

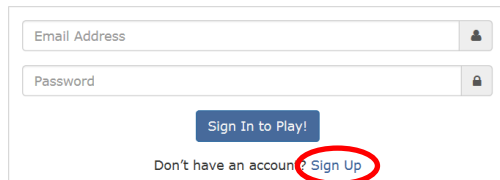
# Indy user FREDcast - Quick Start Guide

## Signing up for a FRED account

To register for FREDcast and join the Indy user league you must first have a FRED account this also allows you to save data sets, graphs, and analytical presets in your profile.

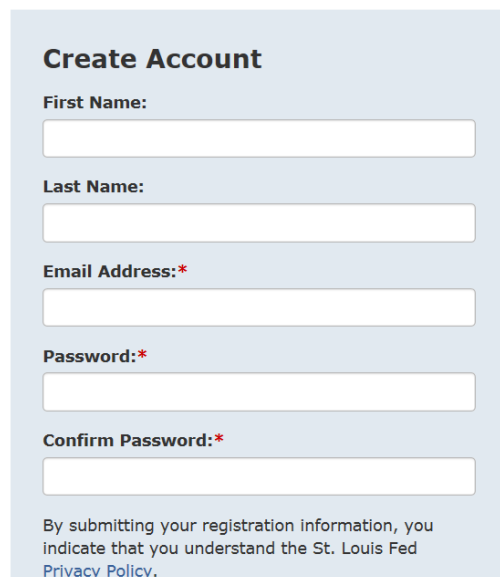
To start follow the below link and at the sign in box select “Sign Up”

<https://research.stlouisfed.org/useraccount/fredcast/>



The image shows a sign-in box with two input fields: "Email Address" and "Password". Below these fields is a blue button labeled "Sign In to Play!". At the bottom of the box, there is a link that says "Don't have an account? Sign Up". The "Sign Up" text is circled in red.

Next fill out the “Create Account” box and receive the confirmation that your account has been created.



The image shows a "Create Account" form. It has five input fields: "First Name:", "Last Name:", "Email Address:\*", "Password:\*", and "Confirm Password:\*". Below the fields is a paragraph of text: "By submitting your registration information, you indicate that you understand the St. Louis Fed Privacy Policy." The "Privacy Policy" is a link.

**Already have an account?**

[Sign In](#)

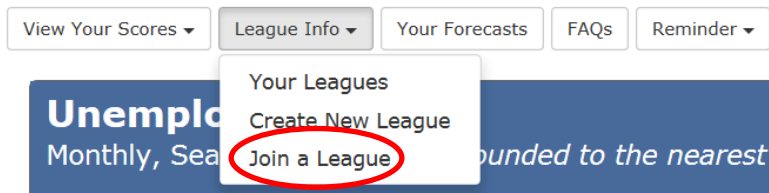
### Why Register?

- Subscribe to email updates for economic data series.
- Create personalized lists of economic data series.
- Save customized graphs and maps for later use.
- Build and share personalized dashboards with series that interest you.
- Access the FRED API to integrate data with your favorite software packages.
- Play FREDcast™

[Learn more about user accounts](#)

## Join the league

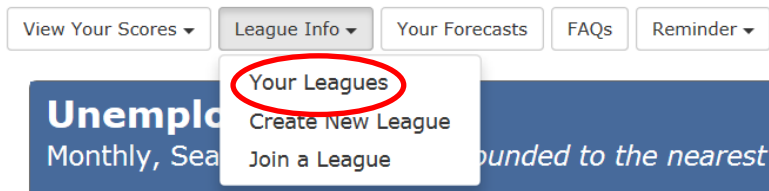
To join the Indy user league log into the FREDcast homepage and select the dropdown on “League Info” and then select “Join a League”.



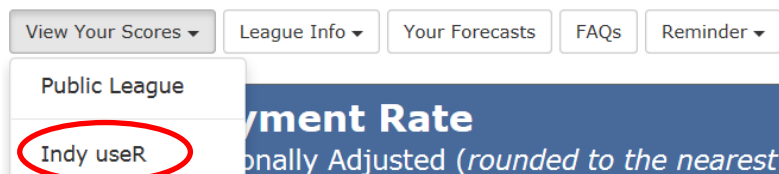
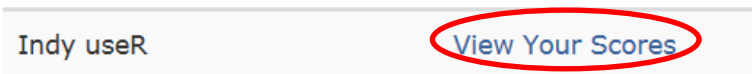
In the next screen enter **DRLHNA21** into the invite code and join the league.

The image shows a form titled 'Join a League'. It has a section 'Enter your invite code' with a text input field containing 'DRLHNA21'. Below the input field is a blue button labeled 'Find League', which is circled in red.

To view your league, you can either select the “League Info” drop down, then select “Your Leagues”; or you can select the “View Your Scores” drop down and then select the “Indy user” league.



### Your Leagues



## Basic Data Access

The four indicators being forecasted each month are Unemployment Rate, Payroll Employment, Real GDP Growth, and CPI Inflation. The respective FRED identifiers for these indicators are **UNRATE**, **PAYEMS**, **GDPCL1**, and **CPIAUCSL**. To find the data for these indicators on FRED you can simply type the identifier into the search bar at the top of the screen and select the first output in the search results. For example, if we searched for UNRATE we can then select “Civilian Unemployment Rate” in the results screen.



[All results](#)

[Next >](#)

### Civilian Unemployment Rate

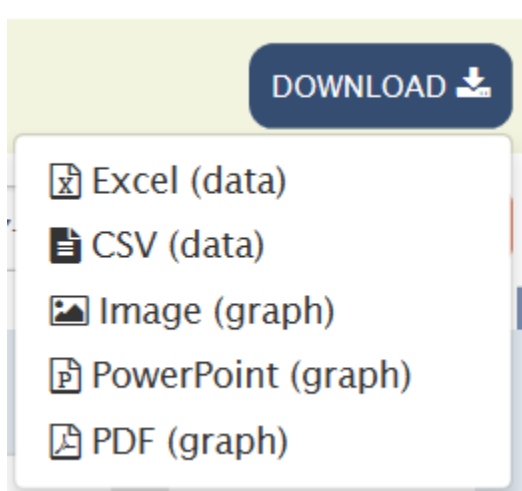
Graph and download economic data from Jan 1948 to Jan 2017 about labor underutilization, civilian, 16 years +, unemployment, labor, household survey, headline figure, rate, and USA.

[fred.stlouisfed.org/series/UNRATE](https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/UNRATE) - 137k - 2017-02-03

Within the indicator page we can adjust the dates of interest, adjust the graph, read information on the indicator, and gain access to additional reports put out by the Federal Reserve regarding this indicator.



If you wish to download the data you can simply select the “Download” dropdown, select the type of output you want and then save the file locally.



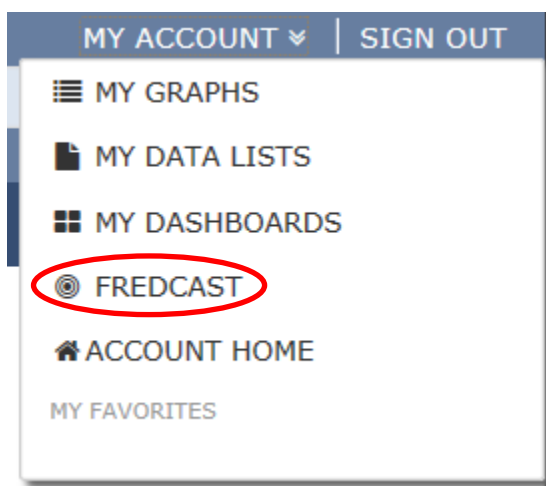
In addition, there is an API in which you can access the data from within R. Below is a link to the API documentation as well as two R packages on github that allow you to make calls to FRED.

<https://research.stlouisfed.org/docs/api/>

<https://github.com/jcizel/FredR>

<https://github.com/sboysel/fredr>

To get back to FREDcast you can select the “My Account” dropdown in the upper right corner of the screen and select FREDcast.



## Entering Your Forecast


The current month forecasts for the four indicators must be entered by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. To do this return to the FREDcast homepage. The forecast entry screen should be the default, but if not you can select the “Your Forecasts” button in the menu bar.




For each indicator input your forecast into the input box and then select “Next Series”

### Unemployment Rate


Monthly, Seasonally Adjusted (rounded to the nearest 0.1%)



The Unemployment Rate is the percentage of the labor force that is willing to work, does not have a job, and is looking for work.



Unemployment caused by changes in the weather or seasons is removed by government agencies to make the underlying trend in the data easier to observe.



For more information on unemployment, check out this podcast <https://www.stlouisfed.org/education/economic-lowdown-podcast-series/episode-5-unemployment>

The Unemployment Rate in **March 2017** will be  percent.

Release Date: April 7, 2017.

[Next Series »](#)

## Additional Information

For additional information on the website you can reference the FREDcast Manuel, select the FAQs section, or email by selecting the “Send feedback” link in the upper right corner of the website.

