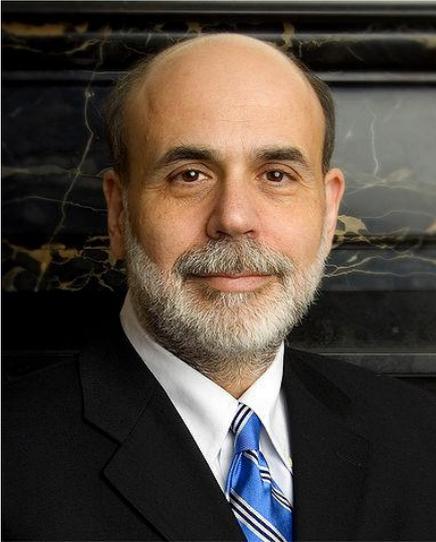


Talkonomics

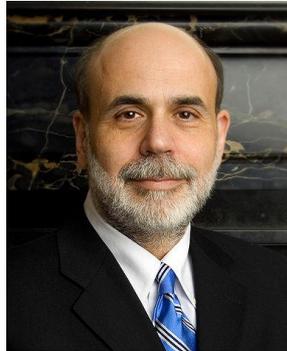
1. The 2022 Nobel Prize in economics was awarded to Ben Bernanke, Douglas Diamond and Philip Dybvig. What does their research show?
 - a. Avoiding bank collapses is vital in protecting the economy
 - b. Giving a voodoo doll of a bad boss can help motivate employees
 - c. Success is mathematically more linked to luck than talent
- 

A portrait of Ben Bernanke, a man with a grey beard and mustache, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and blue patterned tie. He is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile.
- Ben Bernanke*
Image in public domain.
2. A company had to backtrack on plans to fine customers \$2500 for bad behaviour. What was the company and what was the bad behaviour?
 - a. Jackson Memorial Hospital; smoking
 - b. Tesla; going 50% over the speed limit
 - c. PayPal; promoting misinformation
 3. British GDP fell by 0.3% in August compared with July. This means that GDP is now...
 - a. Higher than ever
 - b. The same as February 2020
 - c. The same as February 2022
 4. Oil prices fell around 25% from June to late September. How did a group of oil-producing countries (OPEC+) react?
 - a. Cut production to push prices back up
 - b. Increased production to increase revenue
 - c. Released oil reserves to push the price even lower
 5. The Biden administration is doing something small to help consumers with rising costs. What is it?
 - a. Working to ban hidden fees
 - b. Paying all under 12s \$10 a week pocket money
 - c. Taking sales tax off all food
 6. British government ministers could be held in contempt of court for not providing documents that outline the wealth of which of these people?
 - a. Former PM Boris Johnson
 - b. PM Liz Truss
 - c. Queen Elizabeth II
 7. A new tax in New Zealand is set to be introduced to fight climate change. What will be taxed?
 - a. Methane from farm animals' farts and burps
 - b. Flights
 - c. Meat and dairy products
 8. Working from home is sticking and office occupancy in the US continues to be low. What is the current occupancy rate in 10 major US cities?
 - a. 47%
 - b. 62%
 - c. 77%
 9. On average, how many times higher are CEOs of large companies in the US paid compared with their typical employee?
 - a. 20 times higher
 - b. 59 times higher
 - c. 399 times higher
 10. Elon Musk latest venture earned more than \$1 million within hours of its launch. What was this venture?
 - a. A children's album on Spotify, with Musk as lead singer
 - b. A magazine about himself called 'Musk Life'
 - c. A perfume called 'Burnt Hair'

Talkonomics

1. The 2022 Nobel Prize in economics was awarded to Ben Bernanke, Douglas Diamond and Philip Dybvig. What does their research show?

a. *Avoiding bank collapses is vital in protecting the economy. Ben Bernanke was the chairman of the Federal Reserve from 2006 to 2014, but the research was done in the 1980s. Options a and b both won Ig Nobel prizes for research results that "first make people laugh, and then make them think".*



Ben Bernanke
Image in public domain.

2. A company had to backtrack on plans to fine customers \$2500 for bad behaviour. What was the company and what was the bad behaviour?

c. *PayPal; promoting misinformation. PayPal quickly reversed the threat to fine users after a public backlash.*

3. British GDP fell by 0.3% in August compared with July. This means that GDP is now...

b. *The same as February 2020. The British economy has faced several headwinds, including Brexit, Covid-19 and, more recently, the threat of a financial crisis.*

4. Oil prices fell around 25% from June to late September. How did a group of oil-producing countries (OPEC+) react?

a. *Cut production to push prices back up. OPEC+ - the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Companies and Russia – said it would reduce its production target by 2 million barrels per day.*

5. The Biden administration is doing something small to help consumers with rising costs. What is it?

a. *Working to ban hidden fees. Consumers often face 'junk fees' such as ticket booking fees, subscription cancellation fees and bank account fees. The administration is telling various regulatory bodies to make companies rein in these fees.*

6. British government ministers could be held in contempt of court for not providing

documents that outline the wealth of which of these people?

c. *Queen Elizabeth II. A lot of the Queen's private assets were held in a state-backed shell company. The UK's transparency watchdog is demanding the assets be made public.*

7. A new tax in New Zealand is set to be introduced to fight climate change. What will be taxed?

a. *Methane from farm animals' farts and burps. This methane makes up a significant proportion of New Zealand's greenhouse gas emissions. Set to be introduced in 2025, the tax will go to developing new technologies and incentives for cleaner farming.*

8. Working from home is sticking and office occupancy in the US continues to be low. What is the current occupancy rate in 10 major US cities?

a. *47%. Working from home became established during the pandemic and data suggests it is continuing. One joint NYU and Columbia University report predicted that office real estate values may decline by 39% by the end of this decade.*

9. On average, how many times higher are CEOs of large companies in the US paid compared with their typical employee?

c. *399 times higher. A CEO of one of the largest 350 US companies in the US was paid US\$27.8 million on average. This compares with 20-to-1 in 1965 and 59-to-1 in 1989.*

10. Elon Musk latest venture earned more than \$1 million within hours of its launch. What was this venture?

c. *A perfume called 'Burnt Hair'. "With a name like mine, getting into the fragrance business was inevitable – why did I even fight it for so long!?" tweeted Musk. Musk has also controversially waded into new territory recently by offering political advice about the war in Ukraine and the political status of Taiwan.*



Image from The Boring Company