

Analysis Skill

Interpreting Economic Data

When you study history, it is important to understand the economic issues of the time period. Reading a chart helps you to interpret economic data. When you interpret economic data, start by identifying the subject or topic of the chart. Then, read the labels on the columns and rows. When you have done this, you can interpret the data by asking yourself how it is measured and by comparing and contrasting the information in the chart. Finally, use the information in the chart and other information to draw conclusions about the topic.

Directions: Read the chart below and then answer the questions on a separate piece of paper.

United States Exports, 1835–1840

Year	Exports (in millions of dollars)
1835	122
1836	129
1837	118
1838	109
1839	121
1840	133

1. What is the subject of the chart?
2. What are the labels of the columns?
3. (a) In what years did the United States export more than in the year before? (b) In what years did the United States export less than in the previous year?
4. **Draw Conclusions** Based on what you know about the Panic of 1837 and on the information in the chart, explain why the value of U. S. exports declined at the time they did.