**Data Access Example**
**Bureau of Labor Statistics**


The target is state annual unemployment rates over years

1. **Web Site:** http://www.bls.gov/data

   Click on the Unemployment Link

2. **Under Unemployment**

   **There are tutorials you can watch**

   In the Local Area Unemployment Statistics Row
   Click the One-Screen Data-Search Button


   In the new window near at the top
   Click the View State(s) by area type button
   Select how you want to view the data
   Click the View States button

   There are five areas below with red numbers
   1. Select Statewide
   2. Click at the top, scroll to the bottom, use shift click to select all but Puerto Rico
   3. Click on Alabama at the top, scroll to the bottom, and use shift click to get all states
   4. Uncheck Seasonally Adjusted
        We are getting annual data
        Seasonally adjustment is often helpful when studying monthly data
        In unusual times looking at both unadjusted and adjusted values has merit
   5. Select Get Data


3. **In the new Databases view** near the top right, click on More Formatting Options

        In top Select view of the data gray box on the top left
            The Table Format selected, leave as is

        In light blue box on the right top
            Select the Specify year range button:
                Select the earliest year in the From: box  (1976)

Below this
    Change the All Time Periods button to Select one time period:
    Select Annual Data below if it is not already selected.

In the Output Type gray box
    Select text
    The comma delimited option is fine for reading in R

Click on Retrieve Data light gray bar below on the left


## 3.  Capture this in a File

Select the data by copy, paste the data into a file.

Clicking just left of the Series Id:  line.
Scroll to the near the bottom of the data
Use shift click to select all of the data
Right mouse and choose copy.
Past into a file with an appropriate name.

This data with the number in the labor force and number unemployed allows computation of the rates.  The rate is reported in the file is rounded to 1 decimal place.

The US rates, reported to 1 decimal place, can be retrieved as indicated on page below.   As far as I can tell,  the data base does not provide national rates with more digits.   My preference is to compute the national rate from the states and Washington DC.  Labor force and unemployment numbers.  There may be a discrepancy if National rate is computed some other way.  For example Puerto Rico might be included or a different methodology used.

*Note:*   The annual rate can be slow to appear,
        To be as current as possible we might consider
        using the monthly average current for the partial year

**4.  For the US rates**

Under Unemployment
    In the Labor Force Statistics including the National Unemployment Rate row
    Select One Screen

The process is similar to that above expect the selection part below is a longer.
The defaults are correct except for the items 7-9 which should be set as indicate in red before getting the data via item 10.

Boxes with Red Numbers
1.  Both Sexes
2.  All races
3.  All origins
4.  16 years and over
5.  All education levels  (only option)
6.  All marital statuses
**7.  Select Unemployment rate**
**8.  Uncheck Not Seasonally Adjusted**
**9.  Monthly**
**10. Get data**

**In the next view**
       In top Select view of the data gray box on the top left
         The Table Format selected, leave as is

       In light blue box on the right top
         Select the Specify year range button:
           Select the earliest year in the From: box  (1976)

      Below this
        Change the All Time Periods button to Select one time period:
        Select Annual Data

      In the Output Type gray box
        Select text
        The comma delimited option is fine for reading in R

      Click on Retrieve Data light gray bar below on the left


Copy to include in a file.