



6 April 2020

Why we created the Tube Map of Lockdown Economics

Economic concepts are abstract and it can be difficult to see the whole picture when a world-wide event is shaking up peoples' lives. We have seen a number of tube map-style visualisations of the Corona-crisis, but none of them is depicting the economic situation at a useful level. This is why TradePeers Ltd and Tube Map Central set to work.

The tube map metaphor can be used to highlight the most important issues in a way that people can think about them, conceptualise and discuss them. They are excellent for showing interconnectedness. Lines are distinct entities that occasionally "share" stations. Each line depicts unique factors but some are common between lines. We developed the tube map metaphor to depict complex situations when we created the [Brexit Maps](#) two years ago. These maps are still relevant as an effective way of making an abstract structure more salient and easier to think about.

How the map works

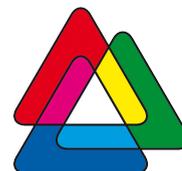
The Tube Map of Lockdown Economics has *Contingent* and *Non-Contingent Lines*, each representing a vital component of the economy. Contingent Lines should be read from left to right, as factors are in roughly chronological order, and their effects will have causal implications throughout the rest of the line, building up as they add together. The map shows three Contingent Lines: The "Fiscal & Monetary Line", the "Business & Employment Line" and the "Housing Line".

Non-Contingent Lines show the impacts of Lockdown Economics in a random order. The map shows five Contingent Lines: The "Education Line", the "Healthcare Line", the "Infrastructure & Transport Line", the "Local Services Line", and the "Social Security Line".

An interchange with a Contingent Line indicates a transfer of causal influence from one line to another. For example, the station "Government Spending Shutdown" on the Fiscal and Monetary Line will have ramifications for healthcare, infrastructure, transport, social security and local services. You can see these lines all start from that one station.

We have added twin lines for the Healthcare and Business & Employment Lines to show the Government assistance in these areas.

The Fiscal and Monetary Line is the backbone of the map. Start there to see what lies ahead, and how the various events and factors feed into other lines.

**Disclaimer**

When creating metaphoric tube maps, comprehensiveness has to be traded for clarity. It is impossible to create a map showing every possible station line and interchange. Therefore, the Tube Map of Lock Down Economics is not intended to represent a formal macro-economic forecasting model. Instead, it is designed to highlight and organise the major economic forces that have been unleashed, along with the medium and long-term consequences that might be expected.

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