

Where Do BLS Statistics Come From? A Day in the Life of a Field Economist

The University of Michigan's
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Ann Arbor, Michigan

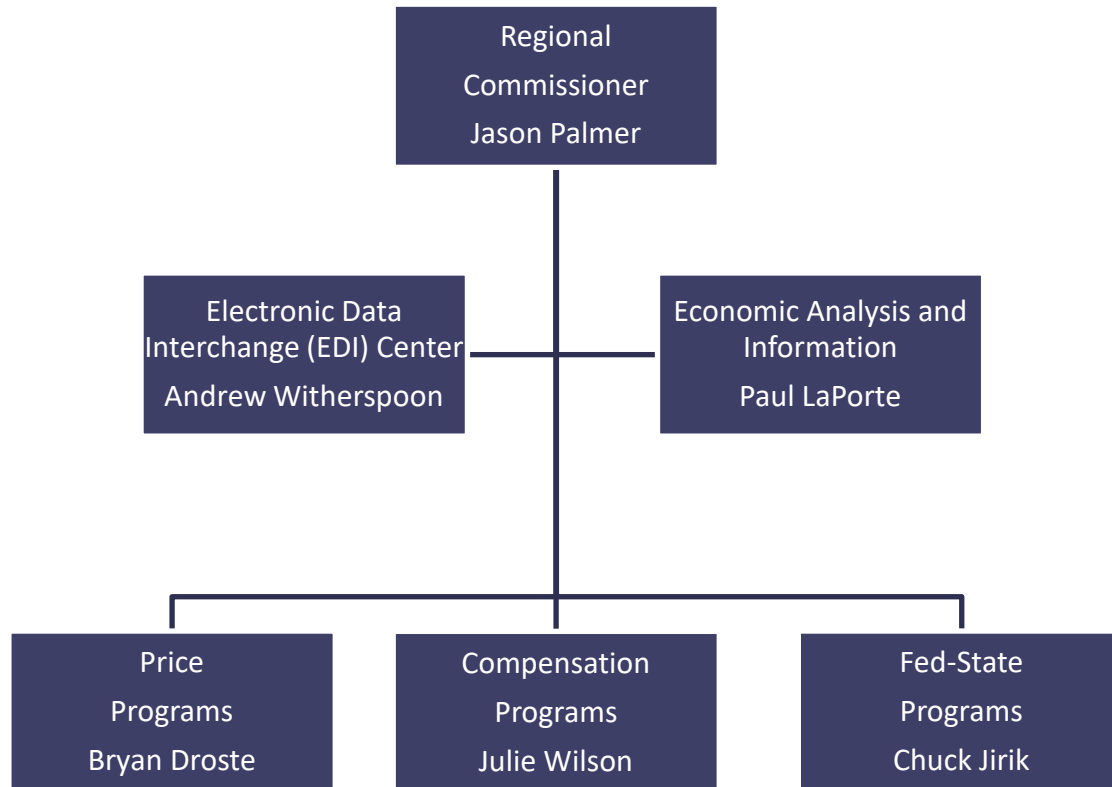


BLS and OFO

- The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) measures labor market activity, working conditions, price changes, and productivity in the U.S. economy to support public and private decision making.
- The Office of Field Operations (OFO) partners with the BLS program offices and state agencies to gather and disseminate this information.
- Six Regional Offices: Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Philadelphia, and San Francisco



The BLS Chicago Regional Office



We have **175** staff through the **10-state** Chicago Region.

Area Offices in **Cincinnati, Cleveland, Detroit, Indianapolis, Milwaukee, and Minneapolis.**

Price Programs

- We collected **221,000 prices** from **70,000 outlets**, supporting the Consumer Price Index.
- We collected rents from **9,200 households** in the region, providing important information on housing / rent costs.
- Our economists collected information from **900 companies** for the Industrial Price Program.



Compensation and Occupational Requirements

- We contact **7,200 locations** to collect wages, salaries, and employer costs for benefits for over **33,000 jobs**.
- We contact over **3,500 locations** to collect occupational requirements for **32 job elements** including cognitive, physical, and environmental demands.



