GENERAL ECONOMIC ENGLISH

Week 13: Economic Data, Tables, Charts and Graphs

1. Main Academic Text & Core Concepts

In economics, business, and managerial science, quantitative data is frequently presented visually using tables, bar charts, line graphs, and pie charts. Interpreting graphical data quickly and communicating numerical trends in precise English is an indispensable professional competency.

Line graphs illustrate changes over continuous time frames; bar charts compare distinct variables across categories; pie charts represent proportional breakdowns of a whole; and tables provide raw numerical data across multiple dimensions. Economists analyze these visual tools to identify growth patterns, seasonal fluctuations, structural drops, and macro trends.

Describing data requires specific grammatical structures and vocabulary. Analysts must accurately express direction (upward, downward, horizontal), speed of change (sharp, steady, gradual), peak values, minimum points, and periods of stability.

2. Key Terminology & Academic Definitions

Line Graph	Noun	A visual chart using lines to show changes in quantitative data over time.
Bar Chart	Noun	A graph using rectangular bars to compare numerical values across categories.
Pie Chart	Noun	A circular chart divided into sectors illustrating numerical proportions.
Fluctuation	Noun/Verb	Irregular variation or instability in quantity or level.
Peak	Noun/Verb	Reach the highest point or level in a data series.
Plunge / Plummet	Verb	To decrease or drop very rapidly and significantly.
Plateau / Level off	Verb	To reach a state of little or no change after a period of growth.

3. Language Focus: Language of Trends, Movement, and Approximation

Verbs + Adverbs of Trend: Combine movement verbs with degree adverbs: 'Inflation rose sharply', 'Sales declined gradually'.

Adjective + Noun Patterns: Alternative trend structures: 'There was a steady increase in exports', 'The economy experienced a sudden fall'.

Approximation Expressions: Use numerical qualifiers: 'approximately', 'roughly', 'just under', 'slightly over', 'around'.