

Bureau of Labor Statistics
U.S. Department of Labor



STRATEGIC PLAN
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Introduction

Who are we?

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), is responsible for many of the Nation's most important statistical products in the areas of employment and unemployment, prices and spending, compensation and working conditions, and productivity. In all, we operate roughly two dozen statistical programs within these broad categories and employ about 2,400 Federal workers in our D.C. headquarters and in our Regional Offices and sub-offices around the country. The products generated from our statistical programs would not be possible without the dedicated work of our support office staff in the areas of administration, information technology, data collection and other field office functions, statistical methods, publications, and data dissemination.

Our data influence many aspects of American lives. For example, the Consumer Price Index is used to adjust Social Security payments and Federal income tax brackets, and the Employment Cost Index is used to adjust millions of dollars in Medicare reimbursements. Several national data series, including employment, unemployment, and productivity, are used by policymakers to track the state of the economy and to drive changes in economic policy, while local unemployment data are inputs to formulas used to distribute job training resources. Trends on worker pay, health insurance, and retirement benefits have influenced legislation, while workplace injury data have led to new safety regulations. We at BLS are proud of the wide variety of uses to which our data are put, and we maintain a robust outreach program with an eye toward encouraging current and new users to find new uses for our data.

Our Mission

The Bureau of Labor Statistics 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. Its mission is to collect, analyze, and disseminate essential economic information to support public and private decision-making. As an independent statistical agency, BLS serves its diverse user communities by providing products and services that are objective, timely, accurate, and relevant.

While part of the Executive Branch, we are “independent” in that we follow Office of Management and Budget policies that ensure that our production of these critically important statistics, and our analysis and dissemination of those statistics, occur without political influence. As is the case with other statistical agencies, we also adhere to the principles outlined in “Principles and Practices for a Federal Statistical Agency,” from the Committee of National Statistics, National Research Council of the National Academies.

The statistical function of the United States Government is decentralized; that is, it is conducted by separate agencies independently located within many cabinet-level Departments in the Federal Government. Fourteen such agencies whose principal function is to produce and disseminate statistical information are members of the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy, chaired by the Chief Statistician of the Office of Management and Budget. This council provides a forum for these agencies to share ideas, coordinate common activities, and improve the technical and business aspects of its members’ operations.

Our Vision

The Bureau of Labor Statistics will meet the information needs of a rapidly changing U.S. and global economy by continuously improving its products and services, investing in its work force, and modernizing its business processes.

How does BLS fit into the Department of Labor’s Strategic Plan?

The vision underlying the Department of Labor’s (DOL) Strategic Plan is “Good Jobs for Everyone.” “Good jobs,” as outlined by Secretary Solis in her message accompanying the DOL Plan, encompass a range of characteristics, including pay, advancement, safety, fairness, working conditions, income security, and benefits. The Bureau of Labor Statistics’ products are central to measuring our Nation’s status across these varied dimensions of job market success, and in evaluating improvements over time. Secretary Solis states: “...the Bureau of Labor Statistics generate(s) accurate, timely statistics reflecting the condition of workers in labor markets and the economy as a whole. These

statistics allow us to know whether social and economic policies are allowing Americans to get ‘good jobs’.”

The DOL Plan includes strategic, outcome, and performance goals that are specific to the work of BLS. These goals are:

Strategic Goal 5

Produce timely and accurate data on the economic conditions of workers and their families.

Outcome Goal 1

Provide sound and impartial information on labor market activity, working conditions, and price changes in the economy for decision making, including support for the formulation of economic and social policy affecting virtually all Americans.

Performance Goal BLS 5.1

Improve the timeliness, accuracy, and relevance of information on labor market activity, working conditions, and price changes in the economy.

Our Partners

BLS shares primary responsibility for economic statistics with the Census Bureau and the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) of the U. S. Department of Commerce. Each agency produces a unique set of products, some of which are inputs to the products of the other two agencies. For example, BEA uses Census data to estimate economic output, which BLS uses to estimate worker productivity. We work together on a range of issues and share an advisory committee, the Federal Economic Statistics Advisory Committee (FESAC), which provides advice on technical issues of common interest to the three agencies. A second advisory committee, the BLS Data Users Advisory Committee (DUAC), provides BLS programs with input from a wide variety of data users representing labor, business, government, research, academic organizations, and other groups.

BLS also has a special relationship with partner agencies in each State. Five of our Employment and Unemployment programs are jointly operated and managed by BLS and these State Labor Market Information (LMI) agencies. Program priorities are discussed within the Workforce Information Council (WIC), established under the Workforce Information Act of 1998, which is made up of LMI agency directors elected by their peers and BLS management representatives. The WIC sponsors a set of Policy Councils, also jointly managed by BLS and State agency staff, which provide a forum to share ideas on data collection, processing, estimation, and dissemination for each jointly managed program. Funding for these five programs is provided by Congress to BLS directly; BLS then funds the States, through cooperative agreements, for specific work to be done on each program.

BLS also partners with State agencies on two programs related to worker safety—a census of job-related fatal injuries and a survey of employers covering work-related injuries and illnesses. For most States, these are operated through a cost-sharing arrangement between the BLS and the individual States.

Funded largely by contracts issued by BLS, the Census Bureau conducts surveys on the employment and unemployment of the current population, consumer expenditures, and on where consumers make their purchases. The latter two surveys are critical inputs to the BLS Consumer Price Index program. We also have developed partnerships with private research and survey organizations to conduct the National Longitudinal Surveys program, which tracks two cohorts of Americans through their work lives, and to assist us with methodological research. In addition, private contractors staff several telephone data collection centers, obtaining information from respondents for two of our employer surveys. Contract staff also provide substantial support for both our information technology infrastructure and the development and maintenance of our survey processing systems.

Several other Federal agencies have employed BLS to help them design survey instruments, conduct surveys, and analyze and disseminate the results. Within the Department of Labor, those agencies include the Office of Disability Employment Policy, the Veterans Employment and Training Service, the Employment and Training Administration, and the Women's Bureau, among others, and there are other agencies outside DOL that support our survey work as well.

BLS could not provide most of its output without the voluntary cooperation of many private businesses and government entities and individuals that provide a wide range of data on a regular basis. BLS thanks these respondents for their cooperation.

What is this Plan?

