



Student worksheet 1: General guidelines for analysing statistical data

Statistical analysis involves collecting, organizing and interpreting numerical facts or data. Governments, businesses and even individuals use statistical analysis to keep track of how well they are doing in various endeavours.

When looking at data, keep these questions in mind:

1. What do the data measure?
2. How is the information being measured?
3. What time periods are involved?
4. How are the data organized to meet certain objectives?
5. What trends, changes or unexpected findings can you identify by examining the data? Speculate about reasons for such changes or trends.
6. What relationships can you see between different variables? For example, is there a direct relationship between changes in wages and changes in productivity over certain periods? If so, what is the relationship?
7. What conclusions, inferences or assumptions can you make from your analyses?