

Interpreting economic indicators

(MR-ECIND)

15–17 October 2013

Course Director: Sandra Mollentze

Objective

The aim of this course is to equip course participants with essential skills to understand the collection, analysis and interpretation of data and information related to the domestic and international macroeconomic environment.

Content

The following topics will be covered:

- Overview of economic indicators
- Analysis and interpretation of economic data with respect to the following:
 - National accounts (including economic growth)
 - National financial (flow-of-funds) account
 - Balance of payments
 - Inflation
 - Labour market indicators
 - Business cycles
 - Monetary and financial market indicators
 - Socioeconomic indicators
 - Fiscal indicators.

Target group

This course is intended for employees of the South African Reserve Bank and other interested parties, that is, journalists and civil servants who are involved in basic research and economic report writing.

Prerequisite

Course participants are expected to have a working knowledge of general economic and financial concepts. Note that this course is *not* a course on the basic understanding of economic concepts (see page 27 for details on the course “Understanding economic concepts”). Attendance of SARB College courses, such as “Introduction to central banking”, “Monetary policy”, “Public finance” and “Financial markets and instruments” is not a prerequisite, but would be highly recommended.

Format

This is a three-day course jointly presented by SARB College staff and experts from the South African Reserve Bank Research Department. Formal lectures, practical sessions and case studies form part of the training methodology. Please note the prerequisite for attending this course.

