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when the price goes
up,

[Business](#), [Decision Making](#)



The term "price elasticity of demand" might not be very common but it is frequently used by firms, organizations and government in decision making. Knowledge of the basic law of demand is not enough to decide about final price of the product or service. It has to be measured how change of the price will affect the final outcome. Public policy making uses elasticity to impose tax on goods like cigarettes, alcohol or petrol. Those products are inelastic, they have not many substitutes, are essential or addictive.

When the price goes up, the quantity demanded does not fall significantly. Those goods are not responsive to a price change, which means demand will still be high regardless raised price. One of the examples of the use of the Elasticity of demand can be Price Reticulation and Crop Restriction of Farm Products used by governments of many countries. In United States of America the Government encourages farmers to limit agriculture production by offering them grants. The demand of the farm products is inelastic and big supply of those products causes fall of the price which lowers farmers' incomes.

The government enacted policy restricting farm production and provides subsidy to those who keep their land not cultivated. This policy reduces supply in the market which causes the price of those products rise. Agricultural products are inelastic and the fall in production leads to increase of the revenue and farmers' incomes.

The graph above illustrates how farmers revenue equals to the OP_1 , E_1 , Q . After implementation of the Government's rules, supply shifts to the left. (Supply curve is assumed to be perfectly elastic to simplify the case).

When agricultural products price increases to P_2 and quantity demanded decreases to Q_2 the new revenue is OP_2, E_2, Q_2 and it is higher than what it was before governments regulations which increased

farmers' incomes. Price Elasticity of Demand allows calculate responsiveness to price change of the good or service. It predicts how consumer will react to those changes and how will it affect the revenue.

The reason why Government uses Price Elasticity of Demand is not only to increase revenue but also environmental or public health or safety (crime and drugs) etc. It is important tool to measure sensitivity of the price change in national and international scale.