

Guide to the Data, Map Selection and Reporting Tool

- ❖ Tool was developed to aid with application and selection of federal grants
- ❖ Tool provides ability to create regions and neighborhoods

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An example of selecting counties along the Lake Michigan shoreline, crossing the state lines of Illinois, Indiana and Michigan



I. The Data and What They Measure

There are two fundamental requirements – a 24-month unemployment rate that is at least 1 point higher than that of the 24-month rate for the United States and per capita income that is 80 percent or less than the nation. (See 42 U.S.C. 3161).

a. 24-month unemployment rate

Frequency: Monthly, preliminary and revised. The latest month available is always called “preliminary”, while the previous month (and sometimes all months in a given year) is revised. As a result, June 2009 if the most recent month will be different from the revised June that is available when July preliminary is released. Preliminary data are released toward the end of each month for the time two months prior. For example, July files for all U.S. counties would be released toward the end of September.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, FTP files for all US counties and states, providing both revised and preliminary figures. The IBRC has been utilizing these sources files for more than 20 years and has highly sophisticated verification and quality control processes that ensure these data are identical to the source data.

Calculation: We calculate the 24-month average by calculated the sum of the labor force and the sum of unemployed persons. We then divide unemployment by the labor force to achieve the rate for the period of 24-months. Explained another way, the rate of unemployment is that portion of the total labor force that is unemployed. One might want to sum 24 months of unemployment rates and then divide by 24, but doing that will not provide a precise enough rate, since it can’t account for rounding.

Thresholds: The threshold calculations are shown in the output report and reflect the difference between the unemployment rate for the geographic area or region selected and the U.S. figure. For example, if Economic Development District A has a 24-month rate of 6.9 and the U.S. rate is 7.9, the difference is shown in the Threshold column as 1.0 – meaning it is 1 point higher than the U.S.

b. Per Capita Income – THREE DISTINCT SOURCES ARE SHOWN IN THE TOOL

i. Per Capita Money Income – PCMI (3-year ACS) and PCMI (5-year ACS) –the American Community Survey estimates.

The ACS 3-year average data is available for areas of 20,000 or more population; the ACS 5-year average is available for all areas down to the tract and block group levels.

Frequency: Annual release in the fall of each year.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau FTP files.

http://www.census.gov/acs/www/data_documentation/data_via ftp/

Calculation: The county or region or district per capita is divided by the U.S. per capita and shown as a percentage share of the U.S. figure. For example, if the District of Columbia (aka Washington D.C.) has a threshold calculation of 145.2, this means its PCMI is 45.2 percent higher than the nation at large.

ii. Per Capita Personal Income – PCPI - (BEA) – this figure comes from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

The most used per capita income figure, it is an estimate that includes not only cash sources of income (as the Census Bureau figure does), but also insurance, transfer payments, dividends, interest and rent.

Frequency: Annual release in the spring (typically April) of each year.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis files for all counties and states in the nation, as part of the REIS (regional economic information system). It is often referred to as the local personal income estimates.

Calculation: The county or region or district per capita is divided by the U.S. per capita and shown as a percentage share of the U.S. figure. For example, if the District of Columbia (aka Washington D.C.) has a threshold calculation of 145.2, this means its PCMI is 45.2 percent higher than the nation at large.

iii. PCMI (2000 Census) – from the Decennial Census in 2000.

The latest decennial (ten year) census occurred in April of 2000 and the income figures were based on the so-called “long form” that went to an average of one in six households. The income data is actually based on a full year of 1999 income, which makes it even older. However, we use these primarily for those areas (census tracts which can be aggregated to regions within or across counties) where none of the more recent data are available. The Census Bureau plans to release American Community Survey (ACS) data for census tracts in 2011, at which time this tool will use those figures.

Frequency: Every 10 years, until the 5-year averages from the ACS are available beginning in 2011, at which time such averages will be available each year thereafter.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Summary File 3.

Calculation: The census tract or combination of tracts per capita is divided by the U.S. per capita and shown as a percentage share of the U.S. figure. For example, if the District of Columbia (aka Washington D.C.) has a threshold calculation of 145.2, this means its PCMI is 45.2 percent higher than the nation at large.

How We Ensure the Integrity of the Data

The IBRC at Indiana University (in the Kelley School of Business) has been a provider and analyzer of socio-economic data for more than 80 years and currently maintains a database of more than 1 billion records of economic and demographic data for the U.S. states, counties, cities, etc. We have a team of professionals who work daily to collect, organize, transform and load these data into the database so that we can make it available in STATS America, STATS Indiana, STATS House, and other tools to assist with development. We have rigid quality control methods that ensure the source data do not change and indeed, we often report errors to source agencies because our processes are so tough.

How You Can Use the Data

Applications for EDA and FHA grants are among the most obvious opportunities. With this tool, you can determine under which regional grouping of counties (or census tracts) you might qualify.

II. How the Tool Works

This tool takes the hassle out of locating and calculating the data AND provides an easy way to combine counties or census tracts into regions or neighborhoods. By following the steps provided below, you will be able to produce the reports needed to help determine eligibility for certain federal grants based on economic distress.

Overview: This web tool provides a fast and easy way to select the data needed to assess an area's economic distress, essentially as part of the qualification process for Economic Development Administration grants. Just select the geography, the month and year and a report is generated with the numeric values of distress criteria, with a comparison to the United States and the assessment of whether they match the criteria.

