

E101 - 1.3 - GDP & Growth

Economic Growth - ↑ in an economy's real GDP per capita, or an ↑ in the economy's capacity to produce.

Nominal GDP - Value of GDP in terms of prices prevailing at the time of measurement.

Real GDP - Value of GDP measured in terms of prices prevailing in a given base year.

$$\text{Growth of nominal GDP} = \frac{(\text{GDP in current year} - \text{GDP in previous year})}{\text{GDP in previous year}} \quad \% \Delta = \frac{|\Delta|}{\text{initial}} \quad \Delta ; \text{Change} \\ || ; \text{Abs Value}$$

$$\text{Real GDP per capita} = \frac{\text{real GDP}}{\text{population}}$$

$$\text{(Economic) Growth Rate} = \frac{(\text{real GDP per capital in current year} - \text{real GDP in previous year})}{\text{GDP in previous year}}$$

Benefits of Economic growth :

- Better health services
- Improved quality and length of education
- Better transport, support for the arts and culture
- Better protection of the Environment, human rights
- Increased democratic involvement

Labour Productivity - Measure of the output produced per unit of labour input in a specific period.

Human Capital - Accumulated skills and knowledge of human beings.

$$\text{Labour Productivity} = \frac{\text{Output per Period}}{\text{Units of Labour}}$$

Economic growth does not necessarily mean that citizens are better off because

- Higher GDP may be the result of including the value of some services that were previously excluded.
- The quality or desirability of goods produced is ignored.
- Increased leisure, since it means less growth, is regarded as a bad rather than good thing.
- GDP figures do not include how fairly a country's income is distributed.
- The social and environmental costs of higher GDP are ignored.