

### Sites & Building Databases

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Used by state economic development departments, these sites include state, regional or community level reports. Here are the databases in use by Heartland states:

- **LocationOne**  
LocationOne Information System (or LOIS) serves as the Sites, Buildings and Area Database for [Iowa](#), [Kansas](#), [Missouri](#), and [Nebraska](#). LOIS includes ESRI Demographic and Economic Reports at the state, regional, county or community level.
- **GIS Planning**  
GIS Planning is used by the [South Dakota Governor's Office of Economic Development](#). Reports are available at the city, county, region or state level and include demographics, labor force, occupation, consumer expenditures, wages, business, talent pool and housing.
- **GIS WebTech**  
GIS WebTech is used by Oklahoma Department of Commerce. The [LocateOK](#) site includes demographic, workforce and other ESRI profiles for counties and cities.

### U.S. Census Bureau

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The U.S. Census Bureau conducts more than 130 surveys and programs every year. Data is generally accessed through the [Explore Census Data](#) search tool where you can filter data by survey type, geography, topics and years. Some of the most useful survey types include:

- The **Decennial Census** is conducted every ten years, counting every resident in the country. Data is used to apportion government representation, allocate federal monies, and serves as the base for new population estimates over the next decade.
- The **American Community Survey (ACS)** is a continuous survey. The ACS creates period estimates, representing the characteristics of the population and housing over a specific data collection period. These are 1-year and 5-year estimates. 1-year estimates are published for higher level, larger geographies; county and city level data is in the form of 5-year estimates.
- The **Annual Business Survey (ABS)** provides information on selected economic and demographic characteristics for businesses and business owners by sex, ethnicity, race, and veteran status. Data is available at the national, state, MSA, county and place levels. This is a newer survey, replacing several others, most notable the Survey of Business Owners.
- **Population Estimates Program (PEP)** produces estimates of the population for the United States, states, MSAs, counties, cities, and towns.
- The **Center for Economic Studies** is a Census program that uses microdata from existing censuses and surveys, and from administrative sources, to create innovative public-use data products, including:
  - The **Job-to-Job Flows Explorer** which includes statistics on: job-to-job transition rates, hires and separations, earnings changes due to job change, and the characteristics of origin and destination jobs for job-to-job transitions. Available at the national, state, and metropolitan area levels and by worker and firm characteristics.

- LEHD Origin-Destination Employment Statistics (LODES) used by [OnTheMap](#) offers data about workers by age, earnings and industries in which they work, includes commuting distances and destinations both in and out of geographic selections.
- The [Quarterly Workforce Indicators \(QWI\) Explorer](#) includes employment, job creation, earnings, and other measures of employment flows. Data can be sorted by detailed firm characteristics (geography, industry, age, and size) and worker demographics information (sex, age, education, race, and ethnicity) and are available at the state, metropolitan/ micropolitan areas, county, and Workforce Investment Board (WIB) areas.
- Other cool tools to explore: [Migration Patterns of Young Adults](#), [Business Dynamics Statistics \(BDS\) Explorer](#), [Post-Secondary Employment Outcomes \(PSEO\) Explorer](#), [Opportunity Atlas](#)
- [County Business Patterns \(CBP\)](#) includes data on the number of establishments, employment, first quarter payroll, and annual payroll. Data is available at the state, county, MSA, CSA, ZIP code, or Congressional District level.
- [Foreign Trade](#) offers data on exports by state and NAICS-based product. One can get free access to more detailed trade information (all commodities for each state, classified by 6-digit and 4-digit NAICS code and all trading partner countries for each state) through [USA Trade Online](#) (You will need to create a free account to access USA Trade Online).
- For a general look at data for all states and counties, and for cities and towns with a population of 5,000 or more, check out [QuickFacts](#).

*Secret Tip: the [Missouri Census Data Center](#) is a great place to easily access Census data for any state, county or city. It is sometimes more user friendly than the U.S. Census site for finding general population data! Check your state data center to see what information they maintain.*

## [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics \(BLS\)](#)

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The Bureau of Labor Statistics maintains a number of databases in several subject areas: Inflation & Prices, Employment, Unemployment, Employment Projections, Pay & Benefits, Spending & Time Use, Productivity, Workplace Injuries and Occupational Requirements. Databases of likely interest to economic developers include:

- [Current Employment Statistics \(CES\)](#). Based on a monthly survey, this dataset includes employment, hours and earnings for workers on nonfarm payrolls. Data is available by state and by MSA based on where the employer is located. Data can be further refined by industry sector.
- [Local Area Unemployment Statistics \(LAUS\)](#). This monthly dataset produces monthly and annual labor force participation rates and numbers, unemployment rates and numbers, and employment numbers by state, metro/micro area, and county. Data is based on place of worker residence.
- [Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics \(OEWS\)](#). Based on a semiannual survey, this dataset offers estimates of employment and wages for specific occupations in nonfarm establishments. Data can be refined by state, metropolitan or non-metropolitan area, by industry, and by occupation. Data includes employment, average annual and hourly wages by occupation, and location quotients.
- [Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages \(QCEW\)](#). This quarterly dataset includes the number of establishments, monthly employment and wages for workers covered under the Unemployment Insurance system. The data also includes location quotients for employment and wages. Data is based on place of employment and can be filtered by State, MSA, or County, and by industry, ownership or establishment size. QCEW data can also be accessed through the [QCEW State and County Map](#).

