

Chapter 2 Thinking Like an Economist

2-1 The Economist as Scientist

2-1a The Scientific Method: Observation, Theory, and More Observation

2-1b The Role of Assumptions

2-1c Economic Models

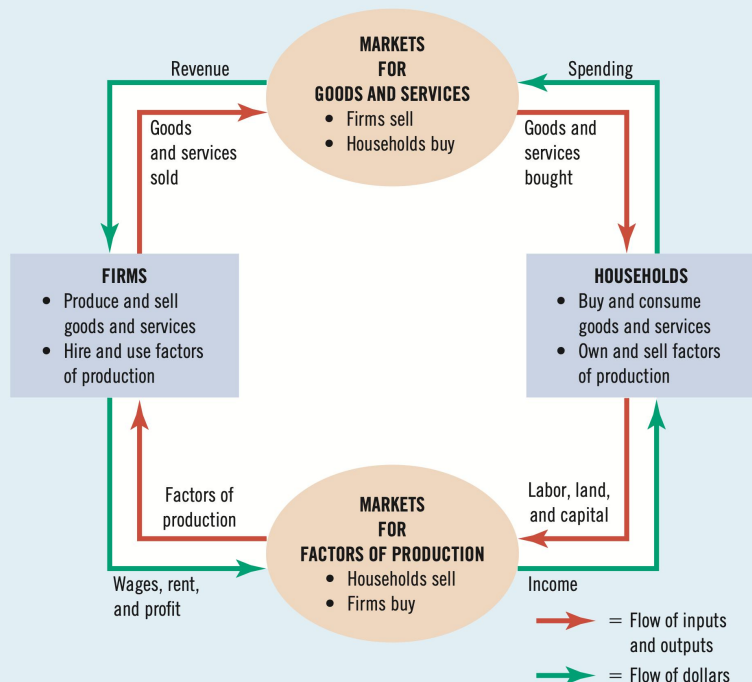
2-1d Our First Model: The Circular-Flow Diagram

- 循环流量图（circular-flow diagram）：一个说明货币如何通过市场在家庭与企业之间流动的直观经济模型

FIGURE 1

The Circular Flow

This diagram is a schematic representation of the organization of the economy. Decisions are made by households and firms. Households and firms interact in the markets for goods and services (where households are buyers and firms are sellers) and in the markets for the factors of production (where firms are buyers and households are sellers). The outer set of arrows shows the flow of dollars, and the inner set of arrows shows the corresponding flow of inputs and outputs.



- 物品与服务市场（markets for goods and services）：家庭是买者，而企业是卖者。具体来说就是家庭购买企业生产的物品与服务
- 生产要素市场（markets for factors of production）：家庭是卖者，而企业是买者。家庭向企业提供用于生产物品与服务的投入

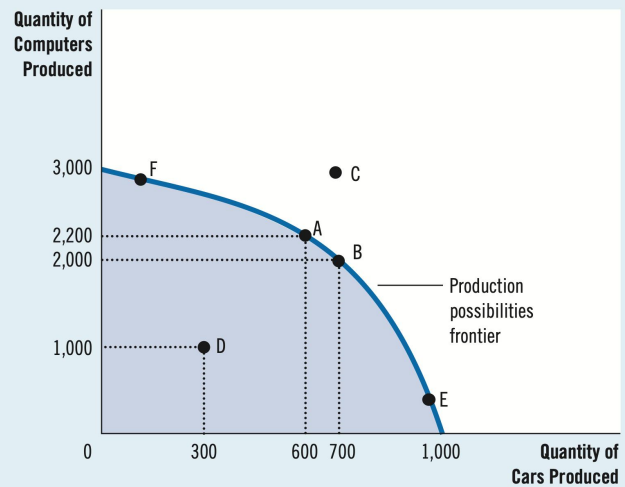
2-1e Our Second Model: The Production Possibilities Frontier

- 生产可能性边界（production possibilities frontier）：表示在可得到的生产要素与生产技术既定时，一个经济所能生产的产品数量的各种组合的图形

FIGURE 2

The Production Possibilities Frontier

The production possibilities frontier shows the combinations of output—in this case, cars and computers—that the economy can possibly produce. The economy can produce any combination on or inside the frontier. Points outside the frontier are not feasible given the economy's resources. The slope of the production possibilities frontier measures the opportunity cost of a car in terms of computers. This opportunity cost varies, depending on how much of the two goods the economy is producing.

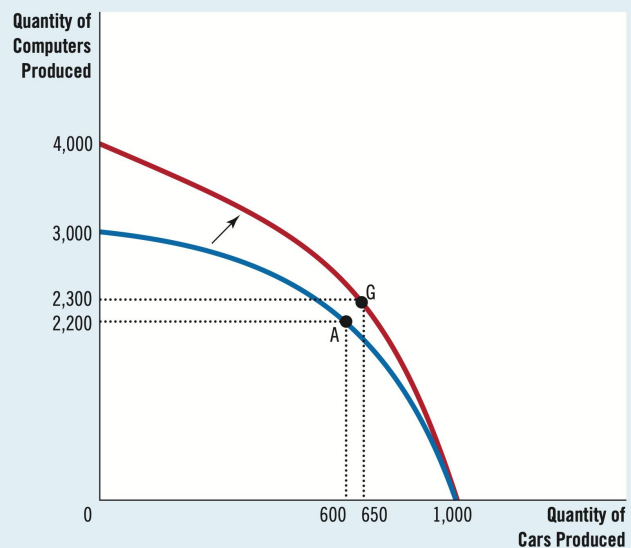


- 生产可能性边界的移动

FIGURE 3

A Shift in the Production Possibilities Frontier

A technological advance in the computer industry enables the economy to produce more computers for any given number of cars. As a result, the production possibilities frontier shifts outward. If the economy moves from point A to point G, then the production of both cars and computers increases.



2-1f Microeconomics and Macroeconomics

- 微观经济学（microeconomics）：研究家庭和企业如何做出决策，以及它们如何在市场上相互交易的学科
- 宏观经济学（macroeconomics）：研究整体经济现象，包括通货膨胀、失业和经济增长的学科

2-2 The Economist as Policy Adviser

2-2a Positive versus Normative Analysis

- 实证表述 (positive statement) : 试图描述世界是什么样子的观点 “how the world *is*”
- 规范表述 (normative statement) : 试图描述世界应该是什么样子的观点 “how the world *ought to be*”

2-2b Economists in Washington

2-2c Why Economist' Advice Is Not Always Followed

2-3 Why Economists Disagree

2-3a Differences in Scientific Judgments

2-3b Differences in Values

2-3c Perception versus Reality