Agenda

- Economic update
- What can localities learn from BLS data?
- Working together to improve America’s economic data
ECONOMIC UPDATE
Unemployment rate continues to decline

Note: Data are seasonally adjusted. Shaded areas represent recessions as determined by the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER). Data online at http://data.bls.gov/timeseries/LNS14000000.

Nonfarm payroll employment rose by 252,000 in December.
Recovery led by private-service industries

Employment change by selected supersector
Total nonfarm peak to trough and trough to current†
Seasonally adjusted, in thousands

-2,950 -2,200 -1,450 -700 50 800 1,550 2,300 3,050

-1,968 -2,272 -1,176 -589 -405 -293 -552 -1,486 -609 -206 -523

Peak to trough
Trough to current

-72 257 -658 -72 461 -540 297 -841 841 -841 -841

-589 679 786 461 786 461 786 461 257 658 658 658

-1,176 1,117 1,117 1,117 1,117 1,117 1,117 1,117 1,117 1,117 1,117 1,117

-589 679 786 461 786 461 786 461 257 658 658 658

-405 540 540 540 540 540 540 540 540 540 540 540

-293 297 297 297 297 297 297 297 297 297 297 297

-552 297 297 297 297 297 297 297 297 297 297 297

-1,486 3,023 3,023 3,023 3,023 3,023 3,023 3,023 3,023 3,023 3,023 3,023

† The total nonfarm employment peak was in January 2008; The total nonfarm employment trough was in February 2010.
Note: Most recent 2 months of data are preliminary.
All states have added jobs since jobs trough in February 2010—but not evenly

Note: Percentage increase in nonfarm employment by state, seasonally adjusted, February 2010 – November 2014.

What can localities learn from BLS data?
Priorities for BLS

- Data goals: **Accurate, Objective, Relevant, Timely and Accessible**

- Provide data as a pure public good
  - Like roads and clean air
  - Help nation’s policymakers, businesses, and families make good decisions

- Get best we can for Nation’s data dollar
BLS values in action

- Is the glass half full or half empty?
  - It is an 8 oz. glass with 4 oz. of liquid

- Equal access to data for all users
BLS subject areas & uses

- Employment & unemployment
  - Federal Reserve economic indicators
- Inflation and prices
  - Social Security
  - Income tax brackets
  - Minimum wage
- Pay and benefits
  - Business negotiations
- Spending and time use
  - Researchers and policymakers
- ...and more!
BLS has regional, state and local area data
### Job growth rates by metropolitan area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metropolitan Area</th>
<th>Job Growth Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Houston</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dallas</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miami</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Francisco</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phoenix</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlanta</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boston</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicago</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington Philadelphia</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** Total nonfarm employment, over-the-year-change, U.S. and 12 largest metropolitan areas, November 2014

**Source:** BLS, Current Employment Statistics Survey-State and Area.
Unemployment rate

Available at detailed geographies

Unemployment rates by state, seasonally adjusted, November 2014
(U.S. rate = 5.8 percent)

Arkansas county unemployment rates, not seasonally adjusted, November 2014

Source: BLS, Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS), November 2014.
### Occupational wages

#### Heavy & tractor-trailer truck drivers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metropolitan area</th>
<th>Employment</th>
<th>Location quotient</th>
<th>Hourly mean wage</th>
<th>Annual mean wage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joplin, MO</td>
<td>4,370</td>
<td>4.69</td>
<td>$22.63</td>
<td>$47,070</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers, AR-MO</td>
<td>9,540</td>
<td>3.84</td>
<td>$17.87</td>
<td>$37,160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cedar Rapids, IA</td>
<td>5,980</td>
<td>3.61</td>
<td>$20.03</td>
<td>$41,660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midland, TX</td>
<td>3,330</td>
<td>3.37</td>
<td>$20.49</td>
<td>$42,610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laredo, TX</td>
<td>3,620</td>
<td>3.28</td>
<td>$17.73</td>
<td>$36,890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort Smith, AR-OK</td>
<td>4,330</td>
<td>3.23</td>
<td>$17.08</td>
<td>$35,530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greeley, CO</td>
<td>3,210</td>
<td>3.10</td>
<td>$20.32</td>
<td>$42,260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Odessa, TX</td>
<td>2,550</td>
<td>3.01</td>
<td>$23.24</td>
<td>$48,340</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** BLS, Occupational Employment Statistics (OES).
Local industry concentrations

Location quotient, Trade, Transportation, and Utilities, Private Jun 2014 (p)

Note: Location quotients (LQs) greater than 1.0 (blue) indicate counties with above average industry concentrations, LQs less than 1.0 (orange) indicate lower industry concentrations.

Source: BLS, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), January 16, 2015
Annual percent change in wages

12 month percent change in average weekly wage, Total, all industries, Total Covered Jun 2013-Jun 2014 (p)


Source: BLS, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), January 16, 2015
Number and rate of fatal occupational injuries, by industry sector, 2013

Source: BLS; Injuries, Illnesses, and Fatalities (IIF) Program; 2013 data are preliminary.
Working together to improve America’s economic data
What you can do for us

- Encourage participation
  - Local employers’ associations
  - Families and advocacy groups
  - Yourselves

- Provide ideas and feedback
  - As respondents—to reduce burden
  - As users—to improve products

- Speak up for national statistics
  - When you use them, let people know—and why!
What we could do together: Harness a key resource

- Enhanced Unemployment Insurance wage records
  - Standardize across states
  - Enhance with demographic and labor market info on workers and employers
  - Share securely in an efficient Big Data facility
    - Agreements in place across states and with statistical agencies

- Result
  - Better policy—design, target and evaluate
  - Deeper understanding of local, regional, and statewide markets
  - Better family and business decisions
What we can do for you

- **Internet:** [www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov)
- Sign up for email alerts
- Follow BLS on Twitter
- The Economics Daily
- Call or email BLS staff
  - (202) 691-5200
  - BLSdata_staff@bls.gov
Resources for Public Policy Makers

Resources for:

Public Policymaker or Analyst

The Bureau of Labor Statistics provides a variety of information to help you evaluate public policies on healthcare, retirement benefits, the minimum wage, workforce education and training, economic development, workplace safety, monetary policy, consumer spending, and other topics that affect the well-being of American workers, retirees, and their families.

