

## Leo Abruzzese

Senior Global Advisor - Public Policy  
Economist Intelligence Unit

Speaker on the World Economy, Emerging Markets,  
Business, Finance & Sustainability



**With more than 40 years' experience covering economics, business and public policy, Leo has analyzed and written about every major economic event of recent times.**

### Professional experience

- Based in Washington, Leo Abruzzese is the Senior Global Advisor - Public Policy for *The Economist Intelligence Unit*, overseeing analysis, research and modeling for governments, corporations, foundations and NGOs around the world. His areas of focus include development economics, gender equality, access to finance, infrastructure, nuclear security, global peace, food security and the environment.
- He has led projects in such fields as economic and financial benchmarking, technology policy, sustainable investing, labour markets and child protection. He was a creator of The Inclusive Internet Index, a tool that evaluates global Internet adoption based on availability, affordability, readiness and relevance.
- For many years, Leo served as Deputy Editor of The Economist annual future-looking "The World in" magazine.
- He has more than 40 years of experience covering economic, political, and business environments around the world, firstly as a journalist, then as an analyst. He has written about every major economic event of the last generation, from the oil shocks of the late 1970s to the financial-market shocks during the last recession. He has produced analysis on European economic integration, the rise of China, the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the Mexican and Asian financial crises, the Uruguay Round of global trade talks, and the U.S. and global asset bubbles of the last decade.
- In his role as a policy and economic analyst, Leo has presented and defended The Economist Intelligence Unit's forecasts before governments, corporations and non-profits throughout the US, Europe, Asia and the Americas. He has spoken before boards of directors and at high-level gatherings of such companies as Cisco, Oracle, Facebook, General Electric, IBM, HSBC, Coca-Cola, Philips, Barilla, Boeing, KPMG, Embraer and Citigroup.
- He led a major project on top-level domain names for the Internet Corporation for Names and Numbers (ICANN), and has presented policy analysis to the UN, World Bank, the US State Department, the Federal Reserve, the European Commission, the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Central Intelligence Agency.
- Until March 2015, Leo served as Global Forecasting Director for *The Economist Intelligence Unit*, leading the team that oversees forecasting for the world's largest economies, with a special focus on the US, the European Union and China. He was responsible for assessing economic growth, exchange rates, interest rates and financial-market performance, and for editing the company's monthly flagship economic publication, the Global Outlook.
- He has also lived and worked in Washington for 20 years covering economic and business issues in Congress, at the White House and many U.S. government agencies including the Treasury.

## Published Papers & Media

- He has edited numerous Economist Intelligence Unit reports and publications, including *Global Outlook*.
- He also served for many years as Deputy Editor of *The Economist's* annual "World in..." forecasting publication.
- He provided US economic analysis for the company's special report, "*Heading for the Rocks: Will financial turmoil sink the world economy?*" and for the follow-up, "*Shooting the Rapids: What happens if financial turmoil capsizes the global economy?*" He also contributed to The EIU's reports on the European debt crisis and the future of the euro zone, and wrote the lead note for the company's special report, "*The end isn't nigh: Central bank challenges as the era of cheap money enters a new phase.*"
- He has led projects for international institutions in such fields as economic and financial benchmarking, gender equality, poverty alleviation, access to finance, nuclear security, global peace, food security and environmental protection
- Leo has directed strategic research initiatives for organizations such as the International Monetary Fund, the United Nations, the International Finance Corporation, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Bill and Melinda and Gates Foundation, the Clinton Foundation, the Office of Mexico's president, the Society for Human Resource Management, the Nuclear Threat Initiative, the Nike Foundation and the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers. He has also worked with DHL, Visa, HSBC, PayPal, Western Union, KPMG, Zipcar and Siemens.
- Leo has helped to develop more than 20 performance benchmarking models, ranging from the Women's Economic Opportunity Index to the Global Food Security Index. In March 2012, he joined with Michael Bloomberg, then-mayor of New York city, to release an EIU report on the competitiveness of large cities. In March 2015 he participated in the release of the No Ceilings: Full Participation Report, which was launched by Hillary Clinton and Melinda Gates.
- Leo is regularly sought after and interviewed by the US and international media, including BBC, CNN, CBS, and Al-Jazeera.

## Sample assignments

- Leo provides executive briefings to regional and global management meeting and to boards on the global economic outlook, the USA, Europe and the emerging markets.
- He regularly presents EIU analysis at conferences and events around the world.
- He regularly chairs events for Economist Conferences, focusing on such topics as emerging markets, global finance, private equity, legal issues and outsourcing.

## Leo Abruzzese - Personal bio-data

- Currently, the Senior Global Advisor, Public Policy, Economist Intelligence Unit
- Previously, Global Director of Public Policy and Deputy Editor of "*The World in..*" magazine.
- Executive Editor, EIU, Global Forecasting Director and Editorial Director, Americas
- Federal Reserve / Treasury Editor, with Bloomberg News
- Deputy Director, Country Analysis, EIU
- Editor-in-Chief, *Viewswire*, Economist Intelligence Unit, The Economist Group.
- Editorial Director – Knight Ridder Newspapers / *Journal of Commerce*.
- Participated in European research programmes sponsored by New York University and the German Marshall Fund.
- Leo received a Bachelor's Degree in Liberal Arts from St. Joseph's University.