

The Ledger

Federal Reserve Bank of Boston's Economic Education Newsletter

Fall 2011



**A Wider Web:
More Economics
Resources on
the Internet**

The Ledger

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The Ledger is published twice a year as a public service by the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston. The views expressed in *The Ledger* are not necessarily those of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston or the Federal Reserve System.

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Introduction

We're back, and we've gone green!



In 2008, after almost 35 years in print, we reluctantly suspended publication of *The Ledger*. Postage and production costs were on the rise, and the expense was becoming harder to justify.

But we're back, and we've moved to an all-electronic format with two online issues per year: Fall and Spring.

This issue revisits a topic we first covered in 2001: Economic and financial education resources on the web. Much has changed since then. In those

days blogs were cutting edge, Facebook was still three years in the future, and fewer people used "google" as a verb. As for Twitter ... Be honest! If someone had pitched the concept to you in 2001, you probably would have laughed.

In this issue, we've highlighted dozens of new resources, and we've brought back some classics. We don't claim to have found every site worth knowing. The online world is a big place, and it's getting bigger all the time. If we've left out your favorite, please let us know, and we'll add it to the mix.

And finally...In preparing this issue we asked colleagues throughout the Federal Reserve System for their recommendations. They came up with a number of sites we might have missed, and we're grateful for their efforts. So, here, in alphabetical order, is a heartfelt "thank you" to all those who responded. Good colleagues are truly the best resource of all.

Suzanne Cummings, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston

George "Scott" Guild, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston

Amy Hennessy, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta

Julie Kornegay, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta — Birmingham Branch

Sara Messina, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System

Michele Wulff, Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City — Omaha Branch



BLOG

/Blogs/...

Aplia Econ Blog—News for Econ Students

<http://econblog.aplia.com/>

“A place to explore current events that relate to your econ classes”

Be sure to check out the extensive archive of previous posts. The posts are highly readable, and each includes discussion questions.

The Baseline Scenario—What happened to the global economy and what we can do about it

<http://baselinescenario.com/>

Be sure to check out the extensive list of links to other blogs and resources.

Café Hayek—Where Orders Emerge

<http://cafehayek.com/>

Lively commentary on economics and politics, written by Don Boudreaux and Russ Roberts of George Mason University

Be sure to check out the [EconTalk Podcast](#) link.

Cheap Talk

<http://cheaptalk.org/>

“A blog about economics, politics, and the random interests of forty-something professors”

Be sure to check out the links to [Jeff’s Intermediate Micro Course](#) and [Sandeep’s “Conflict and Cooperation” Course](#).

economicprincipals

<http://www.economicprincipals.com/>

An independent weekly published by David Warsh

Be sure to check out the extensive list of links to economic journalists.

Economix

<http://economix.blogs.nytimes.com/>

“Explaining the Science of Everyday Life”

Well-written and insightful blog posts on the New York Times web site

Be sure to check out any of the posts. They are all worth reading, and they represent diverse viewpoints.



Freakonomics

<http://www.freakonomics.com/>

“The Hidden Side of Everything”

Created by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner, whose posts live up to the site’s tagline

Be sure to check out the podcasts and Marketplace™ segments under the [Radio](#) button.

Grasping Reality with Both Hands

<http://delong.typepad.com/>

“Fair, Balanced, and Reality-Based: The Semi-Daily Journal of Economist Brad DeLong”

Be sure to check out the Among His Best Works.

FRB Atlanta Research Department’s macroblog:

<http://macroblog.typepad.com/>

“The Atlanta Fed’s macroblog provides commentary on economic topics including monetary policy, macroeconomic developments, financial issues and Southeast regional trends.”

Be sure to check out the [Archives](#).

Greg Mankiw’s Blog,

<http://gregmankiw.blogspot.com/>

“Random Observations for Students of Economics”

Be sure to check out Advice for Students, Principles of Economics, and A Few Timeless Posts.

