

Handout for February 2020 Newsletter Mapping Labor Markets in GeoFRED®

Purpose.

1. Create country-level geographical maps of the employment-to-population ratios.
2. Edit the maps by modifying its dates, legend, and colors.
3. Interpret the economic information displayed in the maps.

Pedagogical Rationale. This assignment requires that you first search for data online, select a particular series, and display it in the form of a geographical map. Next, you will edit the format of the map. Lastly, you will interpret the economic information displayed in the map. These tasks will develop your proficiency in searching for, transforming, and interpreting data.

Grading. Your grade will be determined by (a) how precisely you complete the search and transformation data tasks and (b) how accurately you interpret the data.

Steps to Search for and Transform the Data.

1. Access <https://geofred.stlouisfed.org> and click on “Build New Map.”
2. Click on “Data:” and select “Employment to Population Ratio” and “Not Seasonally Adjusted, Annual, Percent.”
3. Select “1997” as the date.
4. Click on “EDIT LEGEND” and select from “Number of Color Classes” the option “2” and from “Interval method” the option “User Defined.”
5. Define the maximum interval values by typing the following values in each interval box:
 - 50
 - 86.79
6. Click on “CHOOSE COLORS” and select from “Multi Hue,” the right-most color scheme from the second row (tagged “ylorrd”).
7. Click on “SAVE & SHARE,” and copy the “Link” <http://geof.red/m/iqQ>
8. Open a new browser tab.
9. Paste the “Link” <http://geof.red/m/iqQ>
10. Click on “Data:” and select “2017” as the date.

Discussion Prompts. Answer the following questions:

1. Name five countries in Western Europe with employment-to-population ratios below 50% in 1997.
2. Compare the first map you created with the second map you created. Name two Western European countries whose employment-to-population ratios have risen above 50% between 1997 and 2017. Explain how a rising employment-to-population ratio would impact the average standard of living in those countries.
3. Consider the case of Japan, where retirees make up a large fraction of the population: In 1997 its employment-to-population ratio was 62%, and in 2017 its employment-to-population ratio was 59%. Explain how a falling employment-to-population ratio would impact the average standard of living in Japan.