



Study Guide

FINDING STATISTICS

Statistics are "numerical facts systematically collected" that can be used

1. to support a statement
2. to provide a basis for a theory (or thesis statement)
3. for comparison and contrast
4. to show trends

If the use of statistics is to be valid, you must know what is being measured, how and by whom the material has been gathered, when it was done, and how it can be applied to what you are researching.

GENERAL SOURCES OF STATISTICS

Statistics can be found in many places--in periodical articles, in books, in reference books such as encyclopedias and almanacs, and especially in publications of state, federal, and international organizations. As a good starting point in your search for statistics, check the following general publications first. Much of the U.S. Government produced statistics are now on the Internet. Consult a Reference Librarian for the web site addresses.

Ready Ref.

317.3

Un3

Statistical Abstract of the United States. Current edition.

Published by the U.S. Bureau of Census, it presents quantitative summary statistics on the political, social, and economic organization of the United States. It is very useful as a first source for statistics of national importance and as a guide to further information, as references are given to the sources of all tables. Use the index. (See also Historical Statistics of the United States.)

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County and City Data Book. Current edition.

Published by the U.S. Bureau of Census, it presents the latest available census figures for each county, and for the larger cities in the United States. It also has summary figures for states, geographical regions, urbanized areas, standard metropolitan areas, and unincorporated places. There is no index, but the table of contents is helpful.

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Historical Statistics of the United States; Colonial Times to 1970. 1975. 2 Vols.

This is a revised edition of Historical Statistics of the United States; Colonial Times to 1957. Includes data on every major aspect of the nation's social and economic development. The statistics are accompanied by text notes which specify the sources of the data, include references to other sources, discuss the historical development of the data and evaluate their reliability. (See also Statistical Abstract of the United States.)

Ready Ref.
310
S7

Statistical Abstract of the World. 3rd ed. 1997.

Marketers, analysts and other business professionals searching for accurate facts and figures from around the world will find all the statistics they need to facilitate their research. This updated authoritative international resource provides statistical facts on a wide array of subjects from nearly 200 countries. Use *Statistical Abstract of the World* to compare statistics on 42 broad social, economic and political topics, including labor; employment and occupations; income, expenditure and wealth; population; politics and government; and more.

Ready Ref.
310.5
S72

Statistical Yearbook - Annuaire Statistique. 1996 to date.

A summary of international statistics compiled by the United Nations, Statistical Division. Data is gathered from over 40 different international and national sources. Covers population, agriculture, mining, manufacturing, finance, trade, social statistics, education, etc. of the various countries of the world. The tables usually cover several years.

Ready Ref.
312.058
D46

Demographic Yearbook - Annuaire Demographique. 1998 to date.

Also produced by the United Nations like the Yearbook above, this source offers population statistics from both countries and regions. Covers population distribution, natality, mortality, marriage, divorce, and more. There is a cumulative subject index in the back of each volume.

Ref.
909.82
E87

Europa World Yearbook. 1991, 2003, 2005. 2 vols. each year.

Covers over 1,650 international organizations and a survey of the countries of the world. Each country has a large section of text surveying the history, economic affairs, government, education and policy issues of that country. Following this text is an economic and demographic statistical survey using the latest available statistics on area, population, health and welfare, agriculture, industry, finance, trade, tourism, and education.

Ready Ref.
310
W89

World Almanac and Book of Facts. Current edition.

Contains statistics on social, industrial, political, financial, religious, educational, and other subjects. Well up-to-date and, in general, reliable, it gives sources for many of the statistics. Index at the front of each volume.

If you are unable to locate the information you need, please consult with a Reference Librarian.

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