

# Figuring out the US economy

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## Fig 1

TABLE 1  
REAL GDP PER CAPITA RELATIVE TO WORLD AVERAGE, SELECTED COUNTRIES,  
1500–1998  
(WORLD AVERAGE = 100 AT EACH DATE)

Date	Italy	Netherlands	United Kingdom	United States	Japan	France	Germany
1500	195	133	126	71	88	129	120
1600	185	231	164	67	88	142	131
1700	179	343	203	86	93	160	145
1820	167	273	256	188	100	184	159
1870	173	318	368	282	85	216	210
1913	170	268	326	351	92	231	242
1950	166	284	327	452	91	249	184
1973	259	319	293	407	279	320	292
1998	311	354	328	479	358	343	312

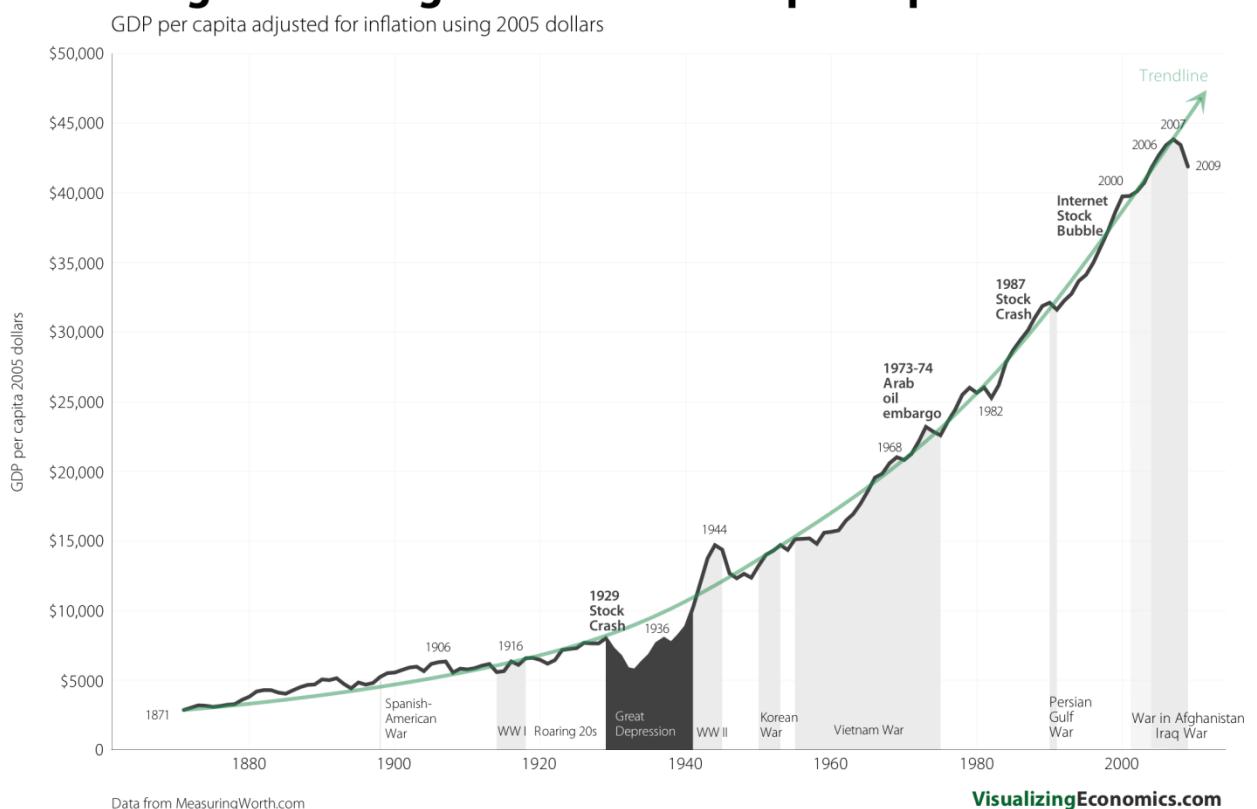
Source: Derived from Angus Maddison, *World Economy*, table B-21, p. 264.

### Tasks:

- Analyse these charts.
- On the basis of these charts, outline the development of the US economy.
- Compare it to the development of the British and the German economies.

