

PROJECT IDEAS

- Conduct a survey of boxes of matches, packets of sweets, cans of soft drink, or any other item where the number, volume or weight of the contents is given. Compare your results with the advertised value.
- The prices of shares on a national stock exchange can be summarised by a “share price index” or “stock index”. Different countries use different indices, and some countries use more than one. Find the name of the main share price index used by your own country, and how it is calculated. How has the national share market performed over the last ten weeks?
- Use the results of the last census to investigate your local government area. Possible subjects could be household incomes, number of cars per household, number of children per family, or age distribution.
- Find out how the population of your town, city, state or country has changed over time.
- Graph the daily share price of a listed company for ten weeks. Find out what a ‘moving average’ is and how it is calculated. Calculate a five-day moving average for your share price data, recording the results on the same set of axes. Compare the two graphs, commenting on the similarities and differences. What might you use the moving average share price for?
- Choose a small business, for example a delicatessen, lawnmowing round, or hairdresser. Investigate what statistics might be recorded by the business, and how they could use data for the local government area.
- Statistics are collected on the number of road accidents and the number of deaths on the roads in a region. Contact an appropriate source of information such as the Department of Road Transport to get copies of reports they produce. Use the information to study road safety in your area.
- Investigate which names are the most popular in your city, region or country. One way to do this would be to record the names listed in the birth notices in the newspaper.
- Each day the weather bureau predicts the maximum and minimum temperatures for the next day, as well as reporting the temperature of the current day. Conduct a statistical investigation comparing the actual and predicted temperatures.
- TV and radio stations are very concerned about “ratings”. Find out what these are and how they are calculated. Compare different stations that broadcast in your area, or track one station’s ratings over a 10 week period.

Useful links:

United Nations demographics page (international population, trade, housing, wealth):
<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/default.htm>

Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (food trade and consumption)
<http://faostat.fao.org/site/342/default.aspx>

World Health Organisation (disease and health care):
<http://www.who.int/research/en/>

International Baccalaureate (IB education): <http://www.ibo.org/facts/>