

Principles of Microeconomics

TWELFTH EDITION

Karl E. Case • Ray C. Fair • Sharon E. Oster

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Karl E. Case

Wellesley College

Ray C. Fair

Yale University

Sharon M. Oster

Yale University



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Integra Software Services, Inc.

Interior Designer: Integra Software Services, Inc.

Cover Designer: Jon Boylan Cover Image: © Gluiki/Shutterstock

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Authorized adaptation from the United States edition, entitled Principles of Microeconomics, 12th Edition, ISBN 978-0-13-407881-6 by Karl E. Case, Ray C. Fair, and Sharon M. Oster, published by Pearson Education © 2017.

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ISBN 10: 1-292-15269-9 ISBN 13: 978-1-292-15269-1

British Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Typeset in Albertina MT Pro by Integra Software Services Printed and bound by Vivar in Malaysia

About the Authors



Karl E. Case is Professor of Economics Emeritus at Wellesley College where he has taught for 34 years and served several tours of duty as Department Chair. He is a Senior Fellow at the Joint Center for Housing Studies at Harvard University and a founding partner in the real estate research firm of Fiserv Case Shiller Weiss, which produces the S&P Case-Shiller Index of home prices. He serves as a member of the Index Advisory Committee of Standard and Poor's, and along with Ray Fair he serves on the Academic Advisory Board of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston.

Before coming to Wellesley, he served as Head Tutor in Economics (director of undergraduate studies) at Harvard, where he won the Allyn Young Teaching Prize. He was Associate Editor of the *Journal of Economic Perspectives* and the *Journal of Economic Education*, and he was a member of the AEA's Committee on Economic Education.

Professor Case received his B.A. from Miami University in 1968; spent three years on active duty in the Army, and received his Ph.D. in Economics from Harvard University in 1976.

Professor Case's research has been in the areas of real estate, housing, and public finance. He is author or coauthor of five books, including *Principles of Economics, Economics and Tax Policy*, and *Property Taxation: The Need for Reform*, and he has published numerous articles in professional journals.

For the last 25 years, his research has focused on real estate markets and prices. He has authored numerous professional articles, many of which attempt to isolate the causes and consequences of boom and bust cycles and their relationship to regional and national economic performance.



Ray C. Fair is Professor of Economics at Yale University. He is a member of the Cowles Foundation at Yale and a Fellow of the Econometric Society. He received a B.A. in Economics from Fresno State College in 1964 and a Ph.D. in Economics from MIT in 1968. He taught at Princeton University from 1968 to 1974 and has been at Yale since 1974.

Professor Fair's research has primarily been in the areas of macroeconomics and econometrics, with particular emphasis on macroeconometric model building. He also has done work in the areas of finance, voting behavior, and aging in sports. His publications include *Specification*, Estimation, and Analysis of Macroeconometric Models (Harvard Press, 1984); Testing Macroeconometric Models (Harvard Press, 1994); Estimating How the Macroeconomy Works (Harvard Press, 2004), and *Predicting Presidential Elections and Other Things* (Stanford University Press, 2012).

Professor Fair has taught introductory and intermediate macroeconomics at Yale. He has also taught graduate courses in macroeconomic theory and macroeconometrics.

Professor Fair's U.S. and multicountry models are available for use on the Internet free of charge. The address is http://fairmodel.econ.yale.edu. Many teachers have found that having students work with the U.S. model on the Internet is a useful complement to an introductory macroeconomics course.



Sharon M. Oster is the Frederic Wolfe Professor of Economics and Management and former Dean of the Yale School of Management. Professor Oster joined Case and Fair as a coauthor in the ninth edition of this book. Professor Oster has a B.A. in Economics from Hofstra University and a Ph.D. in Economics from Harvard University.

Professor Oster's research is in the area of industrial organization. She has worked on problems of diffusion of innovation in a number of different industries, on the effect of regulations on business, and on competitive strategy. She has published a number of articles in these areas and is the author of several books, including *Modern Competitive Analysis* and *The Strategic Management of Nonprofits*.

Prior to joining the School of Management at Yale, Professor Oster taught for a number of years in Yale's Department of Economics. In the department, Professor Oster taught introductory and intermediate microeconomics to undergraduates as well as several graduate courses in industrial organization. Since 1982, Professor Oster has taught primarily in the Management School, where she teaches the core microeconomics class for MBA students and a course in the area of competitive strategy. Professor Oster also consults widely for businesses and nonprofit organizations and has served on the boards of several publicly traded companies and nonprofit organizations.



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Preface

Our goal in the 12th edition, as it was in the first edition, is to instill in students a fascination with both the functioning of the economy and the power and breadth of economics. The first line of every edition of our book has been "The study of economics should begin with a sense of wonder." We hope that readers come away from our book with a basic understanding of how market economies function, an appreciation for the things they do well, and a sense of the things they do poorly. We also hope that readers begin to learn the art and science of economic thinking and begin to look at some policy and even personal decisions in a different way.

What's New in This Edition?