Knowledge @ Wharton High School — Teachers’ Room

<http://kwhs.wharton.upenn.edu/teacher-blog/>

Created by the people at University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton School of Business

Be sure to check out all the various buttons: Entrepreneurs & Leaders, Environment, Fashion, Food &

More, Life After High School, Money & You, Social Impact, Sports & Entertainment, and Tech Buzz.

Marginal Thoughts

<http://marginalthoughts.chicagofedblogs.org/>

Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago

Be sure to check out the posts, which are lucid and informative.

MV = PQ: A Resource for Economic Educators

<http://www.valuingeconomics.blogspot.com>

“Ideas and discussions about economics and financial literacy issues”

Be sure to check out the daily posts, which are concise, informative, and sometimes “quirky” in the best sense of the word.

New Economist

<http://neweconomist.blogs.com/>

New economic research, data, events and analysis from a London-based economist

Be sure to check out the extensive listing of Economist Weblogs and Economics Resources.

PLANET money

<http://www.npr.org/blogs/money/>

“A fun, safe, exciting, accessible place for people to explore the global economy and what it’s doing to them”

Be sure to check out the blog posts and twice-weekly podcasts, all of which are invariably interesting and insightful.

Robert Reich

<http://robertreich.org/>

Be sure to check out the blog posts, which are always lucid and concise.

Tim Harford: The Undercover Economist

<http://timharford.com/>

Be sure to check out the engaging articles and Tim’s Tweets.

VoluntaryExchange

<http://voluntaryexchange.ning.com/>

A blog, a bulletin board, a retro form of social media ... Voluntary Exchange is a blend of all three.

Be sure to check out the whole thing. It’s from the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston!

The Wandering Economist

<http://thewanderingeconomist.com/>

“Because ‘It’s the Economy, Stupid!’ isn’t much of an answer.”

Be sure to check out the posts, which offer a global perspective on banking, finance, and the economy.



/Coins, Currency, and Past Value/...

**American Currency Exhibit,
Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco**
<http://www.frbsf.org/currency/index.html>

Be sure to check out the Showcase of Bills.

Bureau of Engraving and Printing
<http://www.moneyfactory.gov/>

U.S. Treasury Department

Be sure to check out the [Youth Education](#) link to learn more about the U.S. currency security features.

Measuring Worth
<http://www.measuringworth.com/>

Be sure to check out [The Calculators](#) and [The Measures of Worth Essay](#) to learn more about the various approaches to making value comparisons between one historical period and another.

Money—Past, Present & Future
<http://projects.exeter.ac.uk/RDavies/arian/money.html>
“Information on Monetary History, Contemporary Developments, and Electronic Money”

Be sure to check out [History of Money from Ancient Times to Present Day](#) and [Current Value of Old Money](#).

United States Mint
<http://www.usmint.gov/education/>
Education pages of the United States Mint

Be sure to check out [Educators Home](#).



/Economic Data/...

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System

<http://www.federalreserve.gov/>

Be sure to check out the [Statistics & Historical Data](#) page.

Bureau of Economic Analysis

<http://www.bea.gov/>

U.S. Department of Commerce

Be sure to check out [U.S. Economy at a Glance](#) and [Interactive Data](#).

Bureau of Labor Statistics

<http://www.bls.gov/home.htm>

United States Department of Labor

Be sure to check out [Resources for Student or Teacher](#).

FRED®

<http://research.stlouisfed.org/fred2/>

Federal Reserve Economic Data

Be sure to check out [GeoFRED™](#), a data-mapping tool that allows users to create color-coded maps from among 12,000 data series. The link is at the bottom of the FRED page.

The National Bureau of Economic Research

<http://www.nber.org/>

“A private, nonprofit, nonpartisan research organization”

Be sure to check out the archive of [NBER Working Papers](#).

