BLS Recruitment Presentation

IT Specialist Occupations

BLS

BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS
U.S DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Agenda

- Introduction to BLS
- What is an IT Specialist?
- So what do IT Specialists do?
- What technologies does BLS use?
- What's the work life like?
- What else do you want to know?

Who is the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics?

- Principal fact-finding agency for the Federal Government in the broad field of labor economics and statistics.

- An independent statistical agency within the Department of Labor.

- Part of the Federal statistical system that includes the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) and the Census Bureau.

What does the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics do?

Our mission is to collect, process, analyze, and disseminate essential economic information to support public and private decision-making.

Yes, you have heard about us....

- The Unemployment Rate

- Consumer Price Index (CPI)

- Producer Price Index (PPI)

- Occupational Outlook Handbook

- Monthly Labor Review

- http://www.bls.gov/

Some things you may not know about us.

- American Time Use Survey

- Consumer Expenditure Survey

- Import/Export Prices

- Employment Cost Index

- One-time and special surveys

Why we do it ?

- Provide factual and reliable information, not opinions, for use in decision-making
- Provide policy-makers with accurate data
- Provide information to researchers
- Provide information to job seekers and businesses
- Provide information for the media

How is the Bureau organized?

BLS Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

How is the Bureau organized?

There are also 6 Regional Offices:

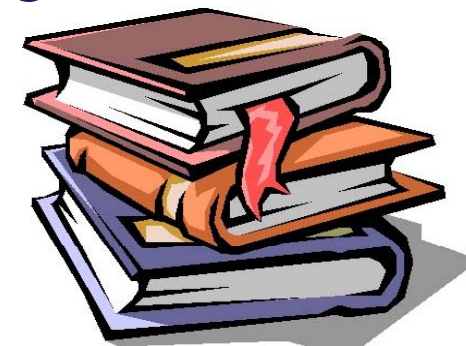|	
Atlanta	Boston/New York
Chicago	Dallas/Kansas City
Philadelphia	San Francisco

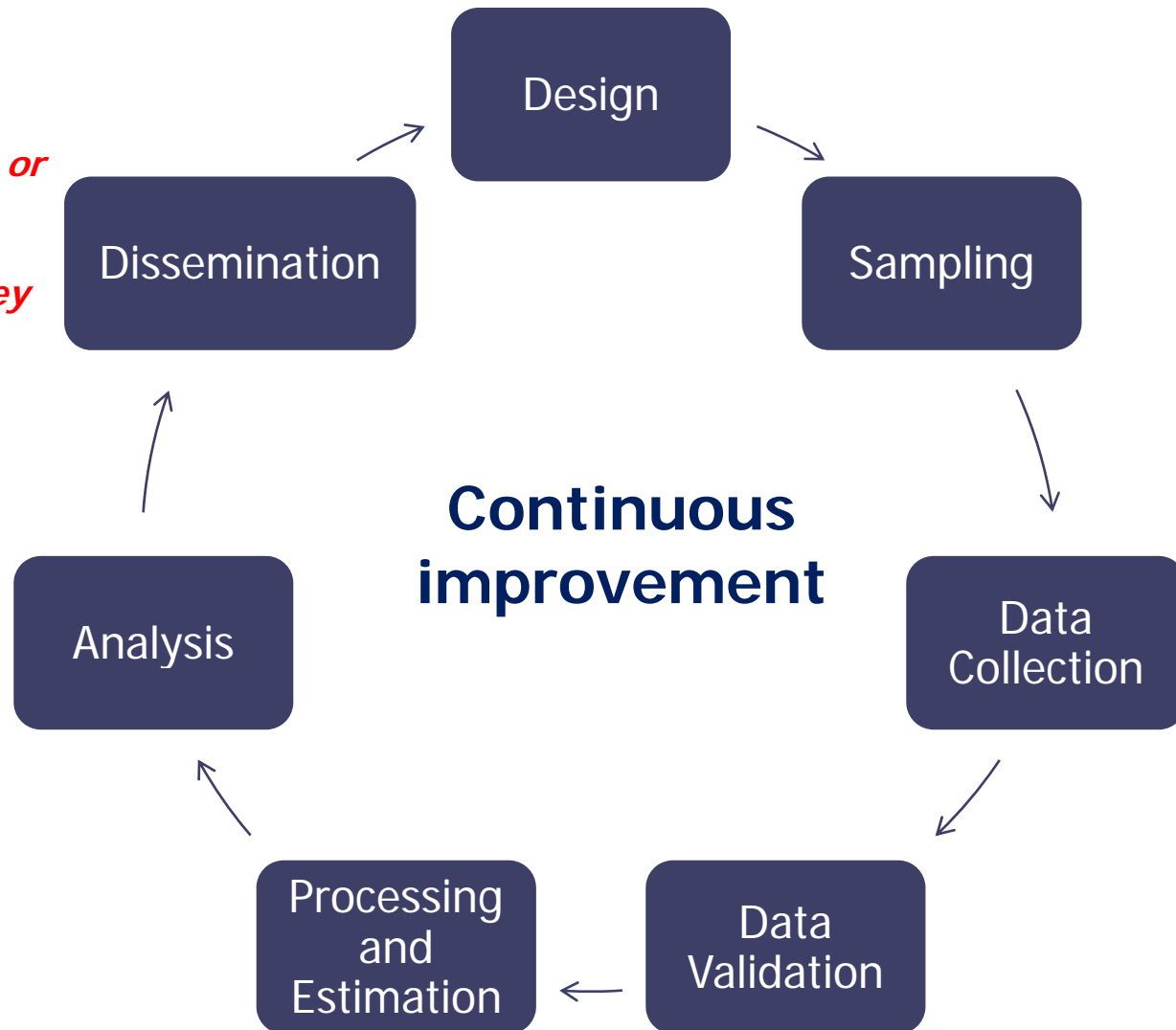Plus office locations in other U.S. metropolitan areas.

