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Description of document: **US Department of Labor (DOL) Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) periodic employee colloquia, brown bag lunch talks, and employee seminar discussions held at the BLS HQ 2006 - 2008**

Requested date: 17-August-2008

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Source of document: U.S. Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Statistics
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As Disclosure Officer for the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), I am responding to your August 17 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for a copy of the list(s) of periodic employee colloquia, brown bag lunch talks, and employee seminar discussions held at the BLS HQ in 2006, 2007, and 2008, preferably including at minimum their title/subject, the speaker and the date. You indicated that you are not seeking a single comprehensive list since no such list probably exists, but rather any and all list or lists that are reasonably accessible without extraordinary efforts.

In a telephone conversation with Theresa Bradley of the BLS National Office, you clarified your request. You explained that you are interested in receiving technical information and economic analysis, such as economic discussions, legal topics, and all BLS program-related activities from the key office dealing directly with economists. In addition, you specified that you are not interested in human resources, employee training or topics outside of economics.

I am enclosing a list containing technical information and economic analysis of periodic employee colloquia, brown bag lunch talks, and employee seminar discussions held at the BLS HQ in 2006, 2007, and 2008, as you requested.

I believe I have been responsive to your request. If you wish, however, under the FOIA, you may appeal this response to the Solicitor of Labor. You may file an appeal of this decision with the Solicitor of Labor within 90 days from the date of this letter. The appeal must state, in writing, the grounds for the appeal, including any supporting statement or arguments. To facilitate processing, you may wish to fax your appeal to: (202) 693-5538. The appeal should include a copy of your

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initial request and a copy of this letter. The appeal must be addressed to: Solicitor of Labor, U.S. Department of Labor, Room N-2428, 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20210. If mailed, both the envelope, and the letter of appeal itself should be clearly marked: "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Daniel J. Lacey".

DANIEL J. LACEY
Associate Commissioner
for Administration

Enclosure

2006 Seminars:

Title: CPI's Commodity and Services sample design

Date: 2/24/06

Presenters: Bill Johnson and John Schilp

Related Information:

An overview of CPI's Commodity and Services sample design and the optimization model used to allocate it.

Title: Pricing Services: Views from Different Programs

Date: 9/3/06

Presenters: Dan Ginsburg (CPI), Bonnie Murphy (PPI), Alice Wiesner (IPP)

Related Information:

They will discuss current issues in how their programs price services. John Greenlees will moderate the discussion, and there will be an opportunity to ask questions of the panel

2007 Seminars:

Title: Environmental Scanning in OPLC

Date: 11/5/07

Presenters: OPLC Staff

Related Information:

Presentation: Keeping pace with a dynamic economy. E-scanning is a structured program of information gathering that tracks developments in the economy and society that affect the economic phenomena that BLS seeks to measure. The speakers will explain how BLS has adopted a set of minimum standards and best practices to create systematic environmental scanning across OPLC offices.

Title: Gasoline

Date: 5/30/07

Presenters: Bill Thompson (CPI), Jeff Harris (PPI), Rozi Ulics (IPP), Vera Crain

Related Information:

This is a panel discussion of gasoline pricing, featuring speakers from each program. Mary Kokoski will moderate. The speakers will provide an overview of OPLC methods on pricing gasoline and will address specific questions that many of us are curious about.

2006-2008 CE Seminars:

Consumer Expenditures (CE)

Topic: Current CE research from ACCI: Income and PCE Results

Date: 4/3/06

Presenters: Geoffrey Paulin, Laura Paszkiewicz, and Bill Passero

Topic: PROC Tabulate & SAS Enterprise Guide: A Discussion

Date: 5/22/06

Presenters: Chris Cope & William Chan

2006-2008 CE Seminars cont.

Consumer Expenditures (CE)

Topic: WebAF: What it is

Date: 8/7/06

Presenter: Shelly Morrison

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Topic: Integration of webAF and Table-Driven Methodology: how incorporating a web-based application using webAF can be used in the Table-Driven process

Date: 4/2/07

Presenter: Shelly Morrison

Topic: Using an Interview Minimal Expenditure Check to Reclassify Bad Cases: A presentation

Date: 4/30/07

Presenters: Daniel Schrass & Steven Bass

Topic: FCI Modernization: Team Recommendations & a Walkthrough of the Process

Date: 6/4/07

Presenter: Tony Nunes

Topic: Searching Documentation on CEWEB: A Discussion

Date: 9/10/07

Presenters: Nathan McDermott & Steven Bass

Topic: Incentive Experiments in the CE Interview and CE Diary Surveys: Results

Date: 11/19/07

Presenter: David McGrath

Topic: Table Driven Edit System: New Standardized Table Driven Excel Tables

Date: 2/11/08

Presenter: Ian Elkin

Topic: Mode Effects in the CE Interview Survey: A Review of Results form Recent Analyses

Date: 6/9/08

Presenter: Adam Safir

Topic: CCE project Management Best Practices: A Discussion

Date: 6/23/08

Presenter: Project Management Oversight Committee

2006-2008 DIPS & OPT Seminars:

Division of Industry Productivity Studies (DIPS) & Office of Productivity and Technology (OPT)

Topic: Impact of Hurricane Katrina on Estimates and the Estimation Processes for BLS Surveys

Date: 2/16/06

Presenters: Larry Huff, Ed Robison, & Dick Tiller

Topic: Smoothing Procedures for Replicated Variance Estimates for BLS Surveys

Date: 5/1/06

Presenters: Tamara Zimmerman, Meghan O'Malley, & discussant John Eltinge

2006-2008 DIPS & OPT Seminars cont.

Division of Industry Productivity Studies (DIPS) & Office of Productivity and Technology (OPT)

Topic: Sum of States vs. National Estimates in the Current Employment Statistics Survey

Date: 7/10/06