71	0.51	0.26	0.02	-0.16	-0.27
International output														
66. Industrial production – Canada	3.43	-0.19	-0.03	0.19	0.45	0.68	0.84	0.87	0.77	0.56	0.29	0.04	-0.17	-0.30
67. Industrial production – France	2.58	0.03	0.20	0.35	0.44	0.46	0.39	0.26	0.12	-0.01	-0.11	-0.18	-0.21	-0.22
68. Industrial production – Japan	4.46	0.09	0.23	0.37	0.49	0.53	0.49	0.35	0.15	-0.06	-0.23	-0.33	-0.36	-0.33
69. Industrial production – UK	2.60	-0.04	0.11	0.27	0.42	0.51	0.53	0.47	0.39	0.28	0.18	0.10	0.03	-0.02
70. Industrial production – Germany	3.19	0.01	0.08	0.18	0.29	0.38	0.40	0.35	0.24	0.09	-0.07	0.19	-0.27	-0.31

Conclusion



1. Determinants of Economic Growth

- Long-run drivers: Capital accumulation, technological progress, and institutional frameworks.
- Short-run influences: Demand-side factors, policy interventions, and external shocks.

2. Short-run vs. Long-run Dynamics

- Short-run differences: Characterized by business cycle fluctuations around the long-run trend.
- Long-run perspective: Focuses on steady-state growth and structural determinants.

Looking Ahead

- Explore theoretical models to explain growth and fluctuations.
- Dive into empirical tools for analyzing macroeconomic data.
- Bridge the gap between short-term stabilization and long-term growth policies.

"Macroeconomics is not just about studying the economy—it's about uncovering patterns and principles that guide economic stability and progress."