

“Star Statistical Sources”

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Some general guidelines

Sometimes, the exact statistics people want just aren't available. They may not cover the time period people are interested in, at the geographic level they want, or cover the relationships they're interested in.

This guide covers government sites. Non-governmental organizations (commercial and non-profit, such as trade organizations) do publish statistics. Some may be available to the public at no charge; some may be available for purchase only.

Where statistics are hidden...

You may need to go to an agency's (or trade organization's) main web site, to find statistics from a different time period or to find a different series. Sometimes an agency web site will have a section called "Statistics," but often statistics are "hidden" in sections called...

About (rarely)
Data

Library
Publications

Reports
Research

Finding data on the Internet

Internet Crossroads in the Social Sciences

<http://dpls.dacc.wisc.edu/internet.html>

- From UW-Madison's Data and Program Library Service (DPLS) (<http://dpls.dacc.wisc.edu/>), the central repository of data collections used by the social science research community at the UW-Madison.
- Over 650 annotated links to data-related resources on the Internet, from U.S. and international governmental and non-governmental sources.
- Includes links in the following subject areas:

General
Economic/labor
Education

Geographic/historical
Health

Political
Sociological/demographic

U.S. federal statistics

Statistical Abstract of the United States

<http://www.census.gov/prod/www/statistical-abstract-us.html>

- Statistical tables from government agencies (mostly U.S. federal) and private organizations in 30+ topic areas.
- Contains references to other statistical publications.
- 1995-current editions available online.
- Consists of a series of PDF files. There's a separate file for each chapter for each year available.

FedStats

<http://www.fedstats.gov/>

- Descriptions of and links to statistical programs of 70+ federal agencies.
- Developed and maintained by the Federal Interagency Council on Statistical Policy
- Sections include:
 - **Topic links - A to Z** – 400+ links to statistical publications.
 - Some inconsistencies in how subjects are treated (some are cross-referenced, others aren't; sub-headings not applied consistently).
 - Some links may not go to the most recent sets of statistics.
 - **MapStats** – Statistical profiles of states, counties, Congressional districts, and federal judicial districts. State and county sections have the most statistics.
 - **Statistics by geography from U.S. agencies** – Links to selected sites with comparisons on various geographic levels: international, national, state, county, and local.
 - **Statistical reference shelf** – Published collections of statistics available online including the *Statistical Abstract of the United States* and *Health, United States*.
 - **Search** – allows you to search across the sites of the 70+ agencies included in FedStats.
 - Can search titles & keywords only, or search the full text of sites.
 - Allows for Boolean searching, but **not** truncation.
 - Can limit by agency.
 - Results can include documents on statistical policy and descriptions of statistical publications for sale as well as statistics.
 - Uses Verity software.
 - **Agencies listed alphabetically** – descriptions of and links to 70+ federal agencies with statistical programs. Entries include links to contact information and key statistics. Link to “Principal Statistical Agencies” is here.
 - **Agencies by subject** – Same information as *Agencies listed alphabetically*, only the agencies are grouped into 14 broad topic areas.
 - **Press releases** – links to comprehensive lists of press releases from selected statistical agencies.
 - **Kids pages** – links to children’s pages provided by statistical agencies.
 - **Data access tools** – links to federal agency tools that allow you to create your own tables or download or export statistics.

U.S. Federal Government Agencies Directory

<http://www.lib.lsu.edu/gov/fedgov.html>

- From Louisiana State University Libraries
- Links to the web pages of current/active/existing U. S. Federal Government agencies as represented in the *United States Government Manual*. Includes the following types of agencies:

Executive	Independent establishments & government corporations
Judicial	Boards, commissions, & committees
Legislative	Quasi-official agencies
- Organized by type of agency (agency types listed above), then alphabetically by name of agency, then by hierarchy within agency. Not every level of an agency's organization is included.
- Searchable by agency keyword, not by subject.
- Links are not annotated; this directory is most useful for those who know what agency they want but don't know the address.

Child Stats

<http://www.childstats.gov/>

- Produced and maintained by the Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics.

- Includes a link to the Forum's main publication, *America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being*.

AgingStats.Gov

<http://www.agingstats.gov/>

- Produced and maintained by the Federal Interagency Forum on Aging-Related Statistics.
- Includes a link to the Forum's main publication, *Older Americans 2000: Key Indicators of Well-Being*.