This plan outlines both our strategic priorities and our short-term means of achieving improvements in each of those areas. We have identified seven goal areas, each of which highlights a key aspect of our business:

Goal 1: Products

Goal 2: Product improvement

Goal 3: Customers

Goal 4: Respondents

Goal 5: Web site

Goal 6: Employees

Goal 7: Continuous evaluation and improvement

Within each goal, we have identified key objectives that define the priorities we have established for that goal. For example, under the goal of product improvement we focus on improving the accuracy, timeliness, and relevance of BLS' data products. Under each of the objectives is a set of specific projects. Each project includes one or more specific activities (we use the term "deliverable"), generally to be completed within the next 1 or 2 years.

Top BLS executive staff will be responsible for the oversight of the BLS Strategic Plan. Each project in the Strategic Plan has a designated "owner" who will update progress on a quarterly basis through both meetings and formal BLS project management reporting systems that are used to track our internal and external performance commitments.

One of the challenges for BLS in this strategic planning process is the uncertainty over the future of both overall budget levels for BLS and the particular priorities that the White House or Congress will have within those budgets. We have built this plan on the basis of the President's 2011 budget submission to Congress. We believe that our goals and most of our objectives are not particularly sensitive to short-term changes in budget levels and priorities; particular projects, however, certainly could change with modifications in the budget environment.

How did we determine these goals, objectives, and projects?

Before selecting our goals, objectives, and projects, BLS management undertook a detailed review of information on hand regarding how well we have been meeting our customers' needs. We have a wealth of information on Web site usage, documenting the number of customers coming to us through bls.gov, the information that they are seeking, and their method of searching for that information. In addition, BLS has used the American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI) to survey a sample of our Web customers on the quality of their experience across several dimensions. Also, the BLS Commissioner and other executives met in person with a number of "key customers," including those in Federal agencies, Congress, and State and local government. BLS also meets regularly with our State partners and with colleagues from other statistical agencies, and we have considered their needs in this plan as well. Finally, we received feedback from members of our Data Users Advisory Committee on the areas where they thought we could improve, in terms of both content and accessibility of our products.

In the preparation of these goals, objectives, and projects, we also relied heavily on feedback from our staff and managers, who have countless contacts each year with our respondents, customers, and business partners. Their input was solicited early to obtain their view of our priorities, and later to review the draft plan at several points in its development.

Due to the sheer volume of work, we had to make some choices in what would be included in the plan. We could not list every program and every project that is ongoing or being planned for the next several years. Certain projects had to be included; for example, those where we have made a public commitment to complete a project, such as publishing information on green jobs. We also wanted to include some projects that cross program or office lines, such as projects dealing with our customers. Even if not all projects are listed, all projects are aligned with our seven goals.

Our Goals and Objectives

Goal 1 (Products): BLS will continue to produce objective data and analyses that are timely, accurate, and relevant.

Goal 2 (Product Improvement): BLS will improve the timeliness, accuracy, and relevance of our products and develop new products that meet the needs of our broad customer base.

- Objective 2.1 – Improve the timeliness of BLS data and analyses
- Objective 2.2 – Improve the accuracy of BLS data and analyses
- Objective 2.3 – Improve the relevance of BLS data and analyses

Goal 3 (Customers): BLS will inform current and potential customers about the availability and uses of our products and reach out to our customers to understand their needs for economic information.

- Objective 3.1 – Increase customers' awareness of BLS and our products and services

Goal 4 (Respondents): BLS will maintain high response rates in its surveys.

- Objective 4.1 – Improve data collection methods to encourage voluntary cooperation by respondents
- Objective 4.2 – Provide respondents with a clear understanding of the value of their participation in BLS surveys

Goal 5 (Web site): BLS will make the data and other products and services on bls.gov accessible, understandable, and usable.

- Objective 5.1 – Improve support for Web site users seeking information
- Objective 5.2 – Improve the Web site's content, understandability, and delivery
- Objective 5.3 – Modernize the hardware and software platform underlying the BLS Web site to improve our ability to deploy Web content

Goal 6 (Employees): BLS will recruit, train, and retain a talented and diverse group of individuals who are experts at the production and continuous improvement of our products and services, including employees who will support those functions, and who are well prepared to represent the agency and become our future leaders.

- Objective 6.1 – Recruitment mechanisms are in place and can be quickly mobilized as hiring needs change
- Objective 6.2 – BLS has an effective approach to identifying skill gaps and working to close those gaps through general and specific staff development and knowledge sharing
- Objective 6.3 – Employees are recognized and able to balance home and work life

Goal 7 (Continuous Evaluation and Improvement): BLS must continuously evaluate and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our programs and processes.

- Objective 7.1 – Conduct internal reviews to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of programs and support activities
- Objective 7.2 – Obtain independent external reviews of challenging program issues
- Objective 7.3 – Act upon recommendations from internal and external reviews to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Bureau’s programs and processes

Goal Framework

Goal 1 (Products): BLS will continue to produce objective data and analyses that are timely, accurate, and relevant.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics will continue to produce high-quality economic statistics and analyses to support public and private decision making. We operate two dozen statistical programs, and we devote the bulk of our resources to the outputs from those programs. Goal 1 is unique. Unlike the other goals, this goal stresses ongoing production rather than improvement. Fulfilling this mission requires not only the dedicated work of staff directly involved in each of these programs, but also the high-quality work of staff in our support functions: administration, information technology, data collection and other field operations, statistical methods, publications, and data dissemination.

BLS statistical programs produce information on:

- Inflation and Prices
- Spending and Time Use
- Unemployment
- Employment
- Pay and Benefits
- Productivity
- Workplace Safety
- International Comparisons

Our statistical programs, supported by a range of in-house services, produce a wide array of products and services that allow us to serve a wide audience:

- BLS is constantly releasing new data and analyses. Each year, BLS releases data through 170 national and over 500 regional news releases. Much of these data are collected by BLS staff working through our network of regional offices, our partners in State and local government agencies, and contract collection staff.
- All news releases, as well as voluminous additional data, are available on the BLS Internet site, bls.gov, which receives nearly 4 million visitors per month. Most data are also placed on the BLS online database, LABOR STATistics (LABSTAT), which allows users to query, access, and format data to meet their needs.
- BLS releases a variety of analytical products (e.g. reports, periodicals, chartbooks, Web features, etc.) that provide context to and greater detail about our data. For nearly 100 years, *Monthly Labor Review*, our flagship publication, has been a major source for analysis of BLS data. Additional analyses are available through other publication formats, all of which can be accessed at no cost at bls.gov.
- While support activities run the gamut from installing new software to ensuring staff get paid, our specialized BLS staff maintain and enhance such innovative projects as BLS University (to train our staff), a cognitive psychology lab (to test survey concepts and collection vehicles), an Internet Data Collection Facility, and call centers that handle over 3,500 phone and email requests for BLS data each month.

