



GUIDE TO STATE AND LOCAL WORKFORCE DATA: FOR ANALYSIS AND INFORMED DECISION MAKING

U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, Office of Workforce Investment

There is a wealth of state and local employment and economic data – most of it free – from government and private sector sources. We have organized this information by topic to make it easier to find and use. All of the text in [blue](#) are Internet links that you can click on to go directly to the source of information described. **We have shown published data, but keep in mind that many government agencies have additional data available in unpublished tables. If you don't find what you need, it's almost always worthwhile to use the contact info (in column 4) to inquire about relevant unpublished data. [State labor market information offices](#) also may have additional state-specific data, and should be contacted as well (click on the link for more below).**

- The links in the first column will take you directly to the principal source, in most cases the specific source for state and local data. The sponsoring organization and the abbreviation used for the source are shown after the title.
- **Coverage:** These two columns summarize the geographical level of detail available from the source. If the number of localities is limited, this means that only the largest localities are included.
- **Frequently-asked questions, contact info, technical details, etc.** These links will show you FAQ's, the actual questions in the survey or data instrument, additional technical information, and contact information should you have further questions.
- **Other selected publications:** This column highlights some important additional publications and features which you may find useful.
- **Notes:** The last column provides miscellaneous useful information about the data source, including a brief explanation of what is available, how long after data collection the information is issued, and when the data series began.
- Where appropriate, notes are also shown in the section heading rows, which are marked in [yellow](#). If Internet links are included in these rows, the text is in **boldface type**.
- The section headings are listed in a manner that we believe will be more helpful than alphabetical order: first general sources; then the basic building blocks of workforce statistics such as employment/unemployment and compensation/benefits (with inflation sources listed immediately after this section); then a number of categories such as labor-management and safety and health statistics which will probably be of interest to more specialized users; then sources relevant to specific industries, occupations and other worker-specific subjects (such as age, race and ethnicity, disability status, etc.); and finally miscellaneous economic and population topics.

General Tips

State and local data users desire comprehensive information that is as current and geographically detailed as possible. Since this ideal does not exist, compromises are necessary. It can be useful to draw information from more than one source, which can help minimize weaknesses in timeliness or geographical specificity. The individual listings below provide more detail on geographic detail and publication lags, but below are the best sources for those who wish to prioritize one or the other factor. **For more specific tips, see the box on the contents page.**

Most geographically detailed sources: Censuses (both the population census done every 10 years and the economic censuses done every 5 years) cover the entire population that is being surveyed (economic censuses only survey specific industries). Similarly, the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) includes all employees covered by unemployment insurance. However, most data sources only survey a sample of the entire population (many but not all are random samples, the ideal type). In general, larger sample sizes permit greater geographic detail. The most geographically detailed sources of labor market information other than censuses are the Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) and the Bureau of Labor Statistics' (BLS) Current Employment Statistics (CES), Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS), and Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) programs.

Most up-to-date sources: Except for the CES and LAUS (which publish data monthly with about a one to two month lag), information from the most geographically detailed sources is published with anywhere from 6 months to 2 or more years delay. The most current information derives from the CES and BLS products from the *Current Population Survey* (CPS), such as unemployment rates (and LAUS, which combines data from both sources). Much of this information is published only a few weeks after the survey. Similarly, the private sector Help Wanted Online is published with only a short delay.

To keep this guide manageable it primarily includes sources of labor market data, with a few exceptions. Data that measure inflation (such as the Consumer Price Index) are included because it is almost always desirable to adjust monetary trends (e.g., earnings) for inflation to obtain a more realistic perspective. The Commerce Department's Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) state and local data are included because their statistics on personal income are dominated by earned income. Population data are included because employment and training programs (and many other Federal programs) base eligibility and funding decisions in part on population data.

The Census Bureau uses a variety of online tools that can be used to find, tabulate, organize, graph and/or map information. These are conveniently described at [Data Access Tools](#). Reference contacts for specific sources are listed in the table below, but see [Contact BLS](#) or [Census Bureau subject/topic contacts](#) for general lists. The Census Bureau can also conduct special surveys at the request of a governmental unit, except during the period immediately before and after the decennial census, as part of its [Special Census Program](#). For BLS methodological issues, the best single source is the [BLS Handbook of Methods](#).

Key Definitions

General: The [BLS Glossary](#) is an excellent source for employment-related terms, which is complemented by the more general [Census Bureau glossary](#).

Geographical terms: A metropolitan area (of which there are three types) is made up of one or more counties and consists of a core area containing a substantial population nucleus, together with adjacent communities having a high degree of economic and social integration with that core. Each *metropolitan* statistical area (MSA) must have at least one urbanized area of 50,000 or more inhabitants, and *micropolitan* statistical areas include between 10,000-50,000 population. Some MSAs have subdivisions called metropolitan divisions. Areas outside of MSAs are called non-metropolitan areas; given their smaller population size, there is much less data available for them (a good source is the American Community Survey shown in the first row below). For more information and definitions of less-frequently used terms, see the Census Bureau's [Geographic Terms and Definitions](#), [Geographic Areas Reference Manual](#), [Guide to State and Local Census Geography](#), and [Urban and Rural Classification](#); and the U.S. Agriculture Dept.'s [Rural-Urban Continuum Codes](#). **Note:** to protect survey respondents' confidentiality, some data for less populous states or localities are not published.

Survey terms: Information is collected directly from the labor force through what are referred to as **household or demographic surveys** (the decennial population census is the oldest household survey, and the CPS is the oldest regular monthly survey). Note that household surveys other than the Census Bureau's American Community Survey usually cover the civilian non-institutional population and thus exclude the homeless, military personnel and those in prisons and mental health facilities. Information is collected from employers through what are referred to as **establishment surveys** (the CES is the oldest establishment survey). An establishment is defined by BLS as "an economic unit which produces goods or services, such as a factory, mine or store. It is generally at a single location and engaged predominantly in one type of activity." Thus a single business can be comprised of thousands of establishments. For more information, see the Census Bureau's [Guidance on Differences in Employment and Unemployment Estimates from Different Sources](#) and [Labor Force Fact Sheet on differences among different employment sources](#).

Workforce terms

Employment: *Employment* refers to the number of individuals at work. *Employees* mean only wage and salary workers, and excludes the self-employed. The *labor force* means individuals who are either working or not working but actively looking for work (the unemployed); BLS classifies the remainder of the population as out of the labor force. Note that the employment counts differ between establishment and household surveys (defined above), primarily because establishment surveys count the number of *jobs*, while household surveys count the number of *workers*. I.e., individuals who hold two jobs would be counted twice in an establishment survey (once for each job), but only be counted once in a household survey.

Compensation: *Compensation* means all monetary and in-kind benefits (including health insurance, sick leave, etc.) that a worker receives. *Earnings* mean all monetary compensation. *Wages* are monetary compensation paid by an employer (i.e., excluding self-employment earnings) and may exclude irregular pay such as bonuses. *Benefits* are non-monetary forms of compensation.

Industry and Occupation: For more information, see the Census Bureau's [Frequently Asked Questions on Industries and Occupations](#), [contact the industry and occupation statistics branch](#), and [Comparisons of ACS-CPS Data on Industry, Occupation, and Class of Worker](#).

Tips on Using Workforce Statistics

If you are unfamiliar with a particular source, we recommend that you follow these steps.

1. **Before using the data, read the background material, especially the overview and frequently asked questions (FAQ's).** If multiple sources exist for a specific type of information, read a reference that explains the differences among sources to ensure that you choose the most suitable source (we have usually listed such references in the first row of a section, to minimize repetition). It's usually also worthwhile to read the exact survey question(s) and technical or methodological references.
2. **Pay particular attention to how such critical terms as employment and compensation are defined,** especially the reference time period and who is answering the questions (employers or employees). E.g., many government programs (but only some workforce statistical sources) reflect a count of every person served during an entire year. In contrast, most employment survey counts reflect an average at a specific point in time (such as a single week). Therefore, it may be inappropriate to use these two sets of information to calculate the percentage of the unemployed served (in addition to the problem caused by the fact that programs often serve those who are out of work but not technically classified as unemployed).
3. **Scan the complete list of tables, and identify all those pertinent to your inquiry.** Then examine the relevant full tables more closely to determine which best suit your needs. Table titles may not adequately capture the information in the table, and grabbing the first data one sees in the hope that it's the most relevant data often causes mistakes and misinterpretations that can be avoided. If in doubt, use the appropriate "contact" link to check with an analyst.

The Census Bureau has a Web site called [Using Data Effectively](#) which has a variety of tips for different users.

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Within each section, we have highlighted sources that are 1) the most recent, 2) provide the greatest geographical detail, and 3) include demographic information (e.g., gender, race, age, etc.). This information is shown in the first column, with the markings shown below on the abbreviation for the source. Sections with only one source are not marked for 1 and 2.

1. The **most recent** sources are marked like this.
2. The sources with the **greatest geographical detail** are marked like this.
3. Sources that include some **demographic information** are marked like this.

| State and local area data source | States covered | Localities covered | Frequently-asked questions, contact info, technical details, etc. | Other selected publications and features | Notes |
|---|----------------|--------------------|--|--|---|
| <p>General sources</p> <p>Two of the most useful general links are BLS Topics A-Z and Census Bureau Topics A-Z (neither are restricted to sources of state and local data). See also the BLS Customer Guide.</p> | | | | | |
| <p>American Community Survey (Census Bureau ACS)</p> <p>To get local data, use the American FactFinder (note that single-year estimates are sometimes <i>not</i> the first choice)</p> | all | all localities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ETA tips on Creating Customized ACS Data Tables overview of 1, 3, and 5 year estimates ACS Handbooks for various types of users (general, state, business, researchers, etc.) ACS questionnaires ACS design and methodology Glossary of ACS terms ACS FAQ's ACS online tutorial Geographic terms in the ACS 2010 ACS Content Test Evaluation Report Covering Wages contact ACS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACS Briefs grouped by year (including many on work-related topics) (work and family, working hours, health coverage, etc.) ACS Library of publications Employment to Population Ratios for the 50 Largest Metropolitan Statistical Areas (2008, 2009, and 2010) Usual Hours Worked in the Past 12 Months for Workers 16 to 64 (2008 & 2009) Commuting in the United States (2009) Public Transportation Usage Among U.S. Workers: 2008 and 2009 (ACS) purchasing customized tabulations from ACS | <p>ACS data, which first covered all counties in 2005, are the most comprehensive single source for detailed geographical statistics (the series began publication in 2000). The ACS replaced the “long form” of the decennial census. Data (generally an annual number) are published 9 or more months after the end of the reference year. Data for areas above 65,000 population are based on a single year’s survey. Data for areas between 20,000 to 65,000 population are based on 3 years of data, and for smaller populations the data reflect a 5 year period. Whenever possible, use the shortest reference period, which allows analyses of trends. Otherwise, the time periods overlap. For example, if 2009 and 2010 data are compared using 3-year estimates, two-thirds of the data will overlap (the actual comparison will be 2007-9 vs. 2008-10). Single-year estimates (above 65,000 population) are sufficient to cover all congressional districts, approximately 800 counties, and 500 metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas, among others. The first 5-year estimates (for 2005-2009) became available in January 2011.</p> |
| <p>CPS Annual Social and Economic Supplement Table Creator (Census Bureau ASEC)</p> | all | none | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Table Creator Help Table Creator tool options list of ASEC variables available examples of how to use Table Creator Census Bureau CPS homepage CPS methodology and technical documentation contact CPS (not specific to Table Creator) | | <p>This excellent site is in many ways an “American FactFinder” (see above) for states, using the Current Population Survey’s annual supplement — the survey that produces the Census Bureau’s annual poverty and income data. It supplies state data unavailable from any other source (such as employer-provided health insurance coverage), and covers some topics (e.g., disability, Native Americans, nativity) for which other sources only provide meager coverage. This site supplies no pre-packaged tables, but the table-creation feature is much simpler to use than in other data Web sites, despite some quirks. Note that labor market variables appear in four different places in the selections: on the left hand side under “Define Your Table” and “Statistics” (after clicking on the latter, click the drop-down box under “Additional numeric variable statistics,” which is the only way to generate earnings data); and on the right hand side under “Full/Part-time” and “All Worker Status.” Note that the “labor force” variables only pertain to the time of the survey itself, and are best avoided in favor of the “work experience” variables (“Work Experience-Detailed” provides the fullest picture). If you select “State” as a variable under “Define Your Table,” the resulting table will show all the states.</p> |

| State and local area data source | States covered | Localities covered | Frequently-asked questions, contact info, technical details, etc. | Other selected publications and features | Notes |
|--|----------------|---------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| State Labor Market Information (LMI) Offices | all | varies by state | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LMI Training Institute Directory (includes links and contact information) • State Labor Market Information Contact List (BLS) | ETA's CareerOneStop Web site has a complete listing of all state labor market information Web sites, which provide a wealth of information on workforce statistics as well as employment programs. Individual states may have customized surveys on job vacancies, projected job openings or other topics. State LMI staff may also be able to assist users to interpret and package data for grant applications and other purposes. |
| GENERAL BLS SOURCES | | | | | |
| BLS Geographic Information, BLS Geographic Guide and BLS Statistics by Geography | all | selected localities — varies by topic | | | BLS' newest geographic site, Geographic Information, allows users to choose a state from a map, and includes state "at a glance" tables, MSA tables, the most recently issued data, and a list of the most popular tables. The BLS <i>Geographic Guide</i> provides links to BLS data for geographic areas (from largest to smallest) covering regions, divisions, states, metropolitan areas, counties, and cities and towns for the following topics: 1) employment and unemployment; 2) pay and benefits; 3) inflation and consumer spending; 4) economic and employment projections; 5) workplace injuries; and 6) productivity. BLS <i>Statistics by Geography</i> is organized by BLS source rather than by topic, and complements the <i>Geographic Guide</i> . |
| BLS Regional Offices | all | varies by region | | | BLS has 8 regional information offices, each of whose Web sites has a wealth of workforce and economic data. The type of information and level of detail varies by region, but includes employment, inflation, and workplace safety data. |
| Economy at a Glance (BLS) | all | MSAs | | | BLS supplies a variety of workforce and inflation data for regions, states and metropolitan areas. Each state is listed separately, and under each state the MSAs are listed. BLS assembles this data from various BLS surveys and programs. The tables cover the labor force, employment (by major industry), unemployment, and inflation. |
| GENERAL CENSUS BUREAU SOURCES (except ACS/CPS above) | | | | | |