Where and how do we get our data?

- From direct collection of representative industries and households across the country

- From other government agencies

- From publications and web sites

Work at the BLS: the big picture

Most BLS positions involve direct or support work related to these survey stages

Continuous improvement

Design

Sampling

Data Collection

Data Validation

Processing and Estimation

Analysis

Dissemination

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What occupations are available?

- Information technology specialists
- Economists
- Mathematical statisticians
- Other:
  - ▶ Program analysts, budget specialists, HR specialists, psychologists, accountants, procurement specialists

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What is a IT Specialist?

- A trained professional who provides the information technology support for one or more surveys and products of the Agency.

- In general terms . . .

    - Economists – Define what needs to be measured
    - Math-Stats – Figure out how to make it happen
    - IT Specialists – Make it happen
    - Admin/HR Staff – Support us all

IT Specialists

- IT Specialists work collaboratively with other BLS professionals (Economists, Math Statisticians, etc.) during...
  - ▶ Requirements Gathering/Analysis and Testing phases of software development
  - ▶ Production Operations/Maintenance – e.g., job execution, trouble-shooting

Duties of IT Specialist

- Software Development
- Server/Database Administration
- Network Administration
- Computer/Information Assurance
- Documentation, Requirements, and Procedures management

Minimum Qualifications

All positions require U.S. Citizenship and a bachelor's degree with 24 semester hours in topics such as computer science or database management.

GS-7

- Cumulative GPA of 2.95 or higher, OR
- GPA of 3.45 or higher in major field of study

GS-9

- Master's degree, OR
- Combination of experience and education

Desirable Education & Experience

- Coursework or experience in programming, database management, software development

- Experience in working in a team environment.

- Experience in writing for different audiences.

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Typical Day of an IT Specialist

- **Software Development:**
  - ▶ Code and test software
  - ▶ Participate in peer reviews of code
  - ▶ Participate in running or monitoring production jobs
  - ▶ Collaborate with teammates and users

Typical Day of an IT Specialist Cont'd...

- Database/Network/Information Assurance:
  - ▶ Evaluate/recommend/deploy new products or upgrades
  - ▶ Participate in peer reviews of infrastructure designs
  - ▶ Participate in monitoring infrastructure performance
  - ▶ Collaborate with teammates, software developers, and users

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Technologies

- IT Specialists use industry-standard technology to support key BLS objectives.
  - ▶ Build systems to measure and report on key BLS measures (Unemployment report, Consumer Price Index, etc.)
  - ▶ Develop applications in-house
  - ▶ Ensure network stability and security

Technologies
(Hardware & Software)

- Software Development Methodology
  - Rational Unified Process (RUP)
  - Agile
- Enterprise Server Hardware
  - Sun-Servers running Solaris (Unix)
  - Hewlett Packard Servers running Windows/Linux
- Enterprise Software Technologies
  - Microsoft Internet Information Server/Apache (Web Server)
  - Web Logic/Tomcat (Application Server)
  - Microsoft Exchange/Outlook (Workflow)
- Open source products

Major Technologies Cont'd...

- Development Languages
  - Java
  - Extensible Markup Language (XML)
  - Statistical Analysis Software (SAS)
  - MS Visual C++
  - MS Visual Basic,
  - Microsoft .Net (VB, C#)
  - Active Server Pages (ASP)
  - jRUBY
  - Adobe Flash
  - Adobe Flex

- Databases
  - Oracle
  - Sybase

- Tools
  - J Builder
  - Microsoft Visual Studio
  - Rational Rose
  - Rational Requisite Pro
  - Eclipse

- Configuration Management Tools
  - Serena Version Manager
  - Serena TeamTrack/MashUps

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Benefits

- Standard government benefits
  - Paid holidays, health & life insurance, retirement plan, etc.
- Work/life balance

Training

- On-the-job
- Graduate school classes
- BLS-sponsored classes
- Participation in professional associations and conferences
- Certifications

The Extras....

