

### CONCEPT: QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS OF CONSUMER AND PRODUCER SURPLUS

- We are sometimes asked to calculate consumer and producer surplus using algebra.
  - Steps for calculating consumer and producer surplus at equilibrium:
    - Step 1: Find Equilibrium Price and Quantity by setting  $Q_D = Q_S$
    - Step 2: Find the “axis price” when  $Q_D = 0$  and the “axis price” when  $Q_S = 0$
    - Step 3: Calculate Consumer and Producer Surplus using the following equations.

$$\text{Area of a triangle} = \frac{1}{2} * \text{base} * \text{height}$$

$$\text{Consumer Surplus} = \frac{1}{2} * (\text{Demand Axis Price} - P^*) * Q^*$$

$$\text{Producer Surplus} = \frac{1}{2} * (P^* - \text{Supply Axis Price}) * Q^*$$

**EXAMPLE:** Calculate consumer and producer surplus using the given information.



$$Q_D = 3,000,000 - 1,000P$$

$$Q_S = 1,300P - 450,000$$

**PRACTICE:** The supply and demand curves for a product are as follows. What is consumer surplus in this market?

- a) 6.25
- b) 12.5
- c) 20
- d) 22.5
- e) 25

$$Q_D = 45 - 2P$$

$$Q_S = -15 + P$$

**PRACTICE:** The supply and demand curves for a product are as follows. What is producer surplus in this market?

- a) 6.25
- b) 12.5
- c) 15
- d) 20
- e) 25

$$Q_D = 45 - 2P$$

$$Q_S = -15 + P$$