| State and local area data source | States covered | Localities covered | Frequently-asked questions, contact info, technical details, etc. | Other selected publications and features | Notes |
|---|----------------|--|---|--|--|
| State and Metropolitan Area Data Book (2010, Census Bureau) | all | MSAs and counties within MSAs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • map of MSAs and micropolitan areas • map of combined statistical areas • map of New England city and town areas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State and Metropolitan Area Data Book update site • guide to individual state statistical abstracts | <p>The Census Bureau describes this publication as a <i>Statistical Abstract</i> for states and localities. It is published on an irregular basis, with 7 editions issued since 1979. The 2010 edition has workforce data from 2008 or earlier. There are several tables presenting state workforce data, 2 tables for MSAs, and 2 tables covering the counties within MSAs. The table for micropolitan areas has no employment data. Although the data are conveniently presented in one place, it is possible to obtain much more recent data from other sources in this Guide. The Census Bureau issues occasional electronic updates, but nevertheless other sources have more current data. Note: the Census Bureau terminated updates to this program as of October 2011.</p> |
| County and City Data Book (2007, Census Bureau) | all | counties and cities with 25,000 or more people | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • geographic definitions are in Appendix C • county maps by state are in Appendix D | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • entire Data Book (2007) • County and City Data Book update site | <p>The Census Bureau describes this publication as a local supplement to the <i>Statistical Abstract</i>. It has been issued 14 times since 1944, previously in 2000. It includes data for all U.S. states, counties, and cities with a population of 25,000 or more. It contains additional data for other jurisdictions with a population of 100,000 or more. Also included is a complete set of state maps showing all counties, places of 25,000 or more population, and metropolitan areas. The latest employment data are for 2006. The state and county sections have 1 table each for private and public sector employment. More recent and comprehensive data are available from USA Counties (described more fully below). The city section has 1 employment table, but there is no employment table for miscellaneous localities. Note: the Census Bureau terminated updates to this program as of October 2011.</p> |
| USA Counties (Census Bureau) | all | all counties | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • overview of "USA Counties" | | <p>This Census Bureau site provides data through customized searches, and includes more than 6,300 data items from various sources for the U.S., states and counties. The data include all of the data published for counties in the latest editions of the <i>State and Metropolitan Area Data Book</i> and the <i>County and City Data Book</i> (plus much more). Topics covered include age, agriculture, ancestry, banking, building permits, business patterns, crime, earnings, education, elections, employment, government, health, households, housing, income, labor force, manufactures, population, poverty, retail trade, social programs, veterans, vital statistics, water use, and wholesale trade. The Census Bureau updates the data approximately every 3 months.</p> |

| State and local area data source | States covered | Localities covered | Frequently-asked questions, contact info, technical details, etc. | Other selected publications and features | Notes |
|---|----------------|---|--|--|--|
| Census State and County Quick Facts (Census Bureau) | all | counties and localities with more than 5,000 people | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAQ's about Quick Facts • recency of the data by topic | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • state facts for students | This Census Bureau Web site has limited employment data, but includes demographic, educational attainment, business, income, poverty, housing, and geographical data. The state and county data are much more recent than the city data. This source is extremely easy to use, but generally not as up to date as other sources. |
| County Business Patterns and ZIP Code Business Patterns (Census Bureau CBP) | all | counties and zip codes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CBP overview • CBP FAQ's • definitions of CBP terms • technical info on CBP | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pre-1998 historical data | County Business Patterns (CBP) issues the only source of complete and consistent county-level data for business establishments, with industry detail. The Census Bureau updates the data annually about 1.5 years after the end of the reference period, and the site has comparable historical data from 1998 (the series itself has data dating to 1946). CBP obtains data from census collections and administrative records for all establishments. Other sources covering the same industries are often based on sample surveys. Data include the number of employees and establishments, and total payroll. ZIP Code Business Patterns data provide the number of establishments by employment-size classes for detailed industries. |
| Atlas of Rural and Small-Town America (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service — ERS) | none | counties | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atlas overview • article on the Atlas • list of data elements and definitions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • obtaining Atlas data via maps (note zoom feature on left side) • complete Atlas data in one spreadsheet (see "variable name lookup" for explanations of the heading titles) | This Atlas consolidates more than 60 statistical indicators on jobs, demography and agriculture for all U.S. counties. Employment data include 1) percentage change in employment; 2) the percent employed in agriculture, manufacturing, government, and service industries; and 3) the unemployment rate. Also includes data on household income, poverty, and various measures of educational attainment. Note that some of the data are not as current as can be obtained directly from the ACS (see the first row above). Each county is also classified by various ERS categories (e.g., whether the county is dependent upon farming, has experienced persistent poverty, etc.). |
| Census Atlas of the United States (Census Bureau) | all | varies by topic | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • glossary of terms | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Work" chapter | Published in 2007, the <i>Census Atlas</i> is about 300 pages and contains almost 800 maps. Data from decennial censuses prior to 2000 have been used to create nearly 150 maps and figures, providing context and an historical perspective for many of the topics presented. Topics covered include a chapter on work. A majority of the maps present county level data, but data also include state, census tract (for the largest cities and metropolitan areas), and selected American Indian reservations. |
| Congressional Joint Economic Committee | all | none | | | Click on the "In the States" tab to access reports that include data on employment, unemployment, earnings, poverty, health insurance coverage, veterans, and housing. |
| Job vacancy data and employment projections | | | | | |

| State and local area data source | States covered | Localities covered | Frequently-asked questions, contact info, technical details, etc. | Other selected publications and features | Notes |
|---|----------------|----------------------------|---|---|---|
| Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey (BLS JOLTS) | 4 regions only | none | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JOLTS overview • JOLTS FAQ's • JOLTS general questionnaire (see the JOLTS publications link at right for specialized questionnaires) • contact JOLTS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • latest JOLTS news release (see "Technical Notes" section for definition of terms) • create customized JOLTS tables • miscellaneous JOLTS publications | <p>We have included this source because it is the only government survey that tracks job openings, although because of its small sample size (about 16,000 business establishments) it only publishes data for 4 broad geographic regions (Northeast, South, Midwest, and West). BLS provides data by industry (broad industry groups) but not by occupation (and only at the national level). JOLTS collects data on total employment, job openings, hires, quits, layoffs & discharges, and other separations. BLS issues the data monthly, a little more than a month after the end of reference period. The series began in December 2000.</p> |
| Help Wanted OnLine (The Conference Board, HWOL)* | all | 52 MSAs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HWOL technical info • contact HWOL (see bottom of screen) • Consumers Guide to Real-Time LMI (JFF, 2012) • Aligning Community Colleges to Their Local Labor Markets (JFF, 2011) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • historical HWOL data | <p>This job openings series is issued by a private sector organization called the Conference Board, which assembles the data from a wide variety of Internet job boards and newspaper online ads. Data are issued monthly, generally at the beginning of the month following the reference month. The series began in May 2005. The Conference Board provides data by occupation but not by industry: for 10 broad occupational groups at the state and MSA level, and for slightly more than 20 at the national level. The two Jobs for the Future (JFF) reports listed at the left are companion studies of "real-time" labor market data, and provide a useful background to HWOL and other providers.</p> |
| Employment projections (BLS/ETA) | all | selected — varies by state | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BLS employment projections homepage • BLS employment projections FAQ's • <i>BLS Handbook of Methods</i>, Chapter 13, Employment Projections • contact BLS employment projections staff | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projections Central (state occupational projections) • BLS list of state Internet links for employment projections (Note: not all are direct links) • BLS industry and occupational employment projections • Evaluating the 1996-2006 [national] employment projections • BLS Occupational Outlook Handbook • BLS Career Guide to Industries | <p>BLS produces national employment projections, issued every 2 years and covering a 10-year span (see the link at the left). State projections (first issued in the mid-1970s) are a collaborative effort among the states, BLS, and ETA. State and local projections can be obtained through 2 principal methods: ETA's <i>Internet Links for State and Local Employment Projections</i> (the main link in the first column), or Projections Central for occupational projections only (see the top link in the column to the left). These sites offer alternative methods of obtaining state projections data, and one or both may best suit your needs. ETA requires that every two years the states produce, for both industries and occupations: 1) statewide and local 10-year long-term projections and 2) statewide 2-year short-term projections.</p> |
| <p>Unemployment and employment For an explanation of the concepts of employment, unemployment, and not in the labor force, see How the Government Measures Unemployment.</p> | | | | | |

| State and local area data source | States covered | Localities covered | Frequently-asked questions, contact info, technical details, etc. | Other selected publications and features | Notes |
|--|----------------|-------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Local Area Unemployment Statistics program (BLS LAUS) | all | 7,300 localities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LAUS FAQ's • LAUS technical information • BLS <i>Handbook of Methods</i>, Chapter 4, Measurement of Unemployment in States and Local Areas • contact LAUS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • searchable LAUS database • create customized maps • schedule of news releases • ETA how-to advice on identifying growing industries in states and localities | This Federal-State cooperative program, overseen by BLS, produces monthly employment and unemployment estimates for more than 7,000 areas, including metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas, counties, and cities with more than 25,000 people (for New England, all cities and towns). State data date back to 1976. The earliest local data series (for only a few localities) began in 1983. The monthly averages reflect employment status during a given reference week (the week including the 12th day of the month). The Regional and State Employment and Unemployment news release is generally issued about the third Friday of the month following the reference month. The Metropolitan Area Employment and Unemployment news release is generally issued 12 days later (on the Wednesday before the first Friday of the following month). Data for all sub-state areas are released with the metropolitan area data. Additional information from both the state and local series are provided in the next 2 rows. |
| State data (BLS LAUS) | all | none | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • historical high and low unemployment rates • state unemployment rankings • other tables and maps (including state annual averages since 2000) | Issued by BLS, usually on the third Friday of each month, showing monthly data for the prior month. Annual averages are available in February or March of the following year. |
| Metropolitan data (BLS LAUS) | none | 372 | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSA unemployment rankings (372) • map showing MSA unemployment (372) • other tables and maps (including county and other local data) | Issued by BLS, usually on the first Wednesday of each month, showing monthly data for two months prior to that. |
| Geographic Profile of Employment and Unemployment (BLS GP) | all | 50 MSAs and 17 central cities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GP FAQ's • GP technical info • contact GP | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • state and local detailed tables (some data go back as far as 1999) | This BLS site presents annual averages from the Current Population Survey (CPS) for the employed and unemployed by selected demographic and economic characteristics. Note that CPS MSA and city estimates may differ from the estimates produced for the individual states through the LAUS program (the differences are explained in the FAQ's). |
| Discouraged worker and long-term unemployment rates (BLS) | all | none | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how BLS measures unemployment (see "Is there only one official definition of unemployment?") • contact LAUS | | Due to small sample sizes for some states, BLS issues this data for a 1-year period (the national data are issued monthly). BLS updates these data on a 4-quarter moving-average basis (i.e., the previous year). Historical trends are available since 2005. |

| State and local area data source | States covered | Localities covered | Frequently-asked questions, contact info, technical details, etc. | Other selected publications and features | Notes |
|--|---|---------------------------|--|---|--|
| Mass Layoff Statistics (BLS MLS) | all | selected | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MLS overview • FAQ's for Mass Layoffs • Employer survey questions (in the middle of the article) • BLS <i>Handbook of Methods</i>, Chapter 6, Mass Layoff Statistics Program • contact MLS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • latest monthly mass layoffs for all 50 states • latest quarterly mass layoffs with demographic characteristics for all 50 states • create customized quarterly state tables by industry or demographic characteristic • Other MLS publications (including detailed annual reports) | <p>This BLS survey covers establishments for which at least 50 unemployment insurance claims have been filed during any 5 week period. The data series began in 1995. BLS reports the data on a monthly (based on UI administrative records), quarterly (UI records plus employer survey), and annual basis. BLS reports the monthly data with a 1-month lag, and quarterly data in the 2nd month following the end of a quarter. BLS issues the annual data with about a year and a half lag. In the quarterly news release, data are available for 10 major MSAs. In the annual release, data are published for the 50 MSAs with the most layoffs. County data are also available but unpublished.</p> <p>See also the JOLTS entry above — JOLTS reports layoffs using a broader definition than that used in the MLS survey.</p> |
| Displaced workers (BLS DW) | 9 regions | none | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding Layoff and Dislocated Worker Data Sources (ETA) • Dislocated Worker Survey Results Released (ETA), which includes list of unpublished BLS tables available plus the questionnaire | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worker Displacement news release for 2009-11 • chart of employment status of long-tenured displaced workers (2012) • Archive of displaced worker news releases since the mid-1990s | <p>This BLS survey, first conducted in 1984, is the oldest continuing effort to track worker dislocation. The survey is conducted every 2 years (in January), and asks individuals about their dislocation experience during the previous 3 years — note that because of this, there is always a 1-year overlap in coverage from one survey to the next. “Understanding Layoff and Dislocated Worker Data Sources” (see the link at the left) explains the differences among the three primary dislocated worker surveys.</p> <p>BLS publishes no state-level data, but has data for 9 regions in table 6 of its news release (see at left).</p> |
| Labor Surplus Areas (ETA LSA's) | not applicable | all applicable localities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAQ's for LSA's • description of LSA classification rules | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • archive of LSA's for prior years • updates for LSA's designated via special circumstances after the annual issuance | <p>A labor surplus area is a statutorily-defined locality that (with some exceptions) has experienced an unemployment rate that is 20% higher than the national average for 2 years. Some Federal, State and Local programs use LSA designations to determine eligibility. ETA designates LSA's annually (effective each October 1st), with periodic updates to designate additional LSA's for areas that qualify under special circumstances. Note that this listing provides no statistics per se, but is included because it is based on a strict definition of unemployment and provides important information for localities.</p> |
| Employment only | Note: the sources below include only data on employment, and do not include information on working hours or compensation. | | | | |

