

ELA Lines of Inquiry

Economics Lesson 4

The Labor Market



Introduction

What comes to mind when you hear the phrase “labor market” or “job market”?

What factors can influence the job market?

- Work in small groups to brainstorm and write each factor on a sticky note.
- Consider economic, social, technological, and global factors.
- Arrange your factors by order of importance and post on the class wall.
- Select one member of your group to explain your list to the whole class.

Reflection

- Which of the factors did groups have in common?
- Did any of the listed factors surprise you? Which ones?
- Why do you think it is important to be aware of the job market and factors that can influence them?

Lesson Objectives

By the end of the lesson, you should be able to ...

- Integrate information from a text and data presented in tables to answer text-dependent comprehension questions.
- Write one paragraph stating your opinion about the labor market and supporting your position with one piece of evidence from a text and one piece of evidence from a graph.

Reading 1 Vocabulary

Labor

- **Definition:** (noun) work
- **Synonyms:** work, effort, service
- **Antonyms (opposites):** idleness, leisure
- **Example from the text:** “Have you looked for a job recently? If so, you’ve been an active participant in the labor market.”
- **Your personal example:**

Equilibrium

- **Definition:** (noun) a state of balance
- **Synonyms:** balance, stability
- **Antonyms (opposites):** imbalance, unevenness
- **Example from the text:** “The demand for labor and the supply of labor interact and result in an equilibrium price.”
- **Your personal example:**

Substitution

- **Definition:** (noun) a replacement for something
- **Synonyms:** replacement, exchange
- **Antonyms (opposites):** unchanged
- **Example from the text:** “Like most people, you are far more likely to work more hours at a higher wage than at the lower wage. This is called the substitution effect and explains why the labor supply curve is upward sloping: workers are willing to work a greater quantity of hours at higher wages than at lower wages.”
- **Your personal example:**

Shift

- **Definition:** (noun) a change in direction
- **Synonyms:** change, movement, transition
- **Antonyms (opposites):** remaining in place, constant
- **Example from the text:** “Like other markets, the demand for labor and the supply of labor shift, which can cause wages to increase and decrease.”
- **Your personal example:**

Opportunity Cost

- **Definition:** (noun) what you give up when you choose one thing over another
- **Synonyms:** alternative, trade-off
- **Antonyms (opposites):** n/a
- **Example from the text:** “When you think of other ways you could spend your time, a \$2 wage probably isn’t enough to lure you away from the other alternatives, such as an afternoon at the beach. Or, put differently, the opportunity cost is too high.”
- **Your personal example:**

Reading 2 Vocabulary

Defy

- **Definition:** (noun) not follow the rules; to resist or challenge expectations
- **Synonyms:** disregard, resist
- **Antonyms (opposites):** obey
- **Example from the text:** “The job market is defying all odds.”
- **Your personal example:**

Policymakers

- **Definition:** (noun) people responsible for creating policies or laws, especially in government
- **Synonyms:** legislators, decision makers
- **Antonyms (opposites):** n/a
- **Example from the text:** “At its last meeting in September, policymakers appeared to be leaning toward one more rate hike this year in their quest to bring prices under control.”
- **Your personal example:**

Inflation

- **Definition:** (noun) a general increase in the prices of goods and services
- **Synonyms:** price rise
- **Antonyms (opposites):** deflation
- **Example from the text:** “The Federal Reserve is keeping a close eye on the job market as it tries to decide whether to raise interest rates even higher, in an effort to control inflation.”
- **Your personal example:**

Implication

- **Definition:** (noun) the possible effects or consequences of an action, decision, or situation
- **Synonyms:** conclusion, ramification
- **Antonyms (opposites):** n/a
- **Example from the text:** “The job market has implications for the Fed.”
- **Your personal example:**

Snapshot

- **Definition:** (noun) brief overview or summary that provides a quick understanding of a situation or condition at a particular point in time
- **Synonyms:** synopsis
- **Antonyms (opposites):** thorough report
- **Example from the text:** “Here are four things to know about the monthly employment snapshot.”
- **Your personal example:**

Lesson Objective Review (In-Person)

By the end of the lesson, you should be able to ...

- Integrate information from a text and data presented in tables to answer text-dependent comprehension questions.
- Write one paragraph stating your opinion about the labor market and supporting your position with one piece of evidence from a text and one piece of evidence from a graph.

How do you feel about your proficiency with these objectives?

- **Green** = I feel good and am ready to move on.
- **Yellow** = I feel OK but could probably use more practice.
- **Red** = I don't think I get it completely and definitely need more practice.

Lesson Objective Review (Remote)

By the end of the lesson, you should be able to ...

- Integrate information from a text and data presented in tables to answer text-dependent comprehension questions.
- Write one paragraph stating your opinion about the labor market and supporting your position with one piece of evidence from a text and one piece of evidence from a graph.

How do you feel about your proficiency with these objectives?

- 👍 = I feel good and am ready to move on.
- 🙌 = I feel ok but could probably use more practice.
- 🙏 = I don't think I get it completely and definitely need more practice.

Preparing for Our Next Class

- For the final lesson of this unit, you will create a hypothetical business.
- For homework, think about what type of business you would want to start.
- You will be using your knowledge of economics (factors of production, entrepreneurship, and the labor market) and your skills in using graphs to create a simple business plan.