- The 12th edition, Global Edition, has continued the changes in the *Economics in Practice* boxes that we began several editions ago. In these boxes, we try to bring economic thinking to the concerns of the typical student. In many cases, we do this by spotlighting recent research, much of it by young scholars. Some of the many new boxes include:
 - Chapter 3 uses behavioral economics to ask whether having unusually sunny weather increases consumer purchasess of convertible cars.
 - Chapter 6 looks at data from Indian reservations to trace out the incidence of excise taxes.
 - In Chapter 7 we describe recent work on how Uber drivers differ from regular cab drivers.
 - Many people currently buy clothes and shoes on line. Chapter 15 describes a recent paper that asks how much value does increased variety in shoe selection produce for consumers?
 - In Chapter 21 we describe work that uses children's height in India to examine hunger and gender inequality.
 - Chapter 22, our new chapter, contains three boxes, examining the Moving to Opportunity program, birth weight and infant mortality, and the effects of the minimum wage.

In other cases we use recent events or common situations to show the power and breadth of economic models:

- In Chapter 8 we use the example of a Taylor Swift concert to explain fixed versus variable costs.
- In Chapter 9 we explore economies to scale with the example of Google's advantages in the search market.
- In Chapter 13 we describe "net neutrality" and use it to explore the structure of the telecommunications market.
- In Chapter 16 we look at how firms use carbon prices to motivate managers to be more conscious in the investment decisions about the environment.

It is our hope that students will come to see both how broad the tools of economics are and how exciting is much of the new research in the field. For each box, we have also added questions to take students back from the box to the analytics of the textbook to reinforce the underlying economic principles of the illustrations.

• As in the previous edition, we have reworked some of the chapters to streamline them and to improve readability. In this edition, Chapter 16 has been considerably reworked to include a more comprehensive and up-to-date analysis of environmental issues. This chapter now focuses on externalities, public goods, and common resources. Social choice has been moved to the chapter covering public finance. Chapter 18 has also been substantially reworked to reflect the increased worldwide concern with issues of inequality. Finally, Chapter 21 has been revised to include more of the modern approach to economic development, including discussion of the millennium challenge.

- We have added a new chapter, Chapter 22, "Critical Thinking About Research," which we are quite excited about. It may be the first time a chapter like this has been included in an introductory economics text. This chapter covers the research methodology of economics. We highlight some of the key concerns of empirical economics: selection issues, causality, statistical significance, and regression analysis. Methodology is a key part of economics these days, and we have tried to give the introductory student a sense of what this methodology is.
- Many new questions and problems at the end of the chapters have been added.

The Foundation

The themes of Principles of Microeconomics, 12th edition, are the same themes of the first eleven editions. The purposes of this book are to introduce the discipline of economics and to provide a basic understanding of how economies function. This requires a blend of economic theory, institutional material, and real-world applications. We have maintained a balance between these ingredients in every chapter. The hallmark features of our book are as follows:

- 1. Three-tiered explanations of key concepts (stories-graphs-equations)
- 2. Intuitive and accessible structure
- **3.** International coverage

Three-Tiered Explanations: Stories-Graphs-Equations

Professors who teach principles of economics are faced with a classroom of students with different abilities, backgrounds, and learning styles. For some students, analytical material is difficult no matter how it is presented; for others, graphs and equations seem to come naturally. The problem facing instructors and textbook authors is how to convey the core principles of the discipline to as many students as possible without selling the better students short. Our approach to this problem is to present most core concepts in the following three ways.

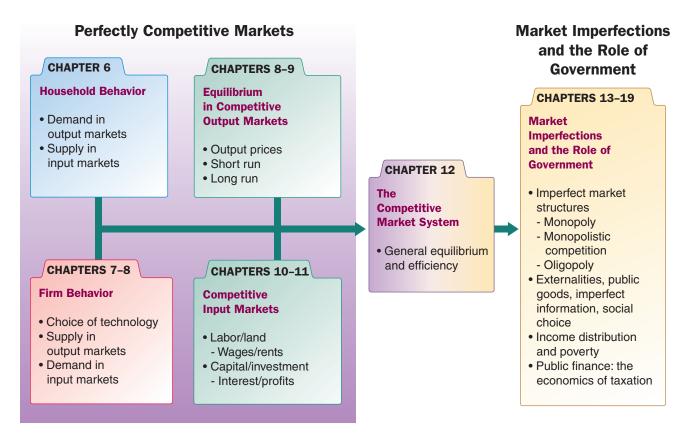
First, we present each concept in the context of a simple intuitive *story* or example in words often followed by a table. Second, we use a *graph* in most cases to illustrate the story or example. And finally, in many cases where appropriate, we use an *equation* to present the concept with a mathematical formula.

Microeconomic Structure

The organization of the microeconomic chapters continues to reflect our belief that the best way to understand how market economies operate—and the best way to understand basic economic theory—is to work through the perfectly competitive model first, including discussions of output markets (goods and services) and input markets (land, labor, and capital), and the connections between them before turning to noncompetitive market structures such as monopoly and oligopoly. When students understand how a simple, perfectly competitive system works, they can start thinking about how the pieces of the economy "fit together." We think this is a better approach to teaching economics than some of the more traditional approaches, which encourage students to think of economics as a series of disconnected alternative market models.