| State and local area data source | States covered | Localities covered | Frequently-asked questions, contact info, technical details, etc. | Other selected publications and features | Notes |
|---|----------------|--|---|---|--|
| Business Employment Dynamics (BLS BED) | all | unavailable (but see note at right) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BED overview • BED FAQ's • contact BED | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BED data by state • latest BED news release • customized data tables and charts for states from 1992 forward (no industry detail available) • other BED publications • Colorado's use of BED (a good example of how this data can be used) | <p>Produced by BLS from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW, formerly called the ES-202 program — see the next section). Data are provided on a quarterly basis, and issued about 8 months after the end of a quarter. Published tables show job gains and losses (both totals and rates). Data cover only private sector establishments (but do cover about 98 percent of employment on nonfarm payrolls). All establishment-level employment changes are measured from the third month of each quarter. Establishments report employment for the pay period including the 12th of the month. BLS indicates that it will produce MSA and county data in the future.</p> |
| Business size and concentration (Census Bureau, SUSB) | all | MSAs, micropolitan areas, and counties | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SUSB overview and more info about SUSB • SUSB methodology • definitions of terms • contact SUSB (see lower right corner of the screen) • Small Business Data Resources (various data sources, compiled by the U.S. Small Business Administration) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSA data in alphabetical order, halfway down the screen (see note at right) • historical data by enterprise size (state data from 1988, MSA data from 1997, and county data since 2007) • Small Business Administration Office of Advocacy state and local firm size data (about halfway down the screen, includes micropolitan data from 2004) • Small Business Profiles for the States and Territories (SBA) | <p>The Census Bureau's Statistics of U.S. Businesses (SUSB) program shows the distribution of firms, establishments, employment and total payroll by the employment size of a business enterprise in 8 categories (less than 4 employees, 5-9, etc.). Although firm and establishment size data are available from several other sources (often from unpublished tables), this series (which began in 1988) is the only source of annual, complete, and consistent enterprise-level data for U.S. businesses. The data are issued several years after the reference period. Unfortunately, MSA data are alphabetized by MSA, so it is necessary to know the name of the MSA in advance. Historical data are available online from 1988, but not for all the years since then. Note: some SBA files (at the left) are available in text file versions only.</p> |
| Business Dynamics Statistics (Census Bureau, BDS) | all | none | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BDS overview • BDS FAQ's • BDS glossary • background paper on the Longitudinal Business Database • contact BDS (see lower left corner) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BDS data tables (including 10 state tables) • Where Have All the Young Firms Gone? (May 2012) • Other BDS publications | <p>The Business Dynamics Statistics (BDS) series covers both firms and establishments, and includes measures of establishment openings and closings, firm startups, job creation and destruction by firm size, age, and industrial sector, and several other statistics on business dynamics. BDS provides annual statistics on gross job gains and losses for the entire economy and by industrial sector and state. The series is a longitudinal data basis covering the years 1976 forward. Several types of employees are not covered (see the overview at left).</p> |
| Multiple jobholders (BLS) | all | none | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BLS multiple jobholder homepage (no state info) • contact CPS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple jobholding in states in 2010 • "Multiple jobholding during the 2000s" (BLS <i>Monthly Labor Review</i> article, with no state data) | <p>BLS defines multiple jobholders as wage or salary workers who hold 2 or more jobs, self-employed workers who also hold a wage or salary job, or unpaid family workers who also hold a wage or salary job. Individual state data on multiple jobholders from 1994 to the present is available upon request to BLS (click on "contact CPS" at the left).</p> |

| State and local area data source | States covered | Localities covered | Frequently-asked questions, contact info, technical details, etc. | Other selected publications and features | Notes |
|--|----------------|---|---|--|---|
| Employment and compensation See also the end of the <i>Guide</i> for Bureau of Economic Analysis data on personal income, compensation and employment. | | | | | |
| Wages by Area (BLS) | all | MSAs and selected non-MSAs | | | This is an extremely useful site which explains what types of BLS compensation data are available for geographical areas. |
| County Employment and Wages (BLS QCEW) | all | 300+ large counties with 75,000 employees (see info on MSAs at right) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QCEW homepage • QCEW overview • QCEW FAQ's • BLS <i>Handbook of Methods</i>, Chapter 5, Employment and Wages Covered by Unemployment Insurance • contact QCEW | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • customized data tables and charts for counties from 2001 forward showing employment plus annual and weekly wage by detailed industry and by private or government employees (at all 3 levels of government) • state and county mapping and charting tool • Location Quotient (to compare relative sizes of specific industries in multiple geographic areas) see also ETA how-to advice on the Location Quotient • QCEW publications (including annual averages) • Issues in Labor Statistics series using QCEW data | BLS produces this series from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW, formerly called the ES-202) program. Data are shown on a quarterly basis, and issued about 6-7 months after the end of a quarter. BLS issues annual data about 10 months after the end of a calendar year. Published tables show employment totals and average weekly wages. The QCEW covers 99.7% of all wage and salary civilian employment. Employment data under the QCEW program represent the number of covered workers who worked during, or received pay for, the pay period including the 12th of the month. Wages represent total compensation paid during the calendar quarter, regardless of when during that quarter the individual worked. BLS issues full quarterly industry detail data at all geographic levels (including MSAs) in ASCII files through its FTP server (an inexperienced user will probably need assistance to access the data through this method). |

| State and local area data source | States covered | Localities covered | Frequently-asked questions, contact info, technical details, etc. | Other selected publications and features | Notes |
|--|----------------|--|---|---|--|
| Employment, Hours and Earnings (BLS CES) | all | over 400 MSAs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CES FAQ's • questionnaire forms • technical note on CES employment, technical note on establishment survey data, and reliability of state and area estimates • <i>BLS Handbook of Methods</i>, Chapter 2, Employment, Hours, and Earnings from the Establishment Survey • contact CES and State Employment Security Administrations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • state and MSA employment, weekly & hourly earnings, and weekly hours by major industry (latest annual and monthly data) • customized state and MSA reports (including historical data beginning with 2000) | <p>In March 2010 BLS began publication of earnings and hours for all employees (previously such data was available only for production and nonsupervisory employees) — the data cover from 2006 forward. CES data reflect monthly averages, and employment data pertain to persons on establishment payrolls who receive pay for any part of the pay period which includes the 12th of the month. For state and local data, BLS requires the states to publish 1) statewide data for all industry sectors for which the sample is sufficiently large; and 2) MSA-specific data for all private sector employees. Note: these data are frequently revised, so users should always check the most current release and not rely on older news releases and publications. BLS often refers to this source as its “establishment survey,” and it’s based on a massive sample (randomly selected since 2003) of nearly half a million worksites which employ about one-third of the total nonfarm employees. One of the oldest BLS products, CES data began in 1915, and coverage was sufficient to produce national estimates by 1939. CES data are a major component of the LAUS system described above (see information on the publication schedule there as well).</p> |
| Occupational Employment Statistics (BLS OES) | all | 375 MSAs, 34 metro divisions, and 170+ non-metro areas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OES homepage • OES overview • OES FAQ's • OES questionnaires • list of areas covered, by state • <i>BLS Handbook of Methods</i>, Chapter 3, OES • technical info on OES • topics and sources related to OES • contact OES | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • most recent local data in alphabetical order by locality • state data by occupation and industry • MSA and non-MSA data by occupation and industry • MSA and non-MSA data by county or town • selected OES charts and maps • ETA how-to advice on identifying occupations in states and localities, used in conjunction with OES customized searches • historical OES data (starting in 1999) • other OES publications | <p>The BLS OES program is the government’s most geographically-detailed source of information on detailed occupations (and the principal source for BLS employment projections). The OES collects data on employees in nonfarm establishments for about 800 occupations, and more than 450 industries (at the national level). For each occupation, data are shown for employment totals plus the mean annual and hourly wages, and the annual wages at the 10th, 25th, 50th (median), 75th, and 90th percentiles. Data are issued about a year after the reference period. Because the survey design incorporates data from a 3-year reference period, great care must be used in using OES data for historical analyses (to avoid overlapping years, only every 4th year can be chose for historical comparisons). The survey includes 1.2 million establishments. BLS initiated the OES in 1971, and data are available online for 1997 on. OES data before 1997 do not include state, metropolitan, or nonmetropolitan areas.</p> |

| State and local area data source | States covered | Localities covered | Frequently-asked questions, contact info, technical details, etc. | Other selected publications and features | Notes |
|--|----------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| Minimum wage workers (BLS) | all | none | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPS earnings data • CPS overview • CPS FAQ's • BLS Handbook of Methods (see Chapter 1, p. 4 for the earnings section) • contact CPS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • characteristics of minimum wage workers by state (2011) • Characteristics of Minimum Wage Workers: 2011 (national data only, with 1979-2011 historical table) • chart of minimum wage workers in 2011 (national data only) • Minimum wage workers by occupation and industry, 2011(national data only) | <p>BLS publishes this data based on questions from the Current Population Survey (CPS), which is used to identify hourly-paid workers and their hourly wage rate. State data are available online from 2002 forward (table 3 in the annual release). BLS first began to collect hourly wage data in the CPS in 1973: in May only, through 1978; and then from one-quarter of the sample each month from 1979 onward. Data are published once annually, generally in February or March.</p> |
| Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (Census Bureau LEHD) – includes Local Employment Dynamics (LED) | 50 (not all have data yet) | MSAs, counties and Workforce Investment Act program areas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LED overview and product list • LEHD FAQ's • Recent Enhancements to QWI and OnTheMap (February 2012 PowerPoint — misdated) • online courses for LED • Web site, QWI Online, Industry Focus and OnTheMap (each 10-15 minutes long) • LED Webinars (ETA) • definition of QWI variables • detailed definitions of LEHD terms • technical info on LEHD data and QWI • LEHD technical user guides • contact LEHD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OnTheMap — what's new (new versions are regularly introduced) • OnTheMap help and documentation • getting started with OnTheMap • OnTheMap FAQ's • OnTheMap definitions for mapping terms and report terms | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QWI online data for 47 states and localities • customize industry rankings for different variables • examples of how LEHD data have been used | <p>The Census Bureau's Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (LEHD) program is based upon a Federal-State Local Employment Dynamics (LED) partnership. LEHD links employee and employer records from an array of data sources — administrative records, demographic surveys and censuses. The Census Bureau receives UI wage records and Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages establishment records from each state participating in the LED program. The Census Bureau then uses these products to integrate demographic information about individuals (place of residence, sex, birth date, place of birth, race, and education) with information about employer establishments (place of work, industry, employment, and sales). LEHD's principal product is its Quarterly Workforce Indicators (QWI), which include employment, job creation, monthly earnings, and worker turnover data by locale as well as by detailed industry, gender, and age of workers. Users can obtain the data directly by using the QWI Online tool. Data are released 9 months after the end of the reference period, and some data series date back to 1990. The measurement period for earnings (monthly) is unusual: the more common reference periods are hourly, weekly or annual. The LEHD data do not cover either Federal employees or employees outside the UI system.</p> <p>OnTheMap is a Web-based mapping and reporting tool that uses LEHD data to show where workers are employed and live (for 49 states). It also provides companion reports on age, earnings, industry distributions, and local workforce indicators. For most states, data are available for years since 2002. It allows users to easily select geographic areas from a map, rather than having to research and define the area.</p> |

| State and local area data source | States covered | Localities covered | Frequently-asked questions, contact info, technical details, etc. | Other selected publications and features | Notes |
|--|----------------|--------------------|--|--|---|
| Employment and earnings for workers covered by Social Security (Social Security Administration, SSA) | all | counties | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contact info for SSA employment data (see right side of screen) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • state and county employment and earnings (county data are in table 3 — by using the MS Excel icon you can get access to all the tables for a given state in a single file) | <p>The U.S. Social Security Administration (SSA) publishes annual data for workers covered by Social Security and Medicare, based on complete administrative data. These are issued more than 2 years after the end of the reference period (usually in the Spring). SSA has posted data online for 2000 and after. Employment and earnings data are available by gender and — at the state level — for Whites and Blacks and by age group as well.</p> |
| Compensation only Note: the sources below supply data on compensation only, and do not include employment data. | | | | | |
| National Compensation Survey of Wages (BLS NCS-W) | none | about 80 MSAs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NCS-W homepage • NCS overview • NCS FAQ's • NCS data collection methods and methodology • BLS <i>Handbook of Methods</i>, Chapter 8, National Compensation Measures • contact NCS-W | | <p>The BLS National Compensation Survey of Wages (NCS-W) covers 800+ occupations (although data are not provided for individual occupations), and publishes wage data annually (often within the same year as the reference period) for about 80 metropolitan areas. The tables include average earnings and weekly hours for such variables as private sector vs. government employees; occupation; full- vs. part-time; union vs. non-union; goods- vs. service-producing industry; number of employees per establishment; wages at various percentiles; and other variables. Individual MSA reports are extremely detailed. The link at the far left includes only the 2 most recent reports. The simple customized search feature (1-screen data search) is not yet available, and the more cumbersome feature (multi-screen data search) only includes data from December 2006 on.</p> |
| National Compensation Survey of Wages- relative pay by major MSA (BLS) | none | about 80 MSAs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • relative pay FAQ's • relative pay contact info | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • relative pay for large MSAs by major occupational group (includes technical note with information on survey methodology) | <p>The BLS National Compensation Survey (NCS) covers 800+ occupations (although data are not provided for individual occupations), and publishes this wage data annually (in the year after the reference period) for about 80 metropolitan areas. Note that these data are <i>not</i> actual wages, but are adjusted for MSA differences in occupational composition as well as establishment and occupational characteristics. Data are provided for 9 major occupational groups.</p> |

