ECOTEENS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS IN APRIL 2026

The global economy is again disrupted, this time with the outbreak of war in the Middle East. Rising commodity prices, firmer inflation expectations, and tighter financial conditions are testing recent resilience, with global growth now projected at just 3.1% for 2026

Under a reference forecast assuming a short-lived conflict and a moderate 19% rise in energy commodity prices, global headline inflation is expected to hit 4.4% — a sharp deviation from the disinflation trend of recent years, putting central banks in a difficult position.

Amid the turbulence, major US banks have remained relatively resilient, with the "big six" posting profits above estimates. Goldman Sachs saw its best quarter in years, while hedge funds bought a record $86 billion in stocks over just five trading sessions.

While global inflation is easing slightly, high prices continue to erode real incomes, particularly for low-income households. Many developing economies remain constrained by heavy debt burdens and limited access to affordable finance, widening inequality across regions

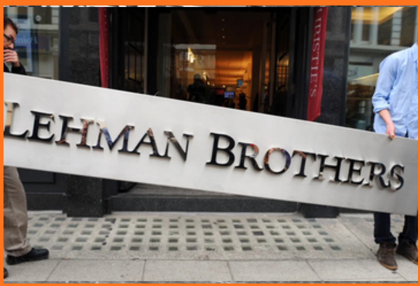
THE 2008 GLOBAL FINANCIAL CRISIS: WHEN THE WORLD'S MONEY RAN OUT

The 2008 crisis stemmed from America's inflated housing bubble. Banks recklessly issued subprime mortgages to borrowers bundling toxic loans into complex financial products. When housing prices crashed, the entire global financial system began unraveling with terrifying, unstoppable speed.

Iconic firms like Lehman Brothers, Bear Stearns, and AIG collapsed or neared total ruin. The US government launched a desperate $700 billion bailout called TARP. Stock markets worldwide plummeted, wiping out trillions in wealth and plunging the global economy into its deepest recession in decades.

No continent escaped the fallout. Europe's banking sector froze, unemployment surged, and trade collapsed. Developing nations watched capital flee overnight as panic spread globally.

Recovery was painfully slow. Central banks slashed rates, governments injected stimulus, but millions permanently lost homes and jobs worldwide.



Fun Fact: When Lehman Brothers collapsed in September 2008, it carried a staggering $613 billion in debt — the largest bankruptcy in US history. Remarkably, the 158-year-old firm had survived the Great Depression and two World Wars before succumbing to its own recklessness.

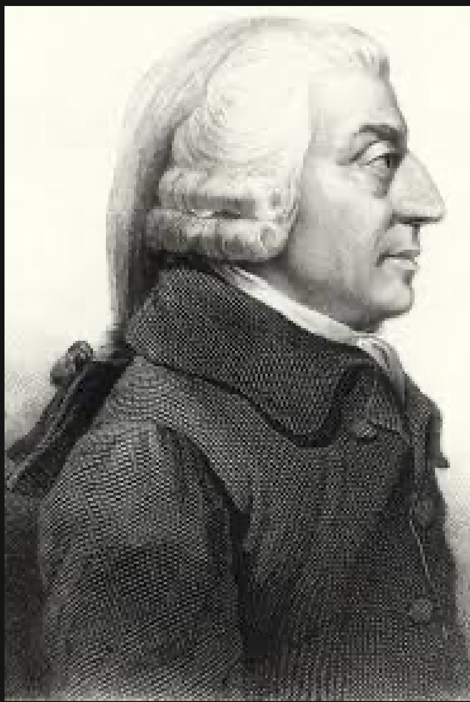
ADAM SMITH — THE FATHER OF MODERN ECONOMICS

Born in Kirkcaldy, Scotland in 1723, Adam Smith was a moral philosopher who transformed how the world understood wealth and trade. Educated at Oxford and Glasgow, his sharp intellect and deep curiosity laid the groundwork for an entirely new way of thinking about economies and human behaviour.

In 1776, Smith published his landmark work The Wealth of Nations, arguably the most influential economics book ever written. He argued that free markets, driven by individual self-interest, naturally produce societal wealth. This revolutionary idea challenged centuries of government-controlled trade and became the bible of modern capitalism.

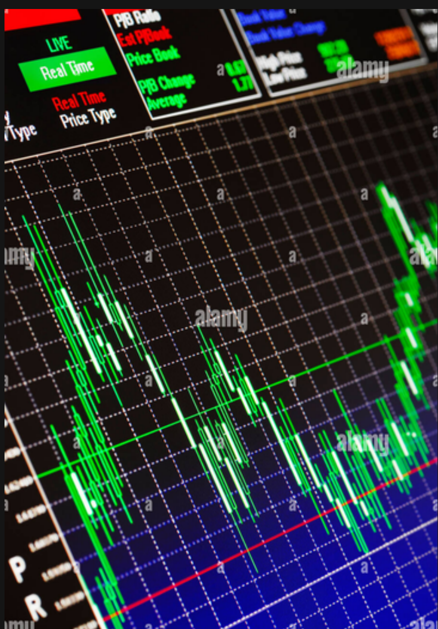
Smith's most famous concept — the "invisible hand" — described how individuals pursuing personal gain unknowingly benefit society as a whole. A baker bakes bread for profit, yet feeds a nation. This elegant idea became the cornerstone of free-market economics and continues to shape global economic policy centuries later.