U.S. Census Bureau

<http://www.census.gov/>

U.S. Department of Commerce

Be sure to check out [Census in Schools](#) and [Selected Historical Decennial Census Population and Housing Counts](#).

U.S. Government Accountability Office

<http://www.gao.gov/>

Be sure to check out [Multimedia](#) and [Long-Term Fiscal Outlook](#).

U.S. Department of the Treasury

<http://www.treasury.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

Be sure to check out the [Resource Center](#)

Visualizing Economics

<http://visualizingeconomics.com/>

“A web site dedicated to publishing infographics about economic data”

/Economic History/...

American Memory

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html>

The Library of Congress

Be sure to check out the [Maps collection](#), especially the [panoramic maps](#), and [America from the Great Depression to World War II](#).

EH.net

<http://eh.net/>

The Economic History Association

Be sure to check out [Encyclopedia](#) and [How Much Is That?](#)

The Great Depression

<http://www.stlouisfed.org/greatdepression>

Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

Be sure to check out all the links in the [Curriculum](#) and [Online Resources](#) menus.

Greatest Engineering Achievements of the 20th Century

<http://www.greatachievements.org/>

National Academy of Engineering

Be sure to check out the [Timeline](#).

The History of Economic Thought

<http://www.newschool.edu/nssr/het/>

The New School of Social Research

Be sure to check out the [Web Links and Essays](#) and [Surveys](#)

Be sure to check out the entire site. Just get on it and play. Lots of fun and lots to learn!

The World Factbook

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>

Central Intelligence Agency

“Information on the history, people, government, economy, geography, communications, transportation, military, and transnational issues for 267 world entities”

Be sure to check out the [Guide to Country Comparisons](#).

Worldmapper: The world as you’ve never seen it before

<http://www.worldmapper.org/index.html>

Be sure to check out the [A to Z Index of Maps](#).



Museum of American Financial History

www.financialhistory.org

Be sure to check out online Exhibits, Education, and Resources

Old Sturbridge Village

<http://osv.org>

Be sure to check out [Explore & Learn](#) and [Kids Zone](#).

Tenement Museum

<http://tenement.org>

Be sure to check out [Education](#).



/Economic Literacy/

Financial Literacy/Consumer Education

360 Degrees of Financial Literacy

<http://www.360financialliteracy.org/>

American Institute of Certified Public Accountants

Be sure to check out [Life Stages](#), which covers financial concerns from childhood to retirement.

The Calvin K. Kazanjian Economics Foundation

<http://www.kazanjian.org/>

“Promoting economic understanding to all for greater prosperity and happiness since 1947”

Be sure to check out the [Grants Program](#) section to some of the good ideas that have won recognition.

Consumer World®

<http://www.consumerworld.org/>

One of the internet’s more comprehensive education/reference sites for consumers

Be sure to check out [Mouse Print*](#) to learn more about “the strings and catches buried in the fine print” of ads and commercial offers.

JA Student Center

<http://studentcenter.ja.org/Pages/default.aspx>

Junior Achievement

Be sure to check out [Manage Your Money](#).

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

<http://www.fdic.gov/>

Be sure to check out [Consumer Protection](#) and [Money Smart — A Financial Education Program](#).

Federal Trade Commission

<http://www.ftc.gov/>

Be sure to check out [Consumer Protection](#) for links to FTC publications.

It All Adds Up

<http://www.italladdsup.org/>

Personal Finance for Teens

Be sure to check out the [Teachers' Guide](#) and any of the games or simulations on credit management, buying a car, budgeting, saving and investing.

The Jump\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy

<http://jumpstart.org/>

Jump\$tart has been working since 1995 to get basic personal financial skills into the k-12 curriculum.

Be sure to check out the Jump\$tart [Reality Check](#).

LifeSmarts: The Ultimate Consumer Challenge

<http://www.lifesmarts.org/>

The questions in this gameshow-style competition cover personal finance, consumer rights and responsibilities, health and safety, the environment, and technology.

Be sure to check out [LifeSmarts U](#) for lesson plans and teaching materials.

Making Sen\$e with Paul Solman — Your Guide to the Economy

<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/economy/making-sense/>

Be sure to check out the [Economics Lesson Plans](#).

My Money (The Financial Literacy and Education Commission)

<http://www.mymoney.gov/>

"The U.S. government's website dedicated to teaching all

Americans the basics about financial education"

Be sure to check out [My Resources](#) and [Calculators](#).

National Endowment for Financial Education

<http://www.nefe.org/>

"A nonprofit foundation partnering for financial well-being"

Be sure to check out the NEFE [High School Financial Planning Program](#)®

National Financial Educators Council

<http://www.financialeducatorscouncil.org/>

Be sure to check out [The Financial Literacy and Education Blog](#).

Money Counts: Young Adults and Financial Literacy Series, NPR

<http://www.npr.org/series/136275928/money-counts-young-adults-and-financial-literacy>

Be sure to check out the [Money Quiz](#) and [Calculate How Your Savings Can Grow](#).

Squared Away: Frontiers in Financial Literacy

<http://fsp.bc.edu/squared-away-blog/>

From the Financial Security Project at Boston College

Be sure to check out [Get Rich Slow](#), a simulation that gives you the opportunity to make financial decisions for a fictional couple at four life stages.

Stossel in the Classroom

<http://www.stosselintheclassroom.org/>

Be sure to check out [Teacher Guides](#) and [Teacher Ideas to Share](#).

Understanding Fiscal Responsibility

<http://understandingfiscalresponsibility.org/>

Teachers College, Columbia University

Be sure to check out the [economics curriculum](#).

You have to register, but it's worth the effort.



/Entrepreneurship and Innovation/...

Entrepreneurship and Education

<http://www.kauffman.org/>

Ewing and Marion Kauffman Foundation

Be sure to check out [Youth Entrepreneurship](#).

On Innovation

<http://www.oninnovation.com/>

"Visionaries Thinking Out Loud™"

Be sure to check out [Innovation 101: Lesson Plans](#).

A young girl with blonde hair, wearing a blue and green striped shirt, is smiling broadly while holding a video game controller. To her right, a young boy with dark hair, wearing a red shirt, is also smiling and holding a video game controller. They are both sitting at a table, and the background is a bright, out-of-focus indoor setting.

/Games/Simulations/ and Just Plain Fun/...

**Council for Economic Education's
Geni Revolution:**
<http://www.genirevolution.org/>

EconStories
<http://econstories.tv/>

Be sure to check out the [videos](#), especially *Fight of the Century*.

Limericks Economiques
<http://www.limericksecon.com/>

Poems on the Dismal Science of Economics

Be sure to check out "Dr. Goose's Favorite Links" at the bottom of the splash page.

**Peanuts & Crackerjacks:
Economics of Pro Team Sports**
[http://www.bostonfed.org/peanuts/
indexnosound.htm](http://www.bostonfed.org/peanuts/indexnosound.htm)

Federal Reserve Bank of Boston

Be sure to check out The Sports Page and The Teachers Guide links at the bottom of the splash page.

Show Business: The Economic\$ of Entertainment
<http://www.bostonfed.org/entertainment/>
Federal Reserve Bank of Boston

**San Francisco's Fed Chairman Game:
So you want to be in charge of monetary policy ...**
[http://www.frbsf.org/education/activities/chairman/
index.html](http://www.frbsf.org/education/activities/chairman/index.html)

You Are Here
www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/youarehere/
Federal Trade Commission



/Focus on the Fed/...

Federal Reserve Education

<http://www.federalreserveeducation.org/>

Federal Reserve System

Maybe we're biased, but ...

If you have even the slightest interest in the Federal Reserve, you should visit this site, which brings together the educational resources of all 12 Reserve Banks and the Board of Governors. And it is very user-friendly.

Just a few of the resources you will find:

A Day in the Life of the FOMC: An Inside Look at the Federal Reserve's Monetary Policymaking Body

<http://www.philadelphiafed.org/education/teachers/resources/day-in-life-of-fomc/>

Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia

Building Wealth

<http://www.dallasfed.org/ca/wealth/index.cfm>

Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas

Core Concept Cards

<http://www.federalreserveeducation.org/resources/coreconcepts/>

Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City

Econ Explorers

http://www.chicagofed.org/digital_assets/others/education/econ_explorers_students.pdf

Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago and Federal Reserve Bank of New York

Economic Literacy Test

http://www.minneapolisfed.org/publications_papers/studies/econlit/test.cfm

Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis

Explore Money From Around the World

http://www.clevelandfed.org/Learning_Center/Online_Activities/explore_money/index.cfm?DCS.nav=Local

Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland

The Federal Reserve System: Purposes & Functions

<http://www.federalreserve.gov/pf/pf.htm>

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System

Fedville

<http://www.frbsf.org/education/fedville/>

Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco

Historical Beginnings ... The Federal Reserve

<http://www.bos.frb.org/about/pubs/begin.pdf>

Federal Reserve Bank of Boston

Historical Figures Bookmarks

http://www.richmondfed.org/publications/education/historical_figure_bookmarks/index.cfm

Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond

/Portals and Other Resources/...

CEOExpress®

<http://www.ceoexpress.com>

Be sure to check out the links to more things than we have space to list.

Classroom Economist

http://www.frbatlanta.org/edresources/classroom_economist/

Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta

Be sure to check out the links within the posts.

The College Board

<http://www.collegeboard.com>

Be sure to check out the links to past AP exams and resource materials in [Macroeconomics](#) and [Microeconomics](#).

Dismal Scientist®

<http://www.economy.com/dismal/>

“Economics Made Clear”

Be sure to check out the [Tools](#) section.

econedlink — economics and personal finance resources for K-12

<http://www.econedlink.org/>

Council for Economic Education

Be sure to check out the lessons, interactive tools, data resources, and parent resources at the bottom of the splash page.

In Plain English: Making Sense of the Federal Reserve

<http://www.stlouisfed.org/inplainenglish/default.html>

Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

Katrina’s Classroom: Financial Lessons from a Hurricane

<http://www.frbatlanta.org/forms/katrina.cfm>

Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta

[Katrina’s Classroom](#) provides a financial literacy perspective you won’t find on other sites, and it packs an emotional punch.



EconEdReviews

<http://www.econedreviews.org/>

“Teachers Helping Teachers Find Outstanding Economics Materials on the Web”

The Calvin K. Kazanjian Economics Foundation

Be sure to check out the Reviews (of course).

EcEdWeb: Resources for Teachers K-12

<http://ecedweb.unomaha.edu/home.cfm>

University of Nebraska-Omaha Center for Economic Education

Be sure to check out [K-12 Teaching Resources](#) and [College Teaching Resources](#).

EconSources!

<http://www.econsources.com/>

Gary E. Clayton, PhD

Be sure to check out any of the categories. Lots of good resources listed.

Globalization 101: A student’s guide to globalization

<http://www.globalization101.org/>

The Levin Institute—The State University of New York

Be sure to check out Teaching Tools

International Monetary Fund

<http://www.imf.org/external/>

Be sure to check out [For Students](#).

Reffonomics

www.reffonomics.com

Steven Reff and Dick Brunelle's Online Economics Textbook

Be sure to check out Basic Concepts, Microeconomics, and Macroeconomics.

RFE: Resources for Economists on the Internet

<http://www.rfe.org/>

American Economic Association

Be sure to check out [Teaching Resources](#) and [Neat Stuff](#).

The White House

<http://www.whitehouse.gov>

Be sure to check out [Economy](#) and [Fiscal Responsibility](#).