## Fig 2

### Long-term real growth in US GDP per capita 1871–2009



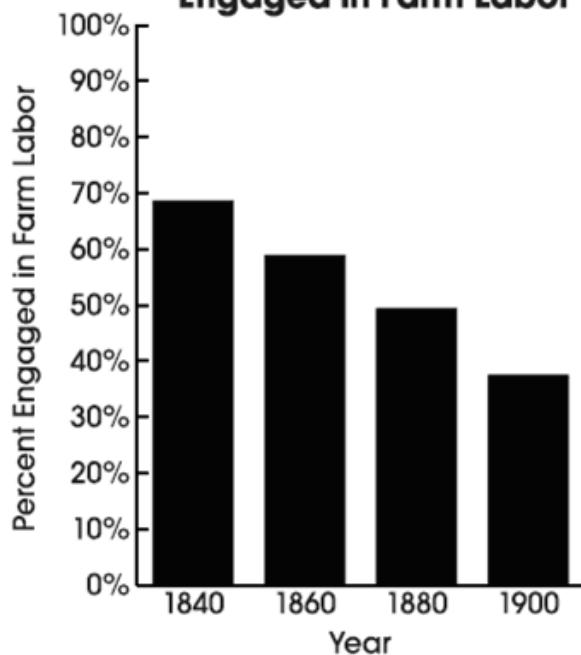
Source: <http://premoderconhist.files.wordpress.com/2009/03/sylla-1.png?w=450&amp;h=221>

Source: Catherine Mulbrandon via <http://visualizingeconomics.com>

Fig. 3

### Percent of U.S. Workforce Engaged in Farm Labor

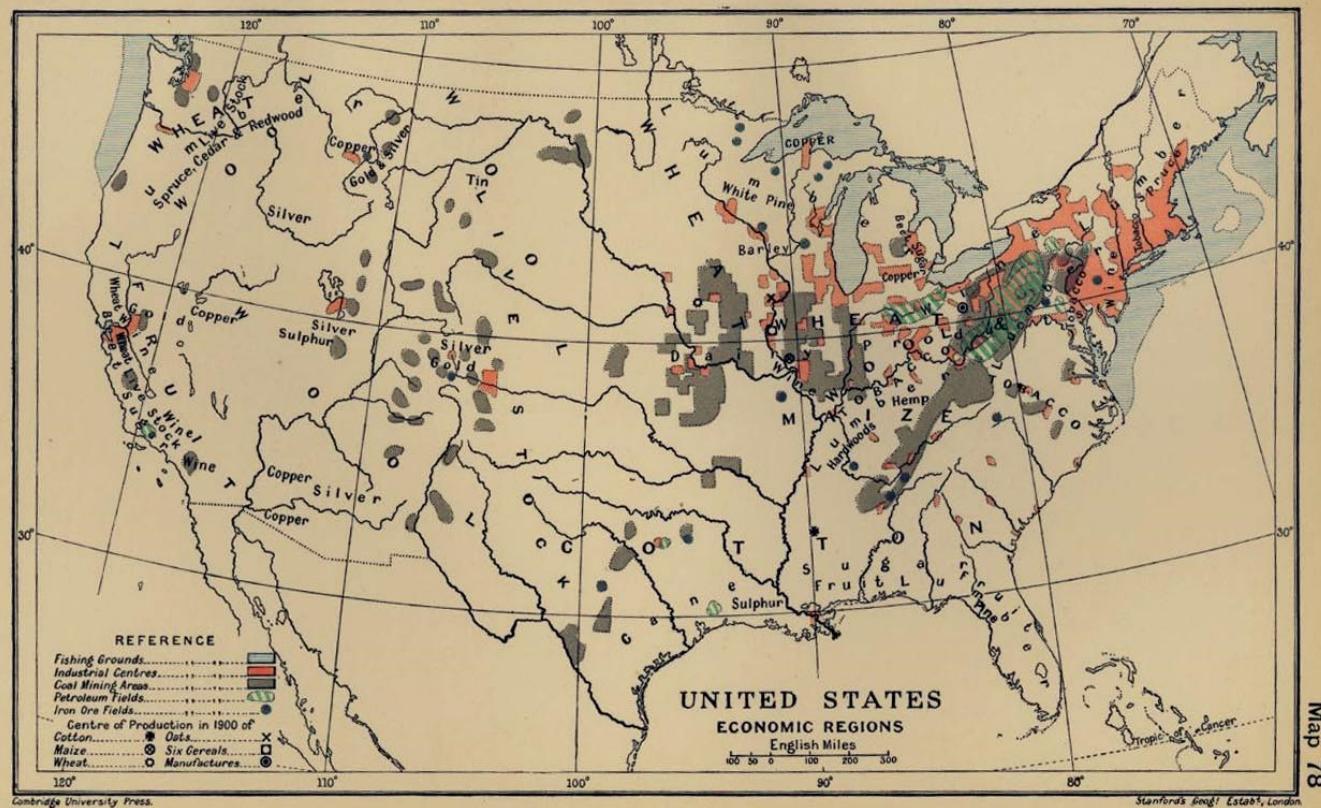
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Source: <https://s-media-cache-ak0.pinimg.com/originals/5f/cc/b0/5fccb0c8e42d4b39ef10b072b49bacfe.jpg>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Fig. 4



Source: [http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/historical/ward\\_1912/us\\_economic\\_regions.jpg](http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/historical/ward_1912/us_economic_regions.jpg)