Learning perfect competition first also enables students to see the power of the market system. It is impossible for students to discuss the efficiency of markets as well as the problems that arise from markets until they have seen how a simple, perfectly competitive market system produces and distributes goods and services. This is our purpose in Chapters 6 through 11.

Chapter 12, "General Equilibrium and the Efficiency of Perfect Competition," is a pivotal chapter that links simple, perfectly competitive markets with a discussion of market



▲ FIGURE II.2 Understanding the Microeconomy and the Role of Government

imperfections and the role of government. Chapters 13 through 15 cover three noncompetitive market structures—monopoly, monopolistic competition, and oligopoly. Chapter 16 covers externalities, public goods, and social choice. Chapter 17, which is new to this edition, covers uncertainty and asymmetric information. Chapters 18 and 19 cover income distribution as well as taxation and government finance. The visual at the top of this page (Figure II.2 from page 144), gives you an overview of our structure.

International Coverage

As in previous editions, we continue to integrate international examples and applications throughout the text. This probably goes without saying: The days in which an introductory economics text could be written with a closed economy in mind have long since gone.

Tools for Learning

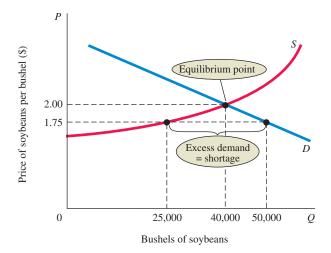
As authors and teachers, we understand the challenges of the principles of economics course. Our pedagogical features are designed to illustrate and reinforce key economic concepts through real-world examples and applications.

Economics in Practice

As described earlier, the *Economics in Practice* feature focuses on recent research or events that support a key concept in the chapter and help students think about the broad and exciting applications of economics to their lives and the world around them. Some of these boxes contains a question or two to further connect the material they are learning with their lives.

FIGURE 3.9 Excess Demand, or Shortage

At a price of \$1.75 per bushel, quantity demanded exceeds quantity supplied. When excess demand exists, there is a tendency for price to rise. When quantity demanded equals quantity supplied, excess demand is eliminated and the market is in equilibrium. Here the equilibrium price is \$2.00 and the equilibrium quantity is 40,000 bushels.



Graphs

Reading and interpreting graphs is a key part of understanding economic concepts. The Chapter 1 Appendix, "How to Read and Understand Graphs," shows readers how to interpret the 200-plus graphs featured in this book. We use red curves to illustrate the behavior of firms and blue curves to show the behavior of households. We use a different shade of red and blue to signify a shift in a curve.

Problems and Solutions

Each chapter and appendix ends with a problem set that asks students to think about and apply what they've learned in the chapter. These problems are not simple memorization questions. Rather, they ask students to perform graphical analysis or to apply economics to a real-world situation or policy decision. More challenging problems are indicated by an asterisk. Many problems have been updated. The solutions to all of the problems are available in the *Instructor's Manuals*. Instructors can provide the solutions to their students so they can check their understanding and progress.

Digital features located in MyEconLab

MyEconLab is a unique online course management, testing, and tutorial resource. It is included with the eText version of the book or as a supplement to the print book. Students and instructors will find the following online resources to accompany the twelfth edition:

- Concept Checks: Each section of each learning objective concludes with an online Concept Check that contains one or two multiple choice, true/false, or fill-in questions. These checks act as "speed bumps" that encourage students to stop and check their understanding of fundamental terms and concepts before moving on to the next section. The goal of this digital resource is to help students assess their progress on a section-by-section basis, so they can be better prepared for homework, quizzes, and exams.
- Animations: Graphs are the backbone of introductory economics, but many students struggle to understand and work with them. Select numbered figures in the text have a supporting animated version online. The goal of this digital resource is to help students understand shifts in curves, movements along curves, and changes in equilibrium values. Having an animated version of a graph helps students who have difficulty interpreting the static version in the printed text. Graded practice exercises are included with the animations. Our experience is that many students benefit from this type of online learning.

• Learning Catalytics: Learning Catalytics is a "bring your own device" Web-based student engagement, assessment, and classroom intelligence system. This system generates classroom discussion, guides lectures, and promotes peer-to-peer learning with real-time analytics. Students can use any device to interact in the classroom, engage with content, and even draw and share graphs.

To learn more, ask your local Pearson representative or visit www.learningcatalytics.com.