| State and local area data source | States covered | Localities covered | Frequently-asked questions, contact info, technical details, etc. | Other selected publications and features | Notes |
|---|----------------|--------------------|---|--|---|
| Employment Cost Trends (BLS ECT) | none | 15 MSAs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECT FAQ's • contact ECT | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment Cost Index for 15 major MSAs (last table) • historical compensation index data for 15 major MSAs • Employer Costs for Employee Compensation for 15 major MSAs (explanation of new series + 2009 data) • Employer Costs for Employee Compensation for Census regions (table 7) and MSAs (last table): 2012 data; 2011 data; 2010 data | BLS reports quarterly data on total compensation (wages plus benefits) for 9 Census Bureau regions and 15 MSAs, including both a compensation index (ECI) and the actual amount (ECEC). However, data on the actual amounts are only issued once a year. The Employer Costs for Employee Compensation (ECEC) was added to BLS reports starting with March 2010 data (however, some 2009 data are available in the link in the cell immediately to the left). |
| Benefits State and local data usually pertain to all health insurance coverage, and do not always distinguish between employer-provided and other sources of coverage (see exceptions in the first and last rows below). Note: the BLS Employee Benefits Survey doesn't produce state or local data, but does issue data for 9 Census Bureau regions (but see the row directly above for BLS compensation data which includes but does not provide separate data on benefits). | | | | | |
| Health insurance from the ACS (Census Bureau, ACS) | all | all localities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACS health insurance definitions • comparison of health insurance info from different Census Bureau sources • evaluation of health insurance in the ACS • ACS health insurance methodology (including survey questions) • Contact Census Bureau (not specific to ACS) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Insurance Coverage of Workers Aged 18 to 64, by Work Experience: 2008 and 2010 (includes state-specific employer-based health insurance coverage) | The ACS, described in more detail in the first row of this table, first added health insurance questions in the 2008 survey. Estimates for areas with populations between 20,000-65,000 were released in 2011, and estimates for populations below 20,000 will be released in 2013. Survey respondents are asked specifically if they obtained "insurance through a current or former employer or union." However, only limited data are available from this question using the AmericanFactFinder customized tables (the best source is the published study in the column immediately to the left. If you perform a customized search using AmericanFactFinder, after selecting the dataset, go to "People" and select "Insurance Coverage." Only one selection is possible. To obtain any available tables on employer-provided coverage, in the "Search for" box near the top, type in "employer-based." See also the final entry in this section, for employer-provided health insurance coverage from an alternative source. |
| Health insurance (Census Bureau, Small Area Health Insurance Estimates program, SAHIE) | all | all counties | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • overview of SAHIE • SAHIE methodology • contact SAHIE | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • state and county customized tables and maps | Data are available for selected years starting with 2000, and are issued about 2.5 years after the reference year. The Census Bureau's Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (SAHIE) program provides estimates of health insurance coverage by age, sex, race, Hispanic origin, and income categories at the state level and by age, sex, and income categories at the county level. |

| State and local area data source | States covered | Localities covered | Frequently-asked questions, contact info, technical details, etc. | Other selected publications and features | Notes |
|---|--|--------------------|--|---|---|
| Health insurance from the CPS (Census Bureau, ASEC) | all | none | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPS health insurance definitions • technical info on CPS health insurance data (including survey questions) • Contact Census Bureau (not specific to CPS) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • health insurance coverage by state, by provider of coverage (see table HI 05 to derive working-age population). | These data come from the Census Bureau's annual March social and economic supplement to the Current Population Survey (CPS), and are released about 9 months after the reference year. State data are available for all persons and 3 age groups (under 18, under 65, and over 65). See the first row of this section for differences between CPS and ACS health insurance data. See the next row for customized tables from the same source. |
| CPS Annual Social and Economic Supplement Table Creator (Census Bureau, ASEC) | all | none | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Table Creator Help • Table Creator tool options • list of ASEC variables available • examples of how to use Table Creator • Census Bureau CPS homepage • CPS methodology and technical documentation • contact CPS (not specific to Table Creator) | This site supplies no pre-packaged tables, but the table-creation feature is much simpler to use than in other data Web sites. | This is the only source of <i>customized</i> sub-national data on employer-provided health insurance coverage (plus 8 other health insurance variables and a variable on the health condition of the individual). Employer-provided health insurance coverage can be cross-tabulated with many other variables, including the extent of work experience in the previous year, income, educational attainment, race and Hispanic origin, number of children, etc. The data source is identical to the above row, which has links to definitions of health insurance terms and other relevant information. See the second row of this table for more info on this source. |
| <i>Inflation and consumer expenditures</i> | When comparing monetary changes over time, it is usually advisable to adjust the amounts for inflation. For the purpose of workforce statistics, the most common means of adjusting for inflation are the BLS Consumer Price Index or Employment Cost Index, or the Bureau of Economic Analysis' price deflators (BEA issues no state or local price deflators, but see below for regional price parities). The BLS Producer Price Index is less commonly used, and does not include state or local data. | | | | |
| Consumer Price Index (BLS CPI) | none (regional available) | almost 30 MSAs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPI overview • CPI FAQ's • <i>BLS Handbook of Methods</i>, Chapter 17, CPI • contact CPI staff | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPI news releases issued by BLS regional offices • customized CPI tables for regions and MSAs (select the "one screen" option — data for 2000 on) | The CPI is the most commonly used inflation index, with national data dating back to 1913. The CPI represents changes in prices of all goods and services purchased for consumption by urban households. There are actually 2 CPI's — the CPI-U covers a broader group of consumers and is the more widely used. BLS publishes the CPI for 3 MSAs monthly (New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles), every other month for another 11 MSAs, and semi-annually for another 13 MSAs (see the FAQ's for the complete list). |
| Employment Cost Index (BLS ECI) | none (regional available) | 15 MSAs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECI overview • ECI FAQ's • BLS Introduces New Employment Cost Indexes for 14 Metropolitan Areas • <i>BLS Handbook of Methods</i>, Chapter 8, National Compensation Measures (see specific references to the ECI) • ECI methodology • contact ECI | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • latest ECI news release (local data are in the last table) • historical MSA data • Experimental Estimates of Compensation Levels and Trends for Workers in the 15 Largest Metropolitan Areas, 2004-05 • archive of past ECI news releases (since 1976) | The ECI is a measure of the change in the cost of labor for <i>employers</i> , which holds constant employment changes among occupations and industries. BLS issues quarterly data for 15 MSAs, dating back as far as 2005 for some MSAs (plus experimental estimates for 2004). |

| State and local area data source | States covered | Localities covered | Frequently-asked questions, contact info, technical details, etc. | Other selected publications and features | Notes |
|---|-----------------------|-------------------------|--|--|---|
| Consumer Expenditure Survey (BLS CE) | none (4 regions only) | nearly 20 MSAs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CE overview • CE FAQ's • CE survey forms • CE glossary • BLS <i>Handbook of Methods</i>, Chapter 16, Consumer Expenditures and Income • CE methodology • CE and ACS compared • Contact CE | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consumer expenditure data for nearly 20 MSAs • current MSA tables in 3 electronic formats (near the bottom of the list) | <p>The Consumer Expenditure Survey (CE) program supplies data on consumer purchases, but also collects income data. MSA data are not published until about a year after the end of the reference period. CE consists of two surveys: a quarterly Interview Survey and a Diary Survey. The data are collected by the Census Bureau. MSA data are available since 1986: 26 MSAs from 1986 to 1995, 28 MSAs from 1996 to 2004, 24 MSAs in 2005, and 18 MSAs from 2006 onward. To ensure that the sample size for MSAs is sufficiently large, MSA data reflect 2 years' information (therefore the MSA tables are also included in CE's biennial report).</p> |
| Regional Price Parities (BEA) | 50 | 360+ metropolitan areas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistency of Price Parities for Regions of the U.S. (PowerPoint) • Notes on Estimating the Multi-Year Regional Price Parities by 16 Expenditure Categories (2005-9) • Estimating the Price of Rents in Regional Price Parties | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Price Parities for States and Metropolitan Areas (2006-10) • Regional Price Parities in spreadsheet form (click on the "Tables (XLS)" entry beneath the <i>Survey of Current Business</i> article title) | <p>BEA's data, rather than measuring changes over time (as do the above entries), measure price level differences among places for an identical time period. Percent differences in regional price levels are called "regional price parities." In this index, the U.S. average is set to equal 100. This BEA data set combines both BLS data and ACS data for the 2006-2010 period. Data are shown for each year separately; for per capita personal income as well as income adjusted for price parities; and for price parities for 9 separate types of expenditures (housing, education, medical, etc.) — these are only shown in the spreadsheet table entry shown at the left).</p> |
| <p>Educational attainment, achievement, credentials and skills</p> <p>Note that data on employment-specific skills are only available at the national level, from O*NET and the new O*NET My Next Move resource. See education statistics and the Digest of Education Statistics for a wealth of data on education. The section below is organized by educational attainment data, assessment data, high school data (only available below the national level for public schools), and postsecondary data. Credentials attainment (or lack of attainment, in the case of dropouts) data are emphasized for the secondary and postsecondary schools sections.</p> | | | | | |

| State and local area data source | States covered | Localities covered | Frequently-asked questions, contact info, technical details, etc. | Other selected publications and features | Notes |
|---|----------------|--------------------|---|--|---|
| Educational attainment (Census Bureau, ACS) | all | all localities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • see ACS information in first row of this table • Analysis of the 2009 Field of Degree Question in the ACS • Measurement of High School Equivalency Credentials in Census Bureau Surveys • field test of computer and Internet use (ACS) • differences between educational attainment in ACS and CPS ASEC • Comparison of ACS and CPS ASEC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • customized tables on educational attainment from ACS • Bachelor's degree or Higher, by state (ACS, 2006-10) • educational attainment by state, 2009 • Field of Bachelor's Degree (2009) + supplementary state table (directly below the report) • Science and Engineering Degrees: 2009 (ACS) • College completers among 25-44 year-olds, by state and locality (see the third entry under "Related Papers and Presentations"; see MS Excel spreadsheet Table 1 for states, and Table 2e for metro areas) | <p>Educational attainment data for localities are only available from the American Community Survey (ACS, see more info in the first row of this table). ACS educational attainment data are available for localities by age, gender, poverty rate, and median annual earnings. It may be necessary to try different combinations of variables to obtain data as close as possible to your specific query. State-level educational attainment data are available from both the ACS and the CPS annual supplement (for the latter, see the second row in this table).</p> |
| State Assessment of Adult Literacy and State and County Estimates of Low Literacy (U.S. Education Department, SAAL) | all | counties | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NAAL overview, NAAL fact sheets, and state/county estimates overview • NAAL FAQ's (note that there are 3 categories of FAQ's — see list at left of screen) and state/county estimates FAQ's • NAAL glossary • sample NAAL questions • state/county estimation methodology and cautionary notes • contact NAAL (e-mail) or contact NAAL staff (phone) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • customized state and county literacy estimates • customized comparisons of states or counties | <p>The SAAL is conducted in conjunction with the National Assessment of Adult Literacy (NAAL), and does not define literacy as the simple ability to read and write. Rather, it measures 3 types of literacy (prose, document, and quantitative) on a scale from low to high level literacy. The six states that participated in the most recent assessment (2003) were Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Missouri, New York, and Oklahoma (12 states participated in the prior assessment). However, the U.S. Education Department has used the national study to produce literacy estimates for all states and counties. The literacy assessments occur about once a decade, and the data releases do not begin until about 2 years after the survey period.</p> |

| State and local area data source | States covered | Localities covered | Frequently-asked questions, contact info, technical details, etc. | Other selected publications and features | Notes |
|--|----------------|----------------------------------|---|---|--|
| National Assessment of Educational Progress (U.S. Education Department, NAEP) | all | almost 20 urban school districts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NAEP overview • NAEP FAQ's • schedule of NAEP assessments since 1969 • sample of NAEP questions • NAEP glossary • NAEP Web Tools • contact NAEP | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NAEP state profiles (reading, writing, math, and science for grades 4 and 8) • NAEP state comparisons (customized tables for the same subjects and grades as above) • NAEP 12th grade reading state results (11 states only) • NAEP 12th grade math state results (11 states only) • NAEP urban school district profiles (cities with 250,000+ population — same subjects and grades as the first bullet above) | <p>NAEP — also referred to as “the nation’s report card” — tests students in grades 4, 8 and 12, but publishes only limited state results for 12th graders (see links at the left). In addition to the basic subjects, tests for 12th graders have included economics, history, civics, and geography. The next state results for 12th graders will be for the 2013 tests in reading and math.</p> |
| Graduation and dropout rates from public high schools (U.S. Education Department, Common Core of Data — CCD) | all | 100 largest school districts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCD homepage • CCD overview • contact CCD staff | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dropouts, Completers and Graduation Rate Reports (state-level only) • Characteristics of the 100 Largest Public Elementary and Secondary School Districts in the United States (see the table titled “Number of high school completers, the grades 9-12 dropout rate....”) • customized tables by state, CBSA, MSA, county, district or school (for various education statistics) | <p>The state-level graduation and dropout rate tables are about halfway down the screen. As of early 2012, the latest data were for the 2008-9 school year. Data include breakouts by race and Hispanic origin as well as historical trends. For the 100 largest public school districts report covering 2007-8 (the latest available in early 2012), the relevant table is A-12.</p> |
| Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System State Tables (U.S. Education Department, IPEDS) | all | none | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IPEDS homepage • IPEDS overview • IPEDS glossary • contact IPEDS and IPEDS help desk | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • degrees conferred by Title IV institution • certificates conferred by Title IV institution • Postsecondary Awards in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, by State (2001 and 2009) <p>For more recent data, see the last entry in this section.</p> | <p>This source provides state-level data on degrees and certificates conferred by type of institution (e.g., private for-profit, public 2-year, etc.), gender, race (including Native Americans), and Hispanic origin. Certificates are classified by the length of time required to obtain them (less than 1 year, less than 2 years, 2-4 years, post-baccalaureate, post master’s, and first professional certificates). As of early 2012, the latest available data were for 2006.</p> <p>One difference between these statistics and those from the row immediately below is that the latter are restricted to career/technical education programs only, whereas the former cover almost all education programs (almost all postsecondary schools obtain Title IV assistance).</p> |