Goal 1: Products

BLS measures performance of our programs in producing objective data and analysis that are timely, accurate, and relevant.

- BLS tracks performance measures of timeliness, accuracy, and relevance, as appropriate, for each of its statistical programs. These measures are included in the Quarterly Review and Analysis (QR&A) reports and are used by the Commissioner and senior management to monitor program performance and make mid-course corrections, where necessary. BLS also reports on many of its performance measures externally, which allows data users to make informed decisions about the quality of BLS statistical data. Listed below are a few performance measures for a single BLS statistical program, the Current Employment Statistics program.
 - Output: *National monthly and annual series maintained.*
 - Timeliness: *Percent of national monthly releases on schedule (24 out of 24).*
 - Accuracy: *Mean absolute benchmark revision.*

Goal 2 (Product Improvement): BLS will improve the timeliness, accuracy, and relevance of our products and develop new products that meet the needs of our broad customer base.

As economic trends and issues change, BLS must constantly update our product lines to meet the needs of our data users. In addition, it is our responsibility to improve the usefulness of our existing products by making them available more quickly, improving the accuracy of our data, communicating the strengths and weaknesses of the data to our customers, and expanding the products and analyses available from our existing programs.

Objective 2.1 – Improve the timeliness of BLS data and analyses

Project 2.1.1 - Accelerate publication of the annual Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) release by 6 weeks.	This will be accomplished by implementing new tools, including Internet data collection methods, to shorten the survey collection period without harm to survey response rates.
Project 2.1.2 - Accelerate publication of the annual Consumer Expenditure (CE) release from October/November to September.	This will be accomplished through revised data reprocessing criteria and improved data review tools and reports. This is the first step toward matching the date of the CE publications with the Census Bureau’s September release of the Supplemental Poverty Measure, which uses CE data as input. This will provide data users simultaneous access to the supplemental poverty measure and the data that are the source of the measure.
Project 2.1.3 - Replace the once-a-year release of calendar year Consumer Expenditure (CE) data with quarterly releases of the previous four quarters of CE data.	This will be accomplished through a redesign of the publications system. Quarterly releases will give data users a more timely measure of consumer spending that better reflects current economic conditions.

Project Details

Project 2.1.1: Accelerate publication of the annual Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) release by 6 weeks.

Deliverables

2.1.1.1 | Data release accelerated for May 2011 reference period.

Project 2.1.2: Accelerate publication of the annual Consumer Expenditure (CE) release from October/November to September.

2.1.2.1 | Data release accelerated.

Project 2.1.3: Replace the once-a-year release of calendar year Consumer Expenditure (CE) data with quarterly releases of the previous four quarters of CE data.

2.1.3.1 | Data released quarterly.

Goal 2: Product Improvement

Objective 2.2 – Improve the accuracy of BLS data and analyses

<p>Project 2.2.1 - Update and implement the Current Employment Statistics (CES) net birth/death employment model on a quarterly basis.</p>	<p>The CES birth/death adjustment estimates the impact on employment of jobs that are created by new establishments and lost due to establishments that fail. Research is under way to explore developing the net birth/death factors on a quarterly basis. Quarterly production of these factors would utilize the most recently available Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) data and is expected to provide more accurate birth/death adjustments, and thus more accurate CES estimates.</p>
<p>Project 2.2.2 - Conduct research to improve the Current Employment Statistics (CES) net birth/death employment adjustment by introducing new regression variables into the model.</p>	<p>The CES program estimates monthly nonfarm employment based on a large sample of businesses and a model-based component to account for employment growth in new businesses and employment loss in failed ones. The use of more current, highly correlated, independent regression variables (e.g. the current over-the-month change in CES employment) could improve the estimated factors, therefore producing more accurate CES estimates that are more sensitive to economic turning points.</p>
<p>Project 2.2.3 - Improve the measurement of occupational employment and wage change over time.</p>	<p>Contingent on funding in the FY 2011 budget, this project will improve the comparability of Occupational Employment Statistics data from one time period to the next, thereby improving their usefulness for analyzing how the skills and wages of workers in U.S. jobs are changing over time. This will require a change in sample design, data collection and editing, estimation, and publication.</p>
<p>Project 2.2.4 - Update the housing sample for the Consumer Price Index (CPI) Program.</p>	<p>The CPI is the principal source of information concerning trends in consumer prices and inflation in the United States. Historically, updated samples of housing units for measuring changes in rental values have been introduced every 10 years. The housing sample thus becomes progressively older, out of date, and substantially smaller as time passes. The goal of this project is to introduce, for the first time, a continuous process for updating the housing sample.</p>
<p>Project 2.2.5 - Reduce the variance of the Consumer Price Index (CPI).</p>	<p>The CPI measures changes in the prices of consumer goods and services based on a sample of approximately 80,000 items priced in roughly 25,000 establishments. Because it is based on a sample of items and businesses and not a complete count, the CPI is estimated with error or variance. Contingent on funding in the FY 2011 budget, this proposal will increase the number of CPI commodity and services price quotes collected by 50 percent, improving the accuracy of each published index and the overall quality of CPI data.</p>
<p>Project 2.2.6 - Publish variances in the Producer Price Index Program (PPI).</p>	<p>Because the PPI price indexes are based on a sample of items and businesses and not a complete count, PPI indexes are estimated with error or variance. The goal of this project is to calculate and publish variances for the Producer Price Index program.</p>

Goal 2: Product Improvement

Objective 2.2 – Improve the accuracy of BLS data and analyses (Continued)

Project 2.2.7 - Publish variances in the International Price Program (IPP).

Because the IPP price indexes are based on a sample of items and businesses and not a complete count, IPP indexes are estimated with error or variance. The goal of this project is to calculate and publish variances for the International Price Program.

Project Details

Project 2.2.1: Update and implement the Current Employment Statistics (CES) net birth/death employment model on a quarterly basis.

Deliverables

2.2.1.1 | Implement the quarterly CES net birth/death employment model.

Project 2.2.2: Conduct research to improve the Current Employment Statistics (CES) net birth/death employment adjustment by introducing new regression variables into the model.

2.2.2.1 | Recommendations for improving the CES net birth/death employment adjustment.

