

# The Bureau of Labor Statistics

## Finding and Using the Data

Dolores James &  
Stacey Standish

Office of Publications and Special Studies



**BLS**

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

[www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov)

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## More Dynamic Look: Fresh Content Every Business Day

U.S. Department of Labor

[www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov) Search: All BLS.gov for: Search

Bureau of Labor Statistics Newsroom | Tutorials | Release Calendar

Home | Subject Areas | Databases & Tables | Publications | Economic Releases | A - Z Index | About BLS

**Latest from BLS**

**News Releases**

**Consumer Price Index**  
June 13, 2008  
Consumer Price Index: On a seasonally adjusted basis the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) rose 0.6 percent in May after increasing 0.2 percent in April. The index for all items less food and energy increased 0.2 percent, following an increase of 0.1 percent in April. [Full Text >](#)

**Real Earnings**  
June 13, 2008  
Real average weekly earnings fell by 0.4 percent in May 2008. The change resulted from a 0.3 percent increase in average hourly earnings partially offset by a 0.7 percent increase in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W). Average weekly hours were unchanged.

**Spotlight on Statistics**

**Older Workers**  
Workers age 65 and over are changing the face of the American workplace. This Spotlight on Statistics tells you how, using charts and audio.

**Regional Offices**

**Latest Numbers**

Consumer Price Index (CPI):  
**+0.3% in Sep 2007**  
New Release  
Historical Data

Unemployment Rate:  
**4.7% in Oct 2007**  
New Release  
Historical Data

Payroll Employment:  
**+16,000(p) in Oct 2007**  
New Release  
Historical Data

Average Hourly Earnings:  
**+\$0.05(p) in Oct 2007**  
New Release  
Historical Data

Producer Price Index (PPI):  
**+1.1% (p) in Sep 2007**  
New Release  
Historical Data

Employment Cost Index (ECI):  
**+0.8% in 3rd Qtr of 2007**  
New Release  
Historical Data

Productivity:  
**+2.8% in 3rd Qtr of 2007**  
New Release  
Historical Data

U.S. Import Price Index:  
**-1.8% in Sep 2007**  
New Release  
Historical Data

p: preliminary

# More Dynamic Look: Easier Navigation

U.S. Department of Labor  
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**Latest from BLS**

**News Releases**

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**Spotlight on Statistics**

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**Regional Offices**

San Francisco | Kansas City | Chicago | Philadelphia | Dallas | Atlanta

**Latest Numbers**

Consumer Price Index (CPI): **+0.3%** in Sep 2007  
New Release  
Historical Data

Unemployment Rate: **4.7%** in Oct 2007  
New Release  
Historical Data

Payroll Employment: **+164,000(j)** in Oct 2007  
New Release  
Historical Data

Average Hourly Earnings: **+\$0.81(j)** in Oct 2007  
New Release  
Historical Data

Producer Price Index (PPI): **+1.1%** in Sep 2007  
New Release  
Historical Data

Employment Cost Index (ECI): **+0.3%** in 3rd Qtr of 2007  
New Release  
Historical Data

Productivity: **+2.4%** in 2nd Qtr of 2007  
New Release  
Historical Data

U.S. Import Price Index: **+1.0%** in Sep 2007  
New Release  
Historical Data

p- preliminary

# Occupational Outlook Handbook

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**Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2008-09 Edition**

FONT SIZE: PRINT

**OOH Home**

- Management
- Professional
- Service
- Sales
- Administrative
- Farming
- Construction
- Installation
- Production
- Transportation
- Armed Forces

**Occupational Outlook Handbook (OOH), 2008-09 Edition**

For hundreds of different types of jobs—such as teacher, lawyer, and nurse—the *Occupational Outlook Handbook* tells you:

- the training and education needed
- earnings
- expected job prospects
- what workers do on the job
- working conditions

In addition, the *Handbook* gives you job search tips, links to information about the job market in each State, and more.