| State and local area data source | States covered | Localities covered | Frequently-asked questions, contact info, technical details, etc. | Other selected publications and features | Notes |
|---|----------------|--------------------|---|---|---|
| Career/Technical Education (U.S. Education Department, CTE) | all | none | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CTE statistics overview • definition of career education (below Liberal Arts) • CTE postsecondary glossary • CTE data sources • contact CTE staff | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • state level postsecondary CTE data (final section) • CTE publications | State-level career/technical education statistics from this source are only provided for postsecondary schools and students. This source contains numerous tables, including state-level data on career education credentials and certificates (under the top link immediately at the left) by the length of time required to obtain it (less than 1 year, less than 2 years, associate's degree, other sub-baccalaureate credentials, and bachelor's degree). The "Fields of study" heading classifies credentials into 13 groups such as health, marketing, etc. (including a breakout for sub-baccalaureate programs only). Data are presented both for the number of institutions that offer credentials as well as the number of credentials awarded. As of early 2012, the latest available data were for 2006. |
| U.S. Degrees Awarded 2002-11, Preliminary (Postsecondary Analytics LLC — PA)* | all | none | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Justification for the issuance of the data • news article about the announcement of this data | | A private researcher, Nate Johnson, has used preliminary U.S. National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) IPEDS data (see IPEDS entry above) to post much timelier postsecondary education credentials data than are available from NCES — up to the 2010-11 academic year (preliminary data became available in early 2012). The data are available in a customized search tool that allows the user to select the type of degree (from Associate's degree through Doctorate/Professional degree); national or state data; and whether the degree emanates from a public, private for-profit, or private not-for-profit institution. |
| Certificates (Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce)* | all | none | Appendix A (pp. 38-9) explains their definition of certificates, and which data sources they use. | Census Bureau data on certificates are in What's It Worth (see both the report and the detailed tables). | This June 2012 study (<i>Certificates: Gateway to Gainful Employment and College Degrees</i>) examines the prevalence of sub-baccalaureate certificates, and compares the earnings of certificate bearers vs. individuals with other types of educational credentials. State data are in Part 3 (pp. 31-7) and in Appendices F-J (pp. 55-61). |
| Computer and Internet Use (Census Bureau) | all | none | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • overview • 2010 questions (click on attachment 8 on the left, then go to p. 8-8) • prospective ACS computer questions • contact Census Bureau | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2010 tables (state data in Tables 3A and 3B) • BLS computer and Internet site (no survey since 2003) | The Census Bureau, as a result of periodic supplements to the Current Population Survey in October, reports state-specific data on Internet access (since 2001). Note that although many of the national-level tables include employment-related data, the state-specific tables do not. The most recent supplement was done in July 2011, from which results should be available in August 2012. |
| Labor-management | | | | | |

| State and local area data source | States covered | Localities covered | Frequently-asked questions, contact info, technical details, etc. | Other selected publications and features | Notes |
|--|---|--------------------|--|---|--|
| Union membership (BLS) | all | none | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> technical details (from news release, usually page 4) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> annual news release with state data and map (end of release) customized state tables (with historical data from 2000 on) | BLS issues state data annually in January following the reference year. Data are limited to the number of union members and individuals represented by unions (a larger number), and the percentage of employees covered. Data are from the <i>Current Population Survey</i> ; for more detailed state and local data from the same source, see the BNA listing immediately below. |
| Union membership (Bloomberg BNA)* | all | 100 MSAs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> technical details are at the front of Volume 1 DOL library catalogue or 202-693-6600 or library@dol.gov for DOL library copies | | The Bloomberg Bureau of National Affairs, Inc. (BNA), a private firm, annually publishes a 2 volume <i>Union Membership and Earnings Data Book</i> (2011 ed. is \$155). They use CPS microdata to produce much more detailed state and local data than does BLS (which uses the same source). The DOL library usually has the latest edition (see contact info at left). Almost all of the state and local data are in Volume 1, which present data for the most recent year, plus 5 and 10 years earlier. Data include the same state information as BLS (see immediately above), plus weekly and hourly earnings for 4 separate groups: all employees, private sector employees, government employees, and manufacturing employees. The same level of detail is provided for the 100 largest MSAs. |
| Unions of the States (Center for Economic and Policy Research, (CEPR)* | all | none | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> technical explanations are on pp. 19-21 | | This private sector research organization also uses CPS microdata to produce much more detailed state data than does BLS (which uses the same source). Because of the small sample size of the unionized workforce in many states, the Center pools data from the 7 most recent years to permit more detailed analyses. State-level data include gender, race, Hispanic origin, educational attainment, immigrant status, manufacturing and government workers, the union wage premium, and health insurance and retirement plan coverage. |
| Work Stoppages program (BLS WSP) | all | all | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WSP FAQ's WSP definitions Contact WSP | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> annual MSP news release monthly work stoppages tables customized tables | This BLS series covers strikes or lockouts involving 1,000 or more workers (not necessarily union members), and is issued monthly and annually. Info issued includes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> organization name, location, and union; beginning and ending dates of the stoppage; number of workers involved; and number of days lost as a result of the work stoppage. |
| Poverty and low income | Note that data on the relationship between work and poverty are only available below the national level from the ACS. For those who are interested, the links below can also be used to obtain income data from the Census Bureau. Bureau of Economic Analysis state and local income data are available from BEA Regional Accounts (see the middle of the list), and are more fully described at the end of this Guide. | | | | |

| State and local area data source | States covered | Localities covered | Frequently-asked questions, contact info, technical details, etc. | Other selected publications and features | Notes |
|--|----------------|--------------------|---|--|--|
| Poverty rates from CPS (Census Bureau, ASEC) | all | none | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • main poverty page • how the Census Bureau measures poverty • differences between CPS and ACS poverty measures • Consumer's guide to U.S. poverty measures • poverty terms • contact Census Bureau demographic staff (see bottom of page) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • historical poverty publications (since 1959) • number of poor and poverty rate by state since 1980 • poverty rates by state (2008-10) • poverty lines (since 1959) • For customized state tables from this same source, see the second row of this table. | <p>Census Bureau tables from the annual income supplement to the Current Population Survey (CPS) include the poverty line and 5 additional levels between the poverty line and twice the poverty line (125%, 135%, 150%, 185%, and 200%), each available for various groups: all persons, ages 18-64, under 18, 5-17, 65 and older, plus 2 different types of households — all families, and female-headed families. Each table shows the rate (e.g., poverty rate) and the number of persons. The Census Bureau issued poverty data for the 20 largest MSAs in 1980, and has published a table with state-level CPS poverty data from 1980 on (see link at the left).</p> |
| Poverty rates from ACS (Census Bureau, ACS) | all | all localities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how poverty is calculated in the ACS • 2010 ACS Content Test Evaluation Report Covering Public Assistance • 2010 ACS Content Test Evaluation Report Covering Food Stamps/SNAP • contact Census Bureau demographic staff (not ACS specifically) – see bottom of page | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poverty: 2009 & 2010 (state-specific data + 20 MSAs) • Areas With Concentrated Poverty: 2006-2010 (state-specific data) • Public Assistance Receipt in the Past 12 Months for Households: 2009 & 2010 (state-specific data) • Food Stamp /Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Receipt in the Past 12 Months for Households by State: 2009 & 2010 (state-specific data) • Household Income Inequality Within U.S. Counties: 2006–2010 • ACS poverty reports (2004-9) | <p>The ACS is described in more detail in the first row of this table (also see the background links in the row immediately above this one). ACS includes numerous tables on poverty, including data on whether individuals worked full-time-year-round (or part-time or part-year), and how many workers were in the family.</p> |

| State and local area data source | States covered | Localities covered | Frequently-asked questions, contact info, technical details, etc. | Other selected publications and features | Notes |
|--|----------------|-----------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (Census Bureau, SAIPE) | all | all counties and school districts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • overview of SAIPE • FAQ's about SAIPE • SAIPE methodology • info on the sources of data for SAIPE • contact SAIPE | | <p>The SAIPE program produces single-year estimates of median household income and poverty for all counties, as well as population and poverty estimates for school districts. SAIPE estimates combine ACS data with administrative and other data, and are released later than ACS. Data are issued nearly a year after the reference period. County data are available for 1989, 1993, and 1995 forward. School district data are available for 1995, 1997, and 1999 forward. Tables for localities cover median household income, and the number poor and poverty rate for all persons and 2 age groups (under 18, and 5-17). Data for children under 5 are available at the state level only. Data are also available in the form of customized tables and maps for the state, county and school district levels.</p> |
| Homelessness (HUD, Annual Homeless Assessment Report, AHAR) | all | more than 400 localities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AHAR Data Collection and Analysis Methodology (see Appendix B, starting on pdf p.100) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • state-specific point-in-time homelessness estimates, 2008-2010 (Appendix pp. C: 10-13, starting on pdf p. 131) • locality point-in-time homelessness estimates, 2006-2010 (Appendix pp. C: 14-38, starting on pdf p. 135) | <p>Despite the limited available data on employment and unemployment for the homeless, this entry is included because DOL/ETA's "State Integrated Workforce Plan Requirements for Workforce Investment Act/Wagner-Peyser Act and Department of Labor Workforce Programs" (p. 7) requires the states to describe how they will serve "homeless individuals" (among other targeted populations described elsewhere in this <i>Guide</i>). The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) compiles a national count of homelessness using two types of estimates: 1) a point-in-time estimate (every 2 years) on one night during the last week of January (starting in 2011, these counts must include individuals who are outside of shelters); and 2) a cumulative annual estimate, which excludes persons living on the street or in places not meant for human habitation. The 2011 edition of the AHAR should be available in mid-2012 (usually June, see the HUD news release site) — but a private organization has already released 2011 estimates (see entry below).</p> |
| State of Homelessness in America (National Alliance to End Homelessness, NAEH)* | all | 100 largest MSAs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • data sources and methodology (Appendix 2) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • state-specific point-in-time and chronic homelessness counts (Chapter 1) • homelessness counts for the top 100 MSAs (Appendix 1) | <p>This private organization is a nonprofit, non-partisan, organization comprised of more than 10,000 providers and public agencies involved with the homeless. NAEH uses the same source of data as HUD (explained in the entry above), but issues its data in advance of HUD's report.</p> |
| <p>Productivity No published state or local productivity data exist. However, estimates might be constructed using the sources below, combined with data on working hours from BLS. See BLS labor productivity and costs for national data.</p> | | | | | |

| State and local area data source | States covered | Localities covered | Frequently-asked questions, contact info, technical details, etc. | Other selected publications and features | Notes |
|--|--|--|---|---|---|
| Gross Domestic Product by State and MSA (BEA) | all | 360+ MSAs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • about BEA's regional economic accounts • schedule for data releases for state and MSA GDP and personal income • state GDP methodology • Contact BEA regional staff (scroll down to "Regional Economics" heading) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • latest GDP by state • latest GDP by MSA • customized tables, graphs, and charts for GDP by state or MSA • customized maps for GDP by state and MSA • articles on state and MSA GDP from BEA's Survey of Current Business (with much more text than the news releases) • Internet links for regional account data | The U.S. Commerce Department's Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) produces annual gross domestic product (GDP) by state and MSA by major industry categories. BEA produces both advance estimates and later revised estimates. Advance state and MSA GDP data are released about 6 and 9 months, respectively, after the end of the reference period. Data are available from 1997 in the customized tables for states, and from 2001 for MSAs. State GDP data on a SIC (rather than NAICS) basis are available from 1963 to 1997. For a fee, BEA will produce regional economic multipliers that can be used, for example, to calculate the economic impact of a mass layoff. |
| Safety and health | | | | | |
| Employment-related Illnesses, Injuries and Fatalities (BLS IIF) | all | Selected MSA's (all MSA's for fatal injuries only) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IIF FAQ's • IIF survey forms • examples of uses of BLS occupational safety and health statistics • IIF contacts in National and Regional Offices | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • state data and contact info • fatal occupational injuries (see state-specific chart) • injuries and illnesses among state and local government workers (not state-specific) • customized tables for states and selected major urban areas (for some data) • Fatal occupational injuries by MSA | BLS reports annually on the number of workplace injuries, illnesses, and fatalities: 1) summary data on the number and rate of injuries and illnesses by industry; 2) case and demographic data which provides additional details on the worker injured, the nature of the disabling condition, and the event and source producing that condition for those cases that involve one or more days away from work; and 3) fatality data on 28 separate elements including information on the worker, the fatal incident, and the machinery or equipment involved. |
| Industry-specific sources Note: there is a tremendous amount of data available on specific industries from <i>Guide</i> sources other than those in this section — which is restricted to specific industries. Two types of industry-specific surveys are listed: 1) economic censuses, conducted every 5 years, and 2) sample surveys often done annually or more frequently. The censuses issue data anywhere from more than 1 year to 3.5 years after the end of the reference period. Although they are called censuses, in the case of businesses with less than 5 employees most economic censuses survey only a sample of them. Economic censuses began in 1810, and the current quinquennial (5 year) schedule began in the 1950s. The advantage of these sources is that they can be used to match employment data with a great deal of other economic data. To maintain the privacy of respondents, some local data are shown at a more general level of aggregation than is necessary for sample size limitations. The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) is the government's official guide for classifying industries. | | | | | |
| Agriculture | The next 3 rows describe sources on agriculture and farmworkers. BLS provides <i>national</i> (but not state and local) data on this subject. There are no BLS or Census Bureau Web pages for farmworkers, so in order to locate this data it is necessary to examine BLS/Census Bureau sources which include industry and occupational classifications, and then search for the terms "agriculture," "farm," and "farmworkers." | | | | |

