

## Activity

# On the Job: Analyze Your State's Economy

Using economic data is part of many careers. Choose one of the three jobs below—news reporter, economic development officer, or entrepreneur. As you would in that job, use data from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis to analyze your state's economy. Then complete one of the following tasks for this job. Your teacher will give you more details about your assignment.

| <b>News Reporter</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>Economic development officer</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>Co-founder of a growing company</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
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| <p>You've been assigned to write a news article updating readers on your state's economy.</p> <p>Analyze BEA's data to write an objective account of the state economy, backed up with statistics. How fast is the state economy growing? Are people's incomes rising? What are the major industry sectors?</p> <p>Write an article comparing the state's economy with the economies of two other states and the U.S. overall. Write an objective account, including the strengths and/or weaknesses that you think will be most interesting to your readers.</p> | <p>Your job is to persuade businesses to open their new factories, stores, or offices in your state.</p> <p>Analyze BEA's data to find statistics that will help promote your state's economy over others. How does its economic growth compare? What might its personal income statistics say about available workers or consumers?</p> <p>Write a persuasive report for business leaders comparing your state's economy with those of two competing states and the U.S. overall. Include only statistics that help make the case for your state and explain why they are promising for businesses in general or specific types of business.</p> | <p>You and your partners are considering whether to expand your company, based elsewhere, into this state.</p> <p>Analyze BEA's data for factors that can help decide whether to locate here. Include your preliminary recommendation, based on factors such as economic growth, leading industries, and the incomes of the state's residents.</p> <p>Write a report for discussion with your partners, comparing this state's economy with the economies of two other states and the U.S. overall. Include both pros and cons of choosing this state, for a full discussion and a well-informed decision.</p> |

For your research, use these data tools on [bea.gov](https://www.bea.gov) (see accompanying instructions for using the state and local data tools):

- [BEARFacts](#) has state factsheets with current data, state and national comparisons, and links to more detailed data.
- [GDP and Personal Income Mapping Tool](#) makes custom maps and charts to visualize comparisons between states and regions.

Consider the state's GDP, economic growth (as shown by the GDP growth rate), personal income, consumer spending, top industries, and other BEA data you may choose.

**Activity options (as assigned by your teacher):**

- A. Write a three-paragraph summary news article or business report for your chosen job. Include at least three economic statistics about the state, including comparisons to two other states and the nation.
- B. Write a one-page news article or business report for your chosen job, including at least five economic statistics about the state, with comparisons to at least two other states and the nation. Include an appendix with two maps or charts that support your points or give a three-minute presentation using those visuals.