Intermediate Glossary

ABUNDANT RESOURCES those resources that are in relatively large supply; see

scarce resources

ACCOUNT 1. the money available to the client of a bank;

2. the location in the bank—name or number—where

the client's money is stored

ADVERTISE informing consumers about a good or service,

particularly by praising it

ADVERTISEMENT the method by which a business lets the consumer know

about its good or service; provides information about the good or service that the producer or distributor

wishes to be known

ADVERTISER one who advertises

ALLOCATE to use for a particular purpose

ALLOCATION OF

RESOURCES

the distribution of the available factors of production (resources) among the various uses to which they might

be put

ALTERNATIVE COST see opportunity cost

ALTERNATIVES choices

ANNUAL PERCENTAGE RATE

(APR)

the interest rate or the cost of credit for one year

ARBITRATION the settlement of a dispute by a person or persons

chosen to hear both sides and come to a decision

ASSEMBLY LINE an arrangement in which a product is assembled by

having each worker perform one specialized task as the

product passes by on a moving conveyance; see

specialization

ATM <u>Automatic Teller Machine</u>

AVAILABLE CREDIT the preset amount of credit available on a credit card

AVERAGE PER-CAPITA

INCOME

average earnings of persons in a specific market area

AVERAGE PER-FAMILY

INCOME

average earnings of families in a specific market area

BALANCE the amount of money one has in a bank account

BANK a business that stores money (in checking and savings

accounts) and that exchanges and lends money

BANK CREDIT CARD a card, like Visa or MasterCard, that lets one make

purchases or obtain cash advances and repay the cost of those purchases plus interest (in most instances) over

time

BARTER the direct trade or exchange of goods and services

between people without the use of money; see

exchange and trade

BENEFIT anything that is helpful or advantageous

BENEFITS to receive advantages or good things as a direct result of

employment; also called fringe benefits

BORROW MONEY to use money belonging to another person or financial

institution, usually by agreeing to pay interest for the

use of the money

BROKER a person who acts as an agent in making contracts, sales

or purchases, particularly of stocks, bonds or real estate

BUDGET a plan for the use of time, money or resources

BUDGET DEFICIT expenditures in excess of revenues, particularly

government expenditures in excess of tax revenue,

financed by borrowing or money creation

BUDGET SURPLUS excess of revenue over expenditures, particularly

government tax revenues greater than expenditures; may by impounded or used to retire public (national)

debt

BUSINESS a basic economic unit; an organization involved in the

buying of and hiring of resources to produce a good and/or service with the intention of making a profit for

the owner(s)

BUSINESS CYCLE a predictable long-term pattern of alternating periods of

economic growth (recovery) and decline (recession), characterized by changing employment, industrial productivity, and interest rates; also called *economic*

cycle

BUSINESS PLANNER a professional who systematically manages the tasks of

the business to achieve success

CAPITAL 1. one of the factors of production; 2. a man-made

resource used in the production of goods and services;

includes factories, equipment, machinery, etc.; 3. durable goods used to produce final goods and services; also called *capital goods* or *capital resources*

CAPITAL FORMATION addition to the stock of capital goods; also called capital

growth

CAPITAL GOODS tools, machinery, buildings, etc. used to produce final

goods or services; see capital

CAPITAL GROWTH see capital formation

CAPITAL RESOURCES goods made by people and used to produce other goods

and services; also called intermediate goods

CAPITALISM an economic system based on private ownership of

property or productive resources that owners may use to produce goods or services and receive the profits or losses from this use; system characterized by

competition, the profit incentive and free markets

CARRYING CHARGE interest paid to a business when the firm allows one to

purchase goods or services on credit; also called

interest or finance charge

CARTEL an organization of producers designed to limit

competition between members usually by restricting

output to raise prices;

Example: OPEC is a petroleum cartel.

CASH coins, currency, or the equivalent;

Examples: money orders, personal checks, cashier's

checks

CASH PRICE the full price one pays for a good or service if one pays

with cash; see credit price

CHECK a written order to a bank to pay a certain amount of

money from a person's account to a business or some

other person

CHECKING ACCOUNT a bank, credit union or other financial institution

account that is available on demand; the owner of the account writes a check that is treated like currency in

the market;

Note: Demand deposits—the amount of money deposited in checking accounts—are one component

(part) of the money supply.

CHOICE what someone must make when faced with two or more

alternative uses for a resource; also called *economic*

choice

CIRCULAR FLOW a model of an economy showing the interactions

between households and businesses as they exchange

goods and services and resources in markets

CITY GOVERNMENT the government of the local town or incorporated

municipality;

Example: the government of the City of Lakeland

COIN 1. one of the components (parts) of the money supply;

2. a piece of metal stamped with a design and issued to

the public to be used as money

COLLATERAL assets that can be pledged to obtain a loan

COLLECTIVE bargaining by a committee or union (representing the BARGAINING employees of a business or industry) with an employer

employees of a business or industry) with an employer or group of employers to arrive at agreements regarding

wages, hours or conditions of employment for all

employees

COLLECTIVE FARM a farm owned and operated by the state on which

workers are paid wages to produce crops that belong to

the state; common in China

COMMAND ECONOMY an economy in which decisions are made by the

government: what goods and services to produce, what productive methods to use, how to allocate resources, how to distribute output and what prices to charge

COMMON MARKET a group of countries that agree to eliminate all tariffs (or

other restrictions) on international trade between each other and to have a common external tariff on all

products coming from non-members

a financial institution whose main function is to accept COMMERCIAL BANK

deposits and make loans

COMMISSION a sum or percentage paid to an agent for his or her

services

COMMODITIES goods produced to satisfy wants

COMMUNISM economic system in which all productive resources are

> owned collectively; individuals work for the common good and distribution of output is determined by need

COMPARE to examine for similarities and differences

COMPARATIVE the ability to produce a good or service at a lower **ADVANTAGE**

opportunity cost than someone else; see absolute

advantage

COMPARATIVE the principle that, given the freedom to respond to ADVANTAGE, market forces, countries will tend to export goods

for which they have comparative advantage

and import goods for which they have comparative disadvantage and that they will experience gains from

trade by doing so

COMPENSATION payment

COMPETITION the efforts of two or more businesses to secure the

> consumer's business; techniques used by businesses to gain more customers and to earn higher profits; see

rivalry

COMPETITIVE MARKET a market in which there are many buyers and sellers, no

barriers to entry, and a homogeneous product

COMPETITOR a person or firm which competes with others

COMPLEMENTARY goods or services that tend to be used together;

GOODS Examples: cars and tires, golf clubs and golf balls

COMPOUND INTEREST interest paid upon money deposited in an account and

also on all the interest already earned by the deposit;

see simple interest

LAW OF

CONSERVATION the wise use of natural resources

CONSUME to buy and/or use goods and/or services

CONSUMERS people or businesses whose wants are satisfied by using

goods and services; those who buy and make final use

of goods and services

CONSUMER GOODS tangible objects—food, automobiles, shoes, etc.—that

satisfy consumer wants and/or needs.