| State and local area data source | States covered | Localities covered | Frequently-asked questions, contact info, technical details, etc. | Other selected publications and features | Notes |
|---|------------------------------------|--|---|--|--|
| Census of Agriculture (Agriculture Dept., COA) | all | counties, Congressional districts, and zip codes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • agriculture census overview • agriculture census FAQ's • agriculture census contact info | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hired farmworkers and payroll by state (Table 7, 2007) Table 7 of each county report has the same information on farmworkers and payroll • Tables 46-56 contain various farm operator characteristics by state (2007) • customized state and county data (select "survey" in the first column, then "labor" under "Group," the third column in the top row) • historical agricultural census publications | <p>The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture conducts the Census of Agriculture every five years (in years ending in 2 and 7). In addition to various questions about the farm operator (including gender, age, race, ethnicity, and income) the census also asks questions about the number of hired workers and the number that worked more or less than 150 days. Hired farmworker data are not available by zip code. Note that the census includes data other than employment counts <i>only</i> for farm operators. For hired farmworker demographic data, see NAWS below.</p> |
| Farm Labor Survey (Agriculture Dept. FLS) | CA, FL, and HI (but see far right) | none | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • overview of FLS • National Agricultural Statistics Service FAQ's • 2012 farm labor report release schedule • comparison between FLS and NAWS sampling areas (see below for NAWS) • contact NASS farm labor specialist (under commodities, scroll down to "labor") | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FLS news releases (technical info and definitions are at the end) • customized state and regional data (select "labor" under "Group," the third column in the top row) • farm labor charts & maps (national only) • farm computer usage and ownership (has data for each state) • Profile of Hired Farmworkers: 2008 Update (most recent special occasional report) • special tabulations (see list of past tabulations, which you can then request) • Agricultural Resource Management Survey (see especially the farm "income" and "household economics" listings) | <p>The U.S. Agriculture Dept.'s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) oversees 2 employment-related surveys, on 1) farm labor (FLS) dating to the 1930s, and 2) a technology-oriented report on computer use by farm owners, dating to 1997 (this report has no data on farm <i>employees</i> — i.e., hired farmworkers — only on farm owners). Although FLS state-specific data are available for only 3 states, 5 NASS regions are comprised of only 2 states, and another 7 are comprised of only 3 states. The FLS is conducted twice annually (but supplies quarterly data), issued about a month after the reference week, and includes self-employed, unpaid, and hired workers and their hours worked and wage rates for selected weeks; also hired worker numbers, hours worked, and wage rates for selected states. State-level annual wages are published in the November report.</p> <p>The computer usage survey is done every other year. The USDA, Economic Research Services' Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS) is an integrated data collection system that includes farm business and household accounts. ARMS data provide a direct linkage between commodity production practices (including conservation) and the financial status of the farm and its operator's household (similar to the LEHD-LED entry above).</p> |

| State and local area data source | States covered | Localities covered | Frequently-asked questions, contact info, technical details, etc. | Other selected publications and features | Notes |
|---|----------------|--|---|--|--|
| National Agricultural Workers Survey (Labor Dept. ETA, NAWS) | CA | none | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training and Employment Notice on NAWS data • NAWS questionnaire (2010 version; 2012 version to be posted later this year) • NAWS methodology • map of NAWS sampling regions • contact NAWS staff (scroll to the bottom of the screen) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • regional farmworker profiles (which are now beginning to include NAWS as well as other data, see especially the SE region report)* • Changing Characteristics of U.S. Farmworkers (national data only) • NAWS public access data for fiscal years 1989-2009 (to download the actual data, which are in a zipped file, see the "Public Access Documentation" heading in the link at the far left) | <p>The Labor Department's (DOL) Employment and Training Administration oversees the annual NAWS, which began in 1988. Data are available within about a year after the reference period. The survey asks an extensive array of employment and other questions, including hours worked; compensation and methods of payment; benefits; work history (including seasonal work); travel to work (including migrant labor); educational attainment and various types of training; union representation; and many other topics. For data on program services, see also the ETA Services to Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers.</p> |
| Economic Censuses (Census Bureau, EC) | all | all but 2 have at least MSA coverage, and most have much greater geographic detail (more information is in the links at the right) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • overview of economic censuses • economic census FAQ's • definitions of industries covered and geographic terms • tips on using economic census data • examples of how the data are used • survey question topics, by industry • questionnaires by economic census • economic censuses and related economic surveys • contact Census Bureau for specific industry censuses | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • schedule of release dates for each industry report (2007 censuses) • table showing level of geographic detail for each census • historical compatibility of economic census data • 2012 economic census overview (with key dates) • What's new in the 2012 economic census • FAQ's for the 2012 economic census | <p>The Census Bureau conducts separate economic censuses every five years (in years ending in 2 and 7) for each of these industries: mining; utilities; construction; manufacturing; wholesale trade; retail trade; transportation and warehousing; information; finance and insurance; real estate and rental and leasing; professional, scientific and technical services; management of companies and enterprises; administration and support, and waste management and remediation services; educational services; health care and social assistance; arts, entertainment and recreation; accommodation and food services; and other services (except public administration). Employment questions vary by industry, but common questions cover the total number of employees; production or construction employees; work hours; total payroll costs; wages; and fringe benefits (more information is in the links shown at the left).</p> |
| Annual Survey of Manufactures (Census Bureau, ASM) | all | not published | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASM overview • ASM FAQ's • ASM questionnaires definitions in the ASM • ASM methodology • contact ASM staff | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • customized searches using AmericanFactFinder (select "Topics," then select "Dataset" at the bottom of the list, then scroll down to ASM) • historical ASM data | <p>ASM data are not issued until several years after the end of the reference period. They have considerable detail by manufacturing sub-industry category. Employment data cover the number of employees; annual payroll; and the number of production workers, their wages and their working hours.</p> |

| State and local area data source | States covered | Localities covered | Frequently-asked questions, contact info, technical details, etc. | Other selected publications and features | Notes |
|--|----------------|---------------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Census of Governments (Census Bureau, COG) | all | none | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • list of government censuses and surveys • government statistics FAQ's (click on "Government Statistics," about halfway down on the left side of the screen) • overview of the census of governments • questionnaires for various government censuses and surveys • contact info for government census and surveys | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • customized tables by state, level of government, and government function • example of how the customized table function works • historical government employment and payroll data | <p>The Census Bureau has since 1957 conducted a government census every five years (in years ending in 2 and 7) covering government 1) organization, 2) employment and 3) finance. The census covers all 3 levels of government except the Central Intelligence Agency, the National Security Agency, and the Defense Intelligence Agency. Under the first category (Government Employment and Payroll), choose the second option ("Build-a-Table") for state-specific data. Although the options include such local data as county and municipal employees, these are reported for the entire state only.</p> |
| Annual Survey of Government Employees (Census Bureau, ASGE) | all | collected but not separately reported | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • annual government survey overview • questionnaires for various government censuses and surveys • technical info about the annual survey • government survey glossary • government finance and employment classification manual • contact info for government census and surveys | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • latest government employment and payroll data • historical government employment and payroll data | <p>To supplement the government census, the Census Bureau conducts a sample Annual Survey of Government Employees, which collects data on full- and part-time employment, pay, and working hours. The Bureau collects local data but only reports it at the state level. Data are also reported by functional area (e.g., elementary and secondary education; higher education; police or fire protection; financial administration; judicial and legal; etc.). Data are available online for all years since 1992 (except for 1996, when the survey wasn't conducted). Data are not issued until nearly a year following the end of the reference period.</p> |
| Schools and Staffing Survey , for elementary and secondary staff (U.S. Education Department, SASS) | all | none | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SASS questionnaires • SASS methodologies and procedures • contact SASS staff | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full-time equivalent staff for public schools (see tables 3 and 4) • SASS tables (options include both standard and customized tables) • Public Career and Technical Education High Schools, Principals, and Teachers (2008) • SASS publications | <p>SASS is an extremely rich source for a wide variety of state-level data on teachers and principals. SASS also provides less-detailed state-level data for vice principals, instructional coordinators and supervisors, library staff, school counselors, nurses, psychologists, speech therapists, and professional support staff. As of mid 2012, the latest available data was for the 2010-11 school year, and state-level data are only available for public schools. The organization of the tables is haphazard, so the user should examine the entire list.</p> |

| State and local area data source | States covered | Localities covered | Frequently-asked questions, contact info, technical details, etc. | Other selected publications and features | Notes |
|--|--|----------------------|---|---|--|
| Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System State Tables for postsecondary education employees (U.S. Education Department, IPEDS) | all | none | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IPEDS homepage • IPEDS overview • IPEDS glossary • contact IPEDS and IPEDS help desk | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • postsecondary employees, faculty and graduate assistants | <p>This source has postsecondary faculty by full-time and part-time and by tenure status, medical and non-medical employees, managerial staff, support service professionals, administrative support staff, service and maintenance staff, etc. (with breakouts for full-time and part-time staff for many categories of employees). As of early 2012, the latest available data were for 2006.</p> |
| Other special topics involving government surveys (various agencies) | usually all | varies by the source | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • education statistics • criminal justice statistics • library statistics • health care workforce • list of government censuses and surveys | <p>The Education Dept.'s National Center for Education Statistics collects a wide variety of data (some of it described in the two preceding rows). Criminal justice statistics include both the adult and youth population typically excluded from other surveys because they are institutionalized. The latest data tend to be several years old. Data on public libraries include library staff, and are issued about 1.5 years after the end of the reference period. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Health Statistics does periodic surveys on the health care workforce, including home health aides, residential care facilities, home and hospice care, nursing homes, and nursing assistants. The sample size of these surveys is usually insufficient to produce state or local data.</p> |
| <i>Occupation and other worker-specific sources</i> | <p>Note: there is a tremendous amount of data available on specific occupations and types of workers from the other sources in this table (see especially the Occupational Employment Statistics listing above). The listings under this section are the best sources for specific occupations (in addition to the OES) and the types of workers indicated. For background on occupations, see the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system and 2010 SOC (written for a general audience). The entries below are listed in alphabetical order by topic. Some of the entries in the industry section above include extensive occupational data, especially the agriculture and education sources. See also the National Crosswalk Service Center for matching various classification systems.</p> | | | | |

| State and local area data source | States covered | Localities covered | Frequently-asked questions, contact info, technical details, etc. | Other selected publications and features | Notes |
|---|----------------|---|---|---|--|
| Age: Younger and Older Workers (BLS and Census Bureau, ASEC and ACS) | all | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50 MSAs and 17 central cities (BLS) all localities (ACS) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geographic Profile FAQ's (BLS) Geographic Profile technical info (BLS) contact Geographic Profile (BLS) for ACS, see the first row above | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> state and local detailed tables (BLS) ACS customized tables by age Labor Force Participation Rate for Selected Age Groups: 2008 and 2009 (ACS) Labor force Participation Rate of People 65 Years and Older: 2008 (ACS) Work Status of People 65 Years and Older (2008) Customized state-level age range data are available (9 age brackets per table) from the CPS annual supplement, described in the second row of this table. | <p>BLS age data for the state and local level are available on an annual basis only, from the Geographic Profile Statistics which rely on the CPS (the Geographic Profile source has its own entry in the <i>Guide</i> in the “Unemployment and employment” section above). These include, at the state level, the age groups of 16-19, 20-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45-54, 55-64, and 65 and older — each age group has data for labor force, employment, and unemployment (numbers and percentages). The most recent data also include breakdowns by gender, and the final data (which are not as current) include additional data on race, Hispanic origin, and working hours. The most detailed state or local BLS age data tend to be available for the 16-19 age group.</p> <p>The Census Bureau’s American Community Survey (ACS), also available only on an annual basis, has much more detailed data both by age and geography, but these are not always as current at the state level as BLS. ACS data provide much more detailed age data for older workers than does BLS for states and localities. Like BLS, ACS has data by age and gender for labor force, employment, and unemployment. For more on the ACS, see the first row of this table. See also the second row for customized Census Bureau state-level data from the CPS annual supplement, another excellent source which allows age to be cross-tabulated with many other variables.</p> |
| Age: Older worker profiles (Census Bureau, OWP) | 30 | MSAs, counties, and Workforce Investment Act program areas | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> individual state profiles for older workers detailed older worker tables for counties, MSAs, and WIA areas | <p>The Census Bureau’s Local Employment Dynamics, in partnership with more than half the states, issues a series of individual state profiles of older workers. Despite the dates on the headings, the most recent data available for most states are for 2004. Older workers are presented in various age categories, beginning with those aged 45. Nearly 40 different tables are available, covering employment totals, employment by industry, job gains and losses over time, and earnings.</p> |