Nation's Capitol

Sport Venues
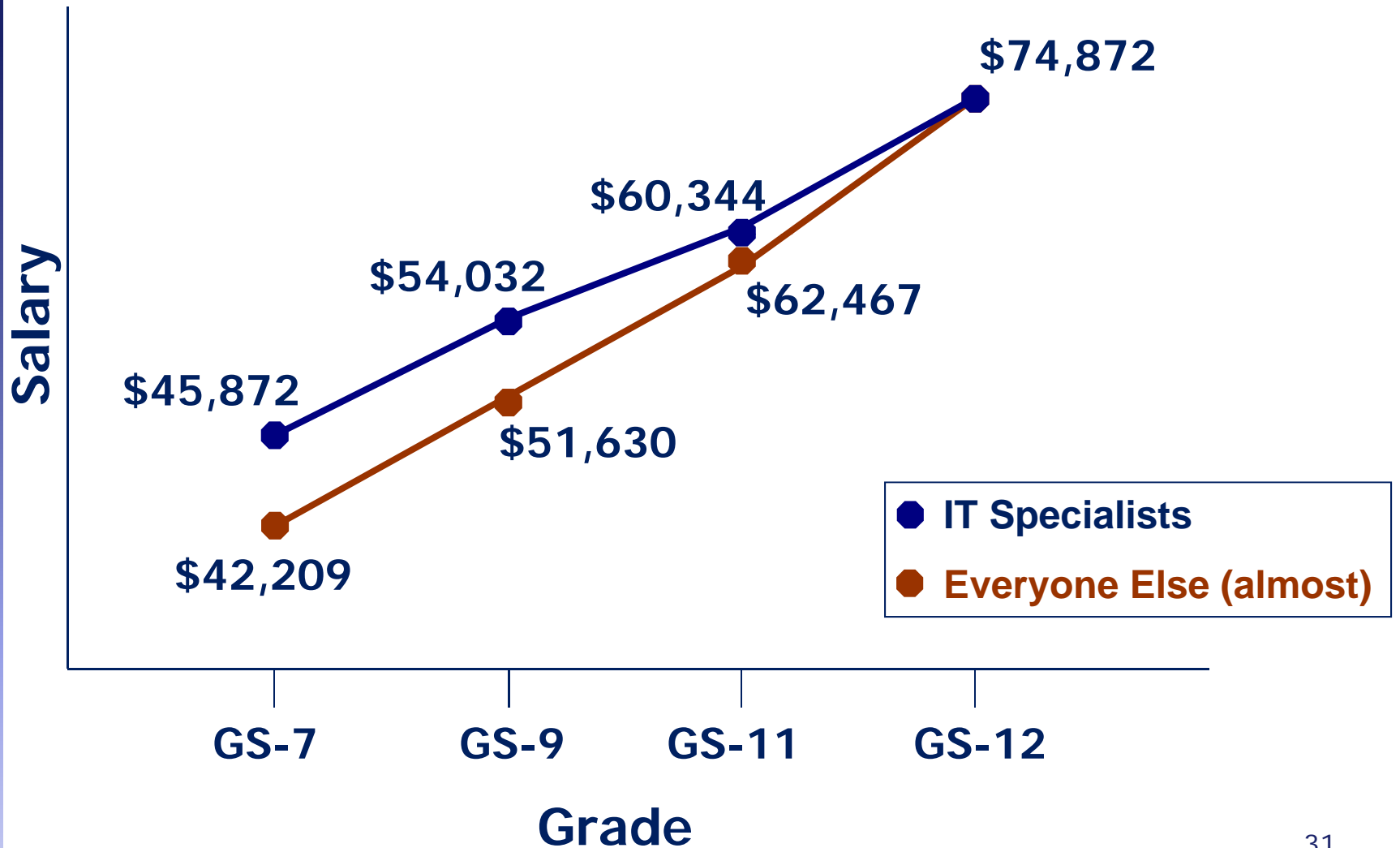
Union Station

Fitness Center

Career Path and Promotional Opportunities

- **Entry-Level Positions**
  - ▶ IT Specialists GS-7 & GS-9
- **BLS employees in professional positions can advance from GS-7/9 levels through the GS-12 level**
  - ▶ Non-competitively
  - ▶ With acceptable performance
  - ▶ With one year in each grade
- **Beyond the GS-12 level, technical and supervisory positions are available on a competitive basis**

IT Specialists Salaries
Washington, D.C.

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