**Ways to use the Occupational Outlook Handbook site:**

- To find out about a specific occupation or topic, use the **Search box** that is on every page—enter your search term in the box.
- To find out about many occupations, browse through listings using the Occupations links that are on the right side of each page.
- For a listing of all occupations in alphabetical order, select a letter:  
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

# Quick Links: At the Bottom of Every Page

The screenshot shows the footer of the BLS website. At the top, there are four publication thumbnails with links: 'Occupational Outlook Handbook (OOH), 2008-09 Edition', 'Monthly Labor Review, August 2008', 'Occupational Outlook Quarterly (OOQ), Summer 2008', and 'Career Guide to Industries, 2008-09 Edition'. Below these is an 'All Publications >>' button. A red arrow points to the 'Quick Links' section, which is a blue bar containing four columns of links: 'Tools' (At a Glance Tables, Economic News Releases, Databases & Tables, Maps), 'Calculators' (Inflation, Location Quotient, Injury And Illness), 'Help' (Help & Tutorials, A to Z Index, FAQs, Glossary, About BLS, Contact Us), and 'Info' (What's New, Careers @ BLS, Find It! DOL, Join our Mailing Lists, Privacy & Security, Linking & Copyright Information). Below the quick links is a 'Back to Top' button and a navigation bar with links for 'Freedom of Information Act', 'Customer Survey', and 'Do you have a technical Web site question?'. The footer also includes the BLS address, website URL (www.bls.gov), telephone number, and a 'Data question?' link.

# New Search Engine

The screenshot shows the BLS website with a search bar at the top. A red arrow points to the search bar. Below the search bar, there are navigation tabs for 'Home', 'Subject Areas', 'Databases & Tables', 'Publications', and 'Economic Releases'. The main content area features a 'Latest from BLS' section with 'News Releases' and 'Spotlight on Statistics' (Older Workers). A callout box with a blue background and white text says: 'Upgraded search engine greatly improves searching our site'. The right side of the page has a 'Latest Numbers' section with various economic indicators like CPI, Unemployment Rate, and Employment Cost Index. At the bottom, there is a 'Regional Offices' section with a map of the United States.

# Calendar of BLS News Releases

U.S. Department of Labor  
www.bls.gov

Bureau of Labor Statistics

Release Calendar

BY MONTH, 2008: June, 2008

Month	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
June	9	10	11	12	13		

More comprehensive calendar will show all releases scheduled for the week including annual releases

U.S. Department of Labor  
www.bls.gov

Bureau of Labor Statistics

Release Calendar

BY MONTH, 2008: June, 2008

Month	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
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We offer different calendar options: Monthly View and List View

# Multi-Media Tutorials

**Bureau of Labor Statistics**

Home | Subject Areas | Databases & Tables | Publications | Economic Releases | A - Z Index | About BLS

## Tutorials

Customized Tables-One Screen Tutorial

The video will begin to play momentarily.

**Multi-media tutorials offer video, audio, and text to help you use various data tools and other features of the BLS website.**

In this example, we will use the CPI for All Urban Consumers.

# Audio Files

**U.S. Department of Labor**

www.bls.gov | Search: All BLS.gov | for: | Search

## Bureau of Labor Statistics

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### Spotlight on Statistics

#### Older Workers

Workers age 65 and over are changing the face of the American workplace. This Spotlight on Statistics tells you how, using charts and audio.

00:00 | 00:00 | 4:11

**Audio Files are being added to the BLS website. The first accompanied the July Spotlight on Statistics**

**Latest Numbers**

- Consumer Price Index (CPI): +0.3% in Sep 2007
- Unemployment Rate: 4.7% in Oct 2007
- Payroll Employment: +186,000 in Oct 2007
- Average Hourly Earnings: +150.00 in Oct 2007
- Producer Price Index (PPI): +1.1% in Sep 2007
- Employment Cost Index (ECI): +0.8% in 2nd Qtr of 2007
- Productivity: -2.8% in 2nd Qtr of 2007
- U.S. Import Price Index: -1.0% in Sep 2007

**Regional Offices**

San Francisco | Dallas | Atlanta | Kansas City | Chicago | Philadelphia | New York | Boston

# RSS Feeds

RSS feeds allow visitors to subscribe to and syndicate the BLS latest numbers. You can find latest numbers boxes on the BLS homepage, the regional office homepages, and most subject area homepages.

The screenshot shows the BLS homepage with a callout box pointing to the 'Latest Numbers' section on the right. A red arrow points to an RSS icon in the bottom right corner of the page.