| State and local area data source | States covered | Localities covered | Frequently-asked questions, contact info, technical details, etc. | Other selected publications and features | Notes |
|---|----------------|--------------------|---|---|---|
| Criminal Offenders and Ex-Offenders (BLS, ETA, NCES, BJS) | none | none | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACS prisoner questionnaire (see “group quarters”) • NLS Annotated Bibliography and NLS overview • ETA Research Publication Database • U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics homepage (U.S. Dept. of Justice) • BJS Survey of Inmates in State Correctional Facilities and the Survey of Inmates in Federal Correctional Facilities • National Institute of Justice (U.S. Dept. of Justice research and evaluations) • Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Statistical Briefing Book (U.S. Dept. of Justice) • Urban Institute Justice Policy Center (see especially Corrections, Reentry & Community Supervision project) • National Assessment of Adult Literacy prison literacy overview (2003) • contact BJS • contact ACS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2010 ACS prisoner data • pre-arrest employment data for prisoners (2004) • Returning to Work After Prison (2012) • Educational Characteristics of Prisoners (2011, from ACS — see the 4th item under the “Related Papers and Presentations” heading for a report and a PowerPoint) • Examining a New Model for Prisoner Re-Entry Services (2011) • Evaluation of the YouthBuild Youth Offender Grants (2009) • Evaluation of the Prisoner Re-Entry Initiative (2009) • Preparing for Life Beyond Prison Walls: Literacy of Incarcerated Adults Near Release (2009) • Transitional Jobs for Ex-Prisoners (2009) • Literacy Behind Bars (2007) • Correctional Industries Preparing Inmates for Re-Entry (2006) • Employment Barriers Facing Ex-Offenders (2003) • Education and Correctional Populations (2003) | <p>There are currently no routine state or local surveys that publish state or local employment-related data on criminal offenders or ex-offenders — although two surveys collect such information (and one publishes national data). The ACS sample (unlike almost all other surveys) includes the population in correctional institutions, including local jails. To obtain ACS data on prisoners directly from AmericanFactFinder, search for “Table S2601B” (see also the links at the left). The ACS sample — although larger than the BJS survey described below — is likely too small to produce state or local estimates. ACS data on prisoners are available for 2006 forward. (For more on the ACS, see the first row in this table.)</p> <p>BLS’s National Longitudinal Surveys of Youth (there are two cohorts: one began in 1979 and other in 1997) are one of the few regular surveys that include questions on criminal behavior — see the link at the left to search the NLS annotated bibliography (four good search terms are crime, delinquency/gang activity, incarceration/jail, and truancy, but be sure to choose the “or” option for multiple search terms). Periodic national literacy surveys have also included prisoner samples.</p> <p>The U.S. Labor Department’s Employment and Training Administration also conducts periodic demonstrations and evaluations involving ex-offenders (recent studies shown at the left) — two good search terms for this database are “ex-offenders” and “prisoners.” Similar to ETA, DOJ’s National Institute of Justice also conducts periodic research on employment of criminal offenders.</p> <p>The U.S. Department of Justice’s (DOJ) Bureau of Justice Statistics periodically surveys the employment experiences of state and Federal prisoners. The latest survey was conducted in 2004 (see links at the left), and the next one will be in 2013. However, these are small surveys incapable of producing state or local estimates.</p> |

| State and local area data source | States covered | Localities covered | Frequently-asked questions, contact info, technical details, etc. | Other selected publications and features | Notes |
|---|----------------|--------------------|---|---|---|
| Disability (Census Bureau, ACS and ASEC) | all | all localities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • disability defined in ACS and other government surveys (see table on pages 12-14) • ACS questionnaires • various disability surveys • links to other disability statistics • Webinar on Using State and Local Workforce Data for Analysis and Informed Decision-Making (see slides 43-44 of the "Presentation Slides" for examples of disability data that can be mined from ACS and ASEC) • Disability Data in National Surveys (a compendium of sources, covering both employment and other topics) • Using Labor Market Data to Improve the Job Prospects of People with Disabilities (brief overview) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disability Among the Working Age Population: 2008 and 2009 (ACS) • customized data tables from the ACS (data after 2006) • For customized state-level tables from the CPS annual supplement, see the second row of this table. • Annual Disability Statistics Compendium (published by University of NH Institute of Disability), based on ACS and CPS data. Includes state-specific tables. See especially sections 2, 3, and 5, plus the glossary.* • StateData.info (state data from 8 sources, but mostly program data)* • Harris Interactive conducted 2 major disability surveys issued in 2010 (national data only: Survey of Employment of Americans with Disabilities and The ADA, 20 Years Later*) | <p>The Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) currently has the most recent and most geographically-detailed data on disability. ACS issues data for all persons with disabilities plus several general types of disability (such as sensory, physical, mental, difficulty with self-care, difficulty going outside the home, and disability interfering with employment): for surveys beginning with 2008, the categorization differs. Employment information covers whether the individual is employed or not; worked full-time-year-round or not; median annual earnings; and poverty by labor force status. For more info on the ACS, see the first row in this table.</p> <p>Additional disability info is available for veterans (see the veterans row below).</p> <p>Customized state-level disability are available from the CPS annual supplement (see the second row of this table for more info), and can be cross-tabulated with many other variables. Work-related disability is broken out into 3 categories: severe, non-severe, and no work disability (as characterized by the interviewee).</p> <p>BLS supplies only national disability data; a new disability supplement to the CPS is scheduled for May 2012. The National Center for Health Statistics also has national health data with employment info from the National Health Interview Survey. Cornell University's Disability Statistics* also has a variety of tools to access national disability statistics, although the data are not as up-to-date as can be obtained from the primary sources like the ACS and CPS. See the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services site for U.S. Education Department disability statistics. The U.S. Social Security Administration's Research, Statistics and Policy Analysis site provides statistics on social security disability programs.</p> |

| State and local area data source | States covered | Localities covered | Frequently-asked questions, contact info, technical details, etc. | Other selected publications and features | Notes |
|---|----------------|--------------------|---|--|---|
| <p>Green careers (ETA),</p> <p>Green Goods and Services (BLS),</p> <p>and</p> <p>Green Technologies and Practices (BLS)</p> | all | none | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • O*NET green occupations list • 12 green career industry sectors • Greening of the World of Work (O*NET study) • Measuring Green Jobs (BLS, including a definition of green jobs) • BLS Green Goods and Services survey overview • BLS Green Goods and Services FAQ's • BLS Green Technologies and Practices overview • BLS Green Technologies and Practices FAQ's • BLS green career information • Contact BLS green goods and services staff • Contact BLS re measuring green jobs • Contact BLS green technologies and practices staff | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BLS Green Goods and Services news release (with state-specific data) • BLS Green Goods and Services customized data • BLS Green Technologies and Practices news release • BLS Green Technologies and Practices tables (no state data) • Measurement and Analysis of Employment in the Green Economy (Workforce Information Council): includes summaries of states-specific green jobs studies • Green Jobs Community of Practice (individuals must register for this ETA-sponsored Web site, but at no charge) • Measuring the Green Economy (Commerce Department) | <p>There is no universally accepted definition of green careers (also called green jobs), but for the most definitive source see the BLS link at left. In March 2012 BLS released results from the first of its three green jobs surveys (2010 data). BLS expects to release 2011 green goods and services survey data in January 2013. Results from a second type of green jobs survey, on the occupations and wages for employees who devote more than half their time to green technologies and practices, was released in June 2012 (reflecting an August 2011 survey — this survey will be repeated at least once more, in Fall 2012). BLS' third type of green jobs survey, on occupational staffing patterns and wages for green goods and services employment, is scheduled to be released in September 2012.</p> <p>DOL's Employment and Training Administration (ETA) has identified about 200 green occupations through O*NET research, although nearly 50 of these are new occupations for which no BLS employment data yet exist. Each occupation can be searched individually by state, and — if available — data portray employment totals, employment projections, annual and hourly wages, and selected educational attainment statistics, plus considerable national-level info on skills, job tasks and activities, and the tools and technologies involved. These occupations have been categorized into 12 broad industry sectors.</p> <p>The Commerce Department has used product and service statistics to attempt to define the green economy (see link at left).</p> <p>In addition to these national efforts, several states have conducted their own green jobs studies (described in link at left).</p> |

| State and local area data source | States covered | Localities covered | Frequently-asked questions, contact info, technical details, etc. | Other selected publications and features | Notes |
|--|----------------|--------------------|--|--|---|
| <p>Native Americans (Census Bureau, ACS, census and ASEC)</p> | all | all localities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • handbook for using the ACS for Native Americans (for geographic information see especially page 7 and Appendix 1) • ACS resources for the Native American population (includes contact information in the middle of the screen) • for ACS questionnaires, etc. see the first row of this <i>Guide</i> • 2010 census product release schedule (see p. 2 near the bottom for 2 forthcoming Native American reports) • Maps of Native American areas from the Census Bureau (2010) • introduction to 2000 census products on Native Americans • U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, Indian and Native American Programs • U.S. Education Department, Office of Indian Education • U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Education | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Census Bureau fact sheet on Native Americans (2011 national data) • Native American earnings (2010 national data) • Native Americans in concentrated poverty localities (see pp. 5, 7) • 2010 census Native American population (no employment data) • 2000 census data by tribe (including employment data — note that this is an extremely large report divided into 2 Internet links) • customized 2000 census tables for 539 tribes and 39 tribal groups (see especially the economic characteristics) • American Indian Population and Labor Force Report (U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs). As of early 2012, the latest report was for 2005, and includes state, tribal, and reservation data. • Status and Trends in the Education of American Natives: 2008, including state-level data (U.S. Education Department) • NAEP National Indian Education Study (2011 report includes data for 12 separate states; also, see the NAEP entry in the Educational Attainment category above for background) | <p>The most current and geographically detailed source is the American Community Survey (ACS, see the first entry above in this table). In May 2012 the Census Bureau issued detailed employment and other characteristics for more than 350 tribal populations, based on combined data for the 2006-10 period. The Native American community has raised questions about the sampling accuracy of this source. The ACS calculates Native American ancestry (called in the survey “American Indian and Alaska Native”) in 2 ways: 1) those who indicate only such ancestry in the “race” question (which produces a minimal number of Native Americans), and 2) those who indicate both Native American and another race (which produces a maximum number). Most Native American geographic areas have populations of less than 20,000, and therefore it’s necessary to combine 5 years of ACS data to produce estimates (see more on the ACS in the first row of this table). A little over a dozen areas have sufficient populations to produce 1-year estimates, and more than 20 others have sufficient populations to use 3-year estimates (see the ACS Handbook link at left, page 7). Because many Native American geographic areas include non-Native American populations, the geographic designation must be used together with the Native American race variable to examine solely Native Americans (see ACS Handbook link at left, page 24). Virtually all government demographic (also called household) surveys collect data on Native Americans, but due to small sample sizes and spotty coverage of reservations, these data are often not published even at the national level (e.g., BLS regularly publishes no data on Native Americans. See also the link at the left for Bureau of Indian Affairs labor force reports, which are available online for 1982 forward and include both state and local data. For state-level data from the CPS annual supplement see the second row of this table, although this data should also be used cautiously given the small sample sizes for Native Americans in many states. These data can only be accessed by selecting “Race” under “Define Your Table” on the left side of the screen. See also the Survey of Business Owners entry below for additional Native American data.</p> |

| State and local area data source | States covered | Localities covered | Frequently-asked questions, contact info, technical details, etc. | Other selected publications and features | Notes |
|---|----------------|--------------------|---|--|---|
| Race, ethnicity, immigration, and language (ACS and ASEC) | all | all localities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Race and Hispanic Ethnicity (BLS) • Language Use (Census Bureau site) • Foreign Born (Census Bureau site) and Foreign-Born Workers (BLS) • Ancestry (outdated Census Bureau site) • FAQ's on ancestry (Census Bureau) • 2010 ACS Content Test Evaluation Report Covering Parental Place of Birth • comparison of ancestry data from various Census Bureau surveys • changes to the ACS and the potential effect on Hispanic origin, nativity, race, and language estimates • comparison of race data from ACS and CPS • comparison of citizenship data from ACS and CPS • comparison of language-use data from various Census Bureau surveys • Contact Census Bureau | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelor's Degree or Higher by Race and Hispanic Origin (2006-10) • Foreign-Born Labor Force in the U.S.: 2007 with state data (ACS) • Newly Arrived Foreign-Born Population (2010) • Foreign Born From Latin America and the Caribbean (2010) • Place of Birth of the Foreign-Born Population: 2009 (ACS) • Nativity Status and Citizenship in the U.S.: 2009 (ACS) • Year of Entry of the Foreign-Born Population: 2009 (ACS) • People Who Spoke a Language Other Than English at Home by Hispanic Origin and Race: 2009 (ACS) • How Does Ability to Speak English Affect Earnings? (2005, based on 2000 census data — national data only) | <p>Data on race, ethnicity, ancestry, and immigrant-status are derived from different survey questions, and the user should not confuse these categories. E.g., an individual can be of Hispanic origin (the most commonly-asked ethnicity question) and either White or Black. Virtually all demographic surveys ask standard questions about race and Hispanic origin. This subject can be especially complex for data users, as the government has separate surveys and/or questions that query individuals on their ancestry, foreign birthplace, citizenship status, race, Hispanic origin, and language use. For more info, see the definitional links at left.</p> <p>For customized state-level data from the CPS annual supplement see the second row of this table. This is an excellent source of data on race, Hispanic origin and nativity — which can be cross-tabulated with many other variables.</p> <p>An excellent historical background on the subject of workforce data for minorities is included in the 2001 Report on the American Workforce (Chapter 1: Counting Minorities).</p> <p>See the next row for the Census Bureau's special Equal Employment Opportunity tabulations.</p> |

