

Some useful websites

- Bureau of Labor Statistics. Includes unemployment, payroll numbers. You can set parameters to find jobs lost or created over time.
<http://www.bls.gov/>
- U.S. Census Bureau. Population, but also things like people who have (or lack) health coverage. <http://www.census.gov/>
- OECD. Probably the easiest to navigate for all sorts of international comparisons, from life expectancy to GDP, as long as you need to compare developed countries.
http://www.oecd.org/statsportal/0,3352,en_2825_293564_1_1_1_1_1,00.html
- For developing countries too, you can try the UN, or affiliates like the World Health Organization. <http://www.who.int/research/en/>
- CIA World Factbook has similar data.
<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>
- Secretary of the Senate. U.S. Senate votes.
http://www.senate.gov/pagelayout/legislative/g_three_sections_with_teasers/legislative_home.htm
- Clerk of the House. U.S. House votes.
<http://clerk.house.gov/legislative/legvotes.html>
- Govtrack.us – can be an easier-to-navigate than CQ for votes, and is more customizable (such as all votes by a lawmaker) than the House or Senate sites.
- Gallup. They have good, long term data on presidential approval ratings. <http://www.gallup.com/poll/116677/presidential-approval-ratings-gallup-historical-statistics-trends.aspx>
- Oyez. Supreme Court rulings. <http://www.oyez.org/>
- Kaiser Family Foundation health care poll database. Good searchability for various kinds of questions.
- Kaiser Family Foundation summary of the new health care law.
<http://www.kff.org/kaiserpolls/healthpoll.cfm>

- Whitehouse.gov. Searchable archive of transcripts of presidential speeches, press releases, press briefings.
- President's Budget for Fiscal Year 20XX. There are some great historical tables, including federal spending, federal deficits, federal debt, as a percentage of GDP, etc.
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/Historicals/>
- Cabinet department budget sites. Search for the relevant department and "fiscal 20XX budget." Depending on the time of year, it's just a proposal rather than a final number, but the program-by-program detail is often very good.
- Congress.gov. It's the most reliable source for things like cosponsors of bills, bill status, bill summary. <http://thomas.loc.gov/>
- Congressional Record. If you know the date of a floor speech, it's the primary source of record.
<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/crecord/index.html>
- Congressional biographies. Google the lawmaker's name and "bioguide" and you should be able to get a thumbnail bio for anyone who's served in Congress.
- Legistorm. Search for salary info for Congressional staffers.
<http://www.legistorm.com/> (limited number of searches without a subscription)
- Politics1.com. Listings of candidates for federal and statewide offices in the current campaign cycle, state by state.
- Secretary of State websites. Election results in each state. Sometimes might have to look under Board of Elections.
- YouTube. For campaign ads, search for candidate name/opponent name/"campaign ad" or "television ad"
- Bureau of Justice Statistics. All kinds of data on crimes committed, prosecutions and sentencing. <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/>
- Amazon.com. Search for a topic and find books that are relevant; then Google the author and see if you can find their contact info.
- PolitiFact.com Use our stories and sources (but give us credit!)