- [Business Employment Dynamics \(BDM\)](#). This quarterly dataset includes national and statewide statistics on gross job gains and gross job losses, establishment openings and closings and establishment expansions and contractions. Data can be filtered by employee size or industry.

## [U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis \(BEA\)](#)

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The Bureau of Economic Analysis offers data [by topic](#): Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Consumer Spending, Income & Saving, Industries, International Trade & Investment, Prices & Inflation, Investment in Fixed Assets, Employment, Government, and Special Topics; and [by geographic area](#): global, national, states, county, metro, and other local areas. This includes data such as per capita personal income by state, county or MSA; Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by state, MSA or county; and proprietor employment by state, MSA or county. Users can access regional fact sheets with data on personal income and GDP through [BEARFACTS](#).

## [StatsAmerica](#)

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StatsAmerica is not a data source, but rather a portal to US data and tools. The StatsAmerica portal is supported by the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA), and managed by the Indiana Business Research Center at Indiana University's Kelley School of Business. The portal links to over 20 unique data resources, including the previously mentioned [QWI Explorer](#) and [OnTheMap](#). Links of most use to economic developers include:

- [USA States in Profile](#). These profiles pull together data points from the Census, BEA, BLS and other federal sources for a comprehensive state level profile. Topics include:
  - Population & Housing
  - Education (educational attainment and college enrollment)
  - Economy
    - Gross Domestic Product by State
    - Personal Income
    - Research and Development Investment
    - Patents
    - Venture Capital
    - Nonemployer Establishments
    - Annual Survey of Manufactures (Manufacturing Employment, Production Workers, Payroll, Shipments, and Selected Percent Distributions)
    - Bankruptcy
    - Exports
    - Broadband
    - Establishments from County Business Patterns
  - Income and Taxes
    - Median Income and Quarterly Earnings and Income
    - Personal Income and Per Capita Personal Income
    - State and Local Revenue and Expenditures
    - Local Revenue and Expenditures
    - State Revenue and Expenditures
    - Unemployment Insurance Tax
  - Workforce
    - Labor Force Estimates and Characteristics
    - Occupational Employment and Wages
    - Union membership and representation
    - Monthly Payroll Jobs Estimates (CES)
    - Covered Payroll Jobs (CEW)
    - Industry Employment and Wages (BEA)

- **[USA Counties in Profile](#)**. Similar to state profiles, county profiles pull together data points from the Census, BEA, BLS and other federal sources for a comprehensive county level profile. The profiles also give rankings amongst all other U.S. counties. Topics include:
  - Demographics
  - Educational attainment
  - Income & Poverty
  - Jobs & Earnings (BEA)
  - Jobs & Wages (BLS)
  - Labor Force
  - Living Arrangements (households, housing units, and building permits)
- **[USA Towns in Profile](#)**. Provides content that is similar to the county profiles, using just data from the ACS 5-year estimates. The data also includes state comparisons to provide context for the community measures.
- **[Innovation Intelligence](#)**. This product assigns an innovation index based on the innovation capacity and innovative output of a county, region or state. Numerous data points are available in the five index categories of human capital and knowledge creation, business dynamics, business profile, employment and productivity, and economic well-being.
- **[Census Business Builder](#)**. The Census Business Builder allows the user to create a report based on state, county, city/town or zip code. The application is designed for businesses and creates reports that include demographic and socioeconomic information on consumers/residents, housing statistics, business information, and consumer spending.
- **[CEDS Resource Library](#)**. Users can link to their Economic Development District's (EDD) Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS). The CEDS is a five-year plan of action that outlines the economic development initiatives that Economic Development Districts (EDD's) will be undertaking to address regional economic needs. EDDs are designated by the Economic Development Administration (EDA).

## United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

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The USDA offers data through two resources:

- **[Economic Research Service \(ERS\)](#)**. State Fact Sheets provide information that includes farm characteristics, farm financial indicators, top commodities, and agricultural exports. Links to additional agricultural related information can also be found here.
- **[National Agricultural Statistics Service \(NASS\)](#)**. Provides information and links on state and county level agricultural production and value. Offers links to the **[Census of Agriculture](#)** for state and county profiles as well as the searchable **[Quick Stats](#)** database with data from the Census of Agriculture or the Agricultural Survey.

## Other Interesting Data Sites

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**[FRED](#)** Economic Data from the St. Louis Fed. An interesting mix of information from economic data to health data to housing data and more.

**[Economic Profile System](#)** from Headwaters Economics. Socioeconomic data available by community, indigenous area, county or state. Includes downloadable reports covering a wide range of topics beyond demographics and economic indicators such as land management, natural hazards and industry trend reports (e.g. tourism, agriculture, non-labor income).

[NACo County Explorer](#) allows the user to look into a variety of county level economic, demographic, governance and social program information profiles.

[Peer City Identification Tool](#) by the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago allows the user to enter a city name and find peers in four different factors: equity, resilience, outlook and housing. Cities included in the tool either had a 1960 population of at least 25,000.

[State Health Facts](#) offers data on over 800 health factors at the state level. The site is operated by the Kaiser Family Foundation.

[American Dream Prosperity Index](#) allows users to look at state and county level rankings in a variety of people and business prosperity indicators.

The [Living Wage Calculator](#) from MIT can help you explain to your employers what a living wage is in your area – state, county or MSA.