



$$(a+b)^2 = a^2 + b^2 + 2ab$$

HOW DO I FIND STATISTICS?

Look for statistical resources which...



Cover a broad range of topics



Cover these topics consistently from year to year



Cover a significant time period

Table 451. Composition of Congress by Political Party: 1977 to 2017

[D = Democratic, R = Republican. As of beginning of first session of each Congress. Data reflect immediate result of election; third party candidates are noted]

Year	Party and president	Congress	House			Senate
			Majority party	Minority party	Other	
1977 ¹	D (Carter)	95th	D-292	R-143	-	D-61
1979 ²	D (Carter)	96th	D-277	R-158	-	D-58
1981 ³	R (Reagan)	97th	D-242	R-192	1	R-53
1983 ⁴	R (Reagan)	98th	D-299	R-166	-	R-54
1985 ⁵	R (Reagan)	99th	D-253	R-182	-	R-53
1987 ⁶	R (Reagan)	100th	D-258	R-177	-	D-55
1989 ⁷	R (Bush)	101st	D-280	R-175	-	D-55
1991 ⁸	R (Bush)	102nd	D-267	R-167	1	D-56
1993 ⁹	D (Clinton)	103rd	D-258	R-176	1	D-57
1995 ¹⁰	D (Clinton)	104th	R-230	D-204	1	R-52
1997 ¹¹	D (Clinton)	105th	R-225	D-207	2	R-55
1999 ¹²	D (Clinton)	106th	R-223	D-211	1	R-55
2001 ¹³	R (Bush)	107th	R-221	D-212	2	D-50
2003 ¹⁴	R (Bush)	108th	R-229	D-204	1	R-51
2005 ¹⁵	R (Bush)	109th	R-232	D-202	1	R-55
2007 ¹⁶	R (Bush)	110th	D-233	R-202	-	D-49

BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

Home ▾ Subjects ▾ Data Tools ▾ Publications ▾ Economic Releases ▾

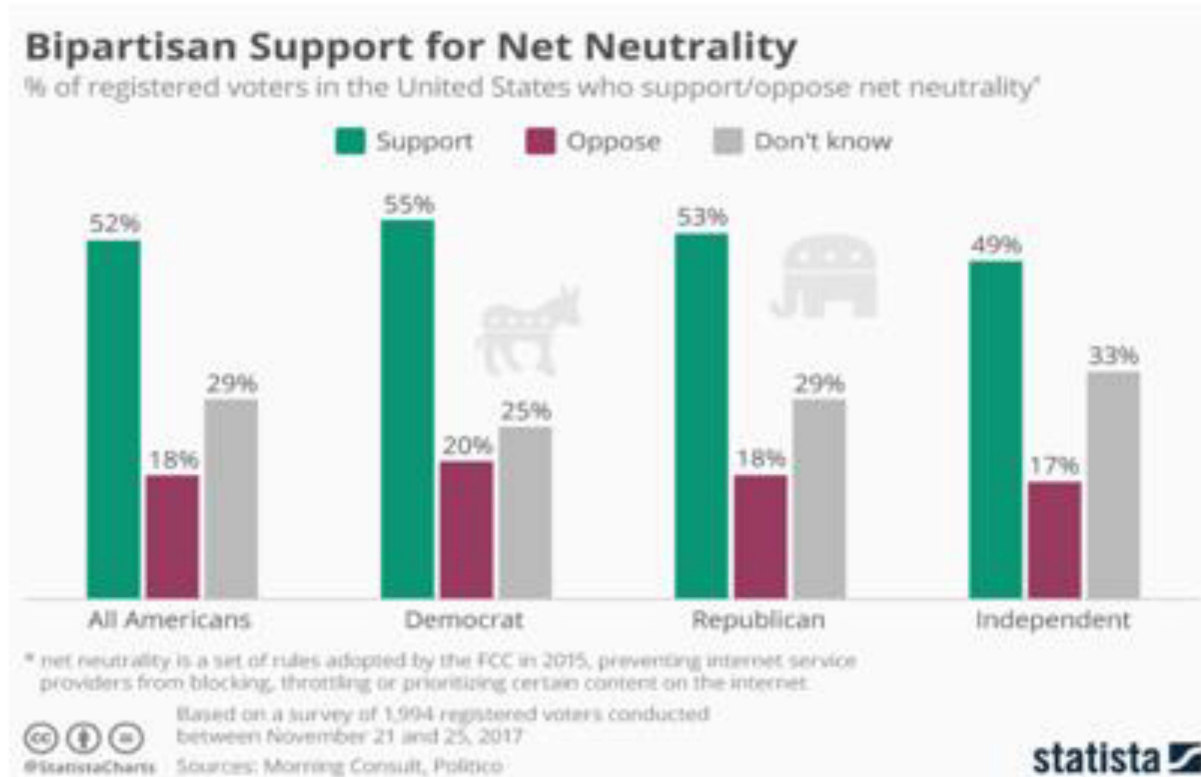
Subject Areas

Subject Area Categories

On This Page

- [» Inflation & Prices](#)
- [» Pay & Benefits](#)
- [» Employment](#)
- [» Spending & Time Use](#)
- [» Unemployment](#)
- [» Productivity](#)

Governments and intergovernmental organizations collect vast amounts of information. Many provide excellent statistical publications and web sites which meet these criteria of comprehensiveness and consistency over time.




Businesses also collect and publish statistics. The Library subscribes to a number of these resources on your behalf. Statista is one of the research tools we offer.

Find statistics



RESEARCH | GET HELP | SERVICES | NEWS & EVENTS | ABOUT | SUPPORT THE LIBRARY

Scholar OneSearch Search Help | Browse | Advanced

Search books, articles, videos, more... Library Catalogs + Articles 



There are many ways to locate statistics for your research project. To begin, look for Snell Library Research Guides in your discipline.

Political Science: Data/Statistics/Polls

- Home
- Research Basics
- Articles and News
- Data/Statistics/Polls**
- International Affairs
- GIS and Data Visualization [↗](#)
- Federal Government Information
- Country Information
- Citing, Writing, Dissertations
- Courses ▾

Key Statistical Resources

Selected Statistical Resources

- [Statista](#)
Covers a broad range of topics and, as such, is an excellent first place to look for statistics. Provides infographics, charts, and statistical reports.
- [Statistical Yearbook of the United Nations](#)
- [Eurostat \(European Commission\)](#)
- [Statistical Abstract of the United States](#)
Continues the Census Bureau's invaluable annual compendium which ceased publication in 2012. Editions available for 2013 to present.

Many of these Guides provide a Statistics and Data tab; this example shows the Data and Statistics resources on the Political Science Guide. For further assistance you may contact the subject librarian identified on the Guide.

Look for guides to statistical sources

Appendix I

Guide to Sources of Statistics, State Statistical Abstracts, and Foreign Statistical Abstracts

Alphabetically arranged, this guide contains references to important primary sources of statistical information for the United States and other countries. Secondary sources have been included if the information contained in them is presented in a particularly convenient form or if primary sources are not readily available. Nonrecurrent publications presenting compilations or estimates for years later than 2005, or types of data not available in regular series, are also included. Data are also available in press releases.

Valuable information may also be found in state reports and foreign statistical abstracts, which are

included at the end of this appendix, and in reports for particular commodities, industries, or similar segments of our economic and social structures, many of which are not included here.

Publications listed under each subject are divided into two main groups: "U.S. Government" and "Nongovernment." The location of the publisher of each report is given except for federal agencies located in Washington, DC. Most federal publications may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC, tel. 1-866-512-1800, or at <<http://bookstore.gpo.gov>>. In some cases, federal publications may be obtained from the issuing agency.

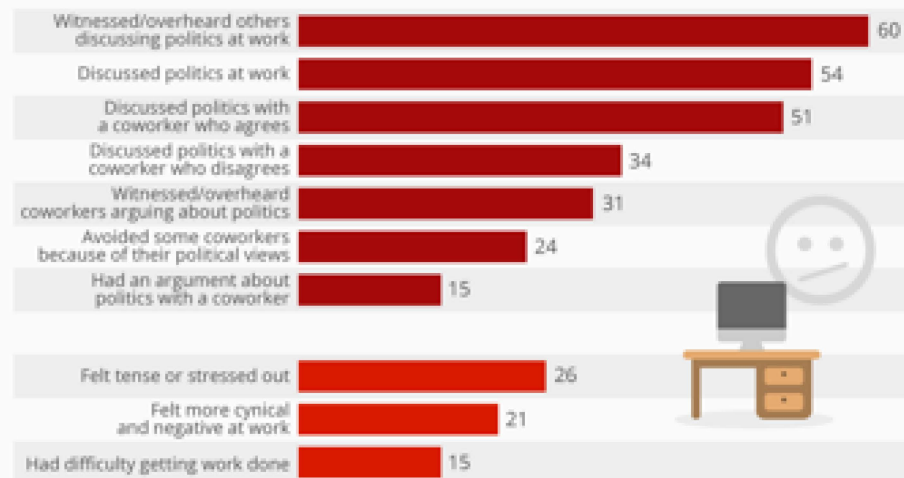
Appendix I Table: Sources of Statistics, State Statistical Abstracts, and Foreign Statistical Abstracts

Look for sources which identify statistical materials. This example from the Statistical Abstract of the United States lists statistical guides compiled by the U.S. government, individual state governments, and foreign countries.

Look for statistical infographics

Political Tension By The Water Cooler

% of U.S. workers who have experienced the following since the 2016 election



© ⓘ ⓘ n=1,311
@StatistaCharts Source: American Psychological Association

statista

Statista – Information from the American Psychological Association

Look for statistical infographics. Infographics provide a quick topic overview and can help a reader understand more about your research. Also, infographics can help you identify sources for further statistical information.

The American Psychological Association provided this material on political tension in the workplace.

