

## CONCEPT: GROWTH RATES AND THE RULE OF 70

- There are several important calculations related to the economic growth; notably the growth in \_\_\_\_\_
  - Calculating the rate of growth from year-to-year is a simple \_\_\_\_\_ calculation:

$$\text{Annual Growth Rate} = \frac{GDP_{\text{Current}} - GDP_{\text{Prior}}}{GDP_{\text{Prior}}}$$

- We can calculate **average annual growth** by taking a simple arithmetic average:

$$\text{Average Annual Growth Rate} = \frac{\text{Growth Rate}_1 + \text{Growth Rate}_2 + \dots + \text{Growth Rate}_n}{n}$$

- **Rule of 70** – a mathematical approximation of how long it will take a value to \_\_\_\_\_

$$\text{Number of years to double} = \frac{70}{\text{Growth Rate}}$$

**EXAMPLE:** Use the *Rule of 70* to analyze the following growth rates:

|  |     |     |
|--|-----|-----|
| 2%:  | 4%: | 6%: |
| _____ differences in growth rates can have _____ impacts on the standard of living in a country. |     |     |

**EXAMPLE:** The country of Growtopia had real GDP in the previous year of \$1.45 billion. The current year real GDP was \$1.51 billion. Based on this information, approximately how long would it take for Growtopia's real GDP to double if it continues to grow at a constant rate?

- a) 6 years
- b) 12 years
- c) 16 years
- d) 17 years

**PRACTICE:** Use the information in the table to calculate Growtopia's average annual growth rate for real GDP and the approximate amount of time it would take for Growtopia's real GDP to double.

- a) Average Growth: 2.4%   Time to Double: 29.2 years
- b) Average Growth: 3.8%   Time to Double: 18.4 years
- c) Average Growth: 5.2%   Time to Double: 13.5 years
- d) Average Growth: 7.6%   Time to Double: 9.2 years

| Year | Real GDP Growth Rate |
|------|----------------------|
| 2015 | 1.8%                 |
| 2016 | 2.1%                 |
| 2017 | 6.1%                 |
| 2018 | 5.2%                 |