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Economics Statistical Sources

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Economics Journals Carter, Susan B., et al., eds. **Historical Statistics of the United States**. Cambridge. 2006. Millennial ed. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Historical Statistics of the United States (HSUS), a five-volume book or eBook set, was fully revised and updated in 2006 from the previous edition (1976). Topics covered range from migration and health to crime and the Confederate States of America; statistics about each topic are placed in historical context by a recognized expert in the field. The *HSUS* was introduced by the U.S. Census Bureau in 1949 as a supplement to the *Statistical Abstract of the United States*. This edition was updated by more than eighty scholars and representatives of three academic organizations (the Economic History Association, the Cliometrics Society, and the Social Science History Association) who assembled and documented the data and wrote the introductory essays. The online version offers a Frequently Asked Questions page, Quick search, and Advanced Search. The user can download tables or other statistical information as well as citations from the online version of the *HSUS*. An expandable Table of Contents includes the basic categories of Population, Work and Welfare, Economic Structure and Performance, Economic Sectors, Governance and International Relations. One appendix describes and defines in tables aspects of weights, measures, and monetary values; another appendix describes and maps the states and census regions. While this resource has historical value, the historical census information and interpretations have invaluable economic research applications. (B-7B) (KLLB 201015-673-900 U)

Derks, Scott, and Tony Smith. **The Value of a Dollar: 1860-2009**. 4th ed. Millerton, NY: Grey House Publishing, 2009.

This book is a compilation of economic information about the United States from the post Civil War era (1860) to 2009. This book focuses on practical economics with additional information about salaries and the social historical context. To aid navigation the book provides a table of contents, historical snapshots of each era and set of years, a bibliography, and an index. The sections of the book are divided by era, and, starting in 1900 each chapter contains a five-year increment. Additionally, the authors take a detailed look at pricing trends of various items from 1900-2009. Information is conveyed in the form of short summaries, charts, and tables. The downside to this resource is that it is only 690 pages long, thus the authors were not able to cover all topics in depth. This book is a source of general economic information about the United States, and a starting point for economic research on the United States due to the numerous bibliographic references, and the detailed list of resources provided. (KDD 200925-673-900 R)

International Financial Statistics (IFS) Washington DC: International Monetary Fund, 1948-present. Print and Online resource. <http://www.imf.org/external>

International Financial Statistics is the primary publication of the International Monetary Fund. The IFS covers a wide range of national and international data including balance and payments, international liquidity, money and banking, government accounts, international transactions, exchange rate information, and many other types of financial information. The IMF covers more than 200 countries and is used around the world. The IFS can be accessed through the International Monetary Fund website. The IFS website is archived back to 1948 and the print version is published monthly with a yearbook. (C-53) (EAB 200915-673-501 U)

International Monetary Fund. **Direction of Trade Statistics**. International Monetary Fund, 1980-. Daily. Online Format. URL: <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/cat/longres.cfm?sk=20096.0>

This online resource compiles key economic trade indicators from most of the IMF's 186 member countries. The values of merchandise exports and imports to and from any other member country can be viewed and compared with those of any other country using a powerful search engine. In addition, the website includes compiled tables of all countries for quick reference. The user interface for retrieving results can be a bit intimidating at first, but fortunately the IMF has included a number of quite helpful video tutorials to walk users through the steps of basic and more advanced searching. An excellent research tool for professional economic analysis of different countries, the only drawback is that this entire service is subscription-based. (BEC 00845-673-900 N)

Gapminder. **Gapminder World**. Online Format. URL: <http://www.gapminder.org/>

Gapminder provides dynamic and detail statistics about each country in the world. The researcher can choose between various countries, choose an indicator (i.e. life expectancy) and choose between two options of how to view the analysis, either as a chart or map. Through the representation of graphical "bubbles", the researcher will be able to see how each country compares in regards to the indicator chosen. An invaluable website for the statistical economic analysis of the world, its strength is that the researcher will be able to analyze the progress of an indicator through time while at the same time, compare this progress with other countries. (RV 201115-673-901 N)

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. **Statistics Portal**. Online Format. URL: http://www.oecd.org/statsportal/0,3352,en_2825_293564_1_1_1_1_1_0,0.html

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Statistics Portal features links to key OECD publications, such as member country statistical profiles, working papers and frequently requested statistics. OECD is an international organization that works on issues related to economic growth, development and financial stability. Its publications are part of the organizations' mission to allow governments to compare policy information, address common problems and coordinate domestic and international policies. The portal's most important function is offering access to the two main OECD statistics databases: OECD.Stat, a subscription database, and OECD.Stat Extracts (<http://stats.oecd.org/>), a freely available selection of data sets. Universities and other research organizations will benefit from having access to OECD.Stats, but many users will be able to use OECD.Stat Extracts. The limited site still allows users to do basic searches and sort information within tables. Data primarily comes from OECD member countries, although the organization has branched out into development in recent years. The main Statistics Portal page also includes a glossary of statistical terms, a list of sources and methods, and links to other statistical websites. The portal is not the only way to access OECD databases and resources, but its layout makes it easier to use for less-experienced researchers, such as students in interdisciplinary courses. (CO 200925-673-900 N)

United States Bureau of Labor Statistics. **Handbook of U.S. Labor Statistics**. Edited by Eva E. Jacobs and Mary Meghan Ryan. 11th ed. Lanham, MD: Bernan Associates, 2008.

