

AP Macroeconomics

Gross Domestic Product

Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

- GDP is the market value of all final goods and services produced within a nation in a year (*Dodge, 2005*).
- GDP measures Aggregate Spending, Income and Output.

Counted or Not Counted?

- GDP counts all final, domestic production for which there is a market transaction in that year.
- Used and intermediate goods are not counted in order to avoid double-counting.
- Non-market production is not counted.
- Underground or 'black market' activity is not counted.

Counted or Not Counted?

- Which of the following are counted or not counted in U.S. GDP and why?
 - New U.S. manufactured Goodyear tire sold to the General Motors Corporation
 - New U.S. manufactured Goodyear tire sold to Mr. Mayer
 - Child care services provided by my daughter for the neighbor's kid
 - A new Airbus A380 (I made that # up)
 - A new Boeing 787
 - New Tundra pick-up truck manufactured in San Antonio by Japanese firm Toyota.

Aggregate Spending

- $GDP = C + I_G + G + X_N$
- C = Consumption
- I_G = Gross Private Investment
- G = Government Spending
- X_N = Net Exports
= Exports (X) – Imports (M)

Consumption

- Consumer spending on
 - Durable goods (cars, appliances...)
 - Non-durable goods (food, clothing...)
 - Services (plumbing, college...)
- Consumer spending is the largest component of U.S. GDP.

Gross Private Investment

- Spending in order to increase future output or productivity
 - Business spending on capital
 - New construction
 - Change in unsold inventories

Government Spending

- All levels of government spending on final goods and services and infrastructure count toward GDP.
- Government transfer payments do not count toward GDP.

Net Exports

- Exports – Imports
- $X - M$
- Exports create a flow of money to the United States in exchange for domestic production.
- Imports create a flow of money away from the United States in exchange for foreign production.

Aggregate Income

- GDP measures spending and income.
- $\text{Income} = r + w + i + p = \text{factor payments}$
- $r = \text{rent}$ (payment for natural resources)
- $w = \text{wages}$ (payment for labor)
- $i = \text{interest}$ (payment for capital)
- $p = \text{profits}$ (payment for entrepreneurship)

Nominal v. Real GDP

- Nominal GDP is current GDP measured at current market prices
 - Nominal GDP may overstate the value of production because of the effects of inflation
- Real GDP is current GDP measured with a fixed dollar
 - Real GDP holds the value of the dollar constant and is useful for making year to year comparisons
- Real GDP is the **IMPORTANT ONE!!!**

