

Resources for Commonly Searched Statistics

- If you are looking for information on the **United States Public Debt**, go to the Web site of the Department of Treasury
http://www.treasurydirect.gov/govt/reports/report_s.htm
- If you are looking for information on **Inflation**, go to the Bureau of Labor Statistics
<http://www.bls.gov/cpi/>
- If you are looking for **Economic statistics**, try the Economic Report of the President
<http://www.access.gpo.gov/eop/index.html>
- If you are looking for **Education-related statistics**, go to the National Center for Economic Statistics <http://nces.ed.gov/>
- If you are looking for **Criminal Justice-related statistics**, try the Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics
<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs>

Other Useful Resources

- **County and City Data Books**
<http://fisher.lib.virginia.edu/collections/stats/ccdb/>
This web interface, provided by the University of Virginia Libraries, allows a user to customize, extract or subset data from the 1988 and 1994 County and City Data Books.
- **Social Statistics Briefing Room (SSBR)**
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/fsbr/ssbr.html>
Look here for access to current Federal social statistics via links to different Federal agencies. Sponsored by the White House.

- **National Center for Health Statistics**
<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/>
Check here to find statistics such as average life expectancy and number of births and deaths, generated by the Centers for Disease Control, Mortality Data from the National Vital Statistics System
<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/deaths.htm>
- **International Data Base (IDB)**
<http://www.census.gov/ipc/www/idb/>
The International Data Base (IDB) is a computerized data bank containing statistical tables of demographic data for 228 countries and areas of the world.
- **The World Factbook**
<http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/index.html>
This site contains data about countries around the world, including government, geography, transportation and economic statistics, collected by the CIA.
- **Historical Weather Database**
<http://wf.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/ncdc.html>
National Climatic Data Center, world's largest archive of climate data.

Information compiled by Tammy Sugarman, The Internet Public Library
<http://www.ipl.org> Updated June 2007

More helpful QuickGuides are available from the Library website

www.wilmu.edu/library

For further information, please call

1-800-451-5724



Robert C. & Dorothy M. Peoples Library

We Help You Learn



Research Guide: Finding Statistics



WILMINGTON
UNIVERSITY

www.wilmu.edu/library

1-800-451-5724

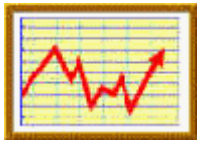
Finding Statistics Guide

General Information

Statistics or numerical data that has been collected, organized and interpreted in some way, exist on a wide variety of subjects, including health, weather, crime, population characteristics, labor and employment, to name only a few.

This guide will help you find statistical information that is available in print publications and on the Web, with a focus on locating statistical information produced by the United States Government.

The United States government is the largest producer and publisher of statistical information. Federal Government agencies produce statistics in the course of research, program management, making forecasts and projections, and as a daily part of their administrative functions. Government produced statistics are used by government agencies and the public at large.



A word of caution about using statistics: In order to understand the meaning of the statistics you have found, and use them appropriately, you should check several things:

from where the numbers came (the "source"); how the numbers were collected (sometimes given in a footnote); what date range the statistics cover (usually different than the date the statistics were published); and who collected the data (how reliable is the agency or group who collected and analyzed the numbers in order to come up with the statistics).



Getting Started: Print Sources

In the library, check in the reference section for frequently used statistical publications. You can also search for statistical publications using the Subject Heading Statistics Periodicals or you can add the name of a country at the beginning of the Subject Heading, for example, United States Statistics Periodicals. You can also try Subject Headings that describe the type of statistics you want to find, such as Educational Statistics or Criminal Statistics.

It is easier to locate statistical information if you know what agency produced the statistics in which you are interested. If you are not sure under what government or other type of agency the information is produced, here are some sources to get you started on your quest to find statistics:

- **Statistical Abstract of the United States**
[REF HA202 .S7](#)
This yearly publication from the United States Bureau of the Census contains both government and non-government statistics about social and economic conditions, also including some international statistics. Statistics about population characteristics, health, economics, and foreign trade are some examples of what you will find in this source. Available at the Library Information Desk, Reference Area and on the Web.
<http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/>
- **A Statistical Portrait of the United States : Social Conditions and Trends**
[REF HA214 .S84 1998](#)
Employs tables and graphics to present a compelling portrait of social, economic, and environmental trends in the U.S. over the past 25 years. Chapters cover population; living arrangements; education; health; work; income, poverty, and wealth; housing; crimes and criminal justice; leisure, volunteerism, and religion; voting; the environment; and government.
- **Digest of Education Statistics** [REF L11 .D48](#)
Contains information on a variety of subjects within the field of education statistics, including the number of schools and colleges, enrollments, teachers, graduates, educational attainment, finances, Federal funds for education, libraries, international education, and research and development.

Online Statistical Information

Today, United States Federal Government agencies are making available more information on the Web. It is very helpful to begin your search for statistics by visiting a site that contains links to government agency web sites where you can find statistical information.

- **FEDSTATS** <http://www.fedstats.gov/>
The purpose of this site is to provide easy access to the public to statistical information produced by over 70 federal government agencies. You can query by keyword, browse a topical alphabetical index, and limit your search to a particular agency. There is also a page on regional statistics which organizes links by category, such as agriculture, crime, education, health and labor.
- **University of Michigan Documents Center Statistical Resources on the Web**
<http://www.lib.umich.edu/govdocs/stats.html>
When you visit this site you can choose the category, such as agriculture, finance, health, housing, in which you want to find statistical information. Each link is annotated so you will know what information you can find at the site, and where to look within the site once you link there.
- **Library Guides Series: Statistical Resources**
<http://lib.mansfield.edu/gov-ref.html#statistics>
This site, compiled by Larry Schankman, has a table of contents that organizes annotated links according to a particular area, such as economics, international, crime, education and health statistics.
- **Google U.S. Government Search**
<http://www.google.com/ig/usgov>
Google U.S. Government Search offers a single location for searching across U.S. government information, and for keeping up to date on government news.
- **Yahoo! category on Government Statistics**
<http://www.yahoo.com/Government/Statistics/>
This lists many of the government agency Web sites where you can find statistical information.