Guide to Tabular Presentation

EXAMPLE OF TABLE STRUCTURE FROM:

Examples of Unit Indicator Interpretation From Table

Table A–75. States — **Federal Government**

Geographic area	Nonfarm employment (BLS)[1] (1,000)			Federal earnings (BEA)[2] (mil. dol.)						Federal funds and grants[3]						
				Civilian			Military			Total (mil. dol.)		Defense, 2008		Selected object categories, 2008[5] (mil. dol.)		
	2008	2005	2000	2008	2005	2000	2008	2005	2000	2008	2000	Percentage of total	Per capita[4] (dollars)	Direct payments for individuals	Grants to state and local government	Salaries and wages
United States . . .	**[6]2,764.0**	**[6]2,732.0**	**[6]2,865.0**	**287,151**	**253,018**	**199,008**	**157,453**	**132,465**	**79,637**	**[7]2,792,611**	**[7]1,650,788**	**17.5**	**1,574**	**[7]1,449,874**	**[7]574,659**	**[7]253,962**
Alabama	52.5	51.4	53.4	5,468	4,691	3,649	2,427	2,186	1,245	47,966	29,250	23.8	2,448	26,623	7,242	3,847
Alaska	16.9	17.0	17.1	1,719	1,529	1,221	2,326	1,762	1,046	9,423	5,963	38.5	5,287	2,036	2,702	2,206
Arizona.	54.4	51.8	48.7	5,274	4,444	3,125	2,519	2,203	1,330	54,314	29,282	27.0	2,258	25,991	10,325	4,166
Arkansas	21.2	20.9	22.4	1,917	1,727	1,357	1,144	1,051	488	23,857	14,847	8.2	687	15,540	5,050	1,936
California	248.3	250.4	272.9	24,935	22,656	19,008	17,730	14,641	9,315	299,923	175,967	16.3	1,327	143,626	82,219	22,033

[1]All employment estimates provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics are based on the 2007 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS).
[2]The estimates of earnings for 2000–2006 are based on the 2002 NAICS. The estimates for 2007 forward are based on the 2007 NAICS. All dollar estimates are in current dollars (not adjusted for inflation).
[3]Data pertains to year ending September 30.
[4]Based on U.S. Census Bureau estimated resident population as of July 1.
[5]Data for grants, salaries and wages, and direct payments to individuals are on an expenditures basis.
[6]U.S. totals differ from the sum of the state figures because of differing benchmarks among states and differing industrial and geographic stratification.
[7]National totals include Island areas and will differ from sum of state totals.

Survey, Census, or Data Collection Method: Employment—Based on the Current Employment Statistics (CES) survey; for information, see Appendix B, Limitations of the Data and Methodology, and Internet site <http://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch2a.htm>; Earnings—Based on the Regional Economic Information System; for information, see Internet site <http://www.bea.gov/regional/methods.cfm>; Federal funds and grants—Based on information systems in various federal government agencies; for information, see Internet site <http://www.census.gov/govs/www/cffr.html>.

Sources: Employment—U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics Program, SAE Databases, Employment, Hours, and Earnings—State and Metro Area. See Internet site <http://www.bls.gov/sae/home.htm>; Earnings—U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, *Survey of Current Business*, May 2009, Volume 89, number 5 see Internet site <http://www.bea.gov/bea/regional/spi/>; Federal funds and grants—U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 *Consolidated Federal Funds Report*, annual, see Internet site <http://www.census.gov/govs/cffr/>.

Unit indicators show the specified quantities in which data items are presented. They are used for two primary reasons. Sometimes data are not available in absolute form. Other times, we round the numbers in order to save space to show more data, as in the case above.

If no unit indicator is shown, data presented are in absolute form (see Table B-1 for an example). When needed, unit indicators are found in the column or spanner headings for the data items as shown above.

Footnotes below the bottom rule of table pages give information relating to specific data items or figures within the table.

Further information on individual tables can be found in Appendix A, located in the back of the book.

