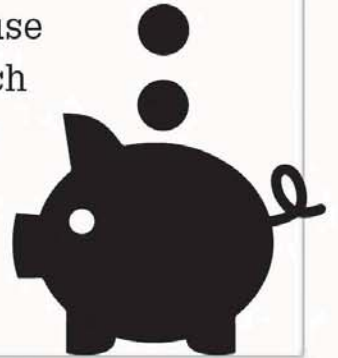


# ECONOMIST



## JOB DESCRIPTION

Economists research and analyze how people and businesses spend their money and make use of resources, such as labor, energy, and capital. They produce reports and forecasts for companies and governments, who use the information in various ways, such as shaping their policies on matters such as wages and taxation, or making them more competitive in comparison to their rivals.



### SALARY

Junior economist ★★☆☆☆

Senior finance economist ★★★★★

### INDUSTRY PROFILE

Varied opportunities for employment in sectors such as government, banks, businesses, and academia • Excellent salaries available for highly qualified individuals

## AT A GLANCE



**YOUR INTERESTS** Economics • Mathematics • Statistics • Business studies • Information Technology (IT) • Philosophy • Politics • Social science



**ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS** A relevant bachelor's degree is required. A graduate qualification may be required for high-level positions.



**LIFESTYLE** Economists typically keep regular office hours, although preparing for conferences or writing for publications may demand extra work.



**LOCATION** Economists are typically office-based, but they may have to travel to conferences to present findings to clients around the world.



**THE REALITIES** Economists need to be motivated to carry out independent research. They are expected to learn new skills throughout their career.

## RELATED CAREERS

- ▶ **FINANCIAL ADVISOR** *see pp. 106–107*
- ▶ **POLITICIAN** *see pp. 114–115*
- ▶ **MATHEMATICIAN** Uses advanced mathematics to develop ways of analyzing and solving difficult problems in the world. Practical business uses include calculating risks in the insurance industry and analyzing statistics to examine the effectiveness of a new drug in the pharmaceutical industry.

Employment opportunities for economists in the United States are expected to grow 14 percent by 2022.

## CAREER PATHS

All economists require a bachelor's or graduate degree in economics. They continue learning throughout their career, becoming an expert in one or more fields—such as health care or taxation—and publish papers and reports to build their reputation. Many economists also hold teaching or research jobs in colleges or universities at some stage of their career.

**RESEARCHER** With a degree in economics or finance, you may find an entry-level job as a researcher at a financial organization. With experience and higher-level degrees, you can progress to more senior roles.

**ECONOMIST** Works in government or public-sector organizations or in academic, managerial, and various other consultancy roles. Increasingly relies on computerized data analysis and mathematical modeling techniques.

**STATISTICIAN**  
Collects, analyzes, and interprets statistics. Statisticians work in a number of sectors, including health, education, government, finance, the environment, and market research.

**POLICY ADVISOR**  
Works in government, for political parties, or for private research groups to develop new policies.

**INVESTMENT BANKER**  
Raises money from individual and corporate investors on behalf of businesses that need funds to get started, grow, or develop.

**FINANCIAL DIRECTOR**  
Oversees the financial activities of a business or other organization. Financial directors are responsible for producing financial statements, monitoring budgets and spending, and developing new business objectives.

## SKILLS GUIDE



A strategic understanding of politics and business to help with leading teams and solving complex issues.



The ability to interpret complex consumer data, identify economic trends, and forecast accurately.



Strong mathematical skills for analyzing key data and assessing the state of the economy.



A good working knowledge of specialized software programs to conduct statistical analyses.



Sound business knowledge and understanding of financial systems in the public and private sectors.



An eye for detail to interpret quantitative and qualitative data and produce accurate reports.