CONSUMER

a measure of the average percentage change in the price PRICE INDEX (CPI)

of a set of commodities commonly bought by

households, complied mainly by the Bureau of Labor

Statistics: also called CPI

CONSUMER SERVICES productive acts of labor that do not result in tangible

products, but do satisfy consumer wants and/or needs

CONSUMER the consumer determining the types and quantities of **SOVEREIGNTY**

what is produced by an economy; buying a good or service can provide an incentive to continue producing this good or service. Note: If consumers do not purchase the good or service, there is likely no

incentive to produce.

CONSUMPTION the act of buying and/or using goods and services to

satisfy human wants and/or needs

COOPERATIVE a special form of corporation that differs from normal

> corporations in that: 1. voting is one vote per member rather than one vote per share; 2. business is conducted

primarily with and for the benefit of members

Examples: financial cooperatives (credit unions), buyer cooperatives (electricity) and seller cooperatives (dairy

farmers)

CORPORATION chartered by the state, a business that operates as a legal

entity separate from its owners

CO-SIGNER a person who shares the responsibility of the loan with

the primary borrower

COST 1. the **price** of a good or service; the money cost;

2. the **value** of goods and services that are given up in order to purchase or produce a particular good or

service (opportunity cost);

3. the **value** of goods and services used to produce an

output (cost of production)

COST OF PRODUCTION all resources used in producing goods and services for

which owners receive payment

COST-PUSH a type of inflation caused by increases in the cost of

producing a product such as increases in the cost of materials or labor or increases in interest rates

COUNTY GOVERNMENT government of one of the large divisions of a state

Example: the government of Polk County

CREDIT obtaining money, goods or services with a nominal

initial payment (called the *down payment*) with the promise to pay in the future, usually with some

additional amount of money (called interest or carrying

charge) added to pay for the use of the money

CREDIT CARD a card issued by a business, bank or financial institution

that allows one to have credit with that business or, if it

is a bank card, with many businesses

CREDIT LIMIT the maximum amount that a borrower can borrow on a

particular loan or credit card

CREDIT PRICE the full price one pays for a good or service if one buys

it on credit; equal to the cash price plus interest

CREDIT RATING a measure of a borrower's credit worthiness based on

the borrower's resources and character

CREDIT REPORTING AGENCY a company that gathers information about the credit

histories of consumers and provides this information to

creditors

CREDIT UNION a cooperative group that holds savings and makes loans

to its members, typically at an interest rate lower than the market rate; checking accounts and other services

are also available to members

CREDITOR one to whom a debt is owed by another

CRITERIA standards used in making a decision (plural form;

singular form is *criterion*)

CURRENCY 1. a component (part) of the money supply;

2. paper bills issued by the government to be used as

money

CUSTOMER a person who buys goods and/or services

DEBIT CARD a purchase card that pays for a purchase by deducting

the cost of the purchase directly from a bank account

DEBTOR one who owes money to another

DEFAULT failure to pay a loan when the payment is due

DEFERRED PAYMENT PRICE the total price of the product or service plus the finance

charge; see credit price

DEFICIT SPENDING see budget deficit

DEFLATION a decrease in the general level of prices; causes an

increase in the purchasing power (value) of money

DEMAND a schedule of how much consumers are willing and able

to buy at all possible prices during some time period; the quantities of a good, service or resource that consumers are willing and able to buy at a particular time at all relevant prices; usually expressed as a table (demand schedule) or as a graph (demand curve) of

quantities of a good or service demanded at different

prices

Note: 1. Economists differentiate between *demand* and *quantity demanded*. Demand is based upon the tastes, expectations and incomes of consumers, the number of consumers in the market and the prices of related goods. A change in any of these will cause a shift in demand so that at each price a greater or lesser quantity will be demanded than before the change. As price changes, the move along the curve is toward a greater

or lesser quantity demanded.

2. *Demand* is the whole curve; *quantity demanded* is one point on that curve and is associated with a

particular price.

DEMAND DEPOSIT component (part) of the money supply; a deposit in a

financial institution account that may be withdrawn or transferred to another person or business upon demand, for example by writing a check or using a debit card

DEMAND-PULL INFLATION

increase in prices caused by increases in demand; "Too

many dollars chasing too few goods."

DEMOGRAPHICS statistical characteristics of populations such as age,

income, gender, etc.

DEPOSIT the **act** of putting money into an account in bank or

other financial institution or the sum of money put into

a bank or other financial institution at one time

DEPRECIATION the yearly (annual) decline in the value of something

DEPRESSION an unusually deep, widespread and prolonged recession

or downturn in the economy; The word "depression" has no special meaning different than recession except that it is sometimes used to indicate a particularly

severe recession or period of recessions. see recession

DIMINISHING RETURNS

(LAW OF)

economic principle stating that if one factor of production is increased while the others remain constant, the overall returns will relatively decrease

after a certain point

Example: After some point, successive increase in labor added to fixed amounts of land (or capital) will

not cause a proportionate increase in output.

DIRECT TAX a tax levied directly upon an individual or business as

opposed to an indirect tax which is levied upon the sale of goods or services; Examples: personal and corporate income taxes, property taxes, inheritance taxes; Note: The burden of both direct and indirect taxes may be

shifted through market forces to other parties.

see indirect tax

DIRECTLY RELATED In a given situation, two factors will respond in the

same direction as each other. Example: When the price of tomatoes rises, farmers are willing to grow a larger

quantity of tomatoes.

DISCOUNT RATE interest that Federal Reserve Banks charge banks for

the use of money

DISPOSABLE INCOME income that is not committed to a particular use and can

be used flexibly on whatever someone wants to purchase; income received by households after taxes

and other deductions have been made

DISSAVE to spend more than one's current income in any period

of time

DISTRIBUTION the part of the productive process in which a good is

transported to geographical locations where it can be used to satisfy the wants and needs of consumers

DISTRIBUTION OF

INCOME the way in which a nation's total income in the form of

wages, rent payments, interest and profits is distributed among its citizens; refers to the degree of equality or

inequality of personal income

DISTRIBUTOR one who is involved in the process of distribution of

goods and services from producer to consumer;

see distribution

DIVIDENDS the portion of corporate profits paid out periodically by

a business to the owners of shares of stock, expressed

as a dollar amount per share of stock

DIVISION OF LABOR the process whereby workers perform only a single task

or very few steps of a major production task, as when working on an assembly line; the separation of a productive process (making a cake) into various tasks (measuring, pouring, stirring, tending the oven, frosting) to be performed by different workers

Note: Specialization and division of labor often result

in increased output. see specialization

DOWN PAYMENT the initial payment one makes when purchasing

something on credit

DURABLE GOODS goods with a long, useful life (automobiles, stoves,

furniture) usually defined as a minimum of 3 years

Note: Economists usually use this term for "big ticket" items, but not for other less expensive items, such as cassette tapes or CDs. Tapes and CDs may have a very

long life but are inexpensive and may be readily

discarded when one tires of them.