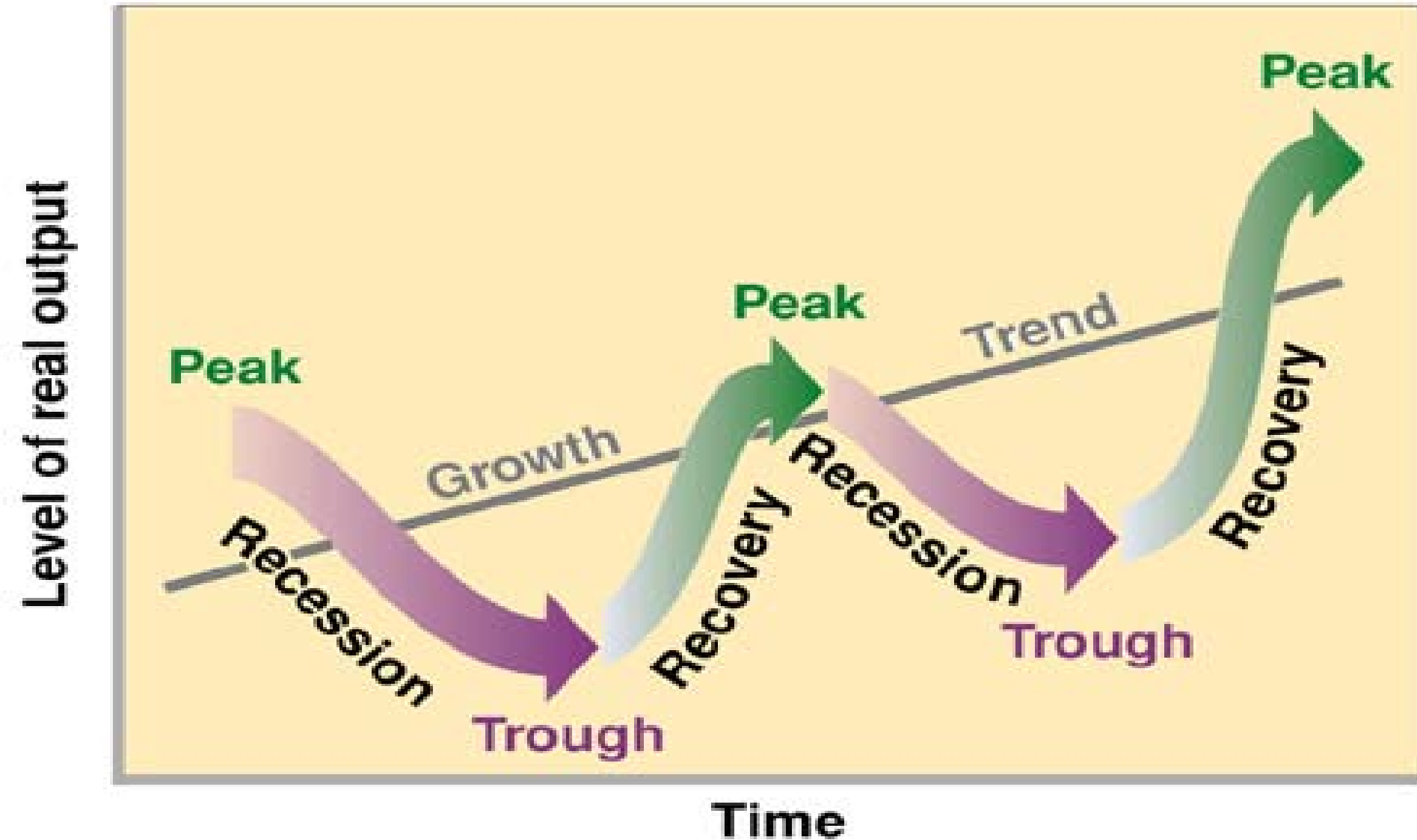
Changes in GDP

- GDP is a measure of a nation's prosperity and economic growth
- As GDP grows the burden of scarcity is lessened for a society
- GDP per capita provides a better measure of individual well-being than GDP

The Business Cycle

- The United States' GDP is not constant from year to year.
- Instead, the GDP grows most years and then shrinks in some years.
- The ups and downs in GDP over time is referred to as the business cycle.

The Business Cycle Illustrated:



The Business Cycle Illustrated:

- **Peak**
 - temporary maximum in Real GDP. At this point the unemployment rate ($u\%$) is probably below the natural rate of unemployment, and the inflation rate ($\pi\%$) is probably increasing.
- **Recession**
 - The contractionary phase of the business cycle. A period of decline in Real GDP accompanied by an increase in $u\%$. To be classified as a recession, the economic decline must be at least 6 months long.
- **Trough**
 - The bottom of the business cycle. The $u\%$ is probably high and $\pi\%$ is probably low.
- **Recovery**
 - The phase of the business cycle where the economy is returning to full employment.

The Business Cycle Illustrated:

- Important note
 - The various phases of the business cycle last for different amounts of time.
 - In recent history, expansions have lasted years longer than have recessions.
 - The Great Depression is the most notable example of a long recession/trough

The Business Cycle Illustrated:

- Causes
 - Irregularity of Investment
 - Changes in productivity
 - Changes in total spending (aggregate demand)
- Durable goods manufacturing is most susceptible to the effects of the business cycle
- Business cycle has become less severe because of technological advancements in supply-chain management and structural changes in U.S. economy.