- **Digital Interactives:** Focused on a single core topic and organized in progressive levels, each interactive immerses students in an assignable and auto-graded activity. Digital Interactives are also engaging lecture tools for traditional, online, and hybrid courses, many incorporating real-time data, data displays, and analysis tools for rich classroom discussions.
- **Dynamic Study Modules:** With a focus on key topics, these modules work by continuously assessing student performance and activity in real time and using data and analytics, provide personalized content to reinforce concepts that target each student's particular strengths and weaknesses.
- NEW: Math Review Exercises: MyEconLab now offers a rich array of assignable and auto-graded exercises covering fundamental math concepts geared specifically to principles and intermediate economics students. Aimed at increasing student confidence and success, our new math skills review Chapter R is accessible from the assignment manager and contains over 150 graphing, algebra, and calculus exercises for homework, quiz, and test use. Offering economics students warm-up math assignments, math remediation, or math exercises as part of any content assignment has never been easier!
- **Graphs Updated with Real-Time Data from FRED:** Approximately 25 graphs are continuously updated online with the latest available data from FRED (Federal Reserve Economic Data), which is a comprehensive, up-to-date data set maintained by the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. Students can display a pop-up graph that shows new data plotted in the graph. The goal of this digital feature is to help students understand how to work with data and understand how including new data affects graphs.
- Interactive Problems and Exercises Updated with Real-Time Data from FRED: The end-of-chapter problems in select chapters include real-time data exercises that use the latest data from FRED.

MyEconLab for the Instructor

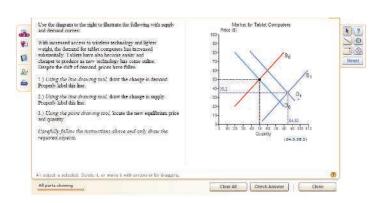
Instructors can choose how much or how little time to spend setting up and using MyEconLab. Here is a snapshot of what instructors are saying about MyEconLab:

MyEconLab offers [students] a way to practice every week. They receive immediate feedback and a feeling of personal attention. As a result, my teaching has become more targeted and efficient.—Kelly Blanchard, Purdue University

Students tell me that offering them MyEconLab is almost like offering them individual tutors.—
Jefferson Edwards, Cypress Fairbanks College

MyEconLab's eText is great—particularly in that it helps offset the skyrocketing cost of textbooks. Naturally, students love that.—Doug Gehrke, Moraine Valley Community College

Each chapter contains two preloaded homework exercise sets that can be used to build an individualized study plan for each student. These study plan exercises contain tutorial resources, including instant feedback, links to the appropriate learning objective in the eText,



pop-up definitions from the text, and step-by-step guided solutions, where appropriate. After the initial setup of the course by the instructor, student use of these materials requires no further instructor setup. The online grade book records each student's performance and time spent on the tests and study plan and generates reports by student or chapter.

Alternatively, instructors can fully customize MyEconLab to match their course exactly, including reading assignments, homework assignments, video assignments, current news assignments, and quizzes and tests. Assignable resources include:

- Preloaded exercise assignments sets for each chapter that include the student tutorial resources mentioned earlier
- Preloaded quizzes for each chapter that are unique to the text and not repeated in the study plan or homework exercise sets
- Study plan problems that are similar to the end-of-chapter problems and numbered exactly like the book to make assigning homework easier
- 🚱 use the very latest data from FRED. By completing the exercises, students become familiar with a key data source, learn how to locate data, and develop skills in interpreting data.
- In the eText available in MyEconLab, select figures labeled MyEconLab Real-time data 🚱 allow students to display a pop-up graph updated with real-time data from FRED.
- Current News Exercises, provide a turnkey way to assign gradable news-based exercises in MyEconLab. Each week, Pearson scours the news, finds a current microeconomics and macroeconomics article, creates exercises around these news articles, and then automatically adds them to MyEconLab. Assigning and grading current news-based exercises that deal with the latest micro and macro events and policy issues has never been more convenient.
- Experiments in MyEconLab are a fun and engaging way to promote active learning and mastery of important economic concepts. Pearson's Experiments program is flexible, easy-to-assign, auto-graded, and available in single- and multiplayer versions.
 - Single-player experiments allow your students to play against virtual players from anywhere at any time so long as they have an Internet connection.
 - Multiplayer experiments allow you to assign and manage a real-time experiment with your class.
 - Pre- and post-questions for each experiment are available for assignment in MyEconLab.
 - For a complete list of available experiments, visit www.myeconlab.com.
- Test Item File questions that allow you to assign quizzes or homework that will look just like your exams
- Econ Exercise Builder, which allows you to build customized exercises

Exercises include multiple-choice, graph drawing, and free-response items, many of which are generated algorithmically so that each time a student works them, a different variation is presented.

MyEconLab grades every problem type except essays, even problems with graphs. When working homework exercises, students receive immediate feedback, with links to additional learning tools.

Customization and Communication MyEconLab in MyLab/Mastering provides additional optional customization and communication tools. Instructors who teach distance-learning courses or very large lecture sections find the MyLab/Mastering format useful because they can upload course documents and assignments, customize the order of chapters, and use communication features such as Document Sharing, Chat, ClassLive, and Discussion Board.

