Secondary Data Analysis

Utilizing at least four different on-line or print secondary data sources, prepare a three-page, suitably formatted memo that describes the economy of Story County, Iowa.

Your memo should include such topics as labor force, commuting patterns, unemployment, average worker earning levels or wage rates, income, occupations, and major employers or industries. Analyze multiple years of data where trends are useful to help describe the economy. A brief summary of the characteristics of the county’s population or recent population change might also be appropriate.

You may include a few tables, charts, or other graphics to help illustrate your memo, but limit them to no more than 4.

The audience for the memo is the Board of the Story County Economic Development Commission. Be sure to cite your data sources. When you cite data sources, indicate the name of the agency from which the data were obtained, not the web site address.

Please hand in a printed copy.

Below are a list of web sites that might be helpful to you. Remember, you are looking for data about Story County, Iowa.

- [www.seta.iastate.edu](http://www.seta.iastate.edu) - an ISU gateway site to many statistics that will be useful for this research.
- [www.iowadatacenter.org](http://www.iowadatacenter.org) – the state of Iowa’s official government data web site.
- [www.iowaworkforce.org](http://www.iowaworkforce.org) – the Iowa Department of Workforce Development – go to “Online Services” and select “Labor Market Information” or some other topic that might interest you.
- [http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html](http://factfinder.census.gov/home/saff/main.html) -- American Factfinder. This site gives information from the past two censuses, plus information from the new American Communities Survey.
- [http://censtats.census.gov/cgi-bin/cbpnaic/cbpsel.pl](http://censtats.census.gov/cgi-bin/cbpnaic/cbpsel.pl) -- County Business Patterns.

From the American Factfinder site above, or from this address you can find out about the industrial structure like employees, establishments (number of business firms), etc., for industries in Story County or any other county in the U.S.

You will be graded on the overall memo, your effective use and interpretation of the secondary data, your clarity of language, the organization of the memo, and the scope of research and effort that are evident in your work.