

Bureau of Labor Statistics
The Economics of Work
Help! I'm an Accidental Gov Docs Librarian

Mary G. Scanlon
Wake Forest University

Agenda

Content:

- Employment and unemployment
- Hours, wages and earnings
- Cost of pay and benefits

Navigation:

- Find and retrieve data
- Download data

Learning Outcomes

- Master definitions of select economic terms
- Grasp scope of data available at BLS
- Be able to navigate to BLS data, access data tables and download to Excel

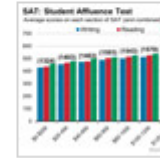
So What?

Key economic indicators



Real Time Economics

Economic insight and analysis from The Wall Street Journal.



ECONOMY
SAT Score
Income In
How Weal
Rank High

MINIMUM WAGE

EMPLOYMENT

INFLATION

HOT TOPICS: [IMF/WORLD BANK MEETINGS](#) [WSJ ECONOMIST SURVEY](#) [GRAND CENTRAL NEWSLETTER](#)

11:25 am ET
Oct 21, 2014 2014

Unemployment Rate Below 5% in 15 States

Politics

Top finance officials grapple with weak growth

Bureau of Labor Statistics

Content

Employment

Definition:

An estimate of the number of nonfarm, payroll jobs in the U.S. economy.

Employment

Includes:

- Full- or part-time workers
- Temporary and intermittent employees
- On paid sick leave or holiday
- On strike, if they worked part of the month

Employment

Excludes:

- Proprietors
- Self-employed
- Unpaid family workers
- Volunteers
- Farm workers
- Domestic workers

Employment

- Methodology:
 - Current Employment Statistics (CES) survey
 - Conducted monthly
 - Voluntary survey of non-farm employers