| State and local area data source | States covered | Localities covered | Frequently-asked questions, contact info, technical details, etc. | Other selected publications and features | Notes |
|--|----------------|---|--|---|--|
| Equal Employment Opportunity tabulations (Census Bureau, ACS) | all | MSAs, Micropolitan areas, counties, and places with population thresholds of either 50,000 or 100,000 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EEO tabulation main site • EEO tabulation overview slides (<i>highly recommended</i>) • list of 2006-10 table titles (click on 1st link) • summary of 2006-10 tabulation • EEO tabulations FAQ's • history of EEO tabulations • crosswalk of various occupational codes (SOC, OPM, and EEO — see next bullet for EEO) • EEO occupation titles (used in conjunction with the bullet immediately above) • Contact Census Bureau | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2006-10 EEO data (AmericanFactFinder — type “EEO” into the “topic or table name” box in the center column, which will bring up 97 tables — when fully implemented there will be 107 tables). When the data become fully available, there will be 14 sets of tables (which include the total of 107 specific <i>individual</i> tables). For a more complete description of the table sets and what’s included, see slides 21 and 23 of the “EEO tabulation overview slides” — as well as the bullet immediately below it — in links at the left. • 2000 EEO tabulations | <p>The Census Bureau has produced these special tabulations only once a decade, which are designed to measure the effects of anti-discrimination laws and regulations in the workplace, and to encourage employers' compliance. The tabulations permit the comparison of the race, Hispanic origin, and gender composition of an organization's internal workforce with the analogous external labor market, within a specified geography and job category (and therefore can be used by employers to develop and update their affirmative action plans). From the viewpoint of occupational and demographic detail, the advantage of this data set is that it is much more detailed for localities than normal ACS releases (the data set is about 50% larger than the usual 5-year ACS data set).</p> <p>Previous tabulations were based upon decennial census data, covering the 1970-2000 censuses. The latest tabulations, based on a combined 5 years of ACS data, were issued in November 2012 (depending upon funding, future issuances may be more frequent than once a decade). The tabulations cross gender, race, and Hispanic origin by age; detailed occupation (nearly 500); industries (90); employment status (new feature, covering 1) currently employed, 2) currently unemployed but worked in the past year, and 3) currently unemployed but worked anywhere from 1 to 5 years ago); median earnings; educational attainment; citizenship (new feature); and both residence and worksite geographies for the nation, states, metropolitan areas, counties and places (e.g., cities and towns). Selected tables will also include county-to-county commuting flows. The Bureau sets population thresholds at either 50,000 or 100,000 (depending upon the specific table) to maintain respondent confidentiality.</p> <p>Note that special disability EEO tabulations will be added to this data set in Spring 2013 (including only 2008-10 ACS data, since the ACS disability changed in 2008).</p> |
| Science and engineering occupations (National Science Foundation, NSF) | all | collected but not published | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey of Doctorate Recipients • National Survey of College Graduates • National Survey of Recent College Graduates | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • customized tables for state data • Foreign Born With Science and Engineering Degrees (2010) • Science and Engineering Degrees: 2009 (ACS) | <p>The U.S. National Science Foundation, an independent Federal agency, sponsors 3 periodic surveys of scientific and engineering occupations (listed at the left), and also uses BLS and Census Bureau data to analyze these occupations. The NSF issues its own survey data 1 or more years after the reference period. More detailed state data are available (for a \$25 fee) from the Commission on Professionals in Science and Technology's STEM in the States (2009).*</p> |
| Self-employment The next 3 rows describe sources on self-employment. BLS self-employment provides <i>national</i> data on this subject. | | | | | |

| State and local area data source | States covered | Localities covered | Frequently-asked questions, contact info, technical details, etc. | Other selected publications and features | Notes |
|---|----------------|---|---|---|--|
| Kauffman Index of Entrepreneurial Activity (Kauffman Foundation, KF)* | all | largest 15 MSAs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the report's appendix includes definitions and the methodology | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kauffman index, 1996-2011 edition | This annually published study from a private sector foundation uses monthly data from the Current Population Survey to calculate rates of self-employment, and includes rankings, historical trends, and maps. The study is published a few months after the end of the reference year. |
| Survey of Business Owners (Census Bureau, SBO) | all | selected MSAs, micropolitan statistical areas, counties and places with 100 or more business owners | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SBO overview SBO FAQ's SBO glossary SBO questionnaire SBO methodology contact SBO staff | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> previous survey data (2002) | The Survey of Business Owners (SBO) provides the only comprehensive, regularly collected source of information on selected economic and demographic characteristics for businesses and business owners by gender, ethnicity, and race. Data have been collected every 5 years since 1972 (for years ending in "2" and "7") as part of the economic census. The program began as a special project for minority-owned businesses in 1969 and was incorporated into the economic census in 1972 along with the Survey of Women-Owned Businesses. Separate reports with geographic detail are available for businesses owned by Asians, Blacks, Hispanics, Native Americans, Veterans, Women, and others. |
| Non-employers (Census Bureau, NE) | all | counties, MSAs, and micropolitan statistical areas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> overview of non-employer statistics definitions for non-employer statistics non-employer methodology contact non-employer statistics staff (lower left corner of screen) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> previous survey data | The Census Bureau annually issues "Non-employer Statistics," which cover businesses without <i>paid</i> employees. Most non-employers are self-employed individuals operating very small unincorporated businesses, which may not be the owner's principal source of income. These firms are excluded from most other business statistics (except the Survey of Business Owners). Non-employers account for a majority of all business establishments, but average less than 4 percent of all sales or receipts. The data are issued about a year and a half after the end of the reference period, and are available on a consistently defined basis from 1997 forward. |

| State and local area data source | States covered | Localities covered | Frequently-asked questions, contact info, technical details, etc. | Other selected publications and features | Notes |
|---|----------------|--------------------|---|---|--|
| Veterans (Census Bureau, ACS) | all | all localities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • veterans FAQ's • survey questions re veterans in ACS • veterans terms • history of veterans questions in Census Bureau surveys • links to various sources of veterans statistics • other veterans links • 2010 ACS Content Test Evaluation Report Covering Veteran Status • 2010 ACS Content Test Evaluation Report Covering Period of Military Service • Comparison of ACS and ASEC Data on Veteran Status and Period of Military Service (2007) • Evaluation of Service-Connected Disability • contact Census Bureau re veterans statistics | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • customized data tables from the ACS • list of table titles for veterans in the ACS • veterans data and data quality publications • historical data on veterans • U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs, National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics (includes national data only — for employment data see especially the National Survey of Veterans, 2010 — listed first — and the Employment Histories Report, 2008) | <p>The Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) is the only current source of veterans workforce data below the national level (BLS supplies various national veterans data). For more information on the ACS, see the first row in this <i>Guide</i>. The type of employment-related data for veterans in the ACS is limited compared to other demographic groups: labor force (including employment) status by age; gender; disability and disability rating status; educational attainment; median income; poverty status; and period of military service. O*NET's My Next Move for Veterans has an enhanced crosswalk to convert military to civilian occupations, which can also be used for statistical research on veterans. This crosswalk builds upon the U.S. Defense Dept.'s Occupational Database (access requires a one-time registration, which is routinely approved for all .mil, .gov, and most .edu users).</p> <p>See also the Survey of Business Owners entry above for additional veterans data.</p> |
| Women (DOL, BLS and Census Bureau, ACS and ASEC) | all | all localities | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Men and Women's Earnings for States and Metropolitan Statistical Areas: 2009 (ACS) • For customized state-level tables from the CPS annual supplement, see the second row of this table. | <p>Gender is one of the most common elements in workforce surveys. See the BLS overview on women's workforce statistics, and for primarily <i>national</i> data, see BLS women's workforce data from the CPS. For state and local data from the Current Population Survey, see the "Geographic Profile of Employment and Unemployment" entry in the "Unemployment and employment" section above and the "Age" entry above in this section. ACS has a wealth of work-related data by gender. For more on the ACS, see the first row of this <i>Guide</i>. The DOL Women's Bureau also issues statistics and other publications.</p> |
| Economic (misc.) | | | | | |

| State and local area data source | States covered | Localities covered | Frequently-asked questions, contact info, technical details, etc. | Other selected publications and features | Notes |
|--|------------------------------------|---|---|--|--|
| Personal income, compensation and employment (BEA) | all | BEA economic areas (179), MSAs (363), micropolitan statistical areas (576), counties, and other areas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • overview of state and local personal income data • BEA general glossary • BEA regional glossary • BEA economic areas (definitions and maps) • state and local personal income and employment methodology • National Income and Products Account Handbook • contact BEA regional staff by phone (about ¾'s down the page) or contact BEA by e-mail | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recent news releases by state and locality (see "Regional" heading) • recent state and local reports • BEA state and local statistics • news release schedule • quick links to BEA state and local data (including GDP) • e-mail subscriptions to BEA news releases | <p>Issued by the U.S. Commerce Dept.'s Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), the state series dates back to 1929 and the local series back to 1969. Data are available on both a quarterly (for states only) and an annual basis. Employment tables include 1) full-and part-time employment by major industry, and 2) wage and salary employment by industry. At both the state and local levels, income data include breakdowns of personal income plus earnings, wage and salary disbursements, and compensation by major industry. BEA issues preliminary state annual income data 3 months after the end of the year, and more complete estimates 6 months later; quarterly estimates (dating to 1948) are issued 3 months after the end of the quarter. For localities, annual MSA data are issued 9 months after the end of the year, and more complete local area data are issued at 2 junctures, 12 months and 16 months after the year's end.</p> <p>Note that BEA's definitions of the terms compensation and earnings differ from those used by BLS and the Census Bureau, with earnings reflecting a broader definition than compensation. Also, many BEA tables do not present averages per individual as in BLS and Census Bureau data, but rather <i>totals</i> for an entire geographic area, although BEA does issue average per capita income and average wage per job data.</p> |
| Bearfacts (BEA) | all | MSAs and counties | | | <p>Issued by the U.S. Commerce Dept.'s Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA). Data cover gross domestic product (GDP) and personal income. This site is very easy to use, and making a simple selection with a map (plus a drop-down list for counties) produces a customized fact sheet. Background information about the sources is supplied in the row immediately above and in the productivity section.</p> |
| American Time Use Survey (BLS ATUS) | selected states, but not published | none | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ATUS overview • ATUS FAQ's • background and history of time-use surveys • ATUS survey methodology and questionnaire • contact ATUS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ATUS publications | <p>The ATUS (which began in 2003) provides data on how, where, and with whom Americans spend their time, and is the only Federal survey with data on the full range of nonmarket activities (including child care and volunteering). In addition, it collects information on work and work-related activities (such as traveling to work and looking for work) and educational activities (including homework and research). BLS will make available any ATUS unpublished table upon request. State-level estimates are based on multi-year periods, because the small sample size doesn't permit single-year estimates.</p> |
| Metropolitan Policy Program (Brookings Institution)* | none | top 100 MSAs | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brookings Data Resources for State and Metro Areas | <p>This private sector research organization produces a variety of reports and products on the top 100 metropolitan areas, including economic, labor market, income, poverty, population, immigration, housing and other data.</p> |

| State and local area data source | States covered | Localities covered | Frequently-asked questions, contact info, technical details, etc. | Other selected publications and features | Notes |
|--|----------------|-------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Population Employment and training programs (and many other social programs) base eligibility and funding decisions in part on population data. | | | | | |
| Population estimates (Census Bureau, ACS and census) | all | all localities (ACS or 2010 census) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • overview of Census Bureau population estimates • schedule for most recent estimates and next update • population terms • 2010 census overview • 2010 census form • methodology for determining population estimates • related population Web sites • contact Population Division | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • population estimates for states, counties and other localities • 2010 census data (see bottom of screen) • various population publications | <p>Census Bureau population estimates can be obtained in three ways: 1) the Bureau's population estimates site, 2) the American Community Survey (ACS), and 3) the decennial census. The Bureau's population estimates (see link at the far left) use a variety of sources, including the decennial census, ACS, other Census Bureau sources, and administrative data (such as birth and death records). For more on the ACS, see the first row in this <i>Guide</i>. ACS population data can be obtained from American FactFinder.</p> <p>Note that for the first time since 1790, employment data are no longer available from the decennial census (starting with 2010): the ACS has replaced the long form of the census. Except for the year after the census, ACS data are more recent.</p> <p>All these sources provide <i>annual</i> population estimates.</p> |

* This *Guide* identifies a number of organizations that collect and disseminate workforce and labor market information. The inclusion of private-sector and .com Web sites is for informational purposes only. The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) implies or confers no endorsement on a company or on a specific product or service. Readers and information users should exercise an appropriate level of care and should be aware that the private-sector products and/or services may be copyrighted and may require a fee for service or a cost to access or use information products. This *Guide* is not intended to be an exhaustive list of private sector Web sites, and DOL reserves the right to modify the list on an ongoing basis.

Note. By limiting sources that have little or no state and local data, we do not mean to downplay several extremely important sources of workforce information, principally the Current Population Survey (supervised jointly by BLS and the Census Bureau), the U.S. Department of Education's National Household Education Survey (NHES), and various longitudinal surveys sponsored by several entities. [Longitudinal surveys](#) repeatedly query the same individual, household, or business establishment over time. For your convenience, here are some essential links for such sources.

Current Population Survey (BLS and Census Bureau)

- [CPS A-Z Index](#), [Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey: Demographics](#), and [Labor Force Characteristics](#) (BLS)
- [Current Population Survey](#) and [Population and Household Economic Topics](#) (Census Bureau) — many, but not all, references from the latter link pertain to the CPS
- Lists and descriptions of CPS supplements to the regular monthly survey can be obtained from the [National Bureau of Economic Research CPS supplements](#).

National Household Education Survey (U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics)

- [National Household Education Survey](#) (The first link, Adult Education, is an excellent source for information on work-related education and training.)
- [National Household Education Surveys program](#)

For questions, comments or suggestions about this *Guide*, contact 1) the appropriate [ETA Regional Office](#); 2) Frank Gallo at Gallo.Frank@DOL.gov; or 3) the win-win.network@dol.gov.

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