

Mini Outlook Report

Imagine your boss has asked you to write a report on the impact the corona virus has had on the economy so far and what you predict will happen in the coming months/years. In order to do so you decide to compile data on trends, as well as news articles reporting on what has happened to markets.

Your report can focus on the economy in general (e.g. wages, small business, labor, demand), agricultural markets or financial markets (e.g. DOW JONES index, interest rates). Make sure that the topic you decide on can be used to provide recommendations to ag lenders or farmers. For example, if you discuss labor markets, you can tell ag lenders how you believe off farm income may decrease in coming months or over the next year, which could decrease the repayment capacity of farmers.

1. Choose a graph that highlights the impacts of the corona virus on financial markets/economy in general/ag markets. Summarize the information by reporting the main features and making comparisons where relevant. Identify the main trend. Describe the graph (e.g. period, what it shows, why it is important). Using your summary speculate about what will happen in the future. What would you tell lenders or farmers to be concerned about?
2. Quote an expert. Search news articles, podcasts, NPR, AAEA members in the news, or similar media for what experts are saying. Select a quote that backs up your argument.
3. Select 2-3 news articles. Organize the most important points into a text. Use information on the article to back your arguments, explain the trends in the graphs and your expectations for the coming months. Also discuss what policies are potentially being implemented to correct the issue.

There is a lot of misinformation out there. Please restrict your searchers to: Wall Street Journal, Bloomberg, CNN, CNBC, The Economist, Farmdoc, Purdue extension, Herald Tribune, New York Times, World Health Organization, Federal Reserve, Washington Post, NPR, Vox.org, Center for American Progress, Business Insider, Forbes. If you would like to use information from a site not listed here please ask first.

Combine items 1 to 3 into a report. They should be linked and be used as support for the views and opinions you, the writer, wants to express. They should not be made to read independently.

Report size about 2 pages including any figures and references. You should have around 400-500 words of text.

This assignment has two steps and deadlines:

Step 1 (15 points):

- In 1-2 sentences write what your argument or view is. Basically, what are you going to look at? Why is it important? (3 points)
- Collect the newspaper articles. Write 2-3 bullet points for each on how they connect to your argument. (3 points)
- Collect the quote. (3 points)
- Provide a graph with 1-2 bullet points describing it. (3 points)
- Write down your references, for the news articles, the quote and where your data/graph is coming from. (3 points)

Step 2 (10 points):

- Join all of the information in step one into a report.

Extra points (5 total):

Submit to the discussion board your main argument and provide information to back it up. This can be done in bullet points. (3 points)

Comment on at least on other student's posting (1 point)

Reply to what someone commented on your post (1 points)