

- Faculté des sciences économiques
- [www.unine.ch/seco](http://www.unine.ch/seco)

## Economic Statistics (5ER2015)

Filières concernées	Nombre d'heures	Validation	Crédits ECTS
<b>Master en économie appliquée</b>	<b>Cours: 2 ph</b>	Voir ci-dessous	3
<b>Master en statistique</b>	<b>Cours: 2 ph</b>	Voir ci-dessous	3
<b>Master in General Management</b>	<b>Cours: 2 ph</b>	Voir ci-dessous	3
<b>Master of Science en innovation</b>	<b>Cours: 2 ph</b>	Voir ci-dessous	3

ph=période hebdomadaire, pg=période globale, j=jour, dj=demi-jour, h=heure, min=minute

### Période d'enseignement:

- Semestre Automne

### Equipe enseignante

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 Jean-David Elbaum, teaching assistant and PhD candidate, Institute of Economic Research, A.-L. Breguet 2, CH-2000 Neuchâtel (office 1.209) +41 32 718 1387

### Contenu

This course deals with the general issue of the measurement of economic variables as well as its pitfalls. The objective of the course is to teach students the knowledge and skills required for a thorough understanding, correct interpretation and critical appreciation of indicators allowing sound economic analysis in various fields. The course consists of an analytical overview of principal concepts, indicators and techniques currently used to elaborate the rapidly growing body of economic statistics. It is divided into two parts. In the first part, we first discuss the demand for economic statistics and its evolution through time with a special focus on big data. We then deal with the statistical production process involving the producers themselves as well as quality-related considerations. After reviewing the basic concepts, definitions and classification methods, we go on to present the unifying framework provided by the System of National Accounts as well as the related body of monetary and financial statistics including composite indices. In the second part, we study in greater detail specific measurement issues, covering a wide range of micro and macro-economic policy-related topics such as GDP as an indicator of well-being, quality of life, sustainable development, productivity, potential output, unemployment and underground economy.

### Forme de l'évaluation

Grading is based on a 2-hour written exam during the exam session at the end of the semester (100%).

Retake: 2-hour written exam (100%).

Exams cover the entire range of subjects taught, including exercises and proposed readings.

No documents or connected objects are allowed during the exams. Any violation of these rules will be considered as fraud, leading to the withdrawal of unauthorized items and possibly exam failure.

### Documentation

There is no general-purpose textbook for this course. The following basic references are provided on the e-platform Moodle:

Giovannini, Enrico, Understanding Economic Statistics, Paris, OECD, 2008.

Laquiller, François and Derek Blades, Understanding National Accounts, 2nd edition, Paris, OECD, 2014.

Stiglitz, Joseph, Amartya Sen and Jean-Paul Fitoussi, Report by the Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress, 2009.

Other course materials (lecture notes, journal articles, book extracts, exercises, illustrations) will be provided throughout the semester on the e-platform Moodle.

### Pré-requis

None. However, students who take this course as an elective are strongly advised to make sure they possess the required minimal knowledge in economic theory (micro and macro) and quantitative methods. No distinction will be made between MSaPEC students and others in terms of evaluation criteria.

### Forme de l'enseignement

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### **Economic Statistics (5ER2015)**

2-hour lecture. The course makes extensive use of interactive teaching, drawing largely on prior readings as well as active class participation by students.

#### **Objectifs d'apprentissage**

Au terme de la formation l'étudiant-e doit être capable de :

- Define the limits of raw data underlying the construction of indicators
- Carry out sound economic analysis based on available indicators
- Recognise the theoretical underpinnings of key indicators
- Communicate in written and oral formats using appropriate terminology
- Interpret correctly economic indicators used for public and private decision making
- Synthesise insights from specialized methodological and application-oriented sources
- Criticise the methods used for elaborating major economic indicators
- Describe indicators currently used in applied economic analysis

#### **Compétences transférables**

- Apply knowledge to new situations
- Discuss complex issues and interactions
- Carry out critical analyses
- Draw evidence-based conclusions