MyEconLab for the Student

MyEconLab puts students in control of their learning through a collection of testing, practice, and study tools tied to the online, interactive version of the textbook and other media resources. Here is a snapshot of what students are saying about MyEconLab:

- It was very useful because it had EVERYTHING, from practice exams to exercises to reading. Very helpful.—student, Northern Illinois University
- I would recommend taking the quizzes on MyEconLab because it gives you a true account of whether or not you understand the material.—student, Montana Tech
- It made me look through the book to find answers, so I did more reading.—student, Northern Illinois University

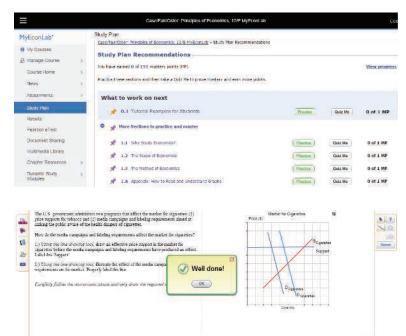
Students can study on their own or can complete assignments created by their instructor. In MyEconLab's structured environment, students practice what they learn, test their understanding, and pursue a personalized study plan generated from their performance on sample tests and from quizzes created by their instructors. In Homework or Study Plan mode, students have access to a wealth of tutorial features, including:

- Instant feedback on exercises that helps students understand and apply the concepts
- Links to the eText to promote reading of the text just when the student needs to revisit a concept or an explanation
- Step-by-step guided solutions that force students to break down a problem in much the same way an instructor would do during office hours
- Pop-up key term definitions from the eText to help students master the vocabulary of economics
- A graphing tool that is integrated into the various exercises to enable students to build and manipulate graphs to better understand how concepts, numbers, and graphs connect

Additional MyEconLab Tools MyEconLab includes the following additional features:

- **Pearson eText**—Students actively read and learn with more engagement than ever before.
- **Glossary flashcards**—Every key term is available as a flashcard, allowing students to quiz themselves on vocabulary from one or more chapters at a time.

MyEconLab content has been created through the efforts of Chris Annala, State University of New York—Geneseo; Charles Baum, Middle Tennessee State University; Peggy Dalton, Frostburg State University; Carol Dole, Jacksonville University; David Foti, Lone Star College; Sarah Ghosh, University of Scranton; Satyajit Ghosh, University of Scranton; Woo Jung, University of Colorado; Chris Kauffman, University of Tennessee—Knoxville; Russell Kellogg, University of Colorado—Denver; Katherine McCann, University of Delaware; Daniel Mizak, Frostburg State University; Christine Polek, University of Massachusetts—Boston; Mark Scanlan, Stephen F. Austin State University; Leonie L. Stone, State University of New York—Geneseo; and Bert G. Wheeler, Cedarville University.



Other Resources for the Instructor

The following supplements are designed to make teaching and testing flexible and easy and are available for *Micro*, *Macro*, and *Economics* volumes.

Instructor's Manuals

Two Instructor's Manuals, one for Principles of Microeconomics and one for Principles of Macroeconomics, were prepared by Tony Lima of California State University, East Bay (Hayward, California). The Instructor's Manuals are designed to provide the utmost teaching support for instructors. They include the following content:

- Detailed *Chapter Outlines* include key terminology, teaching notes, and lecture suggestions.
- *Topics for Class Discussion* provide topics and real-world situations that help ensure that economic concepts resonate with students.
- Unique *Economics in Practice* features that are not in the main text provide extra real-world examples to present and discuss in class.
- Teaching Tips provide tips for alternative ways to cover the material and brief reminders
 on additional help to provide students. These tips include suggestions for exercises and
 experiments to complete in class.
- Extended Applications include exercises, activities, and experiments to help make economics relevant to students.
- Excel Workbooks, available for many chapters, make it easy to customize numerical examples and produce graphs.
- *Solutions* are provided for all problems in the book.

Four Test Item Files

We have tailored the Test Item Files to help instructors easily and efficiently assess student understanding of economic concepts and analyses. Test questions are annotated with the following information:

- **Difficulty:** 1 for straight recall, 2 for some analysis, 3 for complex analysis
- Type: Multiple-choice, true/false, short-answer, essay
- **Topic:** The term or concept the question supports
- Skill: Fact, definition, analytical, conceptual
- **AACSB:** See description in the next section.

The Test Item Files include questions with tables that students must analyze to solve for numerical answers. The Test Item Files also contain questions based on the graphs that appear in the book. The questions ask students to interpret the information presented in the graph. Many questions require students to sketch a graph on their own and interpret curve movements.

Microeconomics Test Item File, by Randy Methenitis of Richland College: The Microeconomics Test Item File includes over 2,700 questions. All questions are machine gradable and are either multiple-choice or true/false. This Test Item File is for use with the 12th edition of *Principles of Microeconomics* in the first year of publication. It is available in a computerized format using TestGen EQ test-generating software and is included in MyEconLab.

Microeconomics Test Item File Discussion and Short Answer, by Richard Gosselin of Houston Community College: This second Test Item File includes 1,000 conceptual problems, essay questions, and short-answer questions. Application-type problems ask students to draw graphs and analyze tables. The Word files are available on the Instructor's Resource Center (www.pearsonglobaleditions.com/Case).

Macroeconomics Test Item File by Randy Methenitis of Richland College: The Macroeconomics Test Item File includes over 2,900 questions. All questions are machine gradable and are either multiple-choice or true/false. This Test Item File is for use with the 12th edition of *Principles of Macroeconomics* in the first year of publication. This Test Item File is available in a computerized format using TestGen EQ test-generating software and included in MyEconLab.

