

The Phillips Curve

Economics

The inflation-unemployment relationship, and why it shifted.

Short run against long run.

Short run

A trade-off appears to exist

Unexpected inflation reduces unemployment

Real wages fall without workers noticing

Policy appears able to choose a point

Long run

Expectations adjust to actual inflation

Unemployment returns to its natural rate

Only inflation is left, permanently higher

The curve is vertical

The 1970s broke the simple version: high inflation and high unemployment together, which the original curve could not produce.