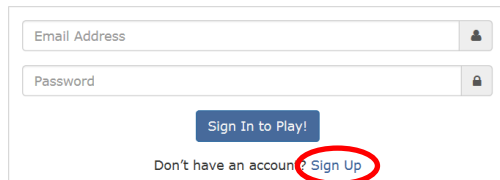# Indy useR FREDcast - Quick Start Guide

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.
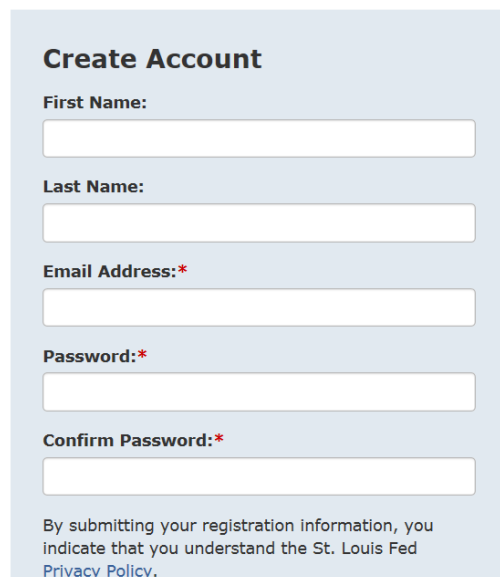
To start follow the below link and at the sign in box select "Sign Up"

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

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

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".
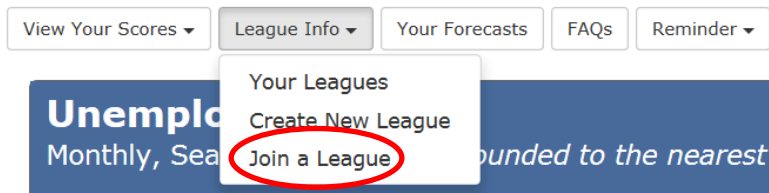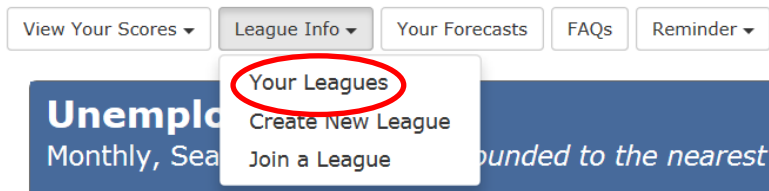

In the next screen enter **DRLHNA21** into the invite code and join the league.

To view your league, you can either select the "League Info" drop down, then select "Your Leagues", then select "View Your Scores"; or you can select the "View Your Scores" drop down and then select the "Indy useR" league.
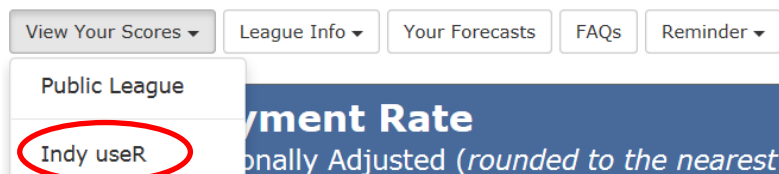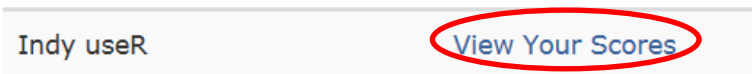
Basic Data Access

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**, **GDPC1**, 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.

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.
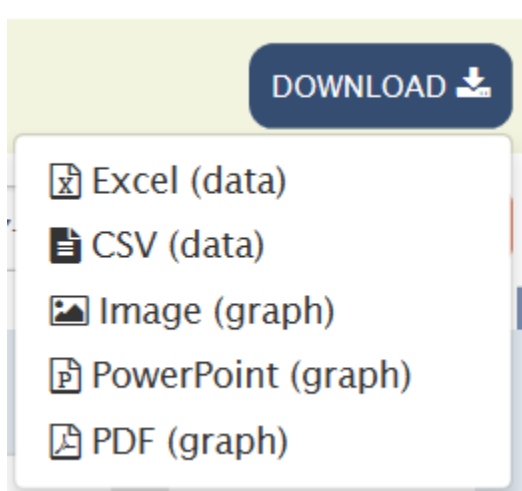

In addition, there is an API in which you can access the data from within R. Below is a link to the API documentation as well as two R packages on github that allow you to make calls to FRED.

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.
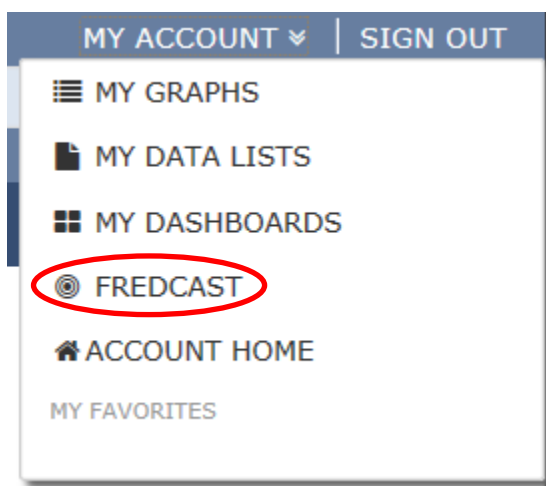
Entering Your Forecast

The current month forecasts for the four indicators must be entered by the 20th 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"

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.