

### Price mechanism

**Price mechanism** Higher prices indicate higher demand and vice versa

Rising prices indicate to producers to allocate their resources into that product

### Demand

**Demand** for consumers is the want or willingness of consumers to buy Gs or Ss

for demand to be effective consumers must have enough money to buy what they want and need

**Effective demand** real intention of consumers to purchase and to pay with the means available

**Quantity demanded** the amount of a good or service consumers are willing and able to buy

**Individual demand** D of just one consumer

**Market demand** the total D for that product from all its consumers willing and able to buy it

**Aggregate demand** the total demand for all Gs&Ss in the economy

**Demand curve** displays the D of all the consumers of that commodity given a set of possible prices

following mostly applies: as price rises QD falls and vice versa, roughly downward sloping, P and QD move in opposite directions

### Demand (cont)

**market D curve** shows the relationship between the total QD by consumers each period and the price of that product

**Change in price** movement along the curve and extension/contraction of D

**Utility** the satisfaction consumers have after buying and using Gs&Ss the wanted, they assume it is rational

**Marginal utility** the extra unit gained from the consumption of one more product, usually goes down at some point

**The law of diminishing returns** the more of a commodity consumers have, the less utility they get from consuming one more unit of it

### Shifts in demand

**Ceteris paribus** all other things remaining unchanged, so no other factor that affects consumer's D changes

**Increase/rise in D** consumers D more of a product at every price than they did before

the DC moves outwards (to the right)

**Fall in the D** consumers now demand less of a product at every price than they did before

the DC moves inwards (to the left)

### Shifts in demand (cont)

**Changes in D** other factors like changes in people's income (normal or inferior Gs, changes in income tax, changes in the population, changes in the prices of other Gs (complementary GS - complements/substitutes), changes in tastes and fashion, advertising, etc.

### Supply

**Supply** the willingness of producers to make and sell Gs&Ss at different prices

**Quantity supplied** the amount of Gs&Ss producers are willing and able to make and sell to consumers in a market

**Market supply** the sum of all the individual supply curves of producers competing to supply that product

**Supply curve** expresses the amount of a good or service firms or producers are willing to make and sell at a given price

opposit of DC

**Change in price** movement along the curve and extension/contraction of supply

**Other factors** increase/fall in supply

### Changes in supply

**Changes in the cost of factors of production** fall in costs will increase profits and the SC will shift outwards and vice versa

**Changes in the price and profitability of other Gs & SS** may cause different amount of S of different products



### Changes in supply (cont)

**Technical progress** new technology may be able to increase its production and vice versa

**Business optimism and expectations** firms allocate resources based on what they think will be the most profitable

**Other factors** natural disasters, sudden changes in weather, international trade sanctions, wars and political factors

### Market price

**Market price** QD and QS is the same

**Equilibrium price** another name for market price

**Excess supply** at higher prices firms supply more products above the D

**Excess demand** at low prices low amount of products is supplied

**Disequilibrium** D doesn't equal S

### Changes in market prices

**A shift in the market D** higher QD = higher P = higher S

**A shift in the market S curve** higher S = lower P = higher D

**Market price increases if** market D rises or market S falls

### Price elasticity of demand

**PED** the responsiveness of consumer D to changes in the price of a good or service

**Elastic** change in price affects the QD (more shallow)

**PED > 1**

### Price elasticity of demand (cont)

**Inelastic** change in price doesn't affect the QD, if so only in small amount (steeper)

**PED < 1**

**How to calculate PED?** PED = % change in QD/% change in P

% change in QD = (change in Q/original Q) x 100

% change in P = (change in P/original P) x 100

**Determinants of PED** factors that affect PED

**if the product is a necessity - inelastic**

**the number of close substitutes a product has - more = elastic, less = inelastic**

**the amount of time consumers have to search for substitutes - more time = inelastic, less time = elastic**

**the cost of switching to a different supplier - high = inelastic, low = elastic**

**the proportion of consumer's income spent on the product - higher = elastic, lower = inelastic**

**Why is knowledge of PED useful?** e. g. while government is placing taxes (cigarettes, alcohol, etc.)

### Special demand curves

**Perfectly price inelastic E = 0** a straight vertical line, rise/fall in the P of commodity causes no change in S (insuline)

**Infinitely price elastic E = ∞** a straight horizontal line, any change in D will cause S to fall to zero, unrealistic

**Unitary elasticity E = 1** a % change in P will cause an equal change in the QD (looks like a DC)

### Other measures of elasticity of demand

**Income elasticity of D** by how much a change in income causes the QD of G/S to change

IED = % change in QD/% change in income

**positive number - rise in income = rise in D, normal Gs**

**negative number - rise in income = fall in QD, inferior Gs**

**Cross elasticity of D** by how much QD will rise/fall given the change in the price of another product

CED = % change in Q of good X/% change in P of good Y

**positive number - rise in P = rise in D, substitutes**

**negative number - rise in P = fall in D, complements**

**Price elasticity of supply** responsiveness of QS to a change in P

PES = % change in QS/% change in P



### Other measures of elasticity of demand (cont)

**ES > 1 - price elastic - small increase in P = large extension in S**

**ES < 1 - price inelastic - rise in P = little extension in S**

change in P > change in D = price inelastic

change in P < change in D = price elastic

**Determinants of PES** the availability of stock of finished goods and components - higher availability = elastic, low availability = inelastic

**degree of unused or spare production capacity** - higher = elastic, lower = inelastic

**availability of resources** - higher availability = elastic, lower availability = inelastic

**time - momentary run (all FoP fixed - inelastic), short run (1 FoP variable, other 2 fixed), long run (all FoP variable - elastic)**

### Special supply curves

**Perfectly price inelastic** straight horizontal line, the QS remains the same whatever the P is  
PES = 0

**Infinitely price elastic** straight horizontal line, producers are willing to supply as much as they can at one particular price, theory  
PES = ∞

**Unitary elasticity** a % change in price will cause an equal % change in QS  
PES = 1

### Taxes and subsidies

**Taxes** imposed on goods and services are known as **indirect taxes** (VAT, excise duties placed on cigarettes and alcohol, etc.)

indirect taxes have an effect of increasing the market price and reducing the quantity traded in a market

**Subsidy** payment made to producers to help to reduce their costs of production

producers tend to increase their supply at every given price, higher supply = fall in market price = benefit to the consumers