ECONOMIC EFFICIENCY producing some quantity of output at least cost, in terms

of alternative output sacrificed

ECONOMIC GROWTH an increase in a nation's total output of goods and

services; usually measured in per capita terms

ECONOMIC PROFIT excess of revenue over all costs of production,

including a *normal profit*; the return a business makes on invested capital, minus the cost of capital, times the

amount of invested capital; see normal profit

ECONOMIC QUESTIONS the four questions that every society must answer as it

allocates its scarce resources to meet the unlimited

wants of its people:

WHAT will be produced? (composition of output)
HOW will it be produced? (productive methods)
FOR WHOM is the output intended? (allocation of

final goods and services)

HOW MUCH will be produced (How large is the

GDP? How large should it be?)

The first three are microeconomic questions and the last

is the macroeconomic question.

see microeconomics and macroeconomics

ECONOMIC RENT payment to a factor of production in excess of the

minimum required to keep that factor in the particular

line of production

ECONOMIC STABILITY

1. the absence of large changes in economic activity

2. a situation with steady growth of production, employment and standard of living with no change in

the price level

ECONOMIC SYSTEMS the way a society organizes the production,

consumption and distribution of goods and services

ECONOMICAL not wasteful, particularly of resources such as money

ECONOMICS the study of how people make choices about the best

use of scarce resources

EFFICIENT making the best possible use of scarce resources;

producing the largest output with the least input

ELASTIC DEMAND demand that is relatively responsive to changes in price;

occurs when the percentage change in quantity

demanded by buyers is greater than the percentage in

change in price

ELASTIC SUPPLY supply that is relatively responsive to changes in price;

occurs when the percentage change in quantity that producers are willing to supply is more than the

percentage change in price

ELASTICITY OF DEMAND the degree of consumer responsiveness to changes in

price; Demand is elastic when a change in price results in a relatively greater (more than proportional) change

in the quantity of a good that people will buy.

ELASTICITY OF SUPPLY the degree of sellers' responsiveness to changes in

prices; Supply is elastic when a change in price results in a relatively greater (more than proportional) change

in the quantity offered for sale.

EMBARGO a government prohibition against the shipment of

certain products to a particular country for economic or political reasons; a government order imposing a trade

barrier

EMERGENCY a sudden, urgent, unexpected occurrence requiring

immediate activity (response)

ENERGY something that can produce heat, light and/or motion

ENTREPRENEUR one who organizes and manages resources—including

labor—to produce goods and/or services and who assumes the risks of a business for the sake of the

possible profit

ENTREPRENEURSHIP assuming the risks of owning your own business; one of

the factors of production; see factors of production and

managerial ability

EQUILIBRIUM PRICE the price at which the quantity demanded by buyers

equals the quantity supplied by sellers; see market

clearing price

EURO the basic monetary unit of most members of the

European Union (introduced in 1999)

EUROPEAN UNION family of democratic European countries, committed to

working together for peace and prosperity; In the early years, much of the co-operation between EU countries was about trade and the economy, but now the EU also deals with many other subjects of direct importance for our everyday life. The historical roots of the European Union lie in the Second World War. May 9 1950 is the

"birthday" of what is now the EU and is celebrated annually as Europe Day. Initially, the EU consisted of six countries: Belgium, Germany, France, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom joined in 1973, Greece in 1981, Spain and Portugal in 1986, Austria, Finland and Sweden in 1995. In 2004 the biggest ever enlargement takes place with 10 new countries joining.

EXCHANGE

trading a good or service for another good or service or for money; may be accomplished with or without money; **see** *barter* and *trade*

EXCHANGE RATE

1. the price of currency of one country in terms of the currency of another country; 2. the rate at which one currency can be exchanged for the currency of another country; The rate of exchange can be used to convert prices from one currency standard to another.

EXPENDITURES

the outlays of cash in a given period; distinguished from costs which include items not involving current cash outlays

EXPLICIT COSTS

costs requiring cash outlays payable to persons outside the firm

EXPORT

selling our country's products to other nations; the item being sold

EXTERNAL BENEFITS

benefits accruing to persons outside the market transaction; also called an *external economy* or *spillover benefit*; Example: A large tree in your yard shades the sidewalk, a benefit to the entire neighborhood.

EXTERNAL COSTS

costs imposed on persons who are not involved in the production or use of a good or service; sometimes called a *spillover cost* or *external diseconomy*; Example: Air pollution from a factory is a cost imposed on everyone in the vicinity.

EXTERNAL DISECONOMY

see external cost

EXTERNAL ECONOMY

see external benefit

EXTERNALITIES effects, good or bad, on parties not directly involved in

the production or use of a good or service

FACTOR INPUTS land, labor, capital; also called *resources*;

see factors of production

FACTOR PAYMENTS payments made to the owners of the factors of

> production—wages to labor; rent to owners of land or capital goods; interest to those who have loaned the money to buy capital goods or land; and profit to the

owners of the business

FACTORS OF PRODUCTION resources used by businesses to produce goods and

services; The four are land, labor, capital and

entrepreneurship or managerial ability.

FDIC <u>Federal</u> <u>Deposit</u> Insurance <u>Corporation</u> – the federal

government agency that insures bank depositors'

accounts

FICA <u>Federal Insurance Contributions Act—name of the</u>

> federal law that provides for deductions to be taken from the wages of citizens and invested by the government to pay Social Security benefits

FEDERAL

the federal agency that regulates interstate COMMUNICATIONS communications including the right to operate radio and

COMMISSION

TV stations

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT the government of a nation; Example: the government

of the United States; see government

FEDERAL RESERVE NOTE paper currency; printed and distributed by the Federal

Reserve Bank of the United States the value of which is

guaranteed by the US government

FEDERAL RESERVE

SYSTEM

a nationwide network of 12 banks, controlled by the Federal Reserve Board (the Fed), which do not deal with the public but implement Federal Reserve policies;

They act as depositories for member banks.

