

Key Data Sources for Community Leaders



Census Bureau

(<https://factfinder.census.gov>)

Decennial Census, 2000, 2010, American Community Surveys, Population Estimates

Description:

Demographic, social, housing, and economic data available down to the Census block for the decennial census and at varying levels depending on data product for American Community Surveys (ACS). The census data includes basic gender, age, race, Hispanic ethnicity, and home-ownership variables. The ACS provides more detailed information about the population, including household and familial relationships, ancestry, language spoken, educational enrollment and attainment, income levels and sources, housing characteristics, occupation and industry of workers, and other variables. One-, three- and five-year ACS estimates are available for areas with a population larger than 65,000; areas with populations larger than 20,000 have three- and five-year averages; and less populated regions have five-year averages. The five-year averages are the most reliable.

County Business Patterns and Non-Employer Statistics

Description:

Employer establishments, employees, and first quarter and annual payrolls, and establishments by employment-size class by industry for each region (ZIP, county, metropolitan and micropolitan statistical area, State, US). Data are available at the six-digit NAICS level except to avoid disclosure of information about individual companies. Non-employer statistics are similar to County Business patterns with data on non-employer firms (most self-employed individuals), including the number of establishments and total receipts. Data are available at the five-digit NAICS level except to avoid disclosure of information about individual companies.

Statistics of US Businesses

Description:

Total number of firms, number of establishments, employment, and annual payroll by employment-size for counties. That data is available by two-digit NAICS code for MSAs. Data are downloaded as an Excel file.

Bureau of Economic Analysis

Regional Economic Accounts

(<https://www.bea.gov/itable/index.cfm>)

Data sets:

Local Area Personal Income and Employment 1969-2009

Regional Fact Sheets (BEARFACTS)

Description:

County, MSA, combined metropolitan areas, BEA economic areas, state and US data related to income sources (including transfers and other non-earned income, full and part-time employment and earnings by industry, average wages, and farm income and expenses. Table CA-30 provides a numeric economic profile, but BEARFACTS also provides a narrative to accompany profile numbers.

Bureau of Labor Statistics

Various Databases and Tools

(<http://www.bls.gov/data/>)

Description:

Data on unemployment, employment and employment projections by industry, payroll, price levels, workplace injuries, and productivity. The site also includes inflation and location quotient calculators. The data from the Southwest Regional office in Dallas may be of special interest to Texans (<http://www.bls.gov/ro6/news.htm>).

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Census of Agriculture (latest is 2012)

(<http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/>)

Description:

State and county profiles include information about farms (e.g., number and size), farmers and crops produced at the county, state, and US levels. Comparisons between 2002 and 2007 point to trends in local agriculture. ZIP code tabulations available from the Quick Stats link. Quick Stats also provides annual crop information by county.

Texas State Demographer

Texas Demographic Data

(<http://txsdc.utsa.edu/>)

Description:

Distributor of census and other federal data, including population estimates and projections, in Texas.

Office of the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

Texas Taxes (and other topics, including government spending)

(<http://www.window.state.tx.us/>)

Description:

A trove of information on state and local government finances and taxes. Information about tax rates, levies and gross taxable sales is available from the Texas Taxes link.

Texas Education Agency

Academic Excellence Indicator System

(<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/perfreport/>)

Description:

Academic Excellence Indicator System reports by campus, district and region. Data include TAKS scores class size, and teacher experience, as well as students by grade, race; and economic, linguistic, discipline, and mobility status.

Department of State Health Services

Texas Health Data

(<http://dshs.texas.gov/chs/datalist.shtm>)

Description:

County and state birth and death-by-cause data, as well as other information on related pages.