Eight times per year, the Federal Reserve issues the Beige Book. The publication offers a snapshot of business conditions in each of the Fed’s 12 regional Reserve Bank Districts. Students will participate in this project-based learning activity to collect economic information and write their own report.

Beige Book in the Classroom Lesson

This lesson will introduce students to the Federal Reserve’s Beige Book and explain to them how the report reflects economic conditions as perceived by local businesses and other contacts. Student groups will survey their community’s businesses within their assigned economic sector, analyze their survey results, and develop their own Beige Book showing the economic conditions of their area.

Beige Book in the Classroom Handouts

- Handout 3: Sector Survey Format
- Handout 5: Mock Data

If students do not receive a strong response in a particular sector, the mock data may be used. Some of the data are completed surveys, while others are memos or emails that students need to decipher to complete the information for the survey. The mock data is based on real data that has been received to fill in gaps with few responses so that students have meaningful data.

Beige Book and Federal Reserve Classroom Resources

- Determine which Federal Reserve District you are in.
- The Fed Explains: The Central Bank
Beige Book in the Classroom

Media

Creating a Beige Book Survey
https://youtu.be/TJRE3sVl19w

Creating a Diffusion Index
https://youtu.be/xvs89DYtjIM