



Lectures on Urban Economics (MIT Press)

By Jan K. Brueckner

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Lectures on Urban Economics offers a rigorous but nontechnical treatment of major topics in urban economics. To make the book accessible to a broad range of readers, the analysis is diagrammatic rather than mathematical. Although nontechnical, the book relies on rigorous economic reasoning. In contrast to the cursory theoretical development often found in other textbooks, *Lectures on Urban Economics* offers thorough and exhaustive treatments of models relevant to each topic, with the goal of revealing the logic of economic reasoning while also teaching urban economics. Topics covered include reasons for the existence of cities, urban spatial structure, urban sprawl and land-use controls, freeway congestion, housing demand and tenure choice, housing policies, local public goods and services, pollution, crime, and quality of life. Footnotes throughout the book point to relevant exercises, which appear at the back of the book. These 22 extended exercises (containing 125 individual parts) develop numerical examples based on the models analyzed in the chapters. *Lectures on Urban Economics* is suitable for undergraduate use, as background reading for graduate students, or as a professional reference for economists and scholars interested in the urban economics perspective.

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Editorial Review

Review

This book is a very nice presentation of basic urban material. Brueckner has a great talent for taking complex ideas and models and putting them in readily accessible frameworks that capture the key points. Moreover he uses simple examples to illustrate the issues. The material should be accessible to advanced undergraduates and will provide insights for graduate students as well.

(J Vernon Henderson, Eastman Professor of Political Economy and Professor of Economics and Urban Studies, Brown University)

Jan Brueckner's lucid *Lectures on Urban Economics* is a rigorous, but non-technical, analysis of the major topics in the field. The lectures survey topics of broad appeal to students, and they provide just enough detail -- clear diagrams and tightly written prose -- to support a definitive analysis. This slim volume has the hallmark of an excellent undergraduate text.

(John Quigley, I. Donald Turner Distinguished Professor and Professor of Economics, University of California, Berkeley)

Overall, this book does an excellent job of surveying the theory of urban economics. It does so cleanly, neatly, concisely, and about as simply as possible, making it accessible to a wide audience.

(David Albouy *Journal of Regional Science*)

About the Author

Jan K. Brueckner is Professor of Economics at the University of California, Irvine, and former editor of the *Journal of Urban Economics*.

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