Organization of charts and applications of OES data

This chart book's presentation of charts, tables, and maps is intended to demonstrate a variety of applications of OES data. The charts are organized into five categories: The first with a focus on detailed occupations, the second highlighting labor patterns of specific industries, the third and fourth focusing on labor markets of States and local areas, and the fifth illustrating unique applications of OES data. Here are some examples of useful applications of OES data:

- Detailed occupational data can be used by job seekers or employers, for instance, to show wages for workers in certain occupations and to assess wage variation within and across occupations. Variation in wages within an occupation can result from a variety of factors, including industry, geographic location, or a worker's particular experience or qualifications. Useful data for job seekers include information on the industries or geographic areas that have the most jobs in an occupation or the highest average wages for the occupation. Total employment might serve as an indication of the ease of finding a job in the occupation.

- Industry-specific occupational data can be used by human resource professionals in salary negotiations or to remain competitive by ensuring that their wages are in line with other businesses in their area and industry. Information on the types of jobs within an industry could be used to compare average staffing patterns with that of one's own company. Occupational employment by industry may be useful in assessing the impact of shifts in technology and other macroeconomic trends. For example, for several years, healthcare industries have accounted for a significant portion of job growth, while manufacturing industries have declined. OES data can be used to see the types of jobs being created or disappearing from the economy due to changes in these industries.

- Geographic area information can be used to assess the job demand in a particular area. OES State level data can be used to make assessments about the diversity of a State's economy, or to make comparisons among States. The composition of the workforce can provide clues to how a State or regional economy can hold up in adverse conditions that affect a certain sector of the economy. The composition of the workforce is also an indicator of the average wages within a State.

- Like State data, local area data can be used to study the diversity of a local area economy. Businesses can use data to see whether it might be beneficial to relocate to a particular area. OES provides information on the workforce, including whether there are workers available in the occupations that the business will need. For instance, some areas have higher levels of high-tech or skilled production workers. Businesses may also use the data to compare wages between alternative areas.