Examples of Unit Indicator Interpretation From Table

Geographic area	Year	Item	Unit indicator	Number shown	Multiplier
United States . . .	2008	Nonfarm employment	(1,000)	2,764.0	1,000
United States . . .	2008	Federal funds and grants . .	(mil. dol.) . . .	2,792,611	1,000,000

To determine the figure, it is necessary to multiply the number shown by the unit indicator.

Nonfarm employment, 2008 = 2,764.0 * 1,000 or 2,764,000

Federal funds and grants, 2008 = 2,792,611 or 2,792,611,000,000

In many tables, details will not add to the totals shown because of rounding.

EXPLANATION OF SYMBOLS AND TERMS

The following symbols, used in the tables throughout this book, are explained in condensed form in footnotes on the tables where they appear.

– Represents zero.

B Base figure too small to meet statistical standards for reliability of a derived figure.

D Figure withheld to avoid disclosure pertaining to a specific organization or individual.

NA Data not enumerated, tabulated, or otherwise available separately.

S Figure does not meet publication standards for reasons other than that covered by symbol B above.

X Figure not applicable because column heading and stub line make entry impossible, absurd, or meaningless.

Z Entry would amount to less than half the unit of measurement shown.

The following terms are also used throughout this publication:

Averages. An average is a single number or value that is often used to represent the "typical value" of a group of numbers. It is regarded as a measure of "location" or "central tendency" of a group of numbers.

The *arithmetic* mean is the type of average used most frequently. It is derived by summing the individual item values of a particular group and dividing the total by the number of items. The arithmetic mean is often referred to simply as the "mean" or "average."

The *median* of a group of numbers is the middle number or value when each item in the group is arranged according to size (lowest to highest or vice versa); it generally has the same number of items above it as well as below it. If there is an even number of items in the group, the median is taken to be the average of the two middle numbers.

Rates. A rate is a quantity or amount of an item measured in relation to a specified number of units of another item. For example, unemployment rate is the number of unemployed people per 100 people in the civilian labor force. Examples of other rates found in this publication include birth rate, which is the number of births per 1,000 population; infant death rate, the number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births; and crime rate, which is the number of serious offenses per 100,000 population.

A *per capita* figure represents a specific type of rate computed for every person in a specified group (or population). It is derived by taking the total for a data item (such as income, taxes, or retail sales) and dividing it by the number of people in the specified population.

Ranks. Various data items in Tables A, States, and Tables B, Metropolitan Areas, of this publication are ranked from highest to lowest with a rank of 1 representing the highest rank. In both tables, when areas share the same rank, the next-lower rank is omitted.

In Table A, only the 50 states are ranked; the District of Columbia is not included in the state rankings. In Table B, only 363 metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) are ranked. Not ranked are the 29 metropolitan divisions, which make up 11 metropolitan statistical areas. Areas not ranked are indicated by an "X" in the data cell.

Index numbers. An index number is a measure of difference or change, usually expressed as a percentage, relating one quantity (the variable) of a specified kind to another quantity of the same kind. Index numbers are widely used to express changes in prices over periods of time but may also be used to express differences between related subjects for a single point in time.

To compute a price index, a base year or period is selected. The base year price (of the commodity or service) is then designated as the base or reference price to which the prices for other years or periods are related. Many price indexes use the year 2000 as the base year; in tables, this is shown as "2000 = 100." A method of expressing the price relationship is: the price of a set of one or more items for a related year (e.g., 1990) divided by the price of the same set of items for the base year (e.g., 2000). The result multiplied by 100 provides the index number. When 100 is subtracted from the index number, the result equals the percentage change in price from the base year.

Current and constant dollars. Statistics in some tables are expressed in both current and constant dollars (for example, see Table A-40). Current dollar figures reflect actual prices or costs prevailing during the specified year(s). Constant dollar figures are estimates representing an effort to remove the effects of price changes from statistical series reported in dollar terms. In general, constant dollar series are derived by dividing current dollar estimates by the appropriate price index for the appropriate period (for example, the Consumer Price Index). The result is a series as it would presumably exist if prices were the same throughout, as in the base year; in other words, as if the dollar had constant purchasing power. Any changes in this constant dollar series would reflect only changes in real volume of output, income, expenditures, or other measure.