

## Key Economic Data by State: Poster Activity

Discover key economic data for your state or a neighboring state with these posters from the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. The posters feature data from the St. Louis Fed's free data tools, FRED and GeoFRED. Click this [link](#) to select your state's poster. Answer the following questions to evaluate the data found on the poster. Click the graphs to find answers to some questions.

1. What were your state's, or a neighboring state's, top three employment sectors in the most recent year represented on the graph?
2. Select one job workers from your state's largest employment sector would perform. Identify the educational attainment required for that job. (Click this [link](#) to find a job and this [link](#) to determine the educational attainment required for the job.)
3. What was the top employment sector by average weekly earnings in the most recent year on the graph? What might explain the higher average weekly earnings in this sector?
4. Click this [link](#) and review the infographic to answer these questions. What is human capital? How is the educational attainment of workers related to their median weekly earnings?
5. Click on the employment sector graph, and use the slider to find 2006 data. How many workers were employed in the construction sector in 2006? Reset the slider to find 2010 data. How does the number of workers employed in the construction sector in 2010 compare to the 2006 data? What is one possible explanation for the change in this data?
6. What is the average weekly earnings for workers in the leisure and hospitality sector? What is one possible explanation for your answer?
7. What factors contribute to certain counties having a higher concentration of people holding bachelor's degrees or higher?
8. What is the relationship between counties with the lowest per capita income and their percentage of people holding bachelor's degrees or higher?
9. What is your county's per capita personal income? What is the percentage of residents with at least a bachelor's degree or higher in your county? What might explain this data?
10. On the graph depicting unemployment rates, what do the grey shaded areas represent?
11. Click on the unemployment rate graph. Use the cursor to hover over the shaded area closest to 2008, which will be December 2007, and identify the state and national civilian unemployment rates. Move your cursor to the far right side of that grey shaded area and identify the state and national civilian unemployment rates. What happened to both unemployment rates during this period? Explain your reasoning.
12. How did your state's unemployment rate compare to the civilian unemployment rate during the period identified in question 11?