Project 2.2.3: Improve the measurement of occupational employment and wage change over time.

2.2.3.1 | With timely funding of this project, the first set of National and State occupational employment and wage estimates based on the new design would be available in the spring of 2013, with a reference date of 2012. Estimates that can be compared from one period to another will be available in 2014, when we have two set of estimates based on the new design.

Project 2.2.4: Update the housing sample for the Consumer Price Index (CPI) Program.

2.2.4.1 | Updated CPI Housing Sample.

Project 2.2.5: Reduce the variance of the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

2.2.5.1 | Reduction in the variance of the CPI.

Project 2.2.6: Publish variances in the Producer Price Index Program (PPI).

2.2.6.1 | Published variances for the PPI.

Project 2.2.7: Publish variances in the International Price Program (IPP).

2.2.7.1 | Published variances for the IPP.

Goal 2: Product Improvement

Objective 2.3 – Improve the relevance of BLS data and analyses

Project 2.3.1 - Reinvent the *Occupational Outlook Handbook* (OOH) as a Web-based product.

With over a million visitors per month, the BLS *Occupational Outlook Handbook* is one of the most popular publications across the entire Federal government. BLS will redesign the Web-based version of its *Occupational Outlook Handbook* to improve the readability and appeal of the content and improve site visitors' ability to find information related to occupations.

Goal 2: Product Improvement

Objective 2.3 – Improve the relevance of BLS data and analyses (Continued)

Project 2.3.2 - Measure and produce information on green jobs.	BLS will produce data on green jobs by industry and occupation. This new information will be useful for monitoring the labor market impact of economic activity that benefits the environment.
Project 2.3.3 - Collect and release information on eldercare in the American Time Use Survey (ATUS).	Beginning in January 2011, the ATUS plans to collect data about eldercare. Several questions have been designed to identify eldercare providers, characterize the care recipient, and collect data about time spent providing eldercare. The data will allow researchers to examine issues such as how eldercare providers balance work and care giving, and the time involved in providing eldercare.
Project 2.3.4 - Use modeling to expand the availability of occupational wage data for metropolitan areas for full- and part-time jobs and for union- and non-union jobs.	BLS occupational wage data by work schedule and union status are currently produced by the National Compensation Survey (NCS) program for selected occupations in selected geographic areas. BLS researchers have developed a statistical model that can produce such data for a greatly expanded number of occupations and metropolitan areas by combining NCS data with data from the BLS Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) program.
Project 2.3.5 – Produce thresholds for the Census Bureau’s Supplemental Poverty Measure.	Contingent on funding in the FY 2011 budget, this proposal will enable the BLS to modify the Consumer Expenditure (CE) Survey to support the Census Bureau in its development of a supplemental poverty measure using CE data, which will complement the official measure rather than replace it. BLS and the Census Bureau will update the Supplemental Poverty Measure on an annual basis and improve it as new data and methods become available.
Project 2.3.6 - Expand data on work-related fatal injuries.	Develop new measures of workers who are fatally injured on the job to identify contractors both by the industry in which they are employed (such as the temporary help industry) and the industry where their work actually takes place, addressing concerns that the use of contract workers can distort industry-based data on worker-safety issues.
Project 2.3.7 - Investigate alternative approaches to capturing case and demographics data for workplace injuries and illnesses cases involving job transfer or restriction.	At present, case circumstances and worker characteristics are available only for workplace injuries and illnesses that involve at least one day away from work. The share of cases that involve only job transfer or restriction, without a day away from work, has been increasing, especially in certain industries. BLS will develop new survey forms and modify its computer systems to pilot test the capture of these details for job transfer and restriction cases as part of the 2011 Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses. Publication is planned for 2012.

Goal 2: Product Improvement

Objective 2.3 – Improve the relevance of BLS data and analyses (Continued)

Project 2.3.8 – Capture new data on services covered by health-care benefits plans, such as coverage and cost-sharing for emergency room visits, in response to requests to provide more details on health-care benefits.

In response to requests to provide more details on health-care benefits, BLS will re-contact employers responding to the National Compensation Survey to expand available information on services covered by health-care benefit plans and restrictions imposed by such plans. The first such expansion is scheduled for completion in Spring 2011, with further expansion to follow.

Project 2.3.9 - Develop industry production accounts.

The BLS will collaborate with the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) to produce a set of industry production accounts. The BLS will produce labor and capital inputs for these accounts, which will allow data users to access these data alongside BEA data on industry output. The work will extend recent collaborative work by BLS and BEA that developed production accounts for the private business sector and for the total economy.

Project 2.3.10 - Evaluate BLS' wide array of analytical products and recommend improvements to existing products, development of new products, and discontinuation of other publication products.

Evaluate BLS' current wide array of analytical products to determine which "publication lines" (e.g. *Monthly Labor Review*, chart books, *Issues in Labor Statistics*, etc.) remain relevant and how those might be improved, which publication lines are obsolete and should be discontinued, and where significant gaps currently exist. Establish a revised set of publication lines that will be used consistently across all programs.

Project Details

Project 2.3.1: Reinvent the *Occupational Outlook Handbook* (OOH) as a Web-based product.

Deliverables

2.3.1.1 A revamped and more Web-friendly OOH.

Project 2.3.2: Measure and produce information on green jobs.

2.3.2.1 Data on green goods and services jobs by industry.

2.3.2.2 National and State estimates of occupational employment and wages for establishments that produce green goods and services, in comparison with establishments in the same industries that do not produce green goods and services.

2.3.2.3 National and Census region estimates of occupational employment and wages for establishments that use environmentally friendly technologies and practices, in comparison with other establishments in the same industries.

Project 2.3.3: Collect and release information on eldercare in the American Time Use Survey (ATUS).

2.3.3.1 Release of data based on the new questions in mid-2012.

Project 2.3.4: Use modeling to expand the availability of occupational wage data for metropolitan areas for full and part-time jobs and for union and non-union jobs.

2.3.4.1 Expanded availability of occupational wage data for metropolitan areas to include data for full- and part-time jobs, union- and non-union jobs, and other characteristics.

Project Details

Project 2.3.5: Produce thresholds for the Census Bureau's Supplemental Poverty Measure.

Deliverables

2.3.5.1 | Deliver Supplemental Poverty Measure thresholds to the Census Bureau.

Project 2.3.6: Expand data on work-related fatal injuries.

2.3.6.1 | Expanded data on work-related fatal injuries.

Project 2.3.7: Investigate alternative approaches to capturing case and demographics data for workplace injuries and illnesses involving job transfer or restriction.

2.3.7.1 | Recommendations for alternative approaches to capturing case and demographics data for workplace injuries and illnesses involving job transfer or restriction.

Project 2.3.8: Capture new data on services covered by health-care benefits plans, such as coverage and cost-sharing for emergency room visits, in response to requests to provide more details on health-care benefits.

2.3.8.1 | Expanded data on employment-related health-care benefits.

Project 2.3.9: Develop industry production accounts.

2.3.9.1 | Industry production accounts.

Project 2.3.10: Evaluate BLS' wide array of analytical products and recommend improvements to existing products, development of new products, and discontinuation of other publication products.

2.3.10.1 | Final recommendations for publications products.

Goal 3 (Customers): BLS will inform current and potential customers about the availability and uses of our products and reach out to our customers to understand their needs for economic information.

BLS will be proactive in making our customers and potential customers aware of our vast array of products and services. We will utilize a broad range of communication tools to reach our audience in ways that are convenient to them. Our brand should be recognizable to our customers, and should be associated with high-quality products and services. We will use a variety of tools to help us understand the changing needs of our customers for economic information.

Objective 3.1 – Increase customers’ awareness of BLS and our products and services

Project 3.1.1 - Develop and implement an annual BLS outreach program.	The annual BLS outreach strategy will include a BLS corporate outreach plan and separate plans submitted by each Office. The annual strategy will articulate clearly the goals of outreach, how these goals are to be met, and metrics for measuring success.
Project 3.1.2 - Evaluate and, if appropriate, utilize social media.	This project will investigate the use of social media as vehicles to help BLS communicate more effectively with the public, including data users and respondents. Social media can include, but is not limited to: Blogs; Twitter; Facebook, MySpace, or LinkedIn; Wikis; and video sharing such as YouTube.
Project 3.1.3 - Build a consistent appearance for BLS products.	Building on the introduction of a unique BLS emblem several years ago, BLS is introducing consistent style elements into all of its products, including publications, presentations, and exhibits. This work will continue with the development of a consistent design for fact sheets and brochures.

Project Details

Project 3.1.1: Develop and implement an annual BLS outreach program.

Deliverables

3.1.1.1	Produce an annual outreach plan for approval and implementation.
3.1.1.2	Develop an annual speaking plan targeted to data users and respondents (including associations and industry groups) for the Commissioner, senior executives, regional commissioners, and others, and make it available on bls.gov.
3.1.1.3	Review the outreach section of the annual Associate Commissioner Memoranda to identify best practices, patterns, synergies (ways to build relationships between programs), existing gaps to be filled in the future, metrics currently used (distinguishing output measures from outcome measures), and consistency with BLS branding. Provide guidance for future Associate Commissioner Memoranda.
3.1.1.4	Establish standards and metrics for BLS dissemination and outreach.
3.1.1.5	Revise American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI) questions to better provide actionable information on the areas of the BLS Web site that need further design and development attention.

Project Details

Project 3.1.1: Develop and implement an annual BLS outreach program. (Continued)

Deliverables

3.1.1.6	Identify and evaluate tools (such as Web clipping services and media tracking data) that programs and offices can use to track the users and uses of their products.
3.1.1.7	Develop and implement a BLS Outreach Activities Tracking System (OATS) as the successor to the current Conference Tracking System.
3.1.1.8	Track, analyze, and report on BLS outreach activities.
3.1.1.9	Analyze data from the Customer Inquiry System.

Project 3.1.2: Evaluate and, if appropriate, utilize social media.

3.1.2.1	Evaluate the business need for using social media as dissemination tools, considering the cost (time and other resources) and the potential benefits (in terms of increased exposure of BLS products and services).
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Project 3.1.3: Build a consistent appearance for BLS products.

3.1.3.1	Design one or more templates and an accompanying “style book” for all one-page handouts and fact sheets.
3.1.3.2	Identify additional improvements to the appearance of BLS products to be addressed in FY 2012.

Goal 4 (Respondents): BLS will maintain high response rates in its surveys.

BLS depends critically on the willingness of respondents to participate in our surveys. Collecting high-quality data from respondents can be a challenging task. Maintaining their voluntary cooperation requires ongoing efforts to reduce the time burden of data collection. We must take advantage of how respondents maintain their records, develop measurement concepts that are meaningful to them, understand the costs and benefits of respondent contact attempts, particularly at the end of a collection cycle, and clearly articulate the value of each respondent’s participation in the survey.

Objective 4.1 – Improve data collection methods to encourage voluntary cooperation by respondents

Project 4.1.1 - Expand electronic data collection in BLS.	For applicable programs, expand electronic data collection to include email transmission and identify other flexible electronic data collection options.
Project 4.1.2 - Develop new evidence-based methods for prioritizing data collection.	Sometimes referred to as responsive design or responsive data collection, we will strive to develop statistical methods and procedures for prioritizing data collection, especially in the last weeks of data collection.
Project 4.1.3 - Evaluate and, as appropriate, develop and maintain new or enhanced corporate data collection training for BLS staff.	As needed, BLS will develop and maintain new or enhanced corporate training for BLS staff who collect data for BLS programs, including those in the regional offices, national office, and in State offices that are part of the BLS Federal/State cooperative programs. This training will be provided to explain how to market BLS programs, to avoid participant refusals, to communicate data collection techniques for specific groups such as small businesses, and to hone general data collection skills.

Project Details

Project 4.1.1: Expand electronic data collection in BLS.

Deliverables

4.1.1.1	Develop a vision for electronic data collection at BLS; develop new policies consistent with this vision. If needed based on the vision and policies, develop a software development plan.
4.1.1.2	If needed, develop production-ready email data transmission software for use in BLS data collection programs.

Project 4.1.2: Develop new evidence-based methods for prioritizing data collection.

4.1.2.1	Develop a research roadmap for analyzing the potential benefits of incorporating responsive design in BLS surveys.
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Project 4.1.3: Evaluate and, as appropriate, develop and maintain new or enhanced corporate data collection training for BLS staff.

4.1.3.1	Evaluate current corporate training in the following areas: reluctance and sales training (includes coverage of BLS products), remote collection techniques, and strategies for collecting data from small businesses.
4.1.3.2	Implement the evaluation report recommendations by developing new training modules and enhancing existing ones.