Federal-State Programs

- We oversee **\$14.1 million** in grants to **10 state agencies** to produce labor market information.
- An additional **\$2.7 million** goes to **8 states agencies** to produce occupational health statistics.
- Overall, we support some 350-state staff / agents, with 320 in labor market information and 30 in occupational health statistics.



Occupational Employment and Wages

- State partners in the region collected data from **36,000 establishments** to help produce employment and wage estimates for over **800 job titles**.
- Michigan was responsible for **8,200** of those establishments, allowing for estimates for the state and for the 19 sub-state areas.



Electronic Data Interchange Center

- Unique to the Chicago Region, the EDI Center exports **240,000 reports** each month for the Current Employment Statistics program.
- In addition, they export **500,000** monthly reports for the Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages program.
- **56 percent** of the sampled worksites in the Employment Situation Report jobs number are collected by the EDI Center.



Economic Analysis and Information

- Our team prepares about **200 press releases** each year, highlighting recently-released information from these programs
- We deliver about two dozen presentations annually to professional associations, non-profit organizations, academic institutions, and federal, state, and local government agencies.
- The Chicago Regional Office sponsors a biennial **Data Users Conference**, focused on timely topics featuring subject matter experts.



Legend

Price Programs

Supporting the Office of Prices and Living Conditions (OPLC)

Compensation Programs

Supporting the Office of Compensation and Working Conditions (OCWC)

Federal-State Programs

Supporting the Office of Employment and Unemployment Statistics (OEUS) and OCWC

***Denotes a Principle Federal Economic Indicator (PFEI)**

Consumer Price Index (CPI)*

A monthly measure of average price changes over time for a market basket of consumer goods and services.

Producer Price Index (PPI)*

Measures the average price changes over time in the selling prices received by domestic producers for their output. Part of the Industrial Price Program.

Import/Export Price Indexes (MXP)*

Tracks changes in the prices of nonmilitary goods and services traded between the U.S. and the rest of the world. Part of the Industrial Price Program.

Employment Cost Index (ECI)*

Measures the change in the cost of labor, including wages, salaries, and employer costs for employee benefits.

Employer Costs for Employee Compensation (ECEC)

Provides the average employer cost for wages and salaries as well as benefits per hour worked. Expressed as a dollar amount.

Employee Benefits (EBS)

Produces comprehensive data on the incidence (the percentage of workers with access to and participation in employer provided benefit plans) and provisions of selected employee benefit plans.

Occupational Requirements Survey (ORS)

Information on physical demands; environmental conditions; education, training, and experience; cognitive and mental requirements for jobs in the U.S. economy.

Current Employment Statistics (CES)*

Survey of establishments provides a comprehensive count of employment and wages by industry.

Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

Estimates of regional and state employment and unemployment rates.

Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW)

A comprehensive count of establishments, employment, and wages by industry.

Occupational Employment and Wages Statistics (OEWS)

The largest survey of businesses on employment and wages by occupation.

Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI)

Annual information about workplace fatalities.

Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (SOII)

An annual count of nonfatal workplace injuries and illnesses.



Additional BLS Programs of Interest

Current Population Survey (CPS)*

Survey of households conducted by the Bureau of Census for the Bureau of Labor Statistics. It provides a comprehensive body of data on the labor force.

Productivity*

Measures how efficiently the U.S. converts inputs into the outputs of good and services.

Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey (JOLTS)

Produces data on job openings, hires, and separations.

Employment Projections

The Employment Projections program develops information about the labor market for the Nation for 10 years in the future. States produce state and local projections in partnership with BLS and ETA.

Work Stoppages

The program provides monthly and annual data of major work stoppages involving 1,000 or more workers lasting one full shift or longer.

American Time Use Survey

Measures the amount of time people spend doing various activities, such as paid work, childcare, volunteering, and socializing.

National Longitudinal Survey (NLS)

A set of surveys designed to gather information at multiple points in time on the labor market activities and other significant life events of several groups of men and women.

Business Employment Dynamics (BED)

A set of statistics generated from the QCEW program. Data series consist of gross job gains and gross job losses. These data help to provide a picture of the dynamic state of the labor market.

Consumer Expenditure Survey

Program provides data on expenditures, income, and demographic characteristics of consumers in the United States.

Wage Records

An initiative that compiles state wage record data to form a multi-state longitudinally linked data set to be used to support national, regional, and local analyses.



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