FTC <u>Federal Trade Commission—the federal government</u>

> agency charged with maintaining competition by preventing "unfair competition" or the development of

monopolies

FEE a charge to the customer by the bank for a service such

as writing a check or using an ATM machine

FIAT MONEY money with no precious metal backing or special

> reserve that exists by the authority of a government; a promise to pay by the issuer and does not necessarily

have any intrinsic value

FINAL GOODS AND SERVICES goods and services sold to persons who will consume

them

FINANCE CHARGE the cost of credit; charges connected with credit for

example interest costs; also called carrying charge or

interest

FINANCIAL INSTITUTION a business engaged in borrowing, holding and/or

lending money

FINANCIAL RISK the exposure of assets or money belonging to an

individual or a business to the possibility of loss by

undertaking a business venture

FIRM see business

FISCAL POLICY refers to the expenditure a government undertakes to

> provide goods and services and to the way in which the government finances these expenditures; changes in government spending or taxes to stabilize economic conditions; If successful, this brings about stable prices,

economic growth and full employment.

FIXED COSTS costs that do not change as the output of the firm

changes; Examples: rent, interest, insurance;

see variable costs

FOOD AND DRUG

a division of the Department of Health and Human ADMINISTRATION Services that protects the public against impure and

unsafe food, drugs, and cosmetics

FOOD ENERGY energy received by the body from food; used for motion

and heat

FORFEITURE giving up a security deposit when the obligations of a

lease are not met

FOSSIL FUELS fuels formed underground from once living things—oil,

natural gas, coal, etc.

FREE ENTERPRISE an economic system characterized by private ownership

> of property and resources, competition and free markets; a system in which individuals, rather than

government, make the decision about the way resources are used, and goods and services produced and used; also called *capitalism*

FREE GOOD

1. a good for which the market price is zero at a particular time and place;

2. a good for which quantity supplied is greater than quantity demanded at a zero price

A good is a *free good* because it is not scarce, relative to the demand for it.

Note: Air is considered a *free good*. It is important to us, but since there is so much of it we do not have to pay for it. However, if we continue to pollute the air, we may have to pay for scarce clean air.

FREE MARKET

market where the exchange takes place without control or invention by government; **see** *competitive market*

FREE TRADE

the policy of having no government restrictions on the exchange of goods or services between regions or nations thus letting the law of comparative advantage operate freely

FRINGE BENEFITS

any of a variety of indirect, non-cash benefits, such as health insurance, pension benefits, work clothes, etc. provided by employers in addition to regular wage or salary compensation; Fringe benefits cost the employer but are not seen by the worker as a part of their money income and are usually not taxable.

FULL EMPLOYMENT

a condition where anyone who is willing and able to work at the prevailing wage rate is employed

FUNCTIONS OF MONEY

the uses of money—

a medium of exchange to buy good and services;
 a measure of value to determine how much a good or service is worth, usually measured in dollars;

3. a store of value—a convenient (liquid) way to store

wealth

FUTURE CONSUMPTION

the purpose of saving (not consuming) now in order to have the resources available for consumption at a later date; Example: saving money for a summer vacation or for retirement

GOODS

objects that can be held or touched that can satisfy people's wants or needs; **see** *product*

GOVERNMENT

1. the form or system of rule by which a nation, state or

city is governed;

2. the group of persons whose job it is to run the affairs

of the state, nation, etc.

Government usually exists at 3 levels: federal, state and local; each will typically perform a different

function.

GOVERNMENT INCOME

net taxes (taxes minus transfer payments such as social

security and veterans' benefits)

GOVERNMENT MONOPOLY the ownership and operation of the production of goods

and services by any level of government to the

exclusion of private firms; Examples: the US Postal Service, many water and sewer systems and the central

banks of most countries

GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS

rules of conduct for individuals and businesses

GROSS

without deductions; see gross income

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP)

total market value of all final goods and services produced in a country in a given year, equal to total consumer, investment and government spending, plus the value of exports, minus the value of imports; usually called the GDP; **see** *nominal GDP* and *real GDP*

GROSS INCOME

the amount of money earned in a pay period before any taxes and other payroll deductions have been subtracted

HOMOGENEOUS PRODUCT

an undifferentiated product; a product in which every

unit is just like every other unit

Note: One of the qualifications for perfect competition is a homogeneous product. In other market structures, a

differentiated product is possible.

HUMAN CAPITAL

investment in labor productivity by means of education,

job training, etc.

HUMAN RESOURCES

the quantity and quality of human effort directed toward

producing goods and services; also called labor

IMPLICIT COST

costs requiring no cash outlay; cost of keeping selfowned resources in production; **see** *opportunity cost* IMPORT buying products from other countries; the *product*

purchased from another country

IMPORT SUBSTITUTION producing goods in our country to replace goods being

imported from other countries

INCENTIVES factors that motivate and influence the behavior of

households and businesses; Prices, profits and losses act as incentives for participants to take action in a market

economy.

INCOME 1. money received by households in return for the use

of the resources that they (households) own;

2. money earned by the factors of production in the

form of wages, rent, interest and profit

INCOME TAX taxes paid to the government (federal, state and/or

local) by households and business firms on the income

they (households) receive

INDIRECT TAX a tax levied upon the sale of goods or services as

opposed to a direct tax which is levied directly upon an

individual or business; Examples: sales taxes,

employment taxes, tariffs; Note: The burden of both direct and indirect taxes may be shifted through market

forces to other parties. see direct tax

INFLATION a general increase in the price of goods and services;

may be caused by an increase in production costs or

increases in demand for goods and services

INDUSTRIAL historically, the period of development of technology REVOLUTION that allowed nations to change from agriculture based

that allowed nations to change from agriculture based economies to industrial based economies and from hand

labor to large scale use of capital goods

INDUSTRIALIZING the process of using more advanced technology in the

production of goods and services

INDUSTRY a collection of firms producing identical or closely

related products

INELASTIC DEMAND demand that is relatively unresponsive to changes in

price; the percentage change in quantity demanded by buyers is less than the percentage change in price INELASTIC SUPPLY supply that is relatively unresponsive to changes in

price; the percentage change in quantity supplied by producers is greater than the percentage change in price

INFLATION a general increase in the price of goods and services;

may be caused by an increase in production costs or

increases in demand for goods and services

INHERITANCE property or money received from an estate or through a

will

INNOVATION a new and better way to do something

INPUT resources used to produce a good or service; also called

factor input or factor of production

INSTALLMENT required payments of equal amounts, every month until

the loan is paid in full

INSURANCE protection against the risk of large losses; purchased by

paying a relatively small price called the *premium*; types include automobile, homeowners, life, health, disability to protect against cost associated with losses such as auto accidents, damage to homes, death or

illness

INTERDEPENDENCE dependence on others for goods and services; occurs as

a result of specialization; two or more persons, regions or countries that depend upon each other to supply goods and/or services to satisfy their wants and needs; increases as division of labor and/or specialization

increase

Example: Wisconsin specializes in the production of cheese while Florida specializes in the production of citrus products. Since neither state wants to exist solely

on its own output, they trade and become

interdependent.

