ECONOMICS

Economics is a social science that seeks to analyse and describe the production, distribution, and consumption of wealth. The word "*economics*" is from the Ancient Greek *oikos*, meaning "*family, household,* or *estate*"; and *nomos*, meaning "*customs, law*," and hence meaning "*household management*" or "*management of the state*."

The classic brief definition of economics, set out by Lionel Robbins in 1932, is "the science which studies human behaviour as a relation between scarce means having alternative uses." Without scarcity and alternative uses, there is no economic problem.

Economics has two broad branches: macroeconomics, where the unit of analysis is an economy as a whole, and microeconomics, where the unit analysis is the individual agent, such as a household or firm.