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The Test Item Files were checked for accuracy by the following professors:

Leon J. Battista, Bronx Community College; Margaret Brooks, Bridgewater State College; Mike Casey, University of Central Arkansas; Mike Cohick, Collin County Community College; Dennis Debrecht, Carroll College; Amrik Dua, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona; Mitchell Dudley, The College of William & Mary; Ann Eike, University of Kentucky; Connel Fullencamp, Duke University; Craig Gallet, California State University, Sacramento; Michael Goode, Central Piedmont Community College; Steve Hamilton, California State Polytechnic University; James R. Irwin, Central Michigan University; Aaron Jackson, Bentley College; Rus Janis, University of Massachusetts, Amherst; Jonatan Jelen, The City College of New York; Kathy A. Kelly, University of Texas, Arlington; Kate Krause, University of New Mexico; Gary F. Langer, Roosevelt University; Leonard Lardaro, University of Rhode Island; Ross LaRoe, Denison University; Melissa Lind, University of Texas, Arlington; Solina Lindahl, California State Polytechnic University; Pete Mavrokordatos, Tarrant County College; Roberto Mazzoleni, Hofstra University; Kimberly Mencken, Baylor University; Ida Mirzaie, Ohio State University; Shahruz Mohtadi, Suffolk University; Mary Pranzo, California State University, Fresno; Ed Price, Oklahoma State University; Robert Shoffner, Central Piedmont Community College; James Swofford, University of South Alabama; Helen Tauchen, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; Eric Taylor, Central Piedmont Community College; Henry Terrell, University of Maryland; John Tommasi, Bentley College; Mukti Upadhyay, Eastern Illinois University; Robert Whaples, Wake Forest University; and Timothy Wunder, University of Texas, Arlington.

The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) The authors of the Test Item File have connected select Test Item File questions to the general knowledge and skill guidelines found in the AACSB assurance of learning standards.

What Is the AACSB? AACSB is a not-for-profit corporation of educational institutions, corporations, and other organizations devoted to the promotion and improvement of higher education in business administration and accounting. A collegiate institution offering degrees in business administration or accounting may volunteer for AACSB accreditation review. The AACSB makes initial accreditation decisions and conducts periodic reviews to promote continuous quality improvement in management education. Pearson Education is a proud member of the AACSB and is pleased to provide advice to help you apply AACSB Assurance of Learning Standards.

What Are AACSB Assurance of Learning Standards? One of the criteria for AACSB accreditation is quality of the curricula. Although no specific courses are required, the AACSB expects a curriculum to include learning experiences in areas such as the following:

- Written and Oral Communication
- Ethical Understanding and Reasoning
- Analytic Thinking Skills
- · Information Technology
- Diverse and Multicultural Work
- Reflective Thinking
- Application of Knowledge

Questions that test skills relevant to these guidelines are tagged with the appropriate standard. For example, a question testing the moral questions associated with externalities would receive the Ethical Understanding and Reasoning tag.

How Can Instructors Use the AACSB Tags? Tagged questions help you measure whether students are grasping the course content that aligns with the AACSB guidelines noted earlier. This in turn may suggest enrichment activities or other educational experiences to help students achieve these skills.

TestGen

The computerized TestGen package allows instructors to customize, save, and generate classroom tests. The test program permits instructors to edit, add, or delete questions from the Test Item Files; analyze test results; and organize a database of tests and student results. This software allows for extensive flexibility and ease of use. It provides many options for organizing and displaying tests, along with search and sort features. The software and the Test Item Files can be downloaded from the Instructor's Resource Center (www.pearsonglobaleditions .com/Case).

PowerPoint® Lecture Presentations

PowerPoint slides for Principles of Microeconomics and Principles of Macroeconomics, prepared by Jim Lee of Dickinson State University, are available:

- A comprehensive set of PowerPoint slides can be used by instructors for class presentations or by students for lecture preview or review. These slides include all the figures, photos, tables, key terms, and equations in the textbook. Instructors may download these PowerPoint presentations from the Instructor's Resource Center (www.pearsonglobaleditions.com/Case).
- A student version of the PowerPoint slides are available as .pdf files. This version allows students to print the slides and bring them to class for note taking. Instructors can download these PowerPoint presentations from the Instructor's Resource Center. (www.pearsonglobaleditions.com/Case).

Acknowledgments

We are grateful to the many people who helped us prepare the 12th edition. We thank David Alexander, our editor, and Lindsey Sloan, our program manager, for their help and enthusiasm.

Roberta Sherman, project manager, and Jeffrey Holcomb, our Team Lead of Project Management, ensured that the production process of the book went smoothly. In addition, we also want to thank Stephanie Raga of Integra Software Services, Inc., who kept us on schedule, and Jenell Forschler, who managed the research of the many photographs that appear in the book.

We want to give special thanks to Patsy Balin, Murielle Dawdy, and Tracy Waldman for their research assistance.

We also owe a debt of gratitude to those who reviewed and checked the 12th edition for accuracy. They provided us with valuable insight as we prepared this edition and its supplement package.

