



by the **numbers**

Economic Data



Bureau of Labor Statistics

<http://www.bls.gov>

<http://www.bls.gov/k12/index.htm>

<http://www.bls.gov/oco/home.htm>

As you might have guessed, this is the site to get figures for things like average hourly earnings and the current U.S. unemployment rate. But you can also get an idea of what it might be like to work in TV, or how much you might expect to earn as a stockbroker.

Be sure to check out:

- Economy at a Glance
- How Much People Earn
- Kids' Page
- *Monthly Labor Review*
- *Occupational Outlook Handbook*

Bureau of Economic Analysis

<http://www.bea.gov>

The BEA is part of the U.S. Department of Commerce, and its website presents lots of useful information in a format that's easy to navigate.

Be sure to check out:

- To find out how much value an industry adds to GDP, check out the Interactive Data Tables under the "Publications" tab.
- Click the "FAQs" tab to find out, among other things, how it's possible for personal savings to be negative.

Statistical Resources on the Web

The University of Michigan Documents Center

<http://www.lib.umich.edu/govdocs/stecon.html>

An excellent portal site for economic statistics – as comprehensive as its title promises.

FRED® - Federal Reserve Economic Data

<http://research.stlouisfed.org/fred2>

Created and maintained by the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, FRED is a database of more than 19,000 U.S. economic time series.

Be sure to check out:

- GeoFRED™ <http://geofred.stlouisfed.org> is "a data-mapping tool that displays color-coded data on the state, MSA and county levels. For example, GeoFRED can display unemployment, labor force and population for all U.S. counties. Users can select among 12,000 FRED® data series and customize these printable maps according to size, scope and detail." And there are lesson plans, too!

The Inflation Calculator

<http://www.westegg.com/inflation>

The Inflation Calculator will adjust "any given amount of money for inflation, according to the Consumer Price Index," going back to 1800.

Measuring Worth

<http://www.measuringworth.com>

Making value comparisons between one historical period and another is never an easy task, but this site gives you tools



Bureau of the Census

<http://www.census.gov>

Today's U.S. Census does far more than count heads, and the Census Bureau's web site is an effective tool for teaching and learning about economics.

Be sure to check out:

- American FactFinder, especially "Kids' Corner" under the "Tools and Resources" tab
- Economic Indicators (on the Homepage)
- QuickFacts—all 50 states and the District of Columbia

to help make it easier.

Be sure to check out:

- "Measures of Worth" is an essay that "provides a methodology for deciding which measure of worth is appropriate for the subject at hand."