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**Editorial enquiries**

The Editor | e-mail: Quest-Editor@assaf.org.za

**Advertising enquiries**

Barbara Spence | Avenue Advertising  
 PO Box 71308, Bryanston 2021  
 Tel: (011) 463 7940 | Cell: 082 881 3454  
 e-mail: barbara@avenue.co.za

**Subscription enquiries and back issues**

Magick Maphanga | Tel: (012) 3496645  
 e-mail: Magick@assaf.org.za

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Published by the  
 Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf)  
 PO Box 72135, Lynnwood Ridge 0040

**Subscription rates**

(4 issues and postage)

SA Students/Learners - R80.00  
 SA Individuals/Institutions - R160.00  
 SADC Students/Learners - R210.00  
 SADC Individuals/institutions - R255.00  
 Int. Students/Learner - R340.00  
 Int. Individual/Institution - R340.00

**Design and layout**

Garnett Design Studio

**Printing**

Seriti Printing Digital

**Website and social media**

<https://questonline.org.za>  
 Twitter: Twitter @Quest\_ASSAf  
 Facebook: Quest Science for South Africa



**Cover image**

We all have different needs and requirements when it comes to the money in our pocket and in our bank accounts. But sound spending, investing and saving habits can benefit everyone. We hope this edition will help you understand the forces at play in the economy, and to make the money in your pocket go further. Photo: Depositphotos.

# The economy, and you

The economy, and how to work with your money, doesn't need to be a mystery. Although it can inevitably get complicated, the basic concepts are actually deceptively simple: Spend less than you earn, don't live above your means, be allergic to debt, only invest what you are willing to lose, saving a little consistently can go a very long way, etc. That is what this edition is about – to help empower you to leave school or enter a career or start a family with the confidence that you know enough about the economy and personal finance to not make unnecessary or costly mistakes.

I never used to care about the economy, until I FOMO'ed into Bitcoin in 2017 and learned a ton of valuable (and some costly) lessons simply due to the fact that I was emotionally invested – I had “skin in the game” as it were. I learned how a small investment in the right opportunity at the right time can create a lot of wealth quickly. I also learned that not all “opportunities” are in fact opportunities (like many crypto “altcoin” projects or scams) and that you can lose money as quickly as you can make it if you don't do your own research and take a conservative stance on risk. I learned how to read candle charts, major chart trends and patterns and I learned how supply and demand drives price. Most importantly (for me), I learned how the global economy is kind of a big experiment where Central Banks frequently basically print money out of thin air (since the Gold Standard was abandoned in 1971) in order to keep things

afloat – which is why I am enthusiastic about Bitcoin, a decentralised (like the internet), unalterable, transparent digital currency of which there can only ever be a fixed amount (21 million). Time will tell.

What matters for you is, we have assembled articles to answer questions such as “What is inflation?”, “How do interest rates work”? And “Why is tax so hard?” So that you can get a little wiser about the economy and how to make the best use of your money to create long-term wealth. We even look at how your emotions and personality can impact how you invest, whether you should trust ChatGPT for investment advice, and some advice on how to turn a science idea into a viable business.

We hope it will give you some food for thought, and perhaps give you some financial tools to make the most of your festive season and your budget or investment plans for 2024. Either way, be safe, save when you can, and enjoy the holidays from the QUEST team.

With regards,



**Fanie (RS) van Rooyen (Editor)**

*Ikonomi, le gore o šoma bjang ka tšhelete ya gago, ga go nyakege gore e be sephiri. Le ge e ka raragana ka mo go sa phemegego, dikgopolo tša motheo ge e le gabotse di bonolo ka mo go forago: Diriša tšhelete e nyenyane go feta yeo o e hwetšago, o se ke wa phela ka godimo ga bokgoni bja gago, o be le allergy go dikoloto, beeletša feela seo o ikemišeditšego go se lahlegelwa, go boloka go se nene ka go se fetoge go ka ya a tsela ye telele kudu. Ke seo kgatišo ye e lego ka ga sona – go thuša go go matlafatša go tlogela sekolo goba go tsena mošomong goba go thoma lapa ka tšhepo ya gore o tseba ka mo go lekanego ka ga ekonomi le ditšhelete tša motho ka noši gore o se dire diphohošo tše di sa nyakegego goba tše di bitšago tšhelete ye ntši. Eka e ka go fa didirišwa tše dingwe tša go šomiša sehla sa gago sa monyanya ka mo go holago le tekanyetšo ya gago goba dipeeletšo ka 2024!*

*Translated into Sesotho sa Leboa/Northern Sotho by Tebatso Isaac Makwala*

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