



Jingwei Li

Data science, Business analysis

Jingwei (William) Li is a sophomore at Duke Kunshan University. He is interested in both data analysis and business. Therefore, he plans to major in data science during his undergraduate stage and keep his further study in business analysis or finance. He is extremely curious about how the market works and how to combine 21st technology with the business world, which is also a big reason he chose to take econ101. In his spare time, he loves watching football matches, cycling and playing badminton. Sports can always make him energetic and excited. He is a member of the DKU badminton team as well.



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Opportunity Cost In Real Life



Jingwei Li

Opportunity Cost is whatever must be given up to obtain some item. The idea of Opportunity Cost had played an important role when I made decisions and has helped me a lot figure out the best option. The process of selecting a college is an excellent instance of Opportunity in life. Since it is impossible for us to get enrolled in two different schools at the same time, therefore, when I chose to go to DKU, I have to give up the potential benefits that I might receive from another university. I need to find out which college would benefit me most, and this is how Opportunity Cost affects my decision. This kind of mindset helped me weigh the pros and cons and make better choices. However, it may sometimes constrain your actions as well. Therefore, between overthinking and thinking too little, finding an equilibrium seems to be very important.



How Market Works

Round Table Conversations



Author: Jingwei Li
Contributor 1: Yuxuan Wang
Contributor 2: Zi Xun
Contributor 3: Qinyue Lei



Summary

Since the outbreak of COVID-19 early this year, the prices of medical supplies have increased dramatically in which mask is a typical case. Data demonstrates that masks' sales on e-Commerce platforms rose 68 times from January to May this year. Therefore, our groups are interested in the question of how the epidemic has influenced the market of masks and, afterward, change the equilibrium price.

During the discussion, we used methodologies, such as demand and supply curve and concepts, for instance, elasticity and price ceiling to help us solve the research question. Through this process, we learned how to use economic methodologies to predict the market trend.



Conversations: Outside Shock

Jingwei Li: I think the COVID-19 is an excellent case of outside shock. This accident has had a significant impact on the otherwise stable mask market,

Yuxuan Wang: Yes, we all know that the epidemic has led to the increasing price of masks, and now with our economic knowledge, I guess we are able to analyze the reason inside this phenomenon.

Qinyue Lei: I agree with you. Concepts such as demand and supply curve might be applied to this question.



Conversations: Supply and Demand Change

Jingwei Li: I think as soon as the COVID19 broke out and the government announced it was helpful to wear masks to prevent this epidemic, the quantity demanded will shift to the right immediately.

Yuxuan Wang: Afterwards, the supply curve is likely to gradually shift to the right due to the government's possible policies.

Jingwei Li: Yes, and because of the epidemic, the mask became a necessity to some extent. Therefore, the slope of the demand curve is likely to be steeper than before.

Yuxuan Wang: In other words, the curve became more inelastic.

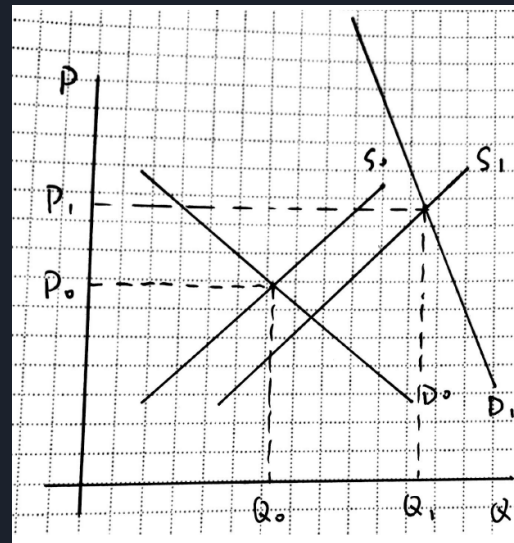
Zi Xun: And as I know, the government has set a price ceiling for masks, which would lead to a temporary shortage.

