



# The economy

No matter where you live, the economy is bound to make headlines. That's because the economy affects nearly everything we do, and nearly everything we do affects the economy.

Keeping up with the economy — and all the issues surrounding it — is one reason many people read the newspaper. Each day, the newspaper publishes news and information about such topics as unemployment, the national debt, inflation, consumerism, and the stock market. Plus, the newspaper provides advertising space for businesses that provide goods

and services and prints information aimed at helping readers make wise consumer choices.

Economic news often appears in its own section. But it also frequently overlaps into other areas of the newspaper, especially the front page.



## activity



### Making it your business

Become familiar with the business section of your newspaper. List below some of the topics covered over a period of days. Did any of the topics affect or interest you? Were they mostly local, state, or national stories?

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Find an economic story that appears on the front page. Explain below why you think it was important enough to make front-page news and who is most affected by the news.

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## activity

### We're all in this together

With your classmates, talk about the concept of interdependence — that all our economic decisions affect other people. Then, in small groups, find a popular or often-used item advertised in the newspaper. Think about what would happen if everyone stopped buying that item: Who would be affected? Which jobs would be at risk? What would it do to the economy as a whole? Now, explain your thoughts.

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## activity

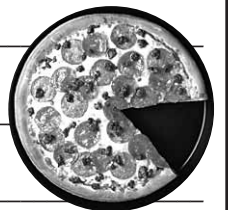
### Wise choices

As a consumer, you are continuously faced with choices — what to buy, when to buy it, where to buy it, and how to pay for it, to name a few. Making wise choices takes knowledge and understanding of the marketplace, but it also takes practice.

You can practice making wise choices by going “shopping” through the newspaper:

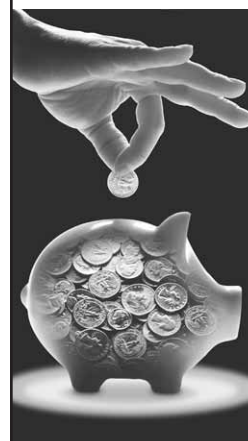
- Compare prices on these or similar items found in the newspaper. Then, underneath each item, list the range of prices found.

	Milk _____	CD players _____
	Sporting goods _____	School/office supplies _____
	Video equipment _____	Movie tickets _____
	Soft drinks _____	Pizza _____
	Tennis shoes _____	Television sets _____



- You need a gift for your best friend. First, pretend you can spend up to \$100. Then pretend you can spend \$30 or less. List the items and their costs below. Discuss how the information available helped you make your choices.

Item	Cost	Item	Cost
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____



- Imagine that you've just inherited \$1 million. Look for items advertised in the newspaper (don't forget the classifieds) that you would buy with your newfound wealth. Keep track of your purchases by writing down the items and how much they cost. When your \$1 million is spent, write a report on what it was like to be a millionaire for a day.
- Pretend you get \$15 a week for allowance. Find an item advertised in the newspaper that you would be willing to save your money for. How much of your allowance would you be willing to save each week? How long will it take you to save enough money? Make a list of the things you would do without to save the needed amount.