

Bureau of Labor Statistics

Each federal statistical agency produces distinct and vital information that contributes to effective decision making in every sector and at every level of government. As demands for reliable and timely data increase, these agencies will need to innovate as they continue deliver quality data products for evidence based decision making.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) of the U.S. Department of Labor is the **principal federal agency responsible for measuring labor market activity, working conditions, and price changes in the economy.**

It is BLS's mission to collect, analyze and disseminate essential economic information to support public and private decision making. No other agency provides the labor market, workforce and consumer price data upon which so many businesses, communities, policy makers, program evaluators and researchers rely.

Key Economic Indicators Produced by BLS

- Consumer Price Index
- Producer Price Indices
- Employer Cost Index
- Productivity and Costs
- Import and Export Price Indices
- Employment Situation, Unemployment and payroll jobs
- Real Earnings

Who uses BLS products?

Government	Federal agencies rely on BLS data to execute their missions. Some examples are: Bureau of Economic Analysis for calculating the gross domestic product, Social Security Administration for cost of living adjustments, Internal Revenue Service for adjusting income tax brackets, USDA to help determine eligibility for SNAP, WIC and School Lunch programs, and the Federal Reserve to determine interest rates.
Business	New and expanding companies use BLS data to help determine locations, as well as consumer retail preferences. They also rely on BLS data to determine employee wages, develop price escalation clauses in long term contracts, and compare injury rates to industry standards.
Communities	State and local governments, program evaluators, and researchers use data from BLS to plan and evaluate decisions and policies that are best for their communities.
Individuals	Individuals and households use BLS economic data to make financial and borrowing decisions, to guide career and education choices, and to decide where to live.

The Future of BLS

Modernization	Modernizing data collection methods for current surveys will mean more granular and timely data for businesses, investors and policy makers.
Innovation	Business and policymakers both rely on the BLS to provide the most reliable insights into the future of work. BLS will be there to create innovative data products to continue to meet the needs of users.
Development	As data needs grow and change, BLS will develop its staff, infrastructure and IT needs in order to provide the high quality, timely, accurate and trust worthy data that keeps American businesses leading the way in the global economy.