Smith's ideas inspired generations of economists and business leaders worldwide. From free trade agreements to capitalism itself, his fingerprints are ein modern economic systems. Though he never used the word "capitalism," Adam Smith essentially invented it, making him perhaps the single most influential economist in all of history.



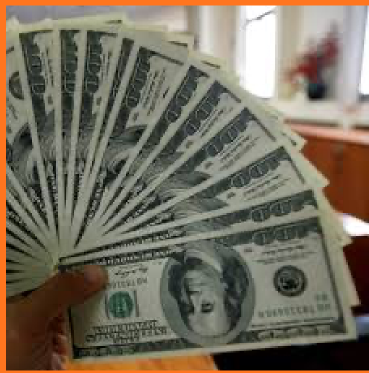
SUPPLY & DEMAND — THE HEARTBEAT OF EVERY ECONOMY

Supply and demand is the most fundamental concept in all of economics. Simply put, demand is how much of a product consumers want, while supply is how much producers offer. Together, these two forces interact constantly to determine the price of virtually everything around us.



When a product becomes popular, more people want it, driving its price upward. Conversely, when interest fades, prices fall. Think of how smartphone prices drop once newer models launch. Consumer income, tastes, and availability of alternatives all powerfully influence how much demand exists for any given product.

BITCOIN: THE CURRENCY THAT EXISTS ONLY IN CYBERSPACE



Fun Fact:The US Dollar is so widely trusted that more than half of all printed dollar bills actively circulate outside the United States. In countries like Ecuador, El Salvador, and Zimbabwe, the dollar is used as the official everyday currency, making it the world's true de facto money!

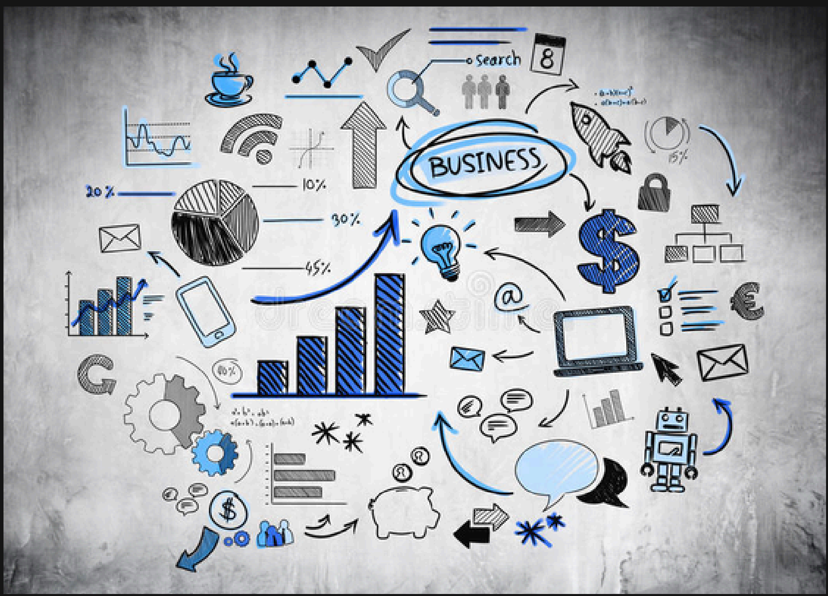
The US Dollar was officially established in 1792 through the Coinage Act. Modelled loosely on the Spanish dollar, it became America's unified currency, replacing a chaotic mix of foreign coins and state-issued notes that had complicated trade since colonial times.

After World War II, the Bretton Woods Agreement crowned the dollar as the world's reserve currency. Today, nearly 60% of all global foreign exchange reserves are held in dollars. Oil, gold, and most international trade are priced and settled exclusively in American dollars.

The dollar's dominance gives America extraordinary economic power — the ability to print money the world accepts. However, rising rivals like China's yuan and the growth of cryptocurrencies are slowly challenging its supremacy, sparking serious debate about how long dollar dominance can truly last

Producers supply more of a product when prices rise, as higher prices mean greater profits. When production becomes expensive or resources grow scarce, supply shrinks and prices climb. Natural disasters, wars, and technological breakthroughs can dramatically shift supply overnight, sending shockwaves through entire industries and national economies alike.

When supply perfectly matches demand, economists call it equilibrium — the sweet spot where markets are most efficient. In reality, markets constantly chase this balance but rarely hold it. Government policies, global events, and shifting consumer behaviour continuously push supply and demand apart, keeping prices in perpetual, fascinating motion.



BEHIND THE SCENES:
WORD FROM OUR FOUNDER

EEconomics isn't just numbers on a spreadsheet — it's the story of human ambition, fear, and resilience that shapes every decision we make daily.
From crumbling banks in 2008 to Adam Smith's revolutionary ideas, history constantly reminds us that economic forces silently govern our everyday lives and futures.
Whether it's the mighty dollar, shifting markets, or supply and demand — understanding these concepts doesn't just make you smarter, it makes you genuinely unstoppable in today's world.

CONTACT US: