



FEDERAL RESERVE BANK *of* ST. LOUIS
CENTRAL TO AMERICA'S ECONOMY®

FRED & Friends: An Overview

December 2018

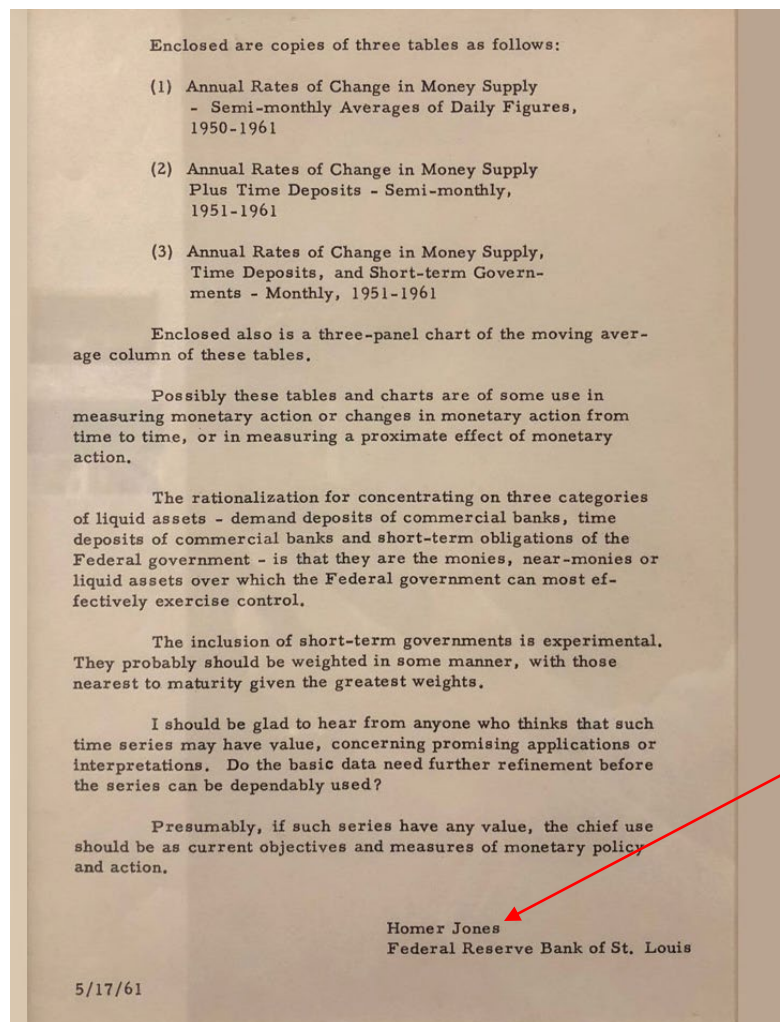
Katrina Stierholz, Vice President

The FRED story

- Origins go back to the 1960s
- A unique mission within the Fed
- An important public service

Solves a problem: People need data, but data are scattered. FRED brings the data together to show our users the big picture as well as the details.

The first data publication...



FRED improvements over time

- 1991 FRED begins as an electronic bulletin board

42 series

- 1996 FRED hits the web!

403 series

- 2002 FRED gets modern 

800+ series

- Siblings!

2004 FRASER

2006 ALFRED

2007 GeoFRED

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers: All Items

[View Data](#) | [Download Data](#)

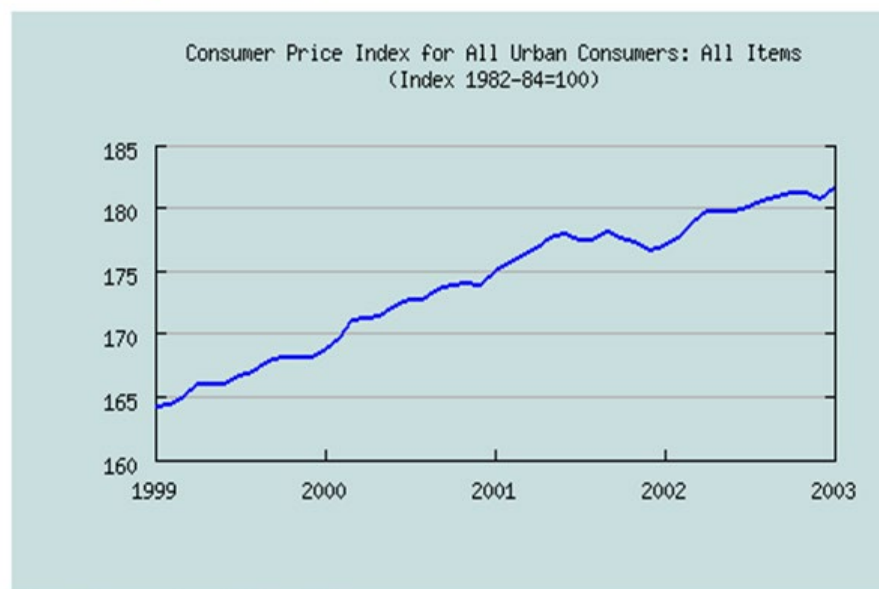


Chart Range: 5yrs | [10yrs](#) | [Max](#)

FRED Ecosystem

- FRED: the basis for all other products
 - Free tool for finding, graphing, downloading, and *understanding* economic and social science data.
 - 500,000 series; 87 sources
- ALFRED: provides access to historic versions of data (economic data are regularly revised)



- GEOFRED: map FRED data



- FRASER: digital library of U.S. economic history, particularly the history of the Federal Reserve System



Strengths

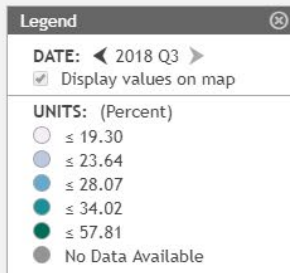
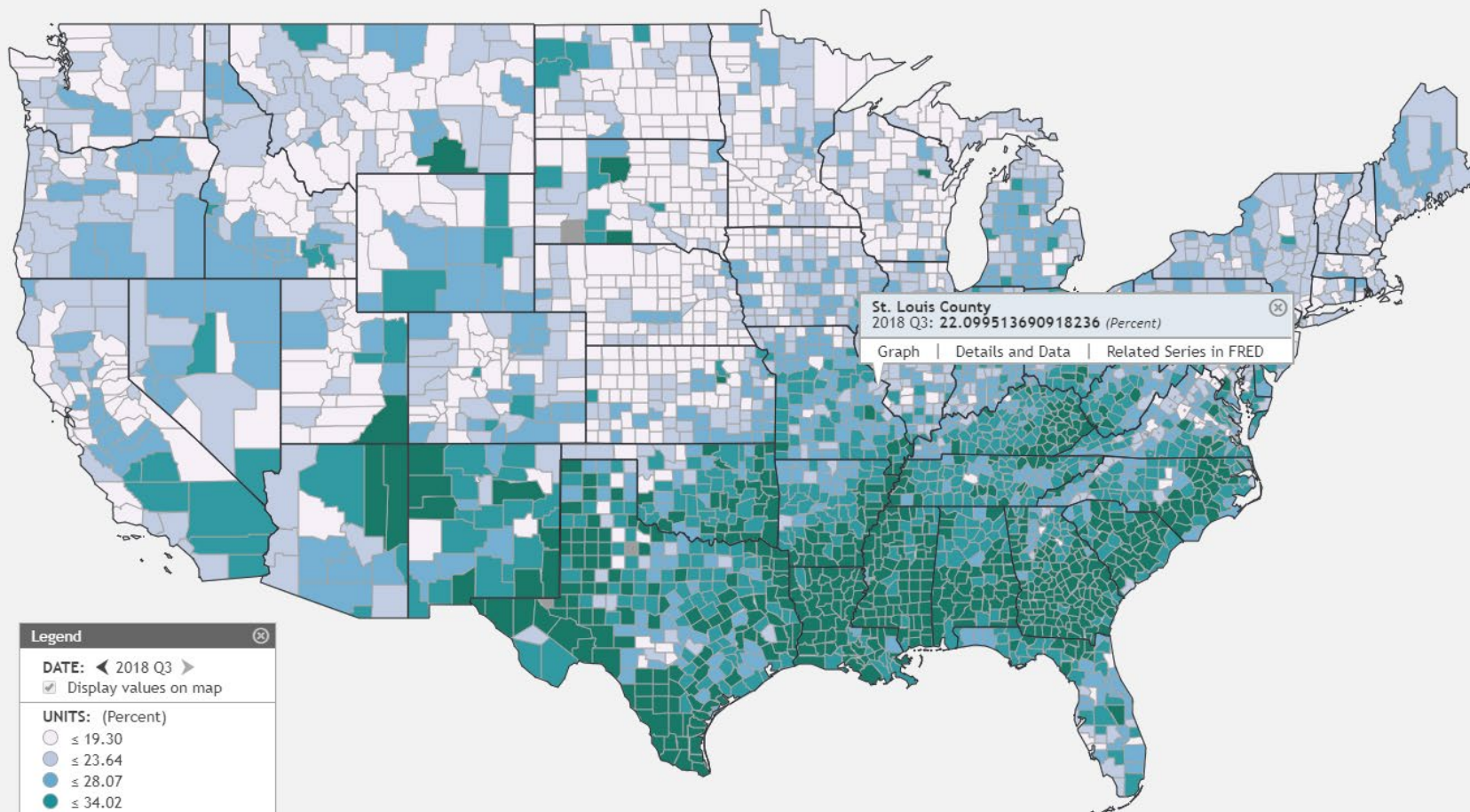
- Credible tool used by credible sources (textbooks, journalists, educators, researchers)
- Single platform for data from many places: “One tool for a universe of data”
- Agile development: quickly adjust to new information, clear priorities
- FRED is unique: no other Federal Reserve Bank or government agency provides this service. And it is **FREE!!!**
- FRED is **THE** international brand of the FRB St Louis.

The most popular series on FRED



2018 Q3 Equifax Subprime Credit Population by County (percent)

 Tools 



ALFRED Graph

DOWNLOAD

1Y | 5Y | 10Y | Max

2008-09-01

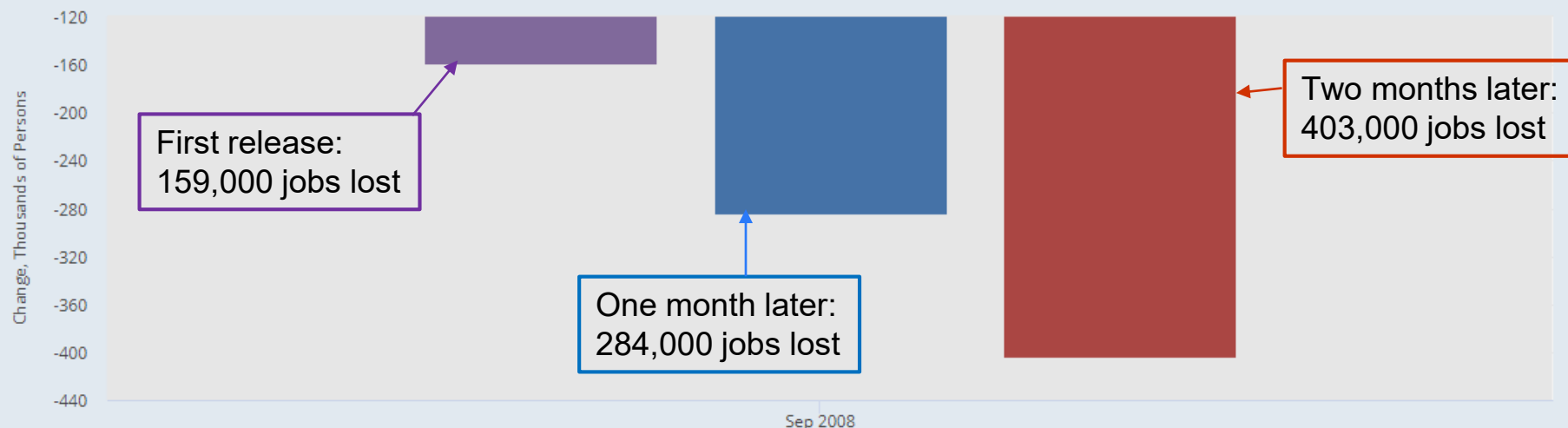
to

2008-09-01


EDIT GRAPH

ALFRED

- All Employees: Total Nonfarm Payrolls Vintage: 2008-10-03
- All Employees: Total Nonfarm Payrolls Vintage: 2008-11-07
- All Employees: Total Nonfarm Payrolls Vintage: 2008-12-05



FRED ecosystem support

- FRED supporting products
 - User Accounts (save graphs, create dashboards)
 - FREDcast (forecasting game) 
 - FRED interactives online lessons
- FRED and Economic Education work together
 - Outreach to university professors for FREDcast
 - Data literacy efforts (librarians and teachers)
 - Integration of FRED into economic education lessons

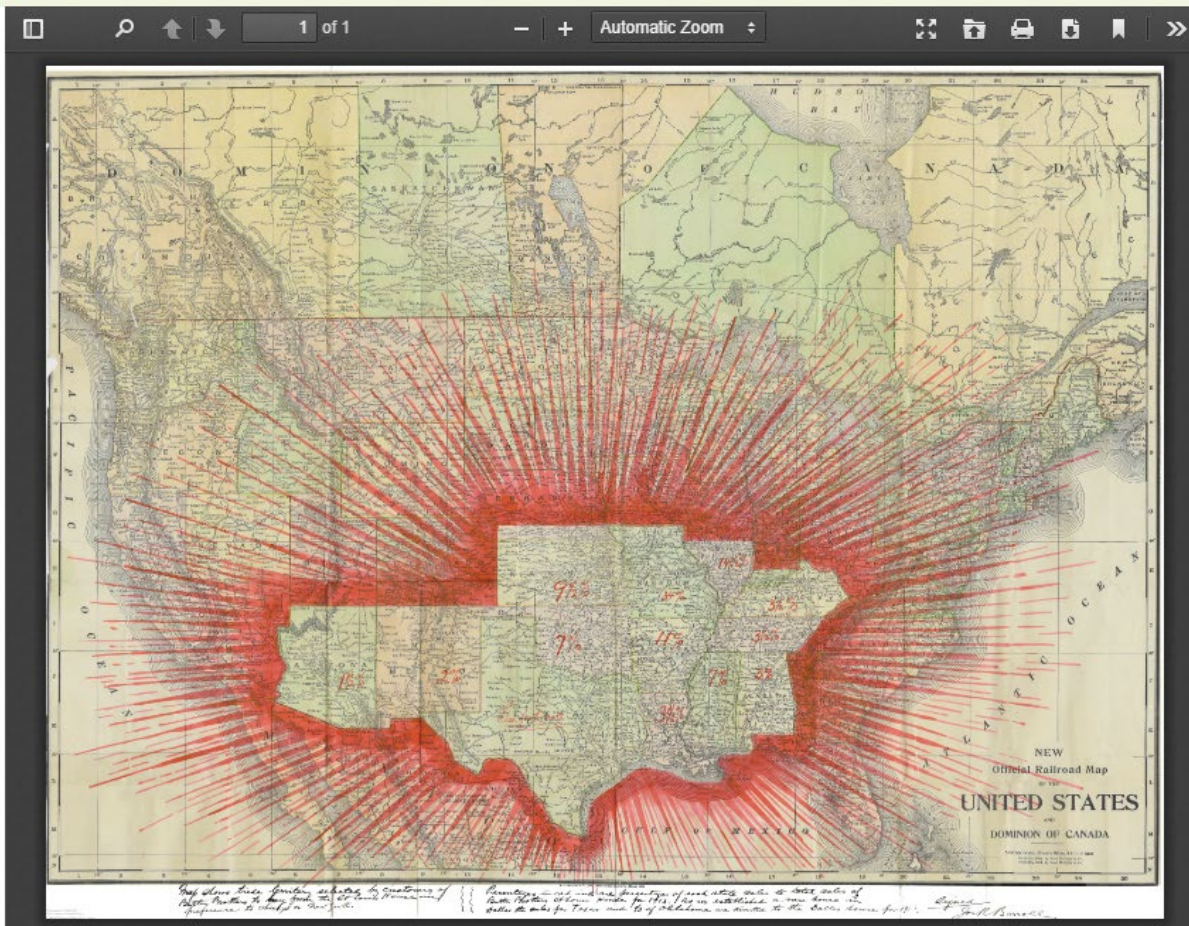
FRASER: digital library of U.S. economic, financial, and banking history

- Aggregates historical material from the Federal Reserve System and related agencies (Treasury, BLS, BEA, FDIC, OCC)
- Many types of materials:
 - Publications, policy documents, speeches, and data
 - Personal papers of Fed leaders
 - Historical records from government agencies (Fed, FDIC, Bureau of Negro Economics)
- Strong and important partnerships inside and outside the Fed

TITLE:

« PREVIOUS | NEXT »

#89 - Maps - St. Louis, MO [Map of the United States Showing Sales Reach of the Butler Brothers Company of St. Louis], Box 2665, Folder 4



#89 - Maps - St. Louis, MO [Map of the United States Showing Sales Reach of the Butler Brothers Company of St. Louis], Box 2665, Folder 4

DATE: 1913

PART OF:

- Records of the Federal Reserve System, Record Group 82
- [Reserve Bank Organization Committee] General Records, 1913-1914

AUTHOR:

- United States Reserve Bank Organization Committee

[Download \(PDF\)](#)

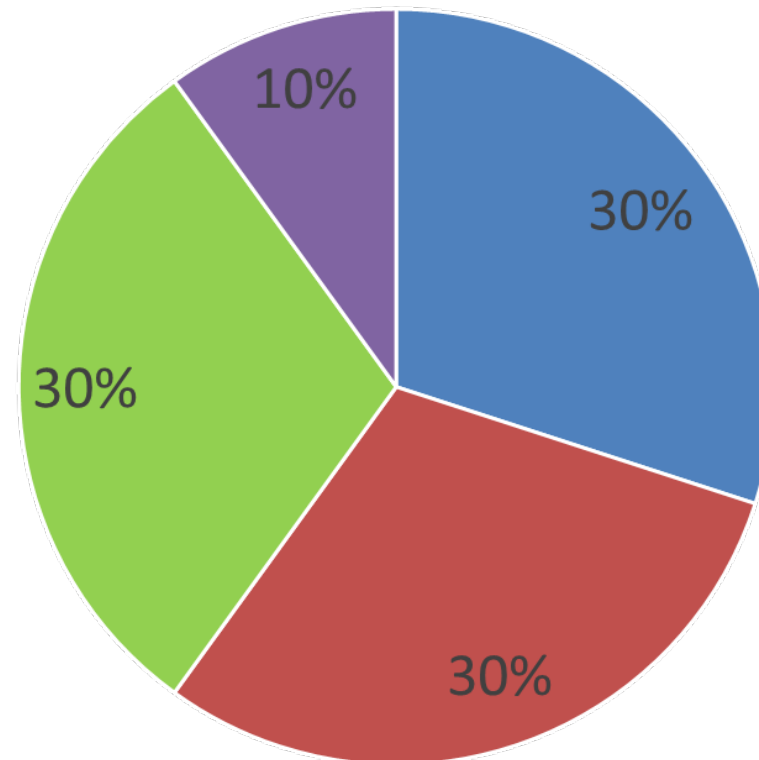
Who uses FRED?

■ Educators and students

■ Researchers

■ Business professionals

■ Journalists, retired economists, and data geeks



FRED usage & promotion

- On track to have over 12M sessions this year (compared to 1.4M in 2010)
 - This excludes the FRED API and apps
 - Usage has grown over 35% this year; strong user growth historically.
 -
- FRED is used in textbooks, by journalists, on Twitter, by financial analysts, and in classrooms.
- FRED is promoted through our educational outreach (FREDcast & FRED interactives) and our FRED newsletters

Recent FRED Accomplishments

- U.S. Census partnership (see next slide)
- Updated apps (and a new app for FREDcast)
- FREDcast “braggin’ rights” game between Mizzou and Univ. of Illinois
- Google sign-in option when creating user accounts
- Data literacy work:
 - FRED interactives
 - Data literacy lessons featuring FRED through Econ Ed

Census Blogs

Categories ▾

Archives ▾

Search this blog 🔍

Director's Blog: Making our Statistics Accessible, Anywhere, Anytime

Tue Apr 10 2018

WRITTEN BY: DR. RON JARMIN, PERFORMING THE NON-EXCLUSIVE FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

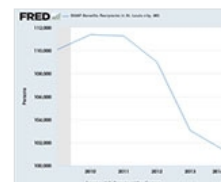
SUBSCRIBE



The U.S. Census Bureau is proud to announce a new collaboration with the [Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis](#) and their mobile application, FRED – making it easier for data users to access our statistics anytime and on any device. Web applications, which present information in visually appealing and interactive ways, are a great way to serve the needs of many customers. Web and mobile apps not only allow users to find the data they are looking for, but it is presented in a format specifically designed for

users to read and understand.

In the spirit of smarter government, we are collaborating with the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis to ensure data for the [Economic Indicators](#) are available via the FRED mobile app. There, an interested person can find and use our data from the Economic Indicators just as they did with the America's Economy app. And, the data can be linked back to the Census Bureau – either by using the tables we publish or by pulling data from the Census Bureau's [Application Program Interface \(API\)](#).



FRASER accomplishments

- Research use increasing (e.g., text mining of speeches)
- High growth in users (45% growth y/y)
- Over 1 million page views in 2018
- Improved search
- New partnerships:
 - Jimmy Carter Library (G. William Miller's papers)
 - Treasury Department (Historic press releases and press conferences)
 - FDIC (Chairmen, research directors, and general counsel speeches)

What's Next?

- More support for educators using FRED & FRASER
 - Each educator reaches hundreds of students
 - Continued data literacy efforts
- Improved user experience
 - Search improvements
 - Metadata changes (also improve search and display)
 - Visibility for the Release tables
- GeoFRED upgrade