



Economic Sectors

The global economy is a constant chain of interactions that involve; the growing of food (agriculture), the extraction of raw materials (mining), the production of goods (manufacturing), the delivery of services (accounting), and the application of expertise (research and development). Economic activity describes these actions.

Economic sectors can be grouped based on what they produce, and the type of jobs employed. There are broadly three economic sectors. They include primary, secondary, and tertiary. Geographers and economists increasingly recognise a fourth economic sector. The quaternary sector is starting to emerge in the most developed countries.

Primary sector – this sector exploits the Earth’s natural resources. These jobs include agriculture, fishing, mining, mineral extraction, and forestry. For many countries this is the first step on the economic ladder. Think about it, although this sector has developed into a modern technological segment of the economy, the primary sector can be started with the most basic of technologies.

Secondary sector – this sector takes the resources from the primary sector and processes them into another product. Growing coffee beans falls under the primary sector. Turning raw coffee beans into ground coffee to be sold around the world is part of the secondary sector. Manufacturing (building cars) and construction (building houses) are all elements of the secondary sector.

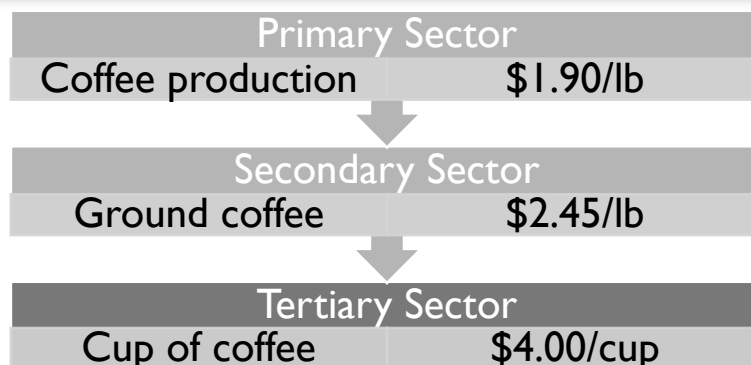
Tertiary sector – this sector involves all elements of the economy that provide services. Services can be classified as commercial (e.g. finance and banking), professional (e.g. legal services), public services (e.g. schooling, medicine, public transport), leisure and entertainment (e.g. bars, restaurants, theatres, beauty and personal care). Thinking about the example of coffee; growing beans is part of the primary sector, producing ground coffee is a secondary activity, selling coffee in urban coffee shops is a tertiary sector.

ECONOMIC ACTIVITY MUST DO ONE OF THREE THINGS. IT MUST:

- LEAD TO EMPLOYMENT
- CREATE WEALTH AND INCOME
- PRODUCE SOMETHING TO BE SOLD OR CONSUMED



EACH ECONOMIC SECTOR ADDS VALUE AND GROWS THE ECONOMIC PIE



Quaternary sector – this is a growing sector that is a result of the staggering advancement in technology during the 21st Century and the growth of the university and higher education sector. The sector focusses on research and development. The sector brings new technologies to market (e.g. ICT, medical research, new materials). The quaternary sector feeds into the other sectors to make them more efficient (e.g. biological technology that makes agricultural production more efficient).





Task: Match the industry to the correct economic sector

