

# The Use of Laboratory Experiments in Economics: An Introductory Survey

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in S. Moriaty (ed.), *Laboratory Market Research*,  
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**Abstract:** Until recently, economists have relied on data from markets that exist naturally in the economy to construct empirical tests of economic theories. Chamberlin (1948) was the first person to establish a market for the purpose of testing a theory. Chamberlin's work was largely ignored for many years, but the use of experiments in controlled laboratory settings has become widespread, especially in the U.S., in the last decade. This paper provides a brief introduction to experimental economics: its origins, a typical example, recent applications, and some advice on good procedure.