# Guide to Geographic Data

Quick view of BLS major products available by geographic area

Clicking on a 'More' button below will take you to a new table showing detailed data availability by area.

	International	National	Region	Division	State	Metropolitan Area	County	City or Town
Inflation, Prices, and Consumer Spending	More »	More »	More »			More »		
Employment and Unemployment	More »	More »	More »	More »	More »	More »	More »	More »
Pay and Benefits	More »	More »	More »	More »	More »	More »	More »	
Productivity	More »	More »						
Workplace Injuries		More »			More »	More »		
Economic and Employment Projections		More »			More »			

The screenshot shows the 'Geographic Guide' page with a callout box pointing to the 'More' buttons in the table. A red star icon is visible in the bottom left corner.

# Specific Searches

**State and Area Employment, Hours, and Earnings** HELP

**1** Select one or more States

08 Colorado  
09 Connecticut  
10 Delaware  
11 District of Columbia  
12 Florida

**2** Select one or more Areas

00000 Statewide  
47894 Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metropolitan Divi  
47900 Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV

**3** Select one or more Supersectors

00 Total Nonfarm  
05 Total Private  
06 Goods Producing  
07 Service-Providing  
08 Private Service-Providing

**4** Select one or more Industries

00000000 Total Nonfarm

**5** Select one or more Data Types

1 All Employees, In Thousands

**6** Select Seasonal Adjustment

Seasonally Adjusted  
 Not Seasonally Adjusted

**7**

Your Selection: (0 series selected) NOTE: Select a maximum of 200 series.



# Formatting the Data

www.bls.gov Search: All BLS.gov for:

**Bureau of Labor Statistics** Newsroom | Tutorials

Home Subject Areas Databases & Tables Publications Economic Releases

## Databases

**Select view of the data**

Column Format  
Table Format

Original Data Value  
 3 Months Net Change  
 12 Months Net Change  
 3 Months Percent Change  
 12 Months Percent Change

**Select the time frame for your data**

All years OR  Specify year range:  
From: 2001 To: 2007

All Time Periods OR  Select one time period:  
Annual Data  
1st Quarter  
2nd Quarter  
3rd Quarter  
4th Quarter

**Output Type:** (select one)  HTML table OR  Text  
comma delimited  include graphs

**Graphs NEW!**  include graphs

The following series id(s) were generated from your query.  
To save these series id(s), cut and paste to a text file.



# Regional Resources

News releases, tables, and other products from the eight BLS Regional Information offices will now be easier to find.

**Regional Information Offices**

- Western
- Mountain-Plains
- Midwest
- New England
- Southwest
- Southeast
- Mid Atlantic
- New York New Jersey

\*\* New England (Boston, MA)—includes the states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

# Subject Areas

Improved navigation within subject areas

**Subject Area Categories**

**Inflation & Prices**

- Consumer Price Indexes (CPI)
- Producer Price Indexes
- Import/Export Price Indexes

Program Office | Program Homepage | Economic Releases | Publications | Databases | Tables



# Databases, Tables & Calculators

U.S. Department of Labor  
www.bls.gov

Bureau of Labor Statistics

Databases, Tables & Calculators by Subject

On This Page:

- Inflation & Prices
- Employment
- Unemployment
- Pay & Benefits
- Spending & Time Use
- Productivity
- Workplace Injuries
- International
- Employment Projections
- Regional Resources
- Historical News Release Tables
- Maps
- Calculators

Inflation & Prices

Database Name	Special Notice	Top Picks	One Screen	Multi-Screen	Text Files
<b>Tutorials:</b> For help, try these tutorials.					
<b>Prices - Consumer</b>					
<b>All Urban Consumers (Current Series)</b> (Consumer Price Index - CPI)					

# Resources for Site Visitors

U.S. Department of Labor  
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Bureau of Labor Statistics

RESOURCES FOR:

- BUSINESS LEADERS
- CONSUMERS
- INVESTORS
- JOBSEEKERS
- MEDIA
- PUBLIC POLICYMAKERS
- STUDENTS & TEACHERS
- SURVEY RESPONDENTS

These pages highlight resources that may be useful to specific audiences, such as:

- Business Leaders
- Consumers
- Investors
- Jobseekers
- Media
- Public Policy Makers
- Students & Teachers
- Survey Respondents

# Resources for Site Visitors



U.S. Department of Labor  
www.bls.gov Search: All BLS.gov for: Search

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Resources for: **Resources for You from the Bureau of Labor Statistics**

**RESOURCES FOR:**

- BUSINESS LEADERS
- CONSUMERS
- INVESTORS
- JOBSEEKERS
- MEDIA
- PUBLIC POLICYMAKERS
- STUDENTS & TEACHERS
- SURVEY RESPONDENTS

Whether you live in a small town or a large metropolis, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics provides useful information about our economy that benefits you.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics collects, analyzes, and publishes reliable information on many aspects of our economy and society. We measure employment, compensation, worker safety, productivity, and price movements. This information is used by jobseekers, workers, business leaders, and others to help them make sound decisions at work and at home.

We strive to be:

- Accurate and timely - We provide accurate information that reflects the current state of our economy.
- Relevant - We publish reports that reflect important events and conditions in our society.
- Innovative - We employ highly trained professionals and pursue modern survey methods and technologies.
- Objective and nonpartisan - We provide facts, not opinions.
- Transparent and accountable - We are open about our methods and processes so you can have confidence in our products and services.

**How Can You Help?**

Without the generous cooperation of the people who participate in our surveys—people like you—we could not provide so much vital information about our economy and society to so many different customers.

# Resources for Consumers



U.S. Department of Labor  
www.bls.gov Search: All BLS.gov for: Search

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Resources for: **Consumer**

**RESOURCES FOR:**

- BUSINESS LEADERS
- CONSUMERS
- INVESTORS
- JOBSEEKERS
- MEDIA
- PUBLIC POLICYMAKERS
- STUDENTS & TEACHERS
- SURVEY RESPONDENTS

From Social Security to school lunches, the BLS produces information that impacts you and your family on a daily basis.

**The Value of Your Money**

As a widely used measure of inflation, the **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** measures price movements for major groups of goods and services. The CPI report presents price changes on food, energy, housing, apparel, transportation, medical care, recreation, and education. Average price data for the most popular items are available.

More than just a compilation of indexes, the CPI has many uses that impact the American consumer. For example:

- Over 80 million individuals are affected by cost of living adjustments determined by the CPI, including military and Federal retirees and survivors, union workers, recipients of food stamps, and Social Security beneficiaries.
- The costs of school lunches for millions of children are impacted by changes in the CPI.
- Firms track changes in the CPI to adjust prices of rents charged, royalties received, and insurance policies.



# "People are Asking"

trade, while mining and health care continued to add jobs. [Full Text >](#)

**More**

- AT A GLANCE TABLES
- RESEARCH
- SPOTLIGHT ON STATISTICS
- CAREER INFORMATION FOR KIDS
- DEMOGRAPHICS
- INDUSTRIES
- BUSINESS COSTS
- OCCUPATIONS
- GEOGRAPHY
- OTHER STATISTICAL SITES

**The Editor's Desk**

**Job openings rate in August 2008**

October 8, 2008

Continuing the downward trend that began in September 2007, the job openings rate declined to 2.3 percent in August, the lowest level since April 2004. [Full Text >](#)

**Career Information for Kids**

Click on a region from the map.

- Region Home
- Geographic Guide
- All BLS Geographical Resources

**What Are You Interested In?**

**Featured Publications**

- [Occupational Outlook Handbook \(OOH\), 2008-09 Edition](#)
- [Monthly Labor Review, August 2008](#)
- [Occupational Outlook Quarterly \(OOQ\), Summer 2008](#)
- [Career Guide to Industries, 2008-09 Edition](#)

[All Publications >](#)

**Subscribe**

Subscribe to receive BLS Economic News Releases by email.

SUBSCRIBE

**People Are Asking...**

1. What are the latest BLS data for the Financial Activities industry?
2. What are some common misconceptions about the Consumer Price Index?
3. Does BLS have employment and wage data for the counties in Louisiana and Texas affected by Hurricane Ike?
4. How can I find out about the methods and measurement issues associated with the monthly Employment Situation report?
5. What is the cost of living increase for social security?

