The permanent visitor displays at the Cité de l’Économie give you an exciting insight into the economy’s different facets through 6 sections.

From exchanges to instabilities and their regulations, taking in the players and markets along the way, find out how economics can inform our society and broaden its outlook.

Whether you are visiting on your own, as a group, with friends or your family, as an expert, novice or enthusiast, hone your economic curiosity as you go, through the myriad games, video and multimedia activities – not forgetting the “Treasures” in the Vault!

Enjoy your visit!

EXCHANGES

To cater to our daily needs, we produce and exchange goods and services. This forms the foundation of economic activity. You are in the “Exchanges” section, where you’ll come across the notions of scarcity, trust, production and currency.

Notions
Goods: these are physical commodities which, once produced, can be retained. They may be used or sold.
Services: This refers to an intangible provision which is produced and consumed at the same time (haircut, a meal out, hotel stay, etc.).

In the multi-player game “Exchanges and needs”, you have to equip your character ready for the beach. How are you going to do this so that s/he can catch the bus on time?

PLAYERS

Exchanges take place between players: companies, banks, associations, the State and households (that’s you!). Their interrelations form what economists call “the circular flow”. Welcome to the Players section where you’ll learn about the different roles

Notions
Household: this term does not necessarily imply a family, rather a group of one or more individuals who share the same living accommodation.
Gross Domestic Product (GDP): this is the indicator which measures the wealth produced annually by such economic agents as companies and the State (health, education, justice, security etc.).

Check out the diversity of the multi-faceted role played by entrepreneurs with the monumental high-rise display “Companies and work”.

With the game “The stock market”, put yourself in the shoes of a trader and try to make money from your capital on the Stock Market. Will you make the right investment choices?

INSTABILITIES

The economy goes through ups and downs and sometimes crises send shockwaves across it. In the instabilities section, fasten your seat belts, things can get rocky! From expansion to depression, wise up on economic cycles.

Notions
Economic crisis: this term refers to a sudden downturn in economic activity.
Speculative bubble: a steady, self-sustained rise in a commodity’s prices with no bearing on this commodity’s actual value.

Immerse yourself in the “Turbulence” cylinder and watch the succession of periods of expansion, recession, crisis and recovery that have unfolded in economic history.

REGULATIONS

Well-being or change player behaviour, States set rules. These decisions can be made at national or supranational level. You are in the Regulations section, where you’ll be able to take the controls and decide which rules to adopt!

Notions
Monetary policy: this is all of the actions taken by the central bank to ensure price stability and foster economic growth.
Regulation: this is what the State or a public authority does to minimise or correct malfunctioning of the market economy (inequality, unemployment, pollution, etc.).

In the team game “Negotiating and deciding”, take part in international climate talks and act to facilitate the energy transition towards renewable energy sources. Will you be up to the task?

MARKETS

In economics, markets are physical or virtual places where producers and consumers of goods and services come together. There is a specific market for each good or service! Come and find out more!

Notions
Supply and demand: Supply comes from sellers, and demand – from buyers.
Competition: this refers to the competition between players to buy or sell a resource, good or service.

With the game “Negotiating and deciding”, take part in international climate talks and act to facilitate the energy transition towards renewable energy sources. Will you be up to the task?

TREASURES

Currency facilitates exchanges. Behind this function, currencies also bear artistic and sociological witness to the history of human societies. In the Treasures section, enter the Vault to experience the thrills of the gold rush!

Notions
Fiduciary: This term evokes the idea of something held in trust. Currency can fulfil these economic functions if all of the players are willing to trust.
Scriptural: This term is related to writing. Since the 20th century, currency has tended to become increasingly scriptural or digitised (such as cheques or credit cards for example).

In a nod to the museum’s vault, the shop sells a range of treasures, big and small. Emile hand-picks a sterling collection of artefacts, publications and curios to enable everyone to take home a unique souvenir of their time at the Cité. By offering unique and rare products at wide-ranging prices, the shop really does have something for everyone.

Emile has an ambition: combine the comfort of a museum gift shop with the creativity of a concept store.