

FRED 101: St. Louis Fed's Free Tool for Economic Data

What is FRED?

Short for Federal Reserve Economic Data, FRED is the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis' signature economic database. Teachers can use it to tap into more than 149,000 frequently updated data series to add context to their classroom discussions about the economy. It imports data directly into graphs and Excel spreadsheets, allowing users to easily compare local, national or international data over periods of time. The data series come from 59 public and private sources.

The Federal Reserve Economic Data (FRED) Free Toolset:

- **FRED** website: <http://research.stlouisfed.org/fred2/>
- **GeoFRED** website for mapping data: <http://geofred.stlouisfed.org/>
- **Excel Add-in** for importing FRED data directly into Microsoft Excel: <http://research.stlouisfed.org/fred-addin/>
- **Mobile apps** can be downloaded from the Apple App Store and Google Play
- **ALFRED** website for searching archived data: <http://alfred.stlouisfed.org/>
- **API** website for development of applications that retrieve data from FRED and ALFRED: <http://api.stlouisfed.org/docs/fred/>
- **FRED FAQs**: <http://research.stlouisfed.org/fred2/help-faq/>

Examples of FRED Series:

GDP and Its Components

- Real Gross Domestic Product: <http://research.stlouisfed.org/fred2/series/GDPC1>
- Gross Domestic Product: <http://research.stlouisfed.org/fred2/series/GDP>
- Real Personal Consumption Expenditures: <http://research.stlouisfed.org/fred2/series/PCECC96>
- Real Private Fixed Investment: <http://research.stlouisfed.org/fred2/series/FPIC1>
- Real Government Consumption Expenditures & Gross Investment: <http://research.stlouisfed.org/fred2/series/GCEC1>
- Real Exports of Goods & Services: <http://research.stlouisfed.org/fred2/series/EXPGSC1>
- Real Imports of Goods & Services: <http://research.stlouisfed.org/fred2/series/IMPGSC1>

Measures of Inflation

- Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers: All Items: <http://research.stlouisfed.org/fred2/series/CPIAUCSL>

- Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers: All Items Less Food & Energy: <http://research.stlouisfed.org/fred2/series/CPILFESL>
- Personal Consumption Expenditures: Chain-type Price Index: <http://research.stlouisfed.org/fred2/series/PCEPI>
- Personal Consumption Expenditures Excluding Food and Energy (Chain-Type Price Index): <http://research.stlouisfed.org/fred2/series/PCEPILFE>

Employment

- Civilian Unemployment Rate: <http://research.stlouisfed.org/fred2/series/UNRATE>
- All Employees: Total nonfarm: <http://research.stlouisfed.org/fred2/series/PAYEMS>

Regional Data

- All California Series: <http://research.stlouisfed.org/fred2/search?st=california>
- All San Francisco Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) Series: <http://research.stlouisfed.org/fred2/search?st=california&t=msa%3Bsan+francisco&ob=pv&od=desc>

From the St. Louis Fed

- St. Louis Fed Financial Stress Index: <http://research.stlouisfed.org/fred2/series/STLFSI>

Useful Resources for Understanding Economics:

- **Glossary of economic terms:** <http://research.stlouisfed.org/pageone-economics/pages/glossary.php>
- **Page One Economics:** <http://research.stlouisfed.org/pageone-economics/>
 - A monthly economic education newsletter that describes a current topic in the news using economic theory and data. The newsletters are archived and include topics such as a discussion of financial indicators and income inequality.
- **Economic Synopses:** <http://research.stlouisfed.org/publications/es/>
 - Short essays on the economic issues of the day written by economists for a generally informed readership.
- **Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) glossary:** www.bea.gov/glossary/glossary.cfm
- **Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) glossary:** www.bls.gov/bls/glossary.htm

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