Goal 4: Respondents

Objective 4.2 – Provide respondents with a clear understanding of the value of their participation in BLS surveys

Project 4.2.1 - Develop high quality materials on the value and uses of BLS data for distribution to respondents and targeted industry groups.

This project adopts a corporate approach to developing field materials for use in data collection across BLS survey programs. These materials will provide respondents with information on the importance of all BLS programs relevant to their industry.

Project Details

Project 4.2.1: Develop high-quality materials on the value and uses of BLS data for distribution to respondents and targeted industry groups.

Deliverables

4.2.1.1	Develop a set of high-quality field materials on the value and uses of BLS data for distribution to eligible respondents.
4.2.1.2	Identify five industries (on a 2-digit North American Industry Classification System basis) and develop a set of tailored, high-quality field materials on the value and uses of BLS data for each industry for distribution to eligible respondents.

Goal 5 (Web site): BLS will make the data and other products and services on bls.gov accessible, understandable, and usable.

The BLS public Web site is the “face of BLS” to the vast majority of our customers. BLS’ top priority is to measure the important economic phenomena within our areas of responsibility and to produce the highest-quality products that resources allow (see Goals 1 and 2.) The value of those products, however, can be limited if the public cannot easily access and understand them. We will improve users’ ability to find what they need, improve the usefulness of our products, provide easier access to time series data, and modernize the systems and processes we use to load data and other content onto our Web site.

Objective 5.1 – Improve support for Web site users seeking information

Project 5.1.1 - Add a “related topics” feature to the BLS Web site’s word search capability.	This feature will help users find BLS products and data that may be directly or indirectly related to the search terms they used. For example, a search on “unemployment” might prompt additional choices such as “Did you want information on national, State, or local unemployment?”
Project 5.1.2 - Significantly improve the ability of users to find time series data underlying the information contained in our news releases, reports, technical documentation, and public databases.	By using a single search application, BLS will significantly improve the ability of users to find time series data stored in our public databases and other products (news releases, reports, technical documentation, etc.).
Project 5.1.3 - Develop an easy-to-use tool for selecting time series data for extraction from databases across all BLS programs.	Users will more easily select relevant data within and across BLS programs, and export data into all commonly desired formats. Unlike a keyword search, in which the user generates his or her own search term, the data query tool will prompt users to select from menus of specific characteristics of the data they are seeking (data type, industry, geography, etc.) and will search across all of BLS’ time-series data to identify relevant series.

Project Details

Project 5.1.1: Add a “related topics” feature to the BLS Web site’s word search capability.	
Deliverables	
5.1.1.1	Enhance BLS search results with related links and topics.
Project 5.1.2: Significantly improve the ability of users to find links to time series data contained in our news releases, reports, technical documentation, and public databases.	
5.1.2.1	Build a searchable repository of currently available descriptive information related to each time series.
5.1.2.2	Build a Web site feature that links the descriptive information in deliverable 5.1.2.1 to a search term, and then returns appropriate time series data options.
5.1.2.3	Build and/or enhance a search tool to return results from both time series and Web site pages with matches on search term.
Project 5.1.3 - Develop an easy-to-use tool for selecting time series data for extraction from databases across all BLS programs.	
5.1.3.1	Build a “try-it-and-rate-it” area on Web site to host “beta” tools.
5.1.3.2	Develop “beta” data query tools for public comment.
5.1.3.3	Deploy production quality data query tools capable of searching across all time series and surveys.

Goal 5: Web Site

Objective 5.2 – Improve the Web site’s content, understandability, and delivery

<p>Project 5.2.1 - Significantly improve BLS’s electronic subscription and automated update services to customers.</p>	<p>BLS will significantly improve its electronic subscription functionality, making it easier to sign up for BLS products and allow customers to receive updates on more BLS products. BLS also will build RSS (Really Simple Syndication) feeds for our Web content.</p>
<p>Project 5.2.2 - Enhance the BLS Web site version of its news releases by adding hyperlinks and other interactive capabilities.</p>	<p>Developing Web-enabled news releases will greatly enhance the value and usability of our news releases. By accessing hyperlinks for data series, concepts, and for other key terms, users to our Web site will be able to explore the details related to the data and the descriptive information provided in the news release.</p>

Project Details

Project 5.2.1: Significantly improve BLS’s electronic subscription and automated update services to customers.

Deliverables

5.2.1.1	Build RSS feeds for news releases and other Web site content.
5.2.1.2	Create new electronic subscription capabilities.
Project 5.2.2: Enhance the BLS Web site version of its news releases by adding hyperlinks and other interactive capabilities.	
5.2.2.1	Implement Web-enabled news releases for the BLS Web site. Preliminary efforts involve proposing functionality for this feature and estimating the human and technical requirements necessary to meet the deliverable.

Goal 5: Web Site

Objective 5.3 – Modernize the hardware and software platform underlying the BLS Web site to improve our ability to deploy Web content

<p>Project 5.3.1 - Develop and implement, as part of a new BLS Unified Publication System (UPUBS), a new and common process for uploading time series onto the BLS Web site.</p>	<p>BLS will streamline and modernize processes for uploading time series data to the Web by replacing current multiple legacy systems with a new BLS standard publication system (the Unified Publication System, or UPUBS).</p>
<p>Project 5.3.2 - Enhance UPUBS’ ability to produce publication-quality tables by incorporating the specific table features required across all of the BLS survey programs.</p>	<p>This project will replace currently used legacy systems with a single platform that meets the Web table requirements of all BLS programs. This will reduce unnecessary duplication across systems and enhance and streamline modernization efforts in the future.</p>
<p>Project 5.3.3 - Modernize the processes for the creation, review, and approval of content on our Web site.</p>	<p>This project will reduce the labor required to create and maintain content, improve the ability to use content for new products and/or formats, and improve the descriptive tagging of content to improve search engine results.</p>

Goal 5: Web Site

Objective 5.3 – Modernize the hardware and software platform underlying the BLS Web site to improve our ability to deploy Web content (Continued)

Project 5.3.4 - Modernize the processing system for releasing time series data.

BLS will modernize its processing system for releasing time series data to use current technology, streamline release processing, and reduce the time required to make data available on the public Web site.

Project Details

Project 5.3.1: Develop and implement, as part of a new BLS Unified Publication System (UPUBS), a new and common process for uploading time series onto the BLS Web site.

Deliverables

5.3.1.1 Plan and implement migration of all survey data processing to go through UPUBS.

Project 5.3.2: Enhance UPUBS to produce publication-quality tables by incorporating the specific table features required across all of the BLS survey programs.

5.3.2.1 Rewrite Table Generation System.

5.3.2.2 Code and deploy specific table features required by programs for publications and review tables.

Project 5.3.3: Modernize the processes for the creation, review, and approval of content on our Web site.

5.3.3.1 Implement and deploy advanced capabilities that would facilitate secure review of submitted content and automate the content approval/sign-off process.

5.3.3.2 Store all Web site content in a database-driven system to facilitate content re-use. An example of re-use would be to quickly gather content related to a timely topic from several BLS programs and publish the information in a new product.

5.3.3.3 Modernize news release processing system to improve the review, approval, and production of news releases and supplemental files.

Project 5.3.4: Modernize the processing system for releasing time series data.

5.3.4.1 Develop a new time series processing system for publishing data to the BLS website.

5.3.4.2 Deploy the new time series processing system across all BLS programs.

Goal 6 (Employees): BLS will recruit, train, and retain a talented and diverse group of individuals who are experts at the production and continuous improvement of our products and services, including employees who will support those functions, and who are well prepared to represent the agency and become our future leaders.

People are the most important asset at BLS. We will strive to maintain a diverse and highly skilled workforce. We must utilize strategies to attract a diverse pool of skilled candidates, train our workers to facilitate their productivity and advancement, implement strategies to retain our staff, and ensure that a pool of qualified candidates is available to fill our critical skill and management positions.

Objective 6.1 – Recruitment mechanisms are in place and can be quickly mobilized as hiring needs change

Project 6.1.1 - Develop and implement an annual recruitment program for BLS.

Develop an annual recruitment plan designed to broaden the pipeline of talented candidates, focusing on diversity/disability hires through targeted advertising and marketing strategies applied to individual recruitments for all occupations at all levels. We will strengthen existing relationships and develop new enduring connections with schools and other organizations, with an emphasis on diversity and hard-to-fill occupations, in order to establish productive candidate pools.

Project Details

Project 6.1.1: Develop and implement an annual recruitment program for BLS.

Deliverables

6.1.1.1	Develop an annual recruitment plan.
6.1.1.2	Develop and disseminate materials targeting diversity-serving academic institutions through a variety of on-line recruiting networks; explore other avenues for marketing BLS job vacancies.
6.1.1.3	Build and strengthen relationships with institutions of higher learning, including diversity-serving schools and professional organizations, such as the American Society of Hispanic Economists.
6.1.1.4	Conduct outreach activities at colleges and universities, through participation in job fairs and the BLS-initiated “Campus Ambassadors” outreach program, with an emphasis on encouraging diversity and hard-to-fill occupations.

Goal 6: Employees

Objective 6.2 – BLS has an effective approach to identifying skill gaps and working to close those gaps through general and specific staff development and knowledge sharing

Project 6.2.1 - Develop and implement an annual training program through BLS University.	We will identify and offer an annual program of training under the auspices of BLS University and other available resources, targeted at skills specific to BLS disciplines as well as more general skills that have broader applications. We also will expand training opportunities offered under the auspices of BLS University; identify additional training opportunities beyond BLS University; and continue offering these newly developed and identified training opportunities on a regular basis.
Project 6.2.2 - Enhance training and employee development for employees in highly specialized occupations.	We will seek to reduce the existing skill gap and increase the internal candidate pool for positions requiring special skills, particularly mathematical statisticians, through employee training and development.
Project 6.2.3 - Develop and implement a training strategy for succession planning.	As part of an ongoing commitment to succession planning, we will identify needed skills and develop plans to make training opportunities available to a diverse set of candidates for potential future positions.

Project Details

Project 6.2.1: Develop and implement an annual training program through BLS University.	
Deliverables	
6.2.1.1	Develop and implement an annual training plan, including courses to be offered and courses to be developed in the following year.
Project 6.2.2: Enhance training and employee development for employees in highly specialized occupations.	
6.2.2.1	Identify skill gaps and develop a 3-year plan to make training opportunities available to mathematical statisticians to develop those skills.
6.2.2.2	Track results of a 3-year plan to make training opportunities available to mathematical statisticians; assess skills gap following completion of training.
Project 6.2.3: Develop and implement a training strategy for succession planning.	
6.2.3.1	Pilot assessment and developmental activities in the Office of Field Operations. Identify needed management and leadership.

Goal 6: Employees

Objective 6.3 – Employees are recognized and able to balance home and work life

Project 6.3.1 - Evaluate current employee recognition mechanisms and identify improvements.	As part of our ongoing commitment to recognize and reward the exceptional work of our employees, we will evaluate the variety of ways in which employees are recognized for their accomplishments and identify practical, meaningful, and consistent mechanisms to improve the systems of awards at BLS.
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Goal 6: Employees

Objective 6.3 – Employees are recognized and able to balance home and work life (Continued)

Project 6.3.2 - Identify and resolve any barriers to the expanded implementation of flexiplace.

As part of our ongoing commitment to improve the quality of work life at BLS, and to enhance our ability to continue operations under adverse weather or other conditions, we will establish formal mechanisms for identifying and resolving problems that arise in the implementation of flexiplace for our staff.

Project Details

Project 6.3.1: Evaluate current employee recognition mechanisms and identify improvements.

Deliverables

6.3.1.1	Establish a labor-management partnership forum to evaluate current non-monetary employee recognition options.
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Project 6.3.2: Identify and resolve any barriers to the expanded implementation of flexiplace.

6.3.2.1	Conduct an annual evaluation of the infrastructure capacity to handle the use of flexiplace.
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6.3.2.2	Make flexiplace training available to employees and supervisors annually.
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6.3.2.3	Incorporate a technology troubleshooting module into flexiplace training.
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Goal 7 (Continuous Evaluation and Improvement): BLS must continuously evaluate and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our programs and processes.

As noted in the National Research Council's *Principles and Practices for a Federal Statistical Agency*, "an effective statistical agency has mechanisms and processes for obtaining both inside and outside review." BLS will conduct periodic, comprehensive reviews of our programs and support processes from different vantage points, including strategic vision, methodologies, products, and customer interactions. Some reviews will be primarily internal, involving interdisciplinary teams. For others, BLS will contract with outside organizations to assess particularly challenging issues. We will use these reviews to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our programs and processes.

