Handout for March 2024 Newsletter
Teaching About the Economics of Saving in FRED®

Purpose.
1. Create a time series plot of the percent of the population 15 years and over in the United States who have had savings at a financial institution in the past year.
2. Change the graph format to show a world map of the data.
3. Describe and discuss the data patterns across nations.

Pedagogical Rationale. This assignment requires that you first search for data and plot them into a time series graph. Next, you will change the graph format to show a map and customize it by formatting the data groupings. Lastly, you will describe and discuss patterns in the geographical distribution of the data. These tasks will develop your proficiency in searching for, transforming, and interpreting data.

Grading. Your grade will be determined by (a) how precisely you complete the search and transformation data tasks and (b) how accurately you interpret the data.

Steps to Search for and Transform the Data.
1. Access https://fred.stlouisfed.org/ and search for "People 15 Years and Over Saving at a Financial Institution in the Past Year for United States."
2. Select "Annual, Percent, Not Seasonally Adjusted."
3. Click on the green "VIEW MAP" button.
4. Click on the orange "EDIT MAP" button.
5. Select "Data grouped by: User Defined Method" and enter the following maximum interval values next to the color boxes:
   - 20
   - 40
   - 60
   - 80
   - 100
6. Select area colors accessible to your users.

Writing Prompts. Answer the following questions:
1. Name three countries reporting, as of 2017, more than 60 percent of their population 15 years and over who have had savings at a financial institution in the past year.
2. Consider the relationship between the percentage of the population saving at financial institutions such as banks and the number of bank branches per resident in a country. How would you expect these two concepts to be related: directly, inversely, or not at all? Explain why.
3. Consider the relationship between the percentage of the population saving at financial institutions such as banks and the income per person in a country. How would you expect these two concepts to be related: directly, inversely, or not at all? Explain why.
4. Consider the relationship between the percentage of the population saving at financial institutions such as banks and the average age of the country's population. How would you expect these two concepts to be related: directly, inversely, or not at all? Explain why. Read this short NBER article to learn more about this topic.

Want to learn more? Email economiceducation@stls.frb.org