Source: BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 2

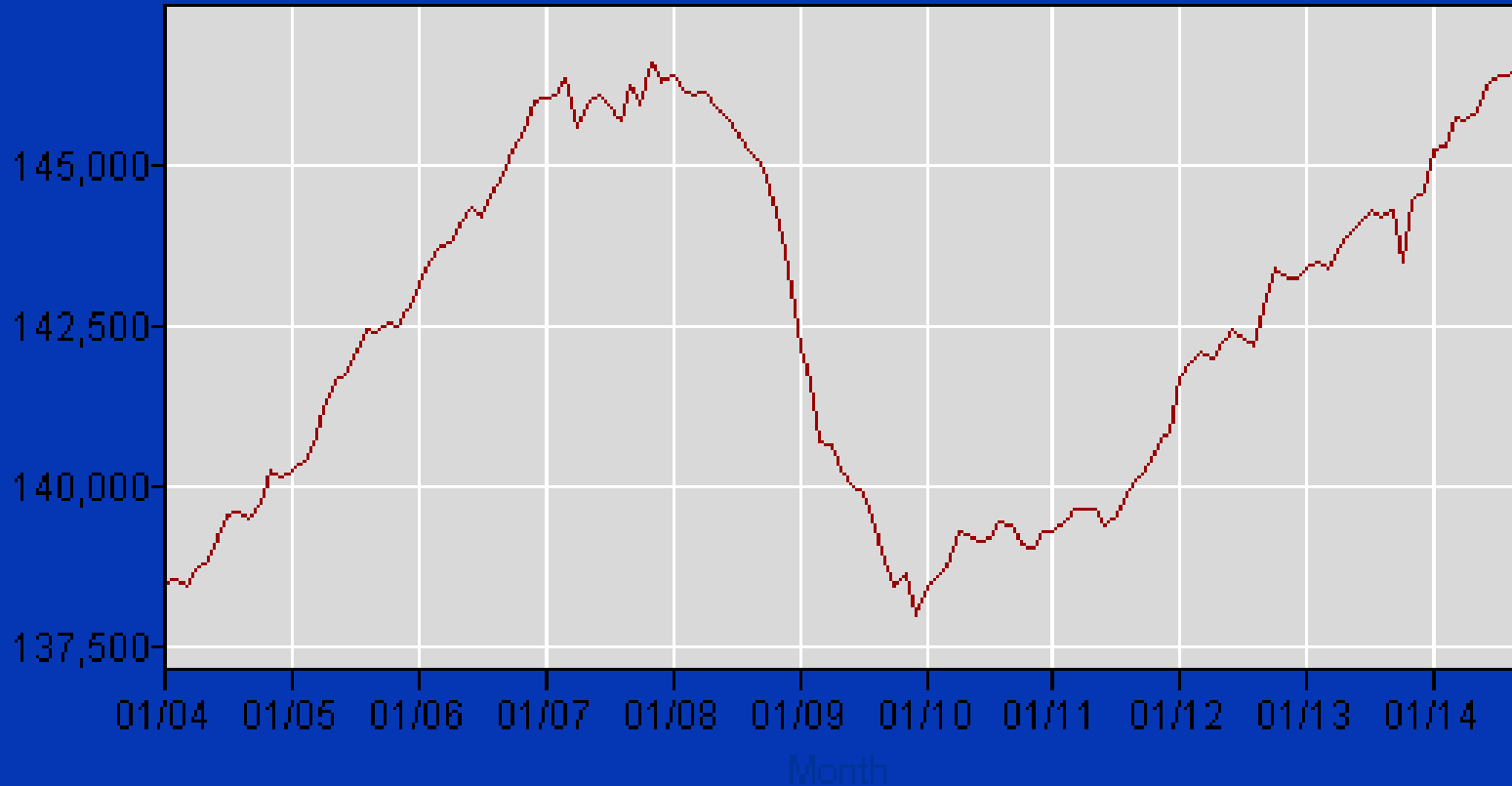
Employment

Data available from BLS:

- National
- State & Local
- State & County
- Employment by occupation
- Worker Characteristics

Civilian Employment 2004 – 2014

seasonally adjusted



Unemployment

Definition:

- Working age adults who are:
 - out of work
 - have actively sought employment in the last 4 weeks
 - are available to work

Unemployment

Excludes:

- Underemployed
 - By qualification or experience
 - By hours
- Discouraged workers

Employed + unemployed \neq adult population

Unemployment

- Methodology
 - Current Population Survey (CPS)
 - Survey of labor force status, people age >15 years
 - Conducted monthly
 - Bureau of the Census

Source: BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 1

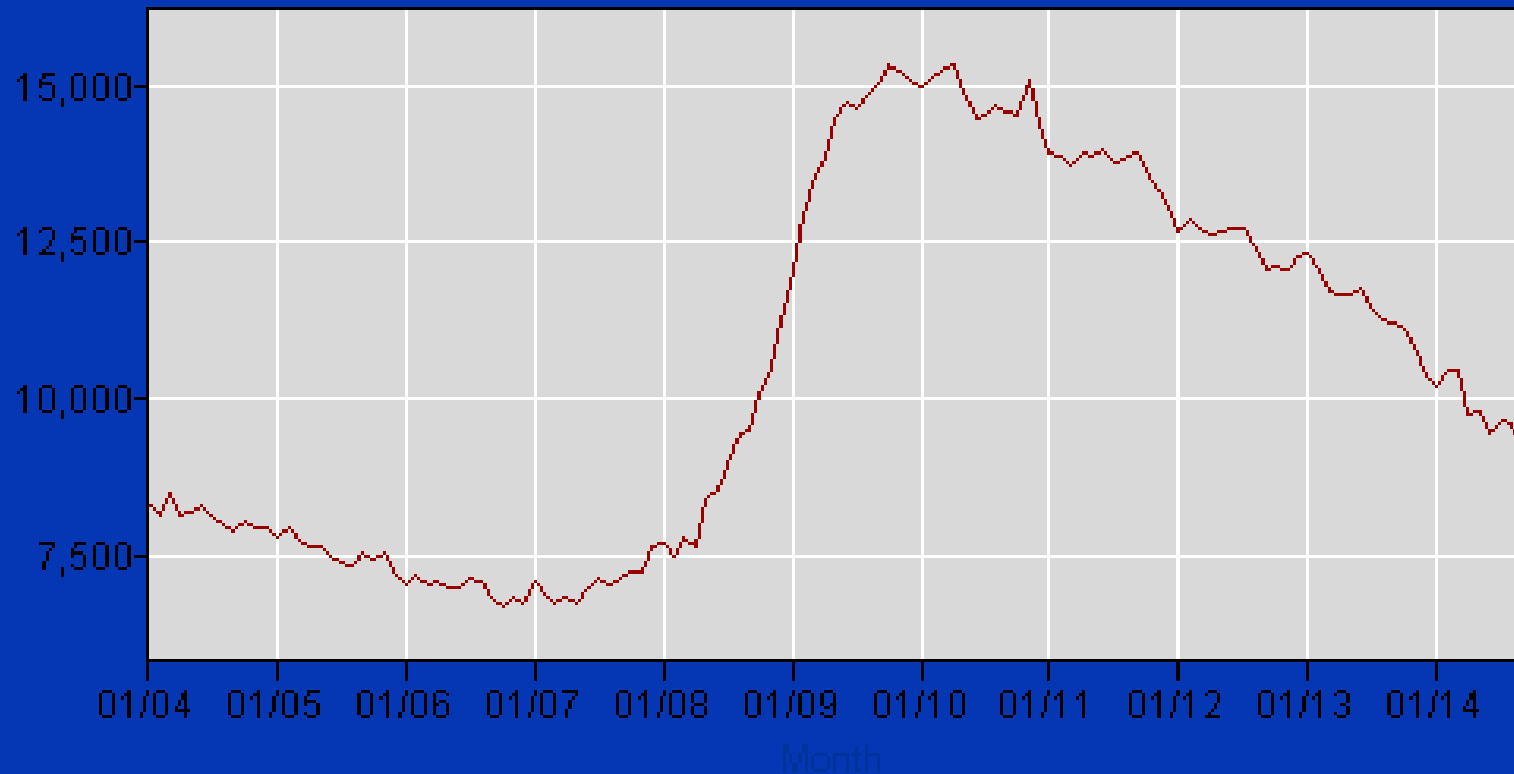
Unemployment

Data available at BLS:

- National
- State & Local
- Mass Layoffs

Civilian Unemployment 2004 - 2014

seasonally adjusted



Seasonal Adjustment

Definition:

A statistical technique that attempts to measure and remove the influences of predictable seasonal fluctuations due to seasonal events

Seasonal Adjustment

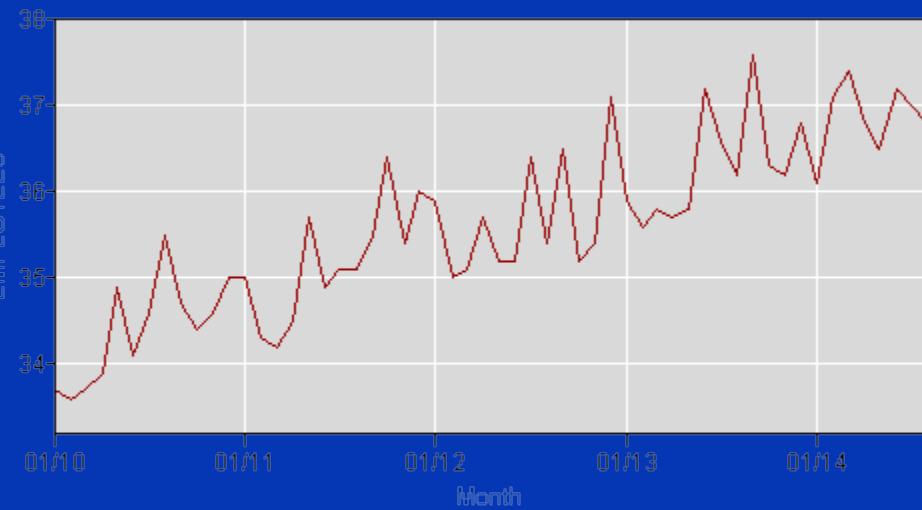
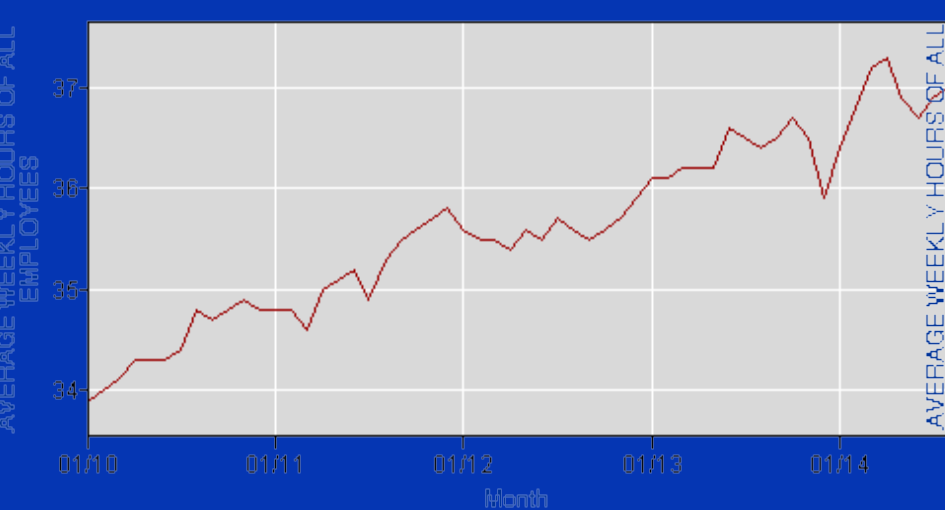
Includes:

- Changes in weather
- Harvests
- Major holidays
- School schedules

Seasonal Adjustment

- Monthly employment and unemployment numbers reported in the news are seasonally adjusted data.
- Annual average estimates are calculated from the not seasonally adjusted data series.

Impact of Seasonal Adjustment



Employment in retail electronics stores,
seasonally adjusted

Employment in retail electronics stores,
not seasonally adjusted

Hours

Definition

- Reports hours worked
 - Total hours worked
 - Average weekly hours (calculated)
 - Regular and Overtime

Methodology

Data is gathered from the CES survey

Source: BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 2

Wages and Earnings

Definition

- Wages
 - Hourly rate of pay for regular hours
 - Reported before any payroll deductions (gross)
- Earnings
 - Actual return to the worker for a stated period
 - Net of benefits, taxes, etc.

Methodology

CES Survey

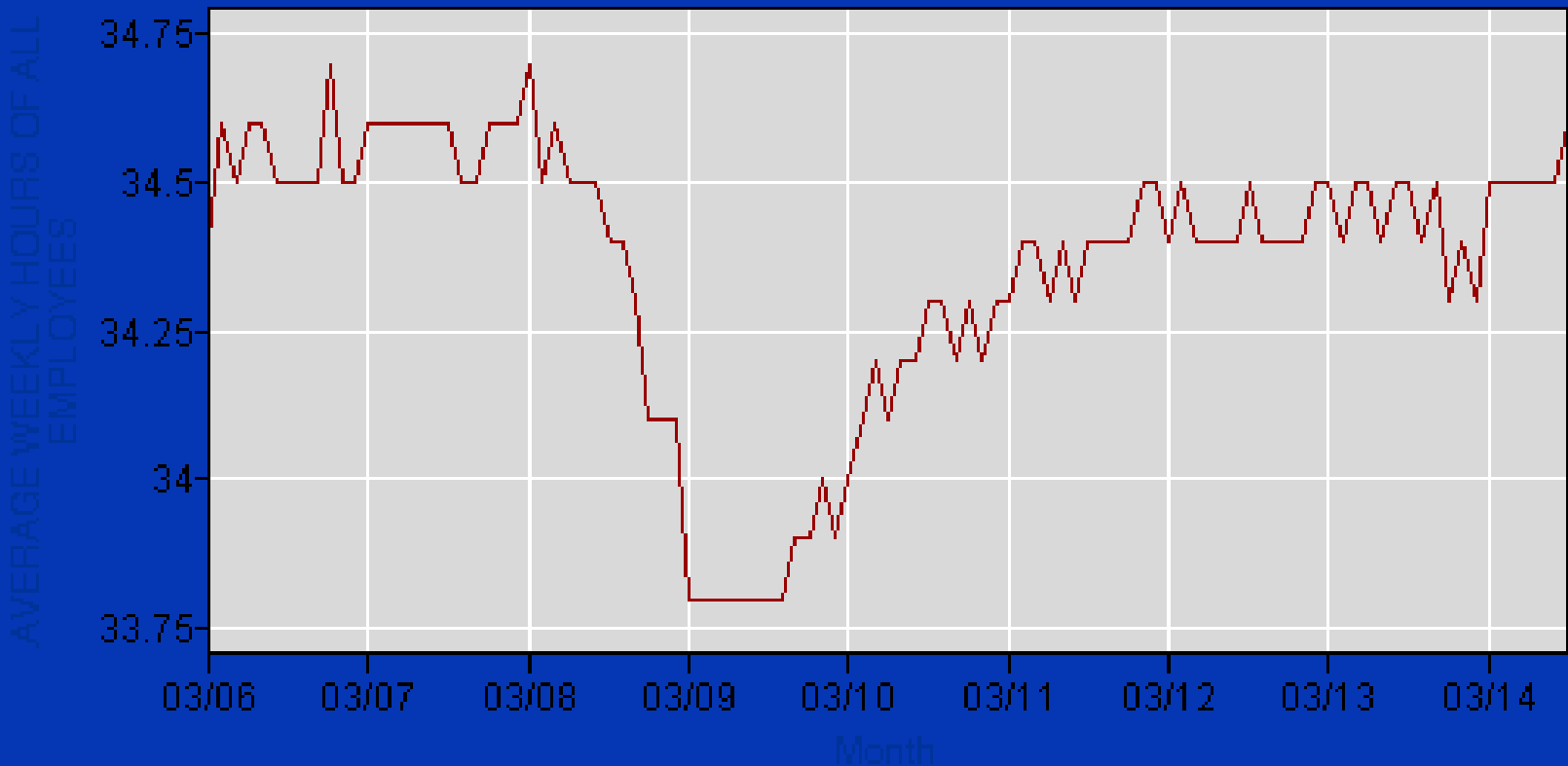
Source: BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 2

Hours, Wages and Earnings

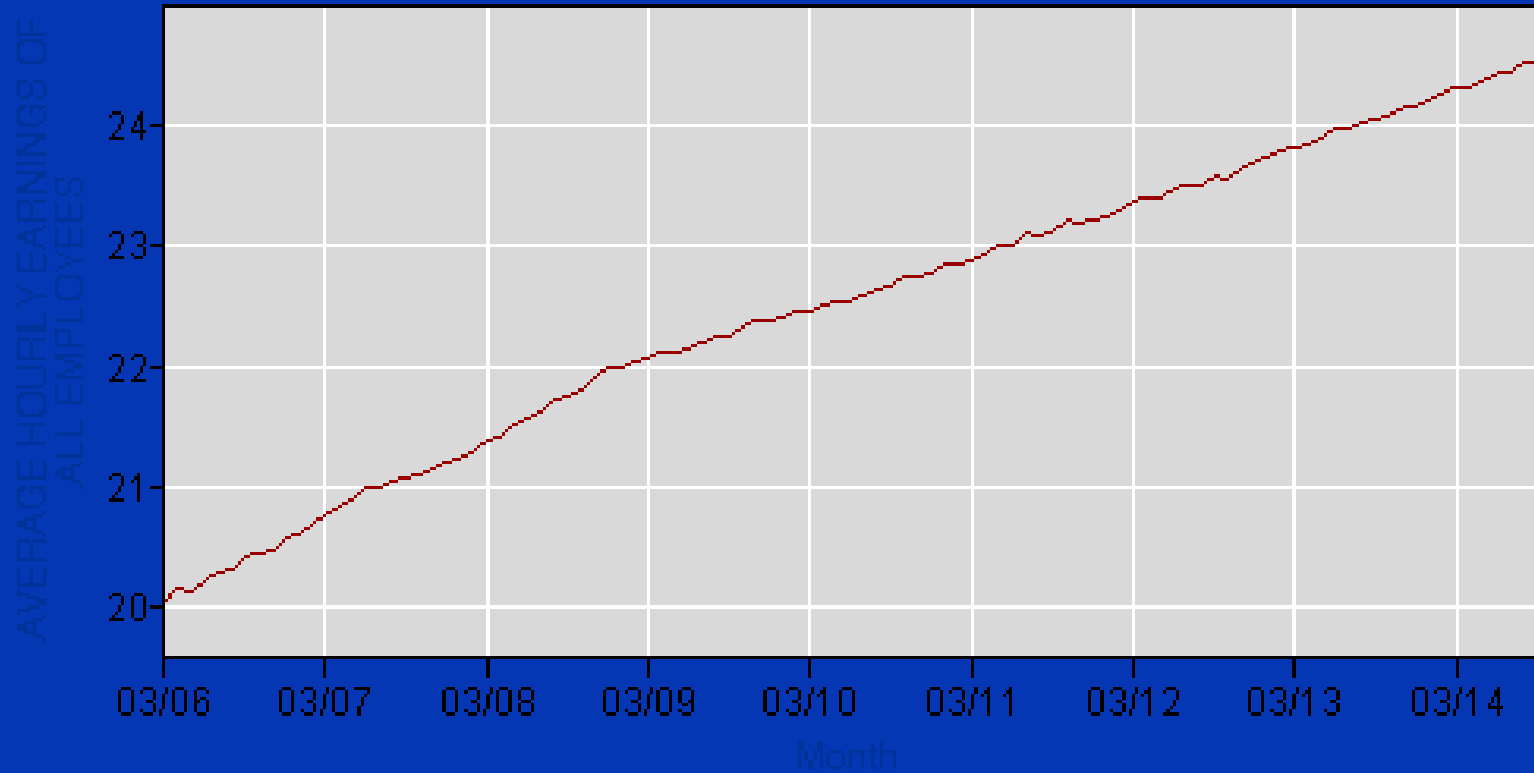
Data available at BLS:

- Hours worked, regular and overtime
 - Total, by industry
- Wages by Area & Occupation
- Earnings by Demographics and Industry

Average Weekly Hours, all Employees 2006 - 2014



Average Hourly Earnings of All Employees 2006 - 2014



Pay & Cost of Benefits

- Reported in the Employment Cost Index (ECI)
 - Measures the change in the cost of labor, free from the influence of employment shifts among occupations and industries.
- Methodology:
 - Derived from the National Compensation Survey (NCS)

Source: BLS Handbook, Chapter 8

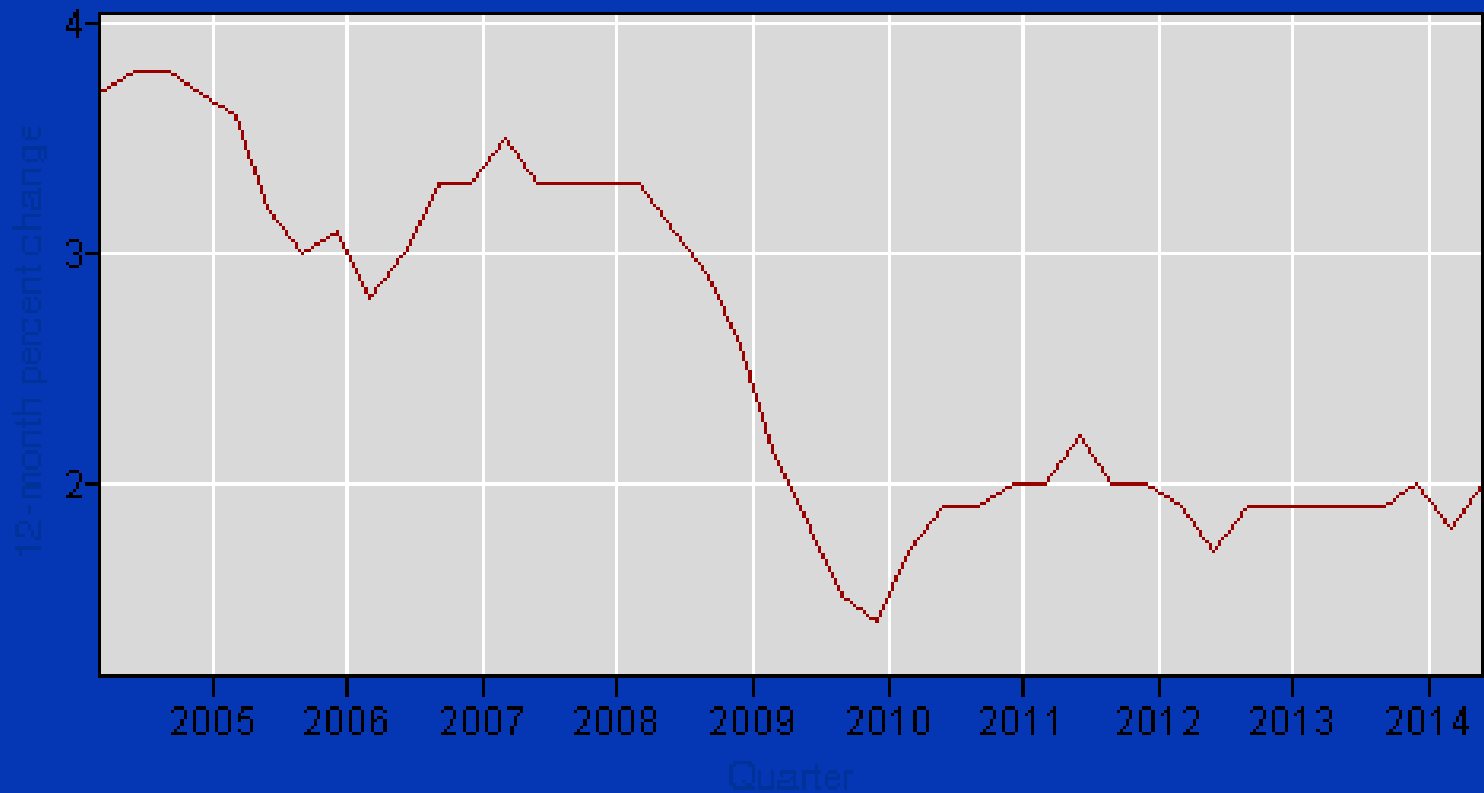
National Compensation Survey (NCS)