Objective 7.1 – Conduct internal reviews to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of programs and support activities

<p>Project 7.1.1 - Evaluate alternatives and select a design for a corporate IT governance approach for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of systems applications management for BLS programs.</p>	<p>The starting point for this project is a recently completed study of the BLS applications development process that suggested BLS develop a governance structure for IT investments. This initial project will result in decisions about the approach to and support structure for corporate governance, and will identify a small number of pilot projects for flexible deployment of IT resources. Upon completion of this project, an implementation project under Objective 7.3 will be chartered.</p>
<p>Project 7.1.2 - Extend and implement a methodology for conducting internal reviews of BLS administrative processes.</p>	<p>Through 2010, the BLS Program Review management tool has only been applied to BLS statistical programs. This project will adapt the Program Review, identify alternative evaluation components that are appropriate, and shed light on the effectiveness and efficiency of processes such as human resources management, publications, procurement, and regional office responses to data user requests.</p>
<p>Project 7.1.3 - Conduct an internal review of the Job Openings and Labor Turnover (JOLTS) Program.</p>	<p>The JOLTS program is now 10 years old. With the labor market downturn that began in late 2007, use of JOLTS data by policymakers and the media has greatly expanded.</p>
<p>Project 7.1.4 - Conduct an internal review of the BLS productivity programs.</p>	<p>These programs produce measures of labor productivity (output per hour) and multifactor productivity (output compared to inputs of labor, capital, and intermediate inputs) for the business sector of the U.S. economy, for major subsectors and also for many industries. The review, which will be initiated with two outreach efforts to get user feedback on program coverage and methodology, will help to validate or cause revision of the programs' improvement agendas. The review will also examine whether any efficiencies might be gained by organizing the programs differently.</p>
<p>Project 7.1.5 - Investigate the issues surrounding the potential undercount of the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (SOII).</p>	<p>This ongoing research includes employer interviews and matching of BLS and workers' compensation records to learn more about the factors that may lead to an undercount of injuries and illnesses in the workplace. Work is also under way to determine the feasibility and cost of using multiple sources of data to enumerate amputations and carpal tunnel syndrome cases. BLS has and will continue to publish information on these research efforts.</p>

Project Details

Project 7.1.1: Evaluate alternatives and select a design for a corporate IT governance approach for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of systems applications management for BLS programs.

Deliverables

7.1.1.1	Develop and implement recommendations for enterprise IT governance; develop and implement recommendations for conducting pilot governance projects with a more flexible approach to deployment of IT resources.
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Project 7.1.2: Extend and implement a methodology for conducting internal reviews of BLS administrative processes.

7.1.2.1	Develop a methodology, endorsed by senior staff, for review of administrative and other non-program processes.
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Project 7.1.3: Conduct an internal review of the Job Openings and Labor Turnover (JOLTS) Program.

7.1.3.1	Complete the program review.
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Project 7.1.4: Conduct an internal review of the BLS productivity programs.

7.1.4.1	Complete the program review.
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Project 7.1.5: Investigate the issues surrounding the potential undercount of the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (SOII).

7.1.5.1	Complete the research reports.
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Goal 7: Continuous Evaluation and Improvement

Objective 7.2 – Obtain independent external reviews of challenging program issues

Project 7.2.1 - Conduct an external review by the Committee on National Statistics (CNSTAT) of the National Longitudinal Survey (NLS) program.

BLS is contracting with CNSTAT to assemble an independent evaluation team of four to five experts in the field to look at whether the NLS program: is asking questions about the right topics, should add new age cohorts, or should make any other changes to remain relevant to its users in the future. Using background materials assembled for them by CNSTAT and BLS, the review team will conduct a 1 to 2 day panel workshop. CNSTAT staff will prepare a summary report based on the results of the workshop.

Project 7.2.2 - Conduct a Consensus Panel by the Committee on National Statistics (CNSTAT) on the redesign of the Consumer Expenditure (CE) Survey.

The CE was designed in the late 1970s as a paper and pencil survey collected in person. The overall design and structure of the questionnaire have remained essentially the same for the last 30 years. Concerns about possible underreporting of expenditures, respondent burden, and falling response rates have led to a major effort to redesign the CE. Since the survey was first designed, the technology for conducting surveys, knowledge about survey methods, and the overall data collection and consumer environments have changed significantly. This project will convene an independent panel of experts to review the planned redesign approach and provide CE with consensus recommendations.

Project Details	
Project 7.2.1: Conduct an external review by the Committee on National Statistics (CNSTAT) of the National Longitudinal Survey (NLS) program.	
Deliverables	
7.2.1.1	CNSTAT conducts the workshop and delivers a report on the NLS program.
Project 7.2.2: Conduct a consensus panel by the Committee on National Statistics (CNSTAT) on the redesign of the Consumer Expenditure (CE) Survey.	
7.2.2.1	CNSTAT conducts an expert panel and delivers the panel's consensus recommendations on redesigning the CE.

Goal 7: Continuous Evaluation and Improvement	
Objective 7.3 – Act upon recommendations from internal and external reviews to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Bureau's programs and processes	
Project 7.3.1 - Restructure the Current Employment Statistics (CES) State and area data program.	The BLS FY 2011 budget request proposes to shift responsibility for developing State and area estimates from State Labor Market Information (LMI) agencies to BLS. This change will result in considerable cost savings to the program without reducing either data quality or the number of published series. A portion of the net savings will be used to fund improvements in data collection and survey response rates.
Project 7.3.2 - Discontinue Locality Pay Surveys and utilize existing data from the National Compensation Survey (NCS) and the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) programs to produce expanded output to meet Federal pay-setting needs.	In FY 2009, the Federal Salary Council requested that BLS conduct research to identify ways of providing occupational wage data for more geographic areas than were available through the Locality Pay program. Following successful development of modeled estimates that use both NCS and OES data, the President's proposed FY 2011 budget would have BLS providing all data for Federal pay-setting purposes using this modeling technique. This project involves continuing to partner with those in the Federal pay-setting community to provide needed data.

Project Details	
Project 7.3.1: Restructure the Current Employment Statistics (CES) State and area data program.	
Deliverables	
7.3.1.1	Published estimates starting in February 2011 are produced and published by the BLS National Office.
Project 7.3.2: Discontinue Locality Pay Surveys and utilize existing data from the National Compensation Survey (NCS) and the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) programs to produce expanded output to meet Federal pay-setting needs.	
7.3.2.1	Using a new methodology that combines NCS and OES data, prepare and deliver to the Office of Personnel Management data on non-Federal pay to be used in the President's Pay Agent's fall 2011 report.