Conversations: Equilibrium Price and Quantity Change

Zi Xun: The original equilibrium price for masks is relatively low. Furthermore, due to the dramatic increase in the demand curve, the price has increased a lot.

Qinyue Lei: And because of the motion of the supply curve, the quantity demanded is likely to increase as well.

Jingwei Li: I guess that due to the firm policy put forward by the government, the supply curve is likely to keep shifting to the right. There might be someday that the equilibrium point would be equal to the mask prices before the epidemic and even lower.



Addressing Macro Data

- GDP

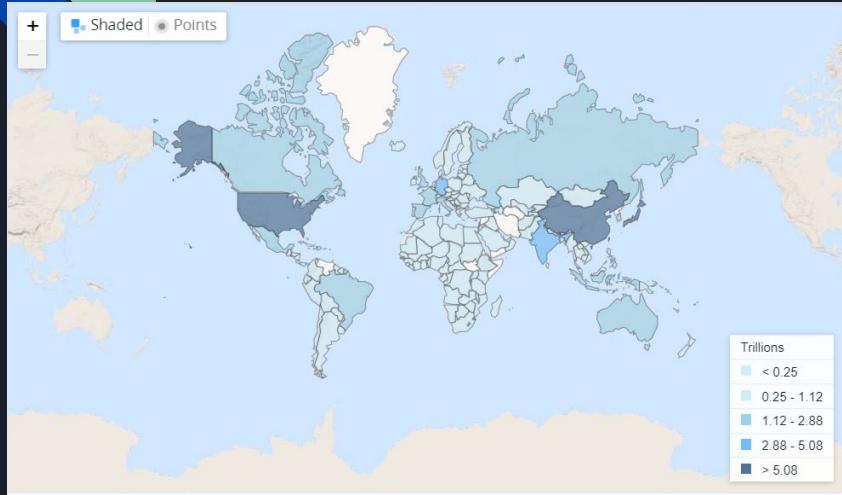


Figure: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.MKTP.CD?type=shaded&view=map&year=2019>

LinkedIn Post: https://www.linkedin.com/posts/jw-li_gdp-current-us-activity-6714731552611414016-oSpS

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the monetary value of all finished goods and services made within a country during a specific period. It greatly reflects the economic strength of a nation. Holistically, GDP has been rising up continually over the past 30 years, except for the year 2008 and 2014. I think that maybe concerned with the economic crisis that happened in these two years. From a national view, we can tell from the picture that China's GDP has been dramatically increasing and has become the world's second-largest economy.

Thanks to [Luyao Zhang, Ph.D.](#), we got the chance to read the graph from the real economic world and even make our own graphs about Bitcoin via Python. That to some extent helps me get to know the field of economy and how economists work.

[#gdpdata](#)



ECON 101

Microeconomics, macroeconomics, demand, supply, opportunity cost, GDP, a large number of economic concepts have been included in this course. It is not only important that we master these concepts, and know the answers to quizzes and exams, but it is also more meaningful for us to think more like an economist.

After econ101, these cold concepts become more vivid and become one and another example in our daily lives. When I am hesitating whether to review for another one hour, I would think of the concept of marginal cost to help me make decisions. When I am wondering about playing video games or studying, the opportunity cost would come to cross my mind. These are all my takeaways from this course.



Why an economist?

If finance focus on how to make more money, then economics stand on a wider perspective. It is a discipline of helping the world operate better. If there is a reason why I want to become an economist, then there is nothing more fascinating and exciting for me then changing the world simply with a policy. Also, in the world of economics, for the first time, I saw how well mathematical formulas fit into our daily lives. This kind of “coincidence” also makes me fascinated a lot.

Nobel Prize Award Remarks:

Economics deals with a more rational redistribution of resources. Whatever we achieve and wherever we go, we must remember that economics will never be the plaything of capitalists or the means of politicians. It will always be a great discipline that makes the world a better place.