INTEREST the amount of money paid to a customer by the bank for

keeping the customer's money; the amount of money paid to the bank by the customer when the customer borrows money from the bank; also called *carrying*

charge or finance charge

INTEREST RATE interest payments expressed as a percentage of principal

amount

INTERMEDIATE GOODS goods that will be further processed for resale;

Example: Sheet metal and glass are intermediate goods purchased by the auto industry and processed further

into automobiles.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE exchange of goods and services that takes place

between nations

INVENTORY a supply of a product or products that a business has

"on hand"

INVERSELY RELATED in a given situation two factors will respond in the

opposite direction to one another; Example: When the price of coffee went up, the amount of coffee consumed

went down.

INVESTMENT the use of money to produce income or profit

JOINT ACCOUNT a bank account shared by two or more people who are

official signers on the account

LABOR one factor of production; the human input into the

production process; workers hired by a business whose efforts are directed toward production of goods and/or services in exchange for which they are paid a wage or salary; Both physical and mental effort are considered

types of labor.

LABOR FORCE the total of all people over 16, working or looking for

work

LABOR UNION an association of workers who are organized to bargain

collectively with employers

LAISSEZ FAIRE a policy that calls for government not intervening in

business or economic activities; French term literally

meaning "let do" or "allow to act"

LAND one factor of production; the natural resources available

for production; includes real estate (earth) and all natural resources such as mineral deposits, water and

timber

LAW OF INCREASING

COSTS

economic principle stating that the opportunity cost of additional units of a good tend to increase as the

society attempts to produce more of the good

LENDER person or financial institution that loans money to

another

LIMITED RESOURCES see scarce resources

LIQUIDITY ability to convert an asset into cash easily and quickly

LOCAL GOVERNMENT see city government

LOSS negative difference between cost and sale price;

see profit

MANAGEMENT 1. the process of organizing and utilizing resources to

produce goods and/or services;

2. the group or individual in a business that does the organizing of resources to produce goods and/or

services

MANAGERIAL ABILITY the skill needed to organize and utilize resources,

including human resources, to produce goods and/or

services; see entrepreneurship

MARGINAL UTILITY the extra utility or satisfaction one receives from

consuming one more unit of a good or service

MARKET a specified category of potential buyers; any setting

where buyers and sellers exchange goods, services,

resources and currencies

MARKET CLEARING

PRICE

the price at which the quantity that people are willing to buy is equal to the quantity sellers are willing to offer,

that is, there is neither shortage nor surplus;

see equilibrium price

MARKET ECONOMY an economic system where most goods and services are

exchanged through private transactions by private household and businesses; Buyers and sellers making

exchanges in private markets determine prices.

MARKET EQUILIBRIUM situation occurring when there is equality between

quantities supplied and demanded and the price at which goods are being exchanged has no tendency to

change

MARKET PRICE the price at which a good or service is selling in the

open market; also called market value

MARKET SYSTEM a method of coordinating economic activity that relies

on the individual choices of competing buyers and

sellers, each seeking individual gain, to allocate resources in the production and distribution of goods and services; **see** *command economy, traditional*

directed economy, and capitalism

MARKETING a system where suppliers (producers) advertise,

distribute and sell products to the demanders

(consumers)

MASS PRODUCTION production of many units of a product with workers

doing specialized jobs

MECHANIZATION the process of transforming productive activity from

labor to capital intensive

MEDIA the means of communication such as radio, TV or

newspapers that reach large numbers of people (plural

form; singular form is *medium*)

MEDIUM OF EXCHANGE see functions of money

MERCHANDISE the goods that someone wants to sell

MICROECONOMICS the study of the decision-making processes of

individual economic units (households, businesses); seeks to explain how the three (3) basic economic questions of **What?**, **How?** and **For Whom?** are

answered in a market system

MINIMUM BALANCE the amount of money required to be kept in an account

to avoid paying a service charge

MINIMUM WAGE the lowest legal hourly wage

MINT the facility where coins are produced

MIXED ECONOMY an economy where a combination of the three basic

methods of coordinating economic activity (*market*, *command* and *traditional*) are used; All economies are mixed to some degree. Example: The US has a free

enterprise system that has some government

involvement in the marketplace (command); therefore,

it is a mixed economy.

MODEL (ECONOMIC) simplified representation of the real world; used to

make predictions or to better understand reality

MONETARY POLICY policy aimed at controlling the rate of growth of the

nation's money supply (currency plus bank deposits) so as to promote national goals regarding the level of

economic activity and prices

MONEY a medium of exchange; a good that can be used to buy

other goods and services or to repay debts

MONEY CREATION Banks (depository institutions) create money by

granting loans to businesses and individuals. These loans add new deposit dollars to the account balances of the businesses and individuals. The amount of new money banks can create is limited by the policies of the

Federal Reserve System.

MONEY INCOME the dollar amount of income; see real income

MONEY SUPPLY the amount of coins, bills and deposits in checking

accounts held by the general (non-bank) public; also

called M1

MONEY WAGE see money income

MONOPOLISTIC a market situation in which there are a number of COMPETITION competing sellers of products that are not identical but

competing sellers of products that are not identical but that are close substitutes; Each seller may have a "monopoly" of a particular brand name or location, but

the dominating characteristic is competition.

MONOPOLY one seller; a market structure where one business or

individual controls the entire supply of a good or service for which there are no close substitutes

MORTGAGE a loan secured by real estate (land or buildings)

MUTUAL FUNDS an investment trust in which groups of investors pool

their money and give management discretion to invest

as it sees fit

NATURAL MONOPOLY an industry where per-unit costs decline as the output

increases making the most economical size of the firm very large; If one firm supplies the entire output, consumers pay less than if many small firms produce the output. Example: Electric power is generated more efficiently on a very large scale. Therefore, electric power generation is considered to be a natural monopoly. The monopoly is allowed to exist with

some governmental regulation.

NATURAL RESOURCES "gifts of nature" that are present without human

intervention, also called *land*; Examples: coal, water,

timber; see factors of production

NEEDS desires felt by consumers for basic necessities of life—

food, clothing and shelter; see wants

NET INCOME "take home pay"; the actual amount of money received

after taxes and other payroll deductions have been

subtracted from gross income

NET INVESTMENT total investment (gross) less a depreciation allowance to

account for wear and/or obsolescence

NOMINAL GDP the gross domestic product expressed in the prices of

the particular year. see GDP and Real GDP

NON-DURABLE GOODS goods that have a short useful life—socks, light bulbs,

etc.—or satisfy consumer wants and/or needs by being

used up—hamburgers, etc.

NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCES those natural resources—oil, coal, iron, etc.—that do

not replenish themselves; Once used, they are gone

forever.

NORMAL PROFIT the minimum profit that a firm must earn in order to

induce it to stay in production; At this level of profit, the opportunity costs of the entrepreneur retaining capital in the business are just covered by total revenue.

NORMATIVE ECONOMICS study of the economy based upon value judgments

about economic policies; statement of what ought to be;

see positive economics

OCCUPATION the work a person does to earn a living; also called job,

trade, work, business, profession, vocation

OLIGOPOLY an industry or a market containing only a few firms

OPEN MARKET the buying and selling of US Treasury bonds and

OPERATIONS securities in the open securities market by the Federal

Reserve System in order to change bank reserves and

influence the nation's money supply

OPPORTUNITY COST (value of) the next best alternative that must be given

up when a choice is made; not all alternatives, just the

next best choice

OUTPUT the product (good or service); the quantity or amount

produced with a given input

PARTNERSHIP legal organization of a business with more than one

person owning/managing the business

PAYMENT 1. amount paid for use of goods or services;

2. a monthly installment paid on an account

PER CAPITA literally means "per person"; Example: Per capita GDP

is the gross domestic product divided by the population

PERFECT COMPETITION a market structure characterized by

1. many buyers and sellers;

2. a homogeneous product;

3. the freedom of entry and exit; no barriers to entry;

see competition

PERFORMER one who carries out an action or fulfills or discharges

his duty or command; one who carries an action or task

through to completion

PERSONAL INCOME total money income received by individuals before

paying personal taxes

PERSONAL INVESTMENT the purchase of an asset (with some degree of risk) for

the purpose of earning future income

POLICY in insurance, the contract between the insurer and the

insured setting forth the *premium*, what risks are covered or not covered, the procedures to establish a claim and all other terms and conditions applicable

POSITIVE ECONOMICS the study of the economy as it exists; descriptive or

predictive analysis of what is; see normative economics

PRE-INDUSTRIAL a nation or society that has little or no industry or has a

SOCIETY low level of technology

PREMIUM the amount paid to purchase insurance protection

PRICE the value of a good or service stated in money terms

PRICE CEILING the price for a particular good or service fixed, usually

by government, at some **maximum** level above which the market price is not permitted to rise; If the price

ceiling is set below the market clearing price, a market

shortage will result. Example: rent controls

PRICE FLOOR a price for a particular good or service fixed usually by

government, at some level below which the market price is not permitted to fall (**minimum**); If the price floor is set above the *market clearing price*, a market

surplus will result. Example: minimum wage

PRICE INDEX a weighted average of prices used to compare price

levels in one time or place with price levels at another

time or place; see consumer price index

PRICE SYSTEM a system using the interaction of supply and demand

and free markets to allocate scarce resources in providing goods and services to meet human wants

PRINCIPAL the actual amount of money being borrowed, before

interest is added

PRIME RATE interest which banks charge their biggest and best

customers

PRIVATE ENTERPRISE business activities not controlled by government

regulations

PRIVATE PROPERTY property (things) owned by one person or a group of

people (my bicycle, our house); each person having control over his/her private property and the right to receive the benefit from the use of the property unless it infringes on the rights of others—basis for *capitalism*

PRODUCERS people who use resources to make goods and services,

also called workers or labor

PRODUCT tangible, man-made objects or services, used to satisfy

the wants of the consumer; see goods

PRODUCTION the process (act) of using resources (factors of

production) to make goods

PRODUCTION COSTS the cost of changing resources into finished products

(consumer good)

PRODUCTION POSSIBILITIES

POSSIBILITIES 1. the frontier between possible outputs (given quantity and quality of resources, level of technology and

efficiency) and those which are not possible;

2. an economic model depicting all the possible combinations of two goods or services that can be produced with a given quantity of resources

PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY ability to produce goods and services; the **maximum**

potential output

PRODUCTIVITY the ratio of output (goods and services) produced per

unit of input (productive resources) over a period of

time

PROFIT the difference between the total *revenue* and total *cost*

of a business; see loss

PROFIT MOTIVE 1. the incentive that leads individuals to assume the risk

of loss associated with investing one's own resources in a business in the hope of achieving a greater financial reward than in any other enterprise involving the same degree of risk; 2. the guiding force of a free market system; The desire for *profit* leads investors to direct their resources to those areas of the economy where consumers place the highest value on the goods and

services produced from those resources.

PROGRESSIVE TAX a tax that increases with the income of the taxpayer;

Example: Federal income tax gets higher, both as an

amount and as a percentage, as income rises.

PROPERTY 1. something tangible that one owns;

2. land or real estate

PROPERTY TAX taxes paid by households and businesses to local

governments on land and buildings

PROPORTIONAL TAX all levels of income are taxed at the same rate; also

called *flat tax*; Example: biblical tithe

PROPRIETORSHIP a business enterprise owned solely by one person or

proprietor

PUBLIC GOODS AND SERVICES goods and services provided by the government;

Examples: highways and highway maintenance

PUBLIC PROPERTY property (things) owned together by all people for

everyone's use; Examples: certain schools, parks,

libraries

PURCHASE the acquisition of ownership or title to something in

exchange for payment

PURCHASING POWER 1. the relative amount of goods and services that can be

purchased with the dollar as compared with some earlier period; also called the *value of the dollar* or the *buying power of the dollar*; 2. the ability of an individual or group to purchase goods and services as measured by their income or wealth adjusted for

changes in the value of the dollar

PURE MONOPOLY a market situation in which there is only one seller of a

good or service and no close substitutes for that good or

service

PURE COMPETITION see competition

QUALITY the degree of excellence (of a product)

QUANTITY the amount of a product

QUANTITY DEMANDED see demand

QUANTITY SUPPLIED see supply

QUOTA a proportional share or a maximum limit:

1. in international trade, limits put on the quantities of goods in place of protective tariffs to protect domestic producers from foreign competition; Export quotas may be used to deny scarce resources to foreign producers. 2. in labor relations, restrictions placed on the hiring of people with certain racial, religious, physical or other characteristics; 3. in planned or socialist economies, performance goals set by central planners for various subunits of the economy

RATE OF RETURN the return on an investment expressed in percentage

terms

RAW MATERIAL unprocessed natural products used in the production of

final goods and services; Example: iron ore as one of

the raw materials used to make automobiles

REAL ESTATE land, improvements to land and things permanently

attached to the land, such as buildings

REAL GDP the gross domestic product expressed in dollars of a

constant value; This calculation allows GDP of various years to be compared without the distortion of inflation

or deflation.

REAL INCOME purchasing power of money income; the quantity of

goods and services that can be bought with money

income; see money income

Note: If one's money income doubles and the prices double at the same time, real income has not changed.

REAL VALUE OF MONEY buying power

REAL VS. NOMINAL

Nominal values are measured using current market

MEASUREMENT

prices whereas real values are nominal values adjusted

for the effects of inflation or deflation.

REAL WAGE see real income

RECESSION a contraction in the economy; a reduction in *real GDP*

over at least 2 quarters of the year

REGRESSIVE TAX a tax that takes a larger percentage of the income of

low-income people than of high-income people; Example: People with low incomes pay a higher percentage of their income in sales taxes than do those

with high incomes.

REGULATORY AGENCY a government agency responsible for preparing and

administering government regulations; may also be responsible for research on changing conditions in their appointed area, for suggesting new legislation, for setting standards of compliance and for determining violations and setting penalties; may be administered by

either elected or appointed officials

RENEWABLE RESOURCES natural resources that are not used up in consumption

(solar energy, wind or wave power) or that reproduce

themselves, wholly or in part (timber)

RENT 1. money payments for the use of a house, land or

some other property or space; 2. payment to those who supply the *factor of production*, *land*. 3. return to a

fixed factor of production

RESERVE RATIO the percent of deposit liabilities that banks and other

financial institutions must keep in reserve against transfer or withdraw; Most bank reserves must be kept in vault cash or on deposit at a Federal Reserve Bank.

RESOURCES all natural, human and human-made aids to the

production of goods and services; also called

productive resources

RÉSUMÉ a summary of a person's education, experience and

work skills that is used when searching for a job

REPOSSESSION the act of a creditor taking back a product purchased on

credit because the buyer has defaulted on the loan

RETAIL FIRM a store where goods are sold to the consumer

RETIREMENT the state of being no long involved in performing one's

business or profession; Usually one retires upon

reaching some predetermined age, often 65 years old, or

years of employment.

REVENUE the actual cash received in a period including cash

received now for future or past effort; does not include

payments by non-cash means

RIGHT TO PRIVATE PROPERTY the right of individuals to own and control their own

property and to enjoy the benefits of that property; established in the Constitution of the United States of

America; the basis of capitalism

RISK the chance or possibility of gain or loss

RIVALRY a situation in which two or more producers seek to gain

a larger market share by providing consumers with lower prices, higher quality or a differentiated product;

see competition

RULE OF 72 1. To determine how long it will take for money placed

in a savings account with compound interest to double, divide the interest rate into 72. Example: \$100.00 left in a savings account at 10% interest will be worth \$200 in approximately 7.2 years. [72 divided by 10 = 7.2)

2. The same process can be used to determine how long before prices will double at a particular inflation

rate.

SACRIFICE to give up something of value often for the sake of

something else

SALARY a fixed wage paid periodically for regular work

Example: My salary is \$400 per week. see wage

SALE the transfer of ownership rights or title to property or

goods and services

SALES TAX taxes paid on the goods and services people buy

SAVE the opposite of spend

SAVINGS the portion of (after tax) income that is not spent for

consumer goods or services

SAVINGS ACCOUNT an account in a financial institution where a person

deposits that part of his/her income which he or she chooses not to spend at the present time; These institutions usually pay interest on money in savings

account.

SAVINGS & LOAN similar to a bank, but has as its primary function storing

money in savings accounts and lending money for the

purchase of homes (home mortgages)

SCARCE RESOURCES resources (used to produce goods and services) that are

short in supply, relative to unlimited human wants

SCARCITY the condition of not being able to have all the goods and

services that one wants

SCARCITY PROBLEM Because resources are limited, relative to human wants

and needs, we have to make choices. Example: Shall

we use our limited supply of oil for gasoline

(transportation) or for producing heat for homes and

power for factories?

SEASONAL FLUCTUATIONS regular and predictable variations in the level of some

economic activity over the period of a year; also called *seasonal variations*; Example: Youth unemployment is

seasonally high during the summer.

SECURITIES stocks and bonds collectively

SELLING PRICE the price asked for and paid for a good or service in the

market

SERVICE CHARGE an additional cost or fee for the privilege of purchasing

a good or service on credit; see minimum balance

SERVICES activities that can satisfy people's wants or needs

7/26/06

INSTITUTION

SHERMAN ANTITRUST

ACT

the federal law passed by Congress in 1890 prohibiting

monopolies or conspiracies to monopolize

SHORTAGE

the situation resulting when the quantity demanded exceeds the quantity supplied of a good, service or

resource

SILVER CERTIFICATE

paper currency printed and distributed by the US government the value of which was established and backed by some agreed upon quantity of silver that the government had in storage; Silver certificates are no longer issued.

SIMPLE INTEREST

interest paid only on the amount deposited in a savings account but not on the interest earned by the account; Often this interest payment is paid out to the depositor and not held in the account. **see** *compound interest*

SOCIAL GOODS

those goods and services that cannot be provided to one person without others benefiting; usually provided by government; **see** *public goods and services*Example: Streetlights, if provided for you, will also

benefit your neighbors.

SOCIAL SECURITY TAX

a tax deducted from gross income for the purpose of contributing to social security benefits

SOCIAL SECURITY PROGRAM

established in 1935 by Congress; consists of two parts:
1. a tax paid by the employer and employee on a limited amount of annual wages earned in employment specified by the law to be used upon retirement or disability;

2. a benefit program for retirees, the disabled, widows, orphans, etc. that is not entirely dependent upon whether any tax was paid by the beneficiary

SOCIALISM

an economic system in which much or most of the means of production are owned and controlled by the government; The economic questions, What, How and For Whom, are answered by a central planning system.

SPECIALIZATION

1. dividing work among people so that each person does one job or task; concentrating on a job that one does well; Example: In a primitive society the slow, patient person might specialize in farming and the active, aggressive person in hunting. Not only have the two people specialized in jobs for which they are well suited, but as time goes by, they should each become

more productive as they concentrate on that one skill ("Practice makes perfect"). **see** *division of labor* 2. may be geographical in nature (grow oranges in Florida and wild rice in Minnesota) requiring the exchange of products; Specialization leads to greater efficiency and productivity but also increases dependence upon others and interdependence.

SPILLOVER BENEFIT see external benefit

SPILLOVER COST see external cost

STAGFLATION a period in which the economy is experiencing both

high unemployment and high inflation

STANDARD OF the *per capita* level of production of goods and services

achieved in an economy; computed by dividing the

GDP by the population

STATE GOVERNMENT government of a state; Example: the government of the

State of Florida; see government

STOCK share of ownership in a corporation; Corporations sell

stock to acquire funds to operate or expand the

organization. The two types are common and preferred.

STOCK CERTIFICATE a piece of paper that represents partial ownership of a

corporation

STOCK MARKET marketplace where stocks are bought and sold

STORE OF VALUE see functions of money

STRIKE action used by labor and labor unions in which workers

voluntarily stop working to bring pressure on their

employers to meet their demands.

SUBSIDY 1. government aid to individuals, businesses or other

groups, usually dependent upon their meeting certain

conditions for eligibility;

2. government payments to support some specific

economic activity

SUBSISTENCE one in which the standard of living is just equal to that

ECONOMY needed to satisfy basic needs

LIVING

SUBSTITUTE GOODS

goods that are substitutes for each other in satisfying human wants or needs; Example: Coca-Cola and Pepsi NOTE: Whether or not goods or services are substitutes for each other depends upon individual tastes and values. Margarine and butter are substitutes for some people, but not for everyone—certain professional chefs for example.

SUBSTITUTE RESOURCES

a resource that takes the place of another resource when the latter is unavailable or becomes too expensive

SUBSTITUTION

the act of using one good or resource in place of another to satisfy human wants or needs; may occur when the price of one good or resource rises due to scarcity

SUPPLIER

1. one who offers a supply of a good or service (producer)

2. one who offers a supply of a resource

SUPPLY

a schedule of how much producers are willing and able to produce and sell at all possible prices during some time period; the quantities of goods or services that producers are willing and able to provide at a particular time at all relevant prices; usually expressed as a **table** (called the *supply schedule*) or as a **graph** (called the *supply curve*) of quantities of a good or service supplied at different prices

NOTE: Economists differentiate between *supply* and *quantity supplied*. Supply is based upon the cost of *factors of production*, level of *technology* and the number of *suppliers* in the market. A change in any of these will cause a shift in the supply curve, so that at each price a greater (or lesser) quantity will be supplied (than was true before). As prices change, you move along the supply curve to a greater (or lesser) quantity supplied. *Supply* is the whole curve; *quantity supplied* is one point on that curve, associated with a particular price.

SUPPLY CURVE

see supply

SUPPLY SCHEDULE

see supply

SURPLUS

the situation resulting when the quantity supplied exceeds the quantity demanded of a good, service or resource; usually occurs when, for some reason, the price is above the equilibrium price in the market TARIFF 1. in international trade, a customs duty or tax imposed

as goods enter or leave the country; 2. in transportation or shipping, the specified charge for shipping goods

between stations or ports

TAX required payments of money collected from households

and businesses by the government to provide public goods or services; Examples: sales tax, income tax

TAX REVENUE the amount of money received by government as a

result of imposing taxes

TAXATION the two main principles of taxation

PRINCIPLES 1. The *ability to pay principle* states that the tax

payments should be related to the individual's ability to

pay.

2. The *benefit principle* states that tax payments should

be related to the benefits received from government

services..

TECHNOLOGY the scientific and mechanical skill and knowledge used

in producing goods and services

TECHNOLOGICAL increases in technology of mechanical and scientific

ADVANCES knowledge and skill in producing goods and services

TELLER an employee of a bank or savings and loan whose job it

is to take deposits of bank clients or to pay out when the

client makes a withdrawal from his account

TIME DEPOSIT a deposit into a savings account

TIPS small gifts of money given in return for a service;

originally, an acronym for "To Insure Promptness"

TITLE the legal ownership of an asset

TOTAL COSTS the sum of all relevant costs of production, implicit and

explicit, including a normal profit; see normal profit

TRADE the purchase, sale or exchange of goods and services

TRADE BARRIER any aspect of government policy that inhibits the free

exchange of goods and services between nations

TRADE-OFF giving up one thing to get another

TRADITION DIRECTED ECONOMY

a method of coordinating economic activity that relies on generally accepted historical practices, beliefs, customs and religious traditions to guide economic choices

TRANSFER PAYMENTS

other payments to a person that are not payments for the

use of a resource in production;

Examples: social security, welfare payments

TRANSPORTATION

the act of moving goods and services from one

geographic location to another

TRUTH IN LENDING LAW

a federal law that requires creditors (lenders) to tell the annual percentage rate, finance charge and deferred payments for an item purchased on credit; also called

Regulation Z

UNEMPLOYMENT

the situation in which people are willing and able to work at current wages, but do not have jobs

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

payments made to workers who are unemployed and who meet the requirements of the law to qualify for such payments; The requirements usually are:

1. that the worker has worked in employment that is

:"covered" by the law,

2. that the worker be willing and able to take

employment offered him,

3. that the worker did not leave his previous place of

employment voluntarily,

4. that an initial period (the "waiting period") of

unemployment has elapsed before compensation is due

UNEMPLOYMENT

RATE

the percent of the labor force not employed; see *labor*

force

UNLIMITED WANTS

It is the nature of human wants to be unlimited in total. When basic needs for food, clothing and shelter are met, people tend to develop wants for additional goods

and/or services. see wants

USDA

<u>U</u>nited <u>S</u>tates <u>D</u>epartment of <u>A</u>griculture; the federal agency concerned with regulating the quality of

agriculture output

UTILITY

satisfaction; not usefulness, but the personal satisfaction one receives from consuming a good or service; Each individual is the sole judge of the utility of his own consumption. Example: You enjoy rock music; your parents enjoy Bach. Neither can understand the utility the other receives from the CDs he or she buys.

VARIABLE COSTS

costs that change as the output of the business or firm change; Example: labor costs (wages), raw material costs, energy costs

VALUE

worth; as measured by:

1. usefulness (ability to satisfy wants);

2. money or other commodities that a good or service

can command in exchange

VENTURE

a business undertaking involving a chance or risk

WAGES

1. payment made to those who supply the factor of

production, labor;

2. payment in exchange for the time, energy and/or skill

of the labor force

see salary

WANTS

desires felt by consumers for goods and services; Wants are unlimited; that is, they include basic needs (for food, clothing and shelter) and desires that are above and beyond basic needs. **see** *needs*

Example: I am hungry. A carrot would meet a need; a

steak would satisfy a want.

WARRANTY

1. an undertaking by one party that certain facts are true; may be either expressed or implied; most commonly occurs in a sale or in insurance. 2. a pledge that the producer will stand behind the quality, dependability and usability of a product for a specified

period of time

WEALTH

anything that a person owns that has value and is capable of producing income; Example: Wealth can be stored in the form of money, art, land, baseball cards, etc. It need not produce income, but must be capable of producing income if sold or rented.

WELFARE

payment received by needy individuals from the government due to being poor, out of work, etc.;

see transfer payments

WHITE-COLLAR person who works in an office or store as compared to a

WORKER blue-collar worker-- an employee who performs

manual labor, such as in a factory

WHOLESALER a firm that buys large quantities of a product from the

producer and sells small quantities to a number of retail

firms

WITHDRAWAL the **act** of taking money out of a bank **or** the sum of

money taken out of a bank at one time

WITHHOLDING TAX a tax deducted from gross income for the purpose of

paying federal income tax benefits as a person earns

income

WORK 1. a means of earning a living, 2. the use of energy or

skill in doing or making something

WORKER PRODUCTIVITY the ratio of goods or services produced to the amount of

labor (workers) used in the production

YIELD in the case of corporate stock, the ratio of *dividends* per

share, in dollars, to purchase price per share, in dollars