

# ANGUS DEATON

## Nobel Laureate in Economics 2015

Angus Deaton, born in 1945, in full Sir Angus Stewart Deaton, British American economist who received the 2015 Nobel Prize for Economics. His fundamental contributions to the theory of consumption, savings, and the measurement of economic well-being transformed the field of applied and development economics.



Deaton received a B.A. (1967), an M.A. (1971), and a Ph.D. (1974), each in economics, from the University of Cambridge. He worked as a professor of econometrics at the University of Bristol from 1976 until 1983 while serving as a visiting professor at Princeton University in 1979–80. In 1980 he became a permanent member of the faculty at Princeton.

Deaton's first major contribution to the field of development economics was his analysis of the evolution of consumer demand in the United Kingdom over the first 70 years of the 20th century, using a novel way of modeling consumer demand. For this work he became the first recipient of the Frisch Medal in 1978, an award given every two years by the Econometric Society to the author of an applied economics paper published in the economics journal *Econometrica*. In 1980 he extended this work with his colleague John Muellbauer and came up with a model of consumer demand that was simple to estimate and relied on more-realistic assumptions than the existing models at the time. This new model, which they called An Almost Ideal Demand System, quickly became the benchmark model for economists who wanted to study consumer behaviour empirically.

Deaton is a Senior Scholar and the Dwight D. Eisenhower Professor of Economics and International Affairs Emeritus at the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs and the Economics Department at Princeton University. He was also a member of the Chief Economist's Advisory Council of the World Bank and a senior research scientist for the Gallup Organization. Deaton served as the president of the American Economic Association in 2009 and was awarded the BBVA Foundation Frontiers of Knowledge Award in 2011, a prize that acknowledged his fundamental contributions to the field. In 2015 he received the Nobel Prize for Economics "for his analysis of consumption, poverty, and welfare." The following year he was made a knight bachelor.

Affiliation at the time of the award: Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, USA

Prize motivation: "for his analysis of consumption, poverty, and welfare"