PewResearchCenter

NUMBERS, FACTS AND TRENDS SHAPING THE WORLD

Political Polarization & Media Habits

*From Fox News to Facebook, How
Liberals and Conservatives Keep Up
with Politics*

Research publications often provide statistics. Find an article or report related to your research topic and scan the text for relevant statistics. Check the citation for the statistical source used by the authors; you can track down this source and find additional statistics of interest.

Look in scholarly articles

The screenshot shows the EBSCOhost search interface. At the top left is the EBSCOhost logo. The search bar contains the text 'political polarization'. To the right of the search bar is a dropdown menu labeled 'Select a Field (option...)' and two buttons: 'Search' and 'Clear'. Below the search bar, there are three rows of search filters. The first row has a dropdown menu with 'AND' selected, followed by a text input field containing 'statistics' (highlighted with a yellow box), and another dropdown menu labeled 'Select a Field (option...)'.

Searching: [Specific Databases, Show all](#) | [Choose Databases by Subject](#)

political polarization Select a Field (option... Search Clear ?

AND statistics Select a Field (option... + -

[Basic Search](#) [Advanced Search](#) [Search History](#)

Scholarly articles often contain statistics.

In this library database search for materials on political polarization, we've added the term statistics to find scholarly articles with statistical content.

Pulling Closer and Moving Apart: Interaction, Identity, and Influence in the U.S. Senate, 1973 to 2009

American Sociological Review
2015, Vol. 80(1) 192-217
© American Sociological
Association 2015
DOI: 10.1177/0003122414564182
<http://asr.sagepub.com>



Liu and Srivastava 203

Table 1. Descriptive Statistics

	Mean	SD	Min.	Max.
Panel A: Senator Characteristics (N = 276) ^a				
Female	.043	.204	0	1
Democrat	.486	.501	0	1
Republican	.504	.501	0	1
First Congress	96.82	7.576	77	109
Last Congress	104.3	6.839	94	112
Tenure (in Congresses)	2.547	3.210	1	18
Voting behavior index	.012	.383	-.700	.992

This American Sociological Review article on political relationships in the U.S. Senate contains statistics as shown in the example. The article's bibliography may also provide additional references to statistical materials.

Look for significant date ranges

Table 430. Participation in Elections for President and U.S. Representatives: 1934 to 2016

[77,997 represents 77,997,000. As of November, except as noted. Estimated resident population 21 years old and over, 1934-70, except as noted, and 18 years old and over thereafter; includes Armed Forces stationed in the U.S. Prior to 1958, excludes Alaska and prior to 1960, excludes Hawaii. District of Columbia is included in votes cast for President beginning 1964]

Year	Resident population (includes aliens) of voting age ¹ (1,000)	Votes cast			
		For President (1,000)	Percent of voting-age population	For U.S. Representatives (1,000)	Percent of voting-age population
1934.....	77,997	(X)	(X)	32,804	42.1
1936.....	80,174	45,647	56.9	(NA)	(NA)
1938.....	82,354	(X)	(X)	(NA)	(NA)
1940.....	84,728	49,815	58.8	(NA)	(NA)
1942.....	86,455	(X)	(X)	28,074	32.5
1944.....	85,654	48,026	56.1	45,110	52.7
1946.....	92,659	(X)	(X)	34,410	37.1
1948.....	95,573	48,834	51.1	46,220	48.4
1950.....	98,134	(X)	(X)	40,430	41.2
1952.....	99,929	61,552	61.6	57,571	57.6
1954.....	102,075	(X)	(X)	42,583	41.7
1956.....	104,515	62,027	59.3	58,886	56.3
1958.....	106,447	(X)	(X)	45,719	43.0
1960.....	109,672	68,836	62.8	64,124	58.5
1962.....	112,952	(X)	(X)	51,242	45.4
1964.....	114,090	70,096	61.4	65,879	57.7
1966.....	116,638	(X)	(X)	52,902	45.4
1968.....	120,265	73,027	60.7	66,109	55.0

To compare voter participation in U.S. Presidential elections at 10-year intervals, it's important to find a reliable source that reports this information consistently over time. This table from the Statistical Abstract covers the years from 1934 to 2016.

Look for statistics with related publications

Table 3. Reported Voting and Registration, by Sex and Single Years of Age: November 2014
(In thousands)

Region	Division	Age	Total Population	Total Citizen Population
United States			239,874	219,941
Northeast	Total	Total 18 years and over	43,499	39,712
		18 to 24 years	5,146	4,692
		25 to 44 years	14,349	12,342
		45 to 64 years	15,299	14,262
		65 to 74 years	4,945	4,737
		75 years and over	3,759	3,679

Who Votes? Congressional Elections and the American Electorate: 1978–2014

Population Characteristics

By Thom File
Issued July 2015
P20-577

Context is critical. To understand what the numbers are telling you, it's helpful to look at related publications which provide interpretation and analysis.



$$(a+b)^2 = a^2 + b^2 + 2ab$$

ASK A LIBRARIAN

library.northeastern.edu/ask