Send us your question

# People are Asking: Answer to Question #1

Home | Subject Areas | Databases & Tables | Publications | Economic Releases

A - Z Index | About BLS

**Industries at a Glance**

FONT SIZE: [ ] [ ] [ ] PRINT: [ ]

**BROWSE INDUSTRIES**

- IAG HOME
- CONSTRUCTION
- EDUCATION AND HEALTH SERVICES
- FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
- INFORMATION
- LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY
- MANUFACTURING
- NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINING
- OTHER SERVICES (EXCEPT PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION)
- PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES
- TRADE, TRANSPORTATION, AND UTILITIES
- CONTACTS IN BLS

**ALPHABETICAL INDEX**

- INDUSTRY ORDER INDEX

**SEARCH IAG**

**Financial Activities**

**On This Page**

- » [About the Financial Activities supersector](#)
- » [BLS Data](#)
  - » [Workforce Statistics](#)
  - » [Earnings and Hours](#)
  - » [Fatalities, Injuries, and Illnesses](#)
  - » [Workforce Trends](#)
  - » [Other BLS Resources](#)

**About the Financial Activities supersector**

The financial activities supersector is part of the [service-providing industries](#) supersector group.

The financial activities supersector consists of these sectors:

- » [Finance and Insurance: NAICS 52](#)
- » [Real Estate and Rental and Leasing: NAICS 53](#)

**Workforce Statistics**

This section provides information relating to employment and unemployment in financial activities. While most data are obtained from employer or establishment surveys, information on industry unemployment comes from a national survey of households. The following tables present an overview of the industry including the number of jobs, the unemployment rate of those previously employed in the industry, job openings and labor turnover, union membership and representation, gross job gains and losses, and projections of occupational employment change.

# People are Asking: Answer to Question #4

**BLS Information** FONT SIZE: [icon] [icon] PRINT: [icon]

**SUBJECT AREAS**

- INFLATION & PRICES ▶
- SPENDING & TIME USE ▶
- UNEMPLOYMENT ▶
- EMPLOYMENT ▶
- PAY & BENEFITS ▶
- PRODUCTIVITY ▶
- WORKPLACE INJURIES ▶
- INTERNATIONAL ▶
- REGIONAL OFFICES ▶
- PROGRAMS A-Z

**Monthly Employment Situation Report: Quick Guide to Methods and Measurement Issues**

On this page, you can quickly locate BLS documentation about the methods underlying the numbers that appear each month in the [Employment Situation news release](#). This page also provides links to related information pertaining to measurement issues; this includes information on various topics such as the birth/death model used by the payroll survey, the population controls used by the household survey, and comparisons between the two surveys.

[Payroll survey \(methods and measurement issues\)](#)  
[Household survey \(methods and measurement issues\)](#)  
[Comparisons between the payroll and household surveys](#)  
[Questions and answers about methods underlying the monthly employment report](#)

**Payroll survey — methods and measurement issues**

**RESOURCES FOR:**

- BUSINESS LEADERS: The [Current Employment Statistics](#) (CES) program, also known as the payroll survey or the establishment survey, is a monthly sample of nearly 400,000 business establishments nationwide. From the sample, CES produces and publishes employment, hours, and earnings estimates for the nation, states, and metropolitan areas at detailed industry levels.
- CONSUMERS
- INVESTORS: Historically, CES hours and earnings series covered only production and nonsupervisory workers; recently, series covering all employees' hours and earnings were added by CES and are now being released each month on an experimental basis. See [Experimental hours and earnings series, including charts and tables](#).
- JOBSEEKERS
- MEDIA
- PUBLIC POLICYMAKERS
- STUDENTS & TEACHERS
- SURVEY RESPONDENTS: The CES employment series are estimates of nonfarm wage and salary jobs, not an estimate of employed persons; an individual with two jobs is counted twice by the payroll survey. The CES employment series excludes workers in agriculture and private households and the self-employed.

**CONCEPTS**

**MORE**



## Contact Information

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**Dolores James &  
Stacey Standish**

[blsdata\\_staff@bls.gov](mailto:blsdata_staff@bls.gov)

202-691-5200

[www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov)



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