Bahram Adrangi, University of Portland Anthony Andrews, Governors State University

J Jeffrey Blais, Rhode Island College Paula M. Cole, University of Denver Karen Fitzner, DePaul University James Frederick, UNC at Pembroke Richard Gearhart, California State University, Bakersfield

Wayne Hickenbottom, University of Texas at Austin

Janet Koscianski, Shippensburg University

Tim Kwock, University of Hawaii West Oahu

Sangjoon Lee, Alfred University David Lehmkuhl, Lakeland College Benjamin Liebman, St. Joseph's University Basel Mansour, New Jersey City University Chris Phillips, Somerset Community College

Sarah Quintanar, University of Arkansas at Little Rock

Daniel Sichel, Wellesley College John Solow, University of Iowa Jadrian Wooten, Penn State University Linus Yamane, Pitzer College

Reviewers of Previous Editions

The following individuals were of immense help in reviewing all or part of previous editions of this book and the teaching/learning package in various stages of development:

Cynthia Abadie, Southwest Tennessee Community College

Shawn Abbott, College of the Siskiyous Fatma Abdel-Raouf, Goldey-Beacom College

Lew Abernathy, University of North Texas

Rebecca Abraham, Nova Southeastern University

Basil Adams, Notre Dame de Namur University

Jack Adams, University of Maryland Douglas K. Adie, Ohio University Douglas Agbetsiafa, Indiana University, South Bend

Sheri Aggarwal, University of Virginia Carlos Aguilar, El Paso Community College

Ehsan Ahmed, James Madison University Ferhat Akbas, Texas A&M University Sam Alapati, Rutgers University Terence Alexander, Iowa State University

John W. Allen, Texas A&M University Polly Allen, University of Connecticut Stuart Allen, University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Hassan Aly, Ohio State University Alex Anas, University at Buffalo, The

State University of New York David Anderson, Centre College

Joan Anderssen, Arapahoe Community College

Jim Angresano, Hampton-Sydney College

Kenneth S. Arakelian, University of Rhode Island

Harvey Arnold, Indian River Community College

Nick Apergis, Fordham University Bevin Ashenmiller, Occidental College Richard Ashley, Virginia Technical University

Birjees Ashraf, Houston Community College Southwest

Kidane Asmeron, Pennsylvania State University

Musa Ayar, University of Texas, Austin James Aylesworth, Lakeland Community College

Moshen Bahmani, University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee

Asatar Bair, City College of San Francisco Diana Bajrami, College of Alameda Mohammad Bajwa, Northampton Community College

Rita Balaban, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

A. Paul Ballantyne, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs

Richard J. Ballman, Jr., Augustana College King Banaian, St. Cloud State University

Nick Barcia, Baruch College Henry Barker, Tiffin University Robin Bartlett, Denison University Laurie Bates, Bryant University Kari Battaglia, University of North Texas Leon Battista, Bronx Community College Amanda Bayer, Swarthmore College

Klaus Becker, Texas Tech University Richard Beil, Auburn University

Clive Belfield, Queens College Willie J. Belton, Jr., Georgia Institute of Technology

Daniel K. Benjamin, Clemson University Charles A. Bennett, Gannon University Emil Berendt, Siena Heights University Daniel Berkowitz, University of Pittsburgh Kurt Beron, University of Texas, Dallas Derek Berry, Calhoun Community College Tibor Besedes, Georgia Institute of Technology

Thomas Beveridge, Durham Technical Community College

Anoop Bhargava, Finger Lakes CC
Eugenie Bietry, Pace University
Kelly Blanchard, Purdue University
Mannie Bloemen, Houston Community
College

Mark Bock, Loyola College in Maryland Howard Bodenhorn, Lafayette College Bruce Bolnick, Northeastern University

Frank Bonello, University of Notre Dame Jeffrey Bookwalter, University of Montana

Antonio Bos, Tusculum College Maristella Botticini, Boston University George Bowling, St. Charles Community College

G. E. Breger, University of South Carolina

Charles Callahan, III, State University of New York at Brockport

Dennis Brennan, William Rainey Harper Junior College

Anne E. Bresnock, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, and the University of California, Los Angeles

Barry Brown, Murray State University Bruce Brown, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona Jennifer Brown, Eastern Connecticut State University

David Brownstone, University of California, Irvine

Don Brunner, Spokane Falls Community College

Jeff Bruns, Bacone College David Bunting, Eastern Washington University

Barbara Burnell, College of Wooster Alison Butler, Willamette University Fred Campano, Fordham University Douglas Campbell, University of Memphis

Beth Cantrell, Central Baptist College Kevin Carlson, University of Massachusetts, Boston

Leonard Carlson, Emory University Arthur Schiller Casimir, Western New England College

Lindsay Caulkins, John Carroll University

Atreya Chakraborty, Boston College Suparna Chakraborty, Baruch College of the City University of New York