Healthcare

Health insurance coverage and the cost of healthcare have received considerable attention in recent years. We provide detailed information on the percent of workers whose employers offer health insurance plans and the percent of workers who participate in them. We also provide information on the types of services these plans cover and the out-of-pocket costs that workers must pay for premiums, copayments, coinsurance, and deductibles. We publish information on employers' costs to provide health insurance and changes in these costs. We also measure inflation in the cost of medical services and commodities that consumers purchase directly.

Retirement Benefits

As the baby-boom generation approaches retirement age, concern is growing about whether today's workers will be financially prepared to retire. We provide information on the percent of workers who participate in employer-provided retirement plans. We also provide
BLS speakers are available!

Examples of presentations:

*Understanding Inflation: How BLS calculates consumer, producer, and import and export prices.*
Questions?
Contact Information

Erica L. Groshen
Commissioner

202-691-7800
groshen.eric@bls.gov
Observations as BLS Commissioner

- BLS has a special, strong pact with the American people
  - We work hard to achieve exceptional voluntary cooperation from firms and families
  - BLS staff honors and works to uphold public trust
    - Transparent methods and trusted products
    - Legal and procedural protections
Hurricane flood zone maps of Gulf and Atlantic coasts
High-income household spending and the economic recovery

Aaron E. Cobet

In late 2007, the United States fell into a "Great Recession." According to the National Bureau of Economic Research, the recession officially ended in June 2009, but it took several more years for average household income and expenditures to
Commissioner’s Corner

Cleveland Fed conference on “all things inflation”

June 19, 2014  BLS Commissioner

A number of BLS colleagues and I recently participated in a lively conference held by the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland on *Inflation, Monetary Policy, and the Public*. The conference included distinguished business leaders, policymakers, and academic researchers, who discussed such topics as the forces driving inflation rates and expectations, policy approaches across different economies and perspectives, the outlook for inflation, and the measurement of inflation. BLS is the principal federal agency charged with measuring price changes in the economy, so the conference theme was highly relevant for us.

I gave a talk describing how the Consumer Price Index is constructed. I invite you to see a video of my presentation, *Measuring Inflation Accurately and Effectively*, in the session that begins around the 36-minute mark of the video.

*Topics: Inflation and Prices | Speeches and Presentations*
*Tags: CPI, Methodology, Videos, Workshops and seminars*

Leave a comment
Follow BLS on Twitter

BLS-Labor Statistics
@BLS_gov

The Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor produces some of the nation’s most widely followed measures of the economy.

bls.gov

24 Photos and videos

TWEETS 645 PHOTO/VIDEOS 24 FOLLOWING 17 FOLLOWERS 22.1K More

BLS-Labor Statistics @BLS_gov · 2h
BLS Commissioner’s Corner blog: Cleveland Fed conference on “all things inflation” go.usa.gov/9YSe #CPI #BLSdata

2 1

BLS-Labor Statistics @BLS_gov · 5h
Santa Cruz, Calif., has largest county 4th quarter 2013 over-the-year wage gain at 6.5% go.usa.gov/vfo #BLSdata

4 3

BLS-Labor Statistics @BLS_gov · Jun 18
In 2013, adult workers with young kids have 1 hour less leisure per day than those without go.usa.gov/bBqJ #BLSdata
# Occupational Wages

Where are wages high? Where are they low?

U.S. wages and employment by location for as many as 800 detailed jobs for hundreds of industries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation: Retail Salespersons (SOC code 412031)</th>
<th>Hourly 10th percentile wage</th>
<th>Hourly 25th percentile wage</th>
<th>Hourly median wage</th>
<th>Hourly 90th percentile wage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, GA</td>
<td>$7.89</td>
<td>$8.55</td>
<td>$9.80</td>
<td>$18.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX</td>
<td>7.90</td>
<td>8.60</td>
<td>10.05</td>
<td>18.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detroit-Warren-Livonia, MI</td>
<td>8.03</td>
<td>8.66</td>
<td>9.97</td>
<td>18.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown, TX</td>
<td>7.89</td>
<td>8.54</td>
<td>9.74</td>
<td>19.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Rock-N. Little Rock-Conway, AR</td>
<td>7.87</td>
<td>8.51</td>
<td>9.71</td>
<td>22.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miami-Fort Lauderdale, FL</td>
<td>8.13</td>
<td>8.64</td>
<td>9.59</td>
<td>17.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Joseph, MO-KS</td>
<td>7.91</td>
<td>8.56</td>
<td>9.86</td>
<td>18.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Texas nonmetropolitan area</td>
<td>7.89</td>
<td>8.55</td>
<td>9.77</td>
<td>17.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gulf Coast TX nonmetropolitan area</td>
<td>7.82</td>
<td>8.35</td>
<td>9.24</td>
<td>15.93</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: BLS, Occupational Employment Statistics (OES).