

## **Activity**

## On the Job: Analyze Your State's Economy

Using economic data is important in many careers. Choose one of the three jobs below that you'd like to perform: news reporter, state economic development officer, or entrepreneur. You will be using data from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis to analyze your state's economy and write an article or report as part of doing this job. Your teacher will give you more details about your assignment.

News Reporter	Economic development officer	Co-founder of a growing company
You've been assigned to write a news article updating readers on your state's economy.	Your job is to persuade businesses to open their new factories, stores, or offices in your state.	You and your partners are considering whether to expand your company, based elsewhere, into this state.
Analyze BEA's data to write an objective account of the state economy, backed up with statistics. Consider factors such as: How fast is the state economy growing? Are people's incomes rising? What are the major industry sectors?	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? What types of industries are located here already?	Analyze BEA's data to consider whether to expand to this state (you can choose what type of business you've started). Make a preliminary recommendation based on factors such as the state's economic growth, leading industries, and residents' incomes.
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.	Write a persuasive report for business leaders comparing your state's economy with the economies of two competing states and the U.S. overall. Include only statistics that help make the case for your state. Indicate why they are promising for businesses in general or for particular industry categories.	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. <i>Include both pros and cons of choosing this state, to help make a well-informed decision.</i>



For your research, use these data tools on <u>bea.gov</u> (see accompanying instructions, **Using State and Local Data Tools at bea.gov**):

- <u>BEARFACTS</u> has state fact sheets with current data, state and national comparisons, and a link 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), per capita personal income, top industries, and other BEA data you may choose.

## **Activity options:**

- A. Write a one-page summary article or report for your chosen job. Include at least three economic statistics about the state, plus comparisons to two other states' economies and the national economy.
- B. Write a two-page article or report for your chosen job, including at least five economic statistics about the state. Include comparisons to at least two other states' economies and the national economy. Include an appendix with two maps or charts that help illustrate your points.
- C. 1. Write a two-page article or report for your chosen job, including at least five economic statistics about the state. Include comparisons to at least two other states' economies and the national economy.
  - 2. Based on your report, prepare a three-minute presentation of the highlights, including maps and charts as visuals. Deliver your presentation in a professional manner suitable for a reporter on a news video, an economic development officer speaking persuasively to a business group, or an entrepreneur leading a meeting of the decision-makers in your business.