Statistical Resources on the Web (University of Michigan Documents Center)

Frames version: <http://www.lib.umich.edu/libhome/Documents.center/stats.html>

Non-frames version: <http://www.lib.umich.edu/libhome/Documents.center/statsnew.html>

- Annotated links to sites with statistics in 250+ areas.
- Many links go to U.S. federal sites, but some go to private (commercial and non-commercial), international, or Michigan sources, and a few links go to University of Michigan subscriptions.
- In addition to statistical publications, some calculators (to calculate cost of living, for example) and comparison and ranking sites are included.
- Organized by topic (24 broad topic pages).
- Frames version has an alphabetical index (in the left-hand frame) to all the specific topics covered, not just the broad subject categories.

U.S. Census Bureau

<http://www.census.gov/>

- U.S. demographic, trade, and business data and statistical reports. Best government web site for U.S. demographic information.
- Most data & reports are from the 1990's forward, but some reports contain statistics going back several decades.
- Data collected and published all the time, not just every 10 years.
- Statistics presented in several different formats (text, html, PDF, spreadsheet, maps). Each report/data set usually available in only one format.
- Vast number of reports and data covering population, housing, and economic topics, from general to specific (some examples: "Disability," "Homeownership," "Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprises," "Monthly Wholesale Trade").
- Useful sections for navigating site:
 - **Subjects index** – <http://www.census.gov/main/www/subjects.html>
 - **Search the Census site** – <http://www.census.gov/main/www/srchtol.html>
 - **Latest news releases by date** [Census news releases from past 6 months, in reverse chronological order] – <http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/date.html>
- 2000 Census
 - Most information will be available via **American FactFinder** (<http://factfinder.census.gov/>)
 - Reports will be issued over several years. For publication schedule, see <http://www.census.gov/population/www/censusdata/c2kproducts.html>
- For a guide to Census information and publications from the 1990's and earlier online, see the guide **U.S. Census Resources on the Web** <http://www.library.wisc.edu/guides/govdocs/census/intro.htm>

Bureau of Labor Statistics

<http://www.bls.gov/>

- Information on employment, working conditions, wages, productivity, and spending (including the Consumer Price Index).
- For each of the BLS's major surveys, there's an "Overview" section for the survey and a "Frequently Asked Questions" section, and links to contacts for that particular survey.

Wisconsin Government Statistics

1999-2000 Wisconsin Blue Book

<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/lrb/bb/index.html>

- Published by the Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau.
- Files in PDF format.
- Serves as Wisconsin's government manual: includes descriptions of agencies, biographical information on elected officials as well as statistics.
- Statistics available on topics ranging from agriculture to transportation.
- 1997-1998 edition is also on the Internet, at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/lrb/bb/97bb/index.html>

Facts About Wisconsin

http://www.wisconsin.gov/state/core/wisconsin_facts.html

- Part of the *State of Wisconsin* page <http://www.wisconsin.gov/>
- Links to statistics in the following areas:
 - Health care
 - Business
 - Labor
 - Population estimates
 - Economic indicators
- These links are not comprehensive! You may want to go to an agency's home page (can use the *Alphabetical Index of Wisconsin State Agencies*, http://www.wisconsin.gov/state/core/agency_index.html) and look for statistics on that page. Statistics may be under "statistics," "data," "reports," "research," "publications," or "library."

International/Foreign Statistics

International Data Base (IDB)

<http://www.census.gov/ipc/www/idbnew.html>

- From the U.S. Census Bureau.
- Contains statistical tables of basic demographic and socio-economic data for 227 countries and areas of the world.

Statistical Agencies (International)

http://www.census.gov/main/www/stat_int.html

- From the U.S. Census Bureau.
- Links to the statistical agencies of 110+ countries, listed alphabetically by country.
- If a site does not contain information in English, that is usually noted.

Global Statistics: National Statistics

http://www.un.org/depts/unsd/sd_natstat.htm

- From the United Nations.
- Links to statistical agencies or central banks of 110+ countries, listed by continent and then alphabetically by country.
- Lots of overlap with U.S. Census Bureau site, but there are some different links here.

Global Statistics: International Statistics

http://www.un.org/depts/unsd/gi_intstat.htm

- From the United Nations.

- Links to statistics programmes of the UN, UN specialized agencies, and other intergovernmental agencies (European Union, OECD, etc.)