



A Researcher's Guide to Local Area Unemployment Statistics: How to Access the Data

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How to Access the Data



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Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) Databases

<https://www.bls.gov/lau/data.htm>





Overview of Tools



Most Requested Statistics – access to 1 state and its metro areas



Create Customized Tables – flexible options for extracting data by types of areas



Series Report – if you know the series ID you can enter to retrieve



Flat files FTP Site – best for requesting large files for many areas and time periods



At a Glance – Regions, States, and Areas – easy interface to select major labor market characteristics





Local Area Unemployment Statistics



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Instructions for Extracting LAUS Data

- [Overview of Data Extraction Tools](#)
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- [Instructions](#)

Overview of Data Extraction Tools

There are several ways to extract Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) data. The available options and their advantages and disadvantages are as follows:

[Most Requested Statistics](#)

This option is best for those who want easy access to monthly and/or annual average data for a state and its metropolitan areas. It does not allow access to other areas. You can retrieve data from only one state at a time, so if you are looking for data across numerous states, you will have to repeat the steps for each state. Go to [Useful Information](#) for details on the "More Formatting Options" button available with this option.

[Create Customized Tables \(one screen\)](#)

(This option works only with a Java-enabled browser and also works best with a high-speed connection to the Internet.)

This is a quick and easy way to make all selections from one screen. By choosing the state (or census region and division) and then the area type(s), you will be able to select from a list of specific areas for which you would like data. The other possibility within this option is

<https://www.bls.gov/lau/lausad.htm>



Flat files FTP Site

download.bls.gov - /pub/time.series/la/

[\[To Parent Directory.\]](#)

3/27/2020 10:10 AM	437683	la.area
3/27/2020 10:10 AM	455	la.area_type
3/27/2020 10:10 AM	437661	la.areamaps
4/15/2005 10:58 AM	316	la.contacts
3/27/2020 10:11 AM	116441397	la.data.0.CurrentU00-04
3/27/2020 10:11 AM	116470477	la.data.0.CurrentU05-09
3/27/2020 10:11 AM	118474857	la.data.0.CurrentU10-14
3/27/2020 10:11 AM	117034697	la.data.0.CurrentU15-19
3/27/2020 10:11 AM	110655617	la.data.0.CurrentU90-94
3/27/2020 10:11 AM	111779597	la.data.0.CurrentU95-99
3/27/2020 10:11 AM	11929978	la.data.1.CurrentS
3/27/2020 10:11 AM	10899394	la.data.10.Arkansas
3/27/2020 10:11 AM	32322696	la.data.11.California
3/27/2020 10:11 AM	10920134	la.data.12.Colorado
3/27/2020 10:11 AM	16785802	la.data.13.Connecticut
3/27/2020 10:11 AM	1340362	la.data.14.Delaware

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3/27/2020 10:11 AM	117034697	la.data.0.CurrentU15-19
3/27/2020 10:11 AM	110655617	la.data.0.CurrentU90-94
3/27/2020 10:11 AM	111779597	la.data.0.CurrentU95-99
3/27/2020 10:11 AM	11929978	la.data.1.CurrentS
3/27/2020 10:11 AM	10899394	la.data.10.Arkansas
3/27/2020 10:11 AM	32322696	la.data.11.California
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3/27/2020 10:11 AM	16785802	la.data.13.Connecticut
3/27/2020 10:11 AM	1340362	la.data.14.Delaware



Documentation for Raw Data Files

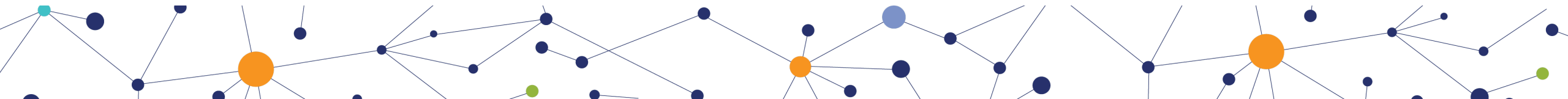
- **Series_id**
- **Year**
- **Period**
- **Value**
- **Footnote_codes**





Series_id = LAUCN3606700000000003

- LA= Series: Local Area Unemployment Statistics
- U= Seasonal: “U” means Unadjusted for seasonality; “S” means adjusted
- CN= Area Type: “CN” means County records
- 36= State Code: “36” means New York
- 067= County Code: “067” means Onondaga County
- 000000000000= Not used for county files
- 03= Measure: “03” means Unemployment rate



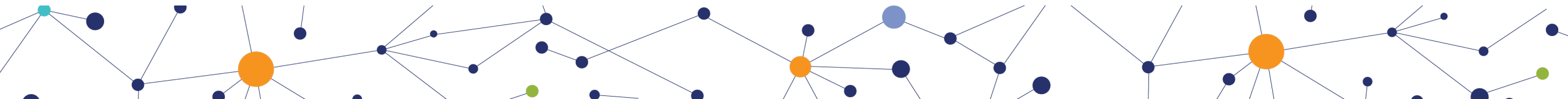


Year = (YYYY)

- The reference year to which the data refer

Period= time period for which the data refer

- M01 – January
- M02 – February
-
- M11 – November
- M12 – December
- M13 – Annual Average





Value = rate or number of persons for the measure for the specified county and period

Footnote Codes = explanations for missing or imputed Values. Examples:

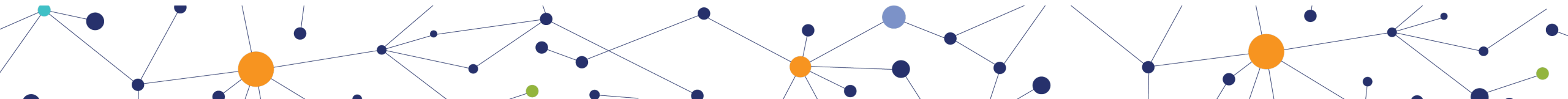
- A - Area boundaries do not reflect official OMB definitions.
- N - Not available.
- P - Preliminary.
- V - The survey was not conducted due to bad weather. Interpolated data were seasonally adjusted.





Additional Files of Metadata

- la.txt – overview of all the LAUS files
- la.series – Detailed labels for each series
- la.period – Codes for the periods variable
- la.seasonal – Codes identifying whether value is seasonally adjusted or unadjusted
- la.measure – Codes for the Measure variable
- la.footnote – Codes and labels



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