Winston W. Chang, University at Buffalo, The State University of New York 28 Preface Janie Chermak, University of New Mexico David Ching, University of Hawaii - Honolulu Harold Christensen, Centenary College Daniel Christiansen, Albion College Susan Christoffersen, Philadelphia University Samuel Kim-Liang Chuah, Walla Walla Dmitriy Chulkov, Indiana University, Kokomo David Colander, Middlebury College Daniel Condon, University of Illinois at Chicago; Moraine Valley Community College Karen Conway, University of New Hampshire Cesar Corredor, Texas A&M University David Cowen, University of Texas, Tyler Cowen, George Mason University Amy Cramer, Pima Community College, West Campus Peggy Crane, Southwestern College Barbara Craig, Oberlin College Jerry Crawford, Arkansas State University James Cunningham, Chapman University Scott Cunningham, Baylor University Elisabeth Curtis, Dartmouth James D'Angelo, University of Cincinnati David Dahl, University of St. Thomas Sheryll Dahlke, Lees-McRae College Joseph Dahms, Hood College Sonia Dalmia, Grand Valley State University Rosa Lea Danielson, College of DuPage David Danning, University of Massachusetts, Boston Minh Quang Dao, Eastern Illinois University Amlan Datta, Cisco Junior College David Davenport, McLennan Community College Stephen Davis, Southwest Minnesota State University Dale DeBoer, Colorado University, Colorado Springs Dennis Debrecht, Carroll College Juan J. DelaCruz, Fashion Institute of Technology and Lehman College Greg Delemeester, Marietta College Yanan Di, State University of New York, Stony Brook Amy Diduch, Mary Baldwin College Timothy Diette, Washington and Lee University Vernon J. Dixon, Haverford College

Alan Dobrowolksi, Manchester

Community College

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A. R. Gutowsky, California State University, Sacramento

Anthony Gyapong, Penn State University, Abington

David R. Hakes, University of Missouri, St. Louis

Bradley Hansen, University of Mary Washington

Stephen Happel, Arizona State University

Mehdi Haririan, Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania

David Harris, Benedictine College David Harris, San Diego State University James Hartley, Mount Holyoke College Bruce Hartman, California Maritime

Academy of California State
University

Mitchell Harwitz, University at Buffalo, The State University of New York

Dewey Heinsma, Mt. San Jacinto College Sara Helms, University of Alabama, Birmingham

Brian Hill, Salisbury University David Hoaas, Centenary College Arleen Hoag, Owens Community College Carol Hogan, University of Michigan, Dearborn

Harry Holzer, Michigan State University Ward Hooker, Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College

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Rus Janis, University of Massachusetts Jonatan Jelen, The City College of New York

Eric Jensen, The College of William & Mary

Aaron Johnson, Missouri State University

Donn Johnson, Quinnipiac University Paul Johnson, University of Alaska, Anchorage Shirley Johnson, Vassar College Farhoud Kafi, Babson College R. Kallen, Roosevelt University Arthur E. Kartman, San Diego State University

Hirshel Kasper, Oberlin College Brett Katzman, Kennesaw State University

Bruce Kaufman, Georgia State University

Dennis Kaufman, University of Wisconsin, Parkside

Pavel Kapinos, Carleton College Russell Kashian, University of Wisconsin, Whitewater

Amoz Kats, Virginia Technical University

David Kaun, University of California, Santa Cruz

Brett Katzman, Kennesaw State University

Fred Keast, Portland State University Stephanie Kelton, University of Missouri, Kansas City

Deborah Kelly, Palomar College Erasmus Kersting, Texas A&M University

Randall Kesselring, Arkansas State University

Alan Kessler, Providence College Dominique Khactu, The University of North Dakota

Gary Kikuchi, University of Hawaii, Manoa

Hwagyun Kim, State University of New York, Buffalo

Keon-Ho Kim, University of Utah Kil-Joong Kim, Austin Peay State University

Sang W. Kim, Hood College Phillip King, San Francisco State University

Barbara Kneeshaw, Wayne County Community College

Inderjit Kohli, Santa Clara University Heather Kohls, Marquette University Janet Koscianski, Shippensburg University

Vani Kotcherlakota, University of Nebraska, Kearney

Barry Kotlove, Edmonds Community College

Kate Krause, University of New Mexico

David Kraybill, University of Georgia David Kroeker, Tabor College

Stephan Kroll, California State University, Sacramento

Joseph Kubec, Park University Jacob Kurien, Helzberg School of Management Rosung Kwak, University of Texas at Austin

Sally Kwak, University of Hawaii-Manoa Steven Kyle, Cornell University Anil K. Lal, Pittsburg State University Melissa Lam, Wellesley College

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Don Leet, California State University, Fresno

Robert J. Lemke, Lake Forest College Gary Lemon, DePauw University Alan Leonard, Wilson Technical Community College

Mary Lesser, Iona College Ding Li, Northern State University Zhe Li, Stony Brook University Larry Lichtenstein, Canisius College Benjamin Liebman, Saint Joseph's University

Jesse Liebman, Kennesaw State University

George Lieu, Tuskegee University Stephen E. Lile, Western Kentucky University

Jane Lillydahl, University of Colorado at Boulder

Tony Lima, California State University, East Bay

Melissa Lind, University of Texas, Arlington

Al Link, University of North Carolina Greensboro

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Robert Moore, Occidental College

Norma C. Morgan, Curry College

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Jeff Rubin, Rutgers University