

A glossary of economics, tax and accounting

Published: January 13, 2026, 9:49 am

A year ago I was setting out on writing a book. That book was one of the casualties of my long-Covid in the second half of last year. I abandoned work on it last summer and for all sorts of reasons do not plan to return to it in the form then planned.

However, one thing I realised when writing that book was that without an extensive glossary of technical terms that book would have made little sense to many readers, because with the best will in the world, writing such a book without using at least some of the language of economics, accountancy and tax would be nigh on impossible.

As a result I did quite a lot of work on a glossary. Over the last couple of days I have revisited that glossary, and have added to it all the terms that I still think useful that I have defined in various other glossaries that I have produced over the years.

I now think that this glossary might have a life of its own. Currently standing at 23,000 words it is not overly long, but big enough to put out, probably as a free PDF.

Any such glossary has to be a living document. In other words, it is bound to be updated. That is a reason for it being in PDF format.

But that then made me wonder what I might have missed? There is a lot in there, with a bit of a tax bias. But what terms would you want defined? I am genuinely curious to know, without promising I will necessarily deliver on them all.

Comments are welcome. A few volunteer readers to review it prior to publication might also be useful.

My hope is to get on with this quite quickly, always being aware that updating should be possible at any time and that perfection is impossible.