Measures: This release (subsequent versions will include an Economic Conditions report) provides the 24-month average unemployment rate; per capita income from the Census Bureau's American Community Survey (where available for places of 20,000 or more population); per capita personal income (annual data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis - BEA); and Census 2000 per capita income (for those areas where either ACS or BEA data are not available).

How it works: This tool is simple and straightforward. The user selects geographic unit, then the specific geography (either through drop downs or via the map), selects the reference month and year and clicks on display report, which will bring up the report on the same page. Everything will happen on just this one web page!

Step-by-Step Instructions

1. The current geography is COUNTY. Click [TRACT](#) to change

STEP 1. If you want to determine eligibility for a county, region, or your own region by combining multiple counties, use the COUNTY tool. However, if you want to combine census tracts to form a sub-county or cross-county region, select the TRACT version.

2. Select geography with Map and/or the Dropdowns

Show dropdowns for: Counties Districts & Metros States

State: DC County: Dist. Total

District of Columbia Co., District of Columbia

You may select
up to 255 counties

STEP 2.

Here, you can choose to select the specific geographies by either a drop down or the map or BOTH. The drop downs provide an alphabetical listing of the specific states, counties, etc. that you want to view (based on your unit selection in step 1.). Note that if you select Districts or Metros at this point, you will also need to select the specific metro or district type (Metro, Micro, Combined, or EDDs).

USING THE MAP: The initial map is the Navigation view, which allows you to zoom in or out or move the map (by clicking on it and moving it) to the general area where you want to select geographies. Once you have the map in the area of the country you want, click on the TOGGLE bar underneath the map to ENABLE SELECTION. Once you click that, you can click on parts of the map you want to include. Those geographic selections will appear in the box you see in step 2. To return to the Navigation View, just click on the toggle bar again.



You are in NAVIGATE Mode (Move Map, Zoom)
Click to switch to SELECT Mode

3. Year & Month 2009 March

STEP 3. You can select any year – the

default is the most current year and month for which the unemployment rate data are available (these are updated monthly for all counties and states). If you leave the month/year at the default setting, you will get the MOST CURRENT DATA AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME. However, if you need a specific month, that option is available as well.

4. Get Report

STEP 4. Display Report.

Click on the Get Report button and the report will be generated (if you selected many counties or tracts, allow a few seconds). You may need to scroll down to view the report. You can then copy the data as it appears into any spreadsheet, slide, or word processing tool for further use.

Distress Criteria Statistical Report

Reference Date: 03 / 2010 (All data elements refer to this date or earlier.)
 Region Consists of: Autauga Co. AL
 Report Date: 3/31/2011 3:51:31 PM

Economic Distress Criteria—Primary Elements

	Region	U.S.	Threshold Calculations
24-month Average Unemployment Rate (BLS) period ending March 2010	7.34	8.15	-0.81
2009 Per Capita Money Income (3 year ACS)	\$24,317	\$27,100	89.73%
2009 Per Capita Money Income (5 year ACS)	\$23,774	\$27,041	87.92%
2008 Per Capita Personal Income (BEA)	\$32,547	\$40,166	81.03%
2000 Per Capita Money Income (Decennial Census)	\$18,518	\$21,587	85.78%

Economic Distress Criteria—Geographic Components

	24 Month Unemp	Threshold Calculation	ACS 3 Year PCMI	Threshold Calculation	BEA PCPI	Threshold Calculation	Census PCMI (2000)	Threshold Calculation	ACS 5 Year PCMI	Threshold Calculation
Autauga County, AL	7.34	-0.81	\$24,317	89.7	\$32,547	81	\$18,518	85.8	\$23,774	87.9

Sources: U.S. Bureaus of Census, Labor Statistics, and Economic Analysis; generated by STATS America.

III. Further Information

With ongoing support from the Economic Development Administration, the IBRC at Indiana University has developed a unique and useful set of tools and reports that can help reduce the amount of time necessary across the country for locating and determining these initial levels of qualification.

Along with the Distress Tools, we also provide access to county and state profiles that provide current, timely and useful information and rankings for a host of economic and social factors, including population trends, poverty, income, employment and housing factors. These are available at statsamerica.org and are supported by the IBRC, EDA and other partners.

We have a team of professionals whose job it is to maintain our large, comprehensive databases. Please contact us if you have questions about the data or the tool by emailing us at ibrc@iupui.edu.

The IBRC has been a part of Indiana University and its Kelley School of Business since 1925 and has been monitoring socio-economic trends as they relate to our home state, the Midwest and that nation for more than eighty years. Its flagship publication, the Indiana Business Review, has been in continuous publication (both print and now via the web as well) since 1926. The IBRC has one numerous national awards for its work, including Best Web Site and Best Publications from the Association of University Business and Economic Research. Nationally recognized for its founding of the State Data Center Program in the early 1970s, it has been a key participant and partner in that program since its national inception in 1978. We are also part of the BEA User Group and other organizations that further the meaningful use of statistical data for economic and community development.

The IBRC is a member of the following national organizations:

State Data Center / Business Industry Data Center Program (SDC/BIDC)
Association of University Business and Economic Research (AUBER)
National Association of Business Economists (NABE)
Community Indicators Consortium
Council for Economic and Community Research (C2ER)

