

## Economic Development by the Numbers

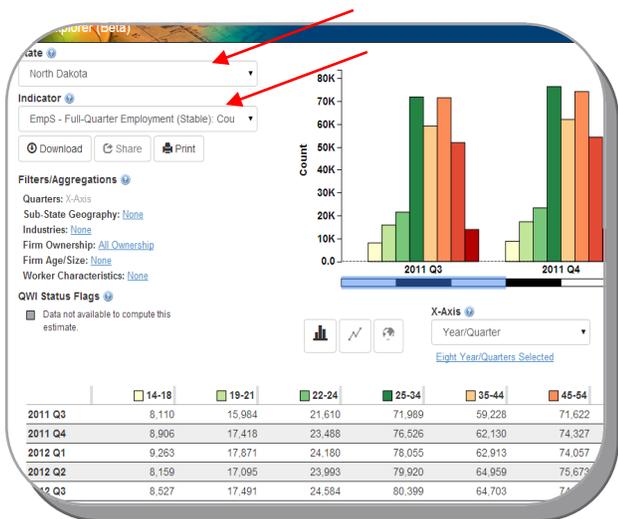
A source for data and statistical information to assist in promoting your community, county and state.

April—May

**Feature: QWI Explorer**

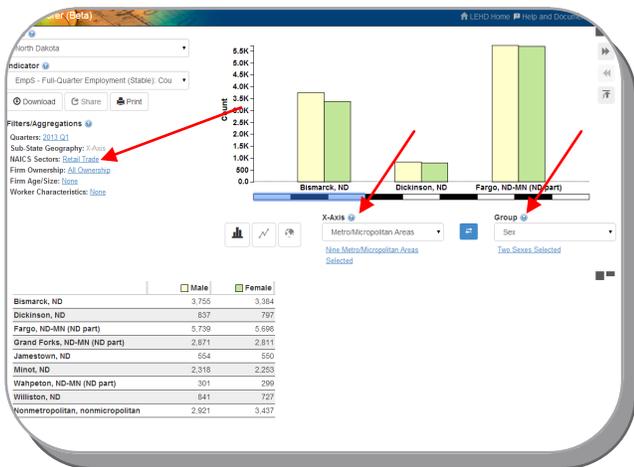
This month we'll explore the **QWI Explorer** from the Census Bureau. The **QWI Explorer** is defined by the Census Bureau as, "a web-based analysis tool that enables comprehensive access to the full depth and breadth of the **Quarterly Workforce Indicators (QWI)** dataset. Through bar charts and interactive tables (line charts and thematic maps are in development), users can compare, rank and aggregate **QWIs** across time, geography, and/or firm and worker characteristics on the fly."

Featured Web Site: <http://qwiexplorer.ces.census.gov/>

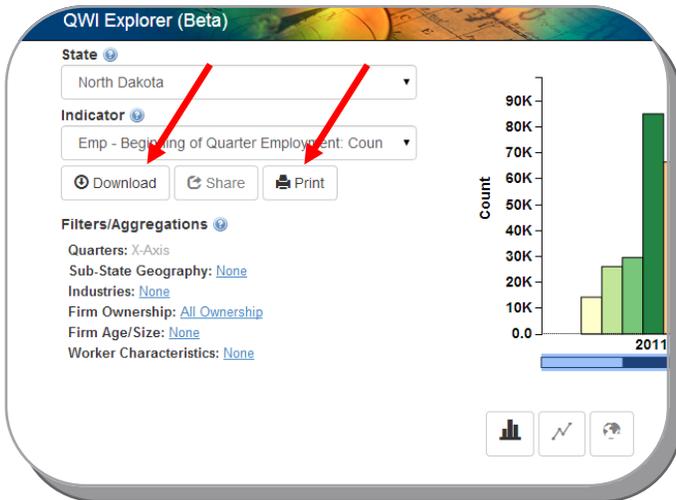


Let's begin with the QWI Explorer by navigating to the website at: <http://qwiexplorer.ces.census.gov/> This will bring you to the explorer's home page. Here you'll see there are some data selection boxes along with charts and data. Let's begin by choosing the state (**North Dakota**) and the indicator (**EmpS– Full-Quarter Employment**). (See image to left.) This will display all of the employment information by age for each quarter, going back to the third quarter of 2011. You'll notice, you're only able to see three quarters when the chart populates. You can scroll over to view more recent data by clicking the arrow icon located to the right of the chart area. **Note\*** There is a three-quarter lag in the available data and coverage will vary by state.

Let's take a look at some other criteria we can add to refine our data. Say you would like to compare the number of male and female employees working retail in the nine metro/micropolitan areas in North Dakota. You



can leave the indicator set to: **EmpS– Full-Quarter Employment**. Below the indicator you'll see: **Filters/ Aggregations**. Click on **Industries** and select **Retail Trade**. Now, below the chart you'll see two drop-boxes labeled "X-Axis" and "Group". Under the **X-Axis** we want to select **Metro/Micropolitan Areas**, and under the **Group** drop-box we want to select **Sex**. (See image to left.) You should see the results of men and women employed in the retail trade across North Dakota's micro and metro areas. If you click under the **X-Axis** drop-box, on the link "Nine Metro/Micro Areas Selected", you will be able to select and deselect the areas of the state for which you'd like to view data.



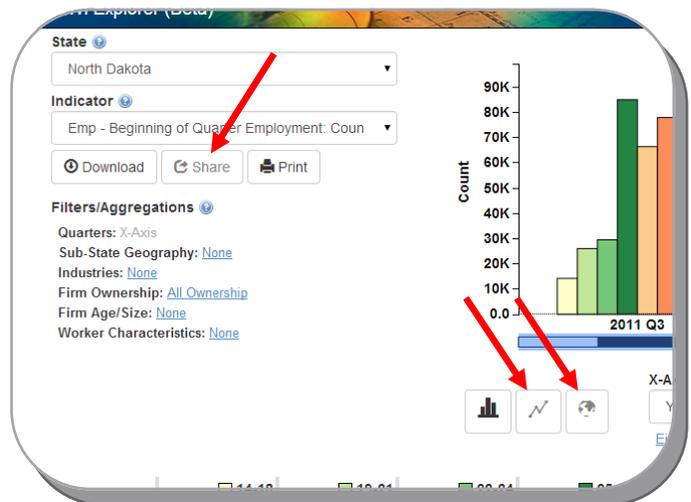
**Note\*** Whenever you have a chart displaying data, you're able to hover your mouse over the data from the table, or the bar chart, the corresponding data will be highlighted yellow in the other area.

Once you find the data you would like to use, you are able to download the data to your computer or print it. You'll notice below the **Indicator** drop-box, there are options to **Download** or **Print (See image to left.)**. Let's look closer at the **Download** option. When you click the **Download** button you will be able to select from three different options. Select the first option: **Download Table as ZIP** and click **Download**. This will save the zipped file to your downloads folder on your computer. Open the file's location,

and double click on it. This should open the data in Microsoft Excel. Now you are able to manipulate, sort, or build your own charts with the data using Microsoft Excel.

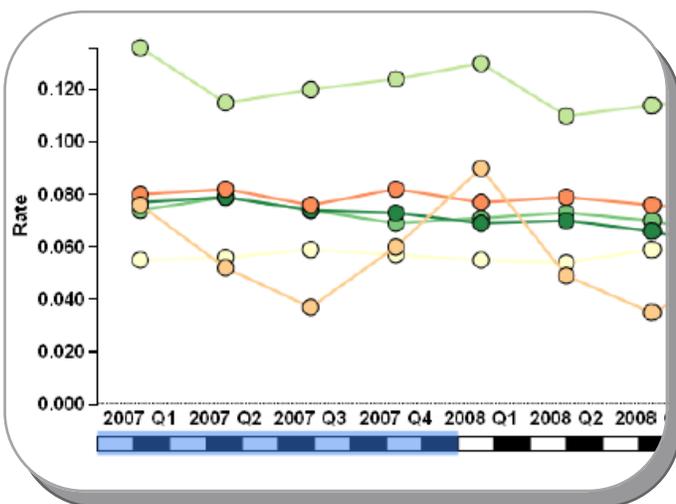
You might also notice that some of the options are currently grayed out, and you are not able to select them. These include: **Share**, **Line Graph**, and **Show Map**. (See image to right.) The reason these options are currently unavailable is because the **QWI Explorer** is currently in a beta form. This means it's basically in a demo mode at this time. These functionalities will become available in **September** of this year.

There are some constraints associated with the current beta version of **QWI Explorer**. Some of these constraints include: only one state and one indicator can be selected at a time, a maximum of 10,000 table cells can be accessed at one time, and when there are



settings conflicts you will be notified the functionality does not exist.

What can be expected in the full version released in **September**? You will be able to view the data in line charts along with bar charts (See image to left.). There will be improved, additional exporting functionalities. You will be able to group the data by indicator. And there will undoubtedly be some bug fixes with any issues identified during the **QWI Explorer's** beta testing. Now that you know the basics of the **QWI Explorer** from the Census Bureau, do some exploring yourself and learn how to use it in preparation for this fall's full version release!



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