This useful resource, now in its 11th edition, is an easy-to-use, one-volume compilation of labor statistics and information from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, related government agencies, and private organizations. Users can access a wealth of economic information including statistics on U.S. employment (both current and historical), productivity, prices, and related data. Profusely illustrated with dozens of tables and figures, and organized in a highly accessible format, this book is an indispensable one-stop resource for a variety of information seekers including businesspeople, professional economists, and students ranging from undergraduates to postgraduates. (C-44) (VRL 200825-673-901 U)

United States. Bureau of Labor Statistics. **Current Employment Statistics (CES)**. Online. URL: <http://www.bls.gov/ces/>

The CES is the leading source for employment and earning data in the United States. Each month, CES surveys "about 140,000 business and government agencies" to provide up to date information concerning employment and earnings of "nonfarm" workers. Among the most useful tools within this resource is the ability to search within each section or the whole resource. Due to the nature of the information CES tries to provide, definitions on key terms such as "employment" can appear vague. To resolve this issue, CES has a strong FAQ section where key terms are defined, important questions are answered. In addition, CES informs the users when their monthly statistics will be released allowing researchers to plan accordingly. (C-41) (RV 201115-673-901 U)

United States Department of Commerce. **State of the Nation**. Washington, DC: Department of Commerce, 1994-. Daily. Online Format. URL: <http://www.stat-usa.gov/econstest.nsf>

State of the Nation is a single point of access to over 50,000 current and historical statistical reports, forecasts and data. The site is updated daily with information including interest rates, exchange rates, a daily treasury update and more. Reports are divided into sections according to industry such as housing and construction and manufacturing and industry and also contains sections on general economic indicators and employment reports. Files can be downloaded in text, PDF or spreadsheet format. The State of the Nation library contains an archive of over 2500 files easily searchable by subject. This website truly is "the federal government's best resource for monitoring the U.S. economy." (C-34) (EML 200825-673-901 U)

United States. Department of Commerce. **Bureau of Economic Analysis**. Online format. URL: <http://www.bea.gov>

BEA is an agency of the Department of Commerce. Along with the Census Bureau and STAT-USA, BEA is part of the Department's Economics and Statistics Administration. BEA produces economic accounts statistics that enable government and business decision-makers, researchers, and the American public to follow and understand the performance of the Nation's economy. To do this, BEA collects source data, conducts research and analysis, develops and implements estimation methodologies, and disseminates statistics to the public. The BEA site has a wealth of diverse information including interactive datasets where a user can select what time frames and information to display. The site can be searched and there is also an alphabetical index. Data is also broken out into national, international, regional and industry. (UMD 200945-673-900 N)

United States. Department of Commerce. **Statistical Abstract of the United States**. Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1894-. Annual. Online format. URL: <http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/>

The Statistical Abstract of the United States is a comprehensive annual resource for those doing general or specific research about the population. The researchers will be able to find statistical information on topics such as education, income, general population, birth, death and energy, among many others. Although the print volume is easier to understand and use, the online resource provides a way to research the statistical abstract from all the way back to 1878 to the present through PDF records that have been put through Optical Character Recognition for better searching. In addition, one of the strengths of the online Statistical Abstract is the ability to export each statistical table to an excel file for easy manipulation and comparison. (C-32) (RV 201115-673-901 U)

United States Department of Labor. **Bureau of Labor Statistics**. Online Format. URL: <http://www.bls.gov/>

This online resource features statistics published by the U.S. Government's Department of Labor. Divided by subject areas, many different kinds of reports are available on domestic and international labor affairs. The site has featured articles, including even "career information for kids" and regular features from the site's editor. There is also a ticker-tape style numbers column on the front page, available as a feed subscription. The greatest asset of this site, however, is the reports. This is a fine official resource for no-nonsense statistical data and supporting information. The statistics make up perhaps the most essential part of the site, but for the interested student, the supplemental analytical materials are there as well. (MFC 200915-673-501N)

World Bank. **World Development Report**. 1978-. Annual. Online Format (1998-present). URL: <http://www.worldbank.org/wdr/>

The annual World Development Reports are a valuable resource for economists and other social scientists studying development. Each year's report focuses on a specific theme of development and reviews the state of the world and its challenges for the coming years. The resources available for each year include PDFs of the entire document, separated by chapter/section, and a map that links relevant articles for each continent. Information within each report can be accessed through a table of contents and index. References and selected world development indicators (WDI) round out each edition. Full WDI information is available through the World Bank's Data and Research section online (<http://econ.worldbank.org>), of which the world development reports are a part. The report is online from 1998 forward; previous editions were published by Oxford University Press for World Bank. (C-62) (CO 200925-673-900 U)

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