

Statistical Information

Statistics are a valuable kind of information in research because they can provide data for making comparisons and determining historical trends. When you write a term paper, your argument will in many cases be more convincing if you can use statistics to back up what you say.

Federal Government Statistics

The United States government is one of the largest and most important publishers of statistical information. Many of its agencies and departments have statistical divisions which regularly publish statistical abstracts and digests of basic socio-economic data about the United States.

One of the best sources of statistical information published by the U.S. government is described below:

- **Statistical Abstract of the United States** (You may use an abbreviated form of this source on the Internet or, for more complete information, use print version in Ref HA202 .U5)
Published annually since 1878 by U.S. Bureau of the Census, Statistical Abstract presents quantitative summary statistics of the U.S. government as well as some private agencies. It covers social, economic, and political aspects of the country such as population, vital statistics, immigration, education, labor, and transportation.
Statistics given in tables cover a period of several years, usually about 15 or 20. To find if a particular subject is covered in Statistical Abstract, use the detailed index in the back of the book.

In addition to the Statistical Abstract of the United States, a number of excellent statistical sites can be found on the Internet:

- **Budget of the United States Government** (Ref. HJ2051 .A29 or on the Internet)
- **Bureau of Justice Statistics Home Page**
- **Bureau of Labor Statistics**
The BLS has lots of good statistics, but "The Economy at a Glance" (<http://stats.bls.gov/eag/eag.us.htm>) is especially useful.
- **Education Statistics from National Center for Education Statistics**
An Internet site providing an extensive list of statistical tables, charts, and studies produced by the National Center of Education Statistics (NCES) to report the condition and progress of education.

- **FEDSTATS**
The Federal Interagency Council on Statistical Policy maintains this site to provide easy access to the full range of statistics and information produced by over 70 governmental agencies for public use. Statistics include the latest social and economic indicators, the Statistical Abstract of the United States, and regional statistics. This site may be searched by keyword, agency, or program.
- **National Center for Health Statistics**
- **National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information**
- **Social Statistics Briefing Room**
An Internet site maintained by the White House to provide easy access to current Federal social statistics.

California Statistics

For example, economy and statistics; population and statistics. Italicize the words economy and statistics and population and statistics.

Counting California (<http://countingcalifornia.cdlib.org/>)

"...committed to enhancing California citizens' access to the growing range of social science and economic data produced by government agencies....*Counting California's* single interface enables users access to actual raw data compiled by federal, state, and local agencies." This is an attractive, powerful tool presenting information in a variety of formats. Many of the tables can be redrawn as graphs. Includes *Quick Facts* for California and each county.

Often relevant statistics are found in books or in magazine and journal articles. You can also search the Librarians' Index to the Internet (<http://www.lii.org/>). Add the word "statistics" to the search.

Local Statistics

Dialog@CARL (<http://dialog.carl.org:3024/>)

Full-text access to Northern California newspapers: the *Contra Costa Papers* (1995+), *Sacramento Bee* (1988+), and the *San Francisco Chronicle* (1988+).

Diablo Valley College, Pleasant Hill, CA

jhammerback@dvc.edu

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