

ECONOMICS AGRICULTURE

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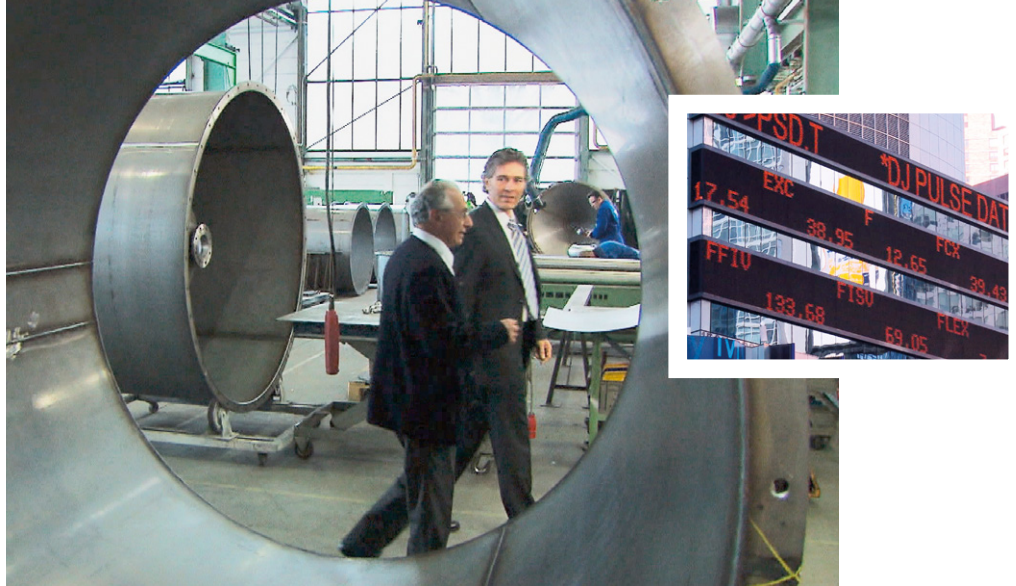
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Inside €conomic\$

Every day we hear about what is supposedly good or bad for the economy. But what exactly is “the economy”? Major players may feel remote, and economic principles obscure, but in fact we are all economic agents and part of the system ourselves. We may imagine economic developments are happening somewhere “out there”, but in fact we are in the midst of them the entire time. How do they affect our lives? What happens on the financial markets? What do free trade agreements mean for us? We look for the answers to such questions in **Inside €conomic\$**.

01 Goodbye Cash VoD HD

Sweden and Denmark look set to become the world’s first – almost – cashless societies. Nearly all payments there are already made by card, transfer or app. It’s quick and easy, and should make it harder to evade tax or work illegally. Producing fewer banknotes and coins also cuts costs. But can a society really function without cash? What does it mean for democracy? Does it mean ceding control of our money to banks and the state?

02 A World in the Red HD

The world’s industrialized nations are 55 trillion Euros in debt. Many are slashing public budgets as a result, although this does little to get the situation under control. Combined with speculative financial markets that dominate the economy, this represents a danger to prosperity, society and democracy. A world mired in debt is not a natural phenomenon, but rather the consequence of an unfettered financial sector and many bad decisions.

03 Free Trade – Pledges and Reality HD

Many countries have signed up to international free-trade agreements. They are sold as engines of prosperity, generating jobs and investment. But is that the way it really is? And if they do enhance prosperity, whose prosperity is it? Who benefits? Ordinary people or large corporations? NAFTA, the trade agreement in place between the US, Canada and Mexico, offers some interesting insights. HD

04 Warning: High-Frequency Trading VoD HD

Traders on the world’s stock exchanges are not always people. These days, it is often computers, placing orders in a flash on the basis of sophisticated algorithms. One strategy seeks to exploit even tiny price fluctuations to turn a profit. This kind of trading carries a multitude of risks and could potentially trigger market crashes.

05 Offshore Business – A Gray Area VoD HD

Offshore companies are simple to set up, and international law firms can use them to spin complex networks to obscure ownership and “optimize” tax liabilities. Many well-known banks have been only too keen to handle their business. Offshore companies are a major industry in a number of low-tax or no-tax countries. It is not usually illegal to own one. Using them to avoid tax or conceal identities can be. How do offshore companies work? How do criminals use them to their benefit?