- An establishment-based survey
- Includes:
 - Civilian employees in private industry, state and local government

National Compensation Survey

- Excludes:
 - Federal government employees
 - Military personnel
 - Agricultural workers
 - Domestic workers
 - Self-employed
 - Those working overseas
 - Those who set their own wage rates

ECI, Percent Change in Compensation 2004 – 2014



Questions about content?

Bureau of Labor Statistics

Navigation

Navigation

Many roads to each data table

AUG
08

Productivity grows 2.5% in 2nd quarter 2014 (annual rate); unit labor costs grow 0.6%

Productivity increased 2.5 percent in the nonfarm business sector in the second quarter of 2014; unit labor costs increased 0.6 percent (seasonally adjusted annual rates). In manufacturing, productivity increased 3.6 percent and unit labor costs decreased 1.3 percent.
[HTML](#) | [PDF](#) | [RSS](#)

AUG
07

Productivity rose in 39 of 54 detailed mining, trade and food services industries in 2013

Labor productivity rose in mining, in wholesale trade and in retail trade but fell in food services and drinking places in 2013. Within these sectors, productivity increased in nearly three-fourths of the detailed industries studied.
[HTML](#) | [PDF](#) | [RSS](#)

- [08/01/2014](#) **Payroll employment increases in July (+209,000); unemployment rate changes little (6.2%)**
- [07/31/2014](#) **Compensation costs up 0.7% March-June 2014, and 2.0% over the year ending June**
- [07/30/2014](#) **Gross job gains 7.3 million and gross job losses 6.5 million in the 4th quarter of 2013**
- [07/30/2014](#) **June jobless rates down over the year in 359 of 372 metro areas; payroll jobs up in 307**
- [07/25/2014](#) **Medical care benefits available to 86 percent of full-time private workers in March 2014**

[read more »](#)

MONTHLY LABOR REVIEW



Multiple jobholding in states in 2013

In 2013, the multiple-jobholding rate in individual states continued to vary considerably from the national average of 4.9 percent, a rate that has been unchanged since 2010. [read more »](#)

◀ 1 2 3 4 5 ▶
[Archives »](#)

LATEST NUMBERS

Consumer Price Index (CPI):
+0.3% in Jun 2014

Unemployment Rate:
6.2% in Jul 2014

Payroll Employment:



GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION »

LATEST PRODUCTS

PRODUCTS BY STATE

PRODUCTS BY SUBJECT

LATEST PRODUCTS FROM THE REGIONAL OFFICES:

New England:

Boston area households paid an average of \$3.699

Midwest:

Chicago area consumer prices were up 0.4% in

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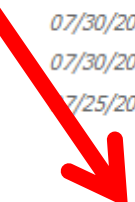
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Navigation arrows and a list of numbers: 1, 2, 3, 4. Below the numbers is the word "Archives". A red arrow points from the right side of the page towards the "Archives" section.

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RSS icon and a list of small icons (dinosaur, document) next to the latest numbers.

Bureau of Labor Statistics

[BLS.gov](https://www.bls.gov)

Quick Review

- BLS is the primary source for data on key economic indicators:
 - Employment and unemployment
 - Hours, wages and earnings
 - Cost of pay and benefits

Questions?

Bureau of Labor Statistics

Webinar #3 on the BLS

- Date: 19 November
- Focus:
 - Consumer Expenditure Survey
 - American Time Use Survey

Bureau of Labor Statistics

Questions?

Mary Scanlon

scanlomg@wfu.edu

Upcoming Accidental Librarian Webinars

- November 19: BLS Part 3
 - December 3: Education Data (rescheduled)
 - December 11: The Budget of the United States
 - January: Fugitive Documents (with James Jacobs)
 - Coming in spring: Canadian government information, case briefs, finding data at NARA
- Brought to you by the North Carolina Library Association's Government Resources Section. Join us!
- <http://www.nclaonline.org/government-resources>