

Project description

- 30% of total grade

Logistics: You can work in a group of *up to three people*. Only one submission per group is enough.

The deadline of the submission is 11:59 am (noon), May 5, 2020, via email. Late submissions will receive a penalty, reduction in points, depending on the delay. You are asked to write an essay **up to three pages** in length. Based on the essay, you will build the presentation and present your findings during the class on May 6 and May 7, 2020. You will have maximum 30 minutes (10 including Q&A) for the presentation, therefore plan the number of slides accordingly!

Task: Pick up a country and describe its current state of the economy using various indicators that we have learned during our classes (GDP, inflation rate, interest rate, unemployment rate, etc.). Using the appropriate graphs and charts show how these indicators have changed over time. Therefore, you may need to collect data from various sources (central bank, central statistical office, various ministries, the IMF, the WB, etc.). You should discuss how the economy was evolving before the financial crisis (2007-2008). Consider that the audience does not have a comprehensive knowledge of the conditions in the country, therefore if some important event happened, make sure to mention it/them and also explain how it affected the economy (for example, armed conflicts/civil wars, revolutions, natural disasters, etc.).¹ Further, you should emphasize how the economy coped with the crises, how the central bank and the government intervened to restore the macroeconomic situation. The interventions can include an expansionary monetary policy, a tightened fiscal policy or any other types of policies. Write a brief discussion of the recent state of the economy of the country. You should be able to determine in which part the economy is doing well and where the real hurdles are. Conclude your analysis with the projections, explain where the economy is heading into the near-term future (within the next 5 years).

¹ This does not mean you should describe the history of the country, mention only reasonably recent events.

Tips:

- Provide appropriate figures. For presenting the evolution of an indicator, use a time series plot (you can use any software for that, including Excel). Clearly define each indicator that you analyze and **state the source of the data you use**;
- **Clearly indicate references to the source of information you are using, plagiarism is not tolerated in academia!**
- **Rely only on trusted sources!** Webpages like Wikipedia and Economics Memes will not work! You might cite sources, such as academic or non-academic journals or reports (e.g. central bank / statistical office reports (monthly/quarterly/annual economic reports, monetary policy decisions, inflation reports, etc.) OECD/ECB/IMF/WB/AFDB/ADB reports, The Economist, The Independent, Bloomberg, etc.), blogs of professional economists (Krugman, Stiglitz, Romer, etc.);
- For describing the future trends in the economy, you might use outlooks of the international institutions, including the WB Global Economic Prospects, The IMF WEO, the OECD Economic Outlook, etc., which are available for free (obviously, you will need to use the most recent publication) from the institution's web pages;
- Most probably, you will find that there are opposing views regarding the government actions. Your task is to describe major prevailing opinions, critically evaluate, and provide your suggestions about government policy.

Abbreviations:

ADB – Asian Development Bank

AFDB – African Development Bank

ECB – European Central Bank

IMF – International Monetary Fund

OECD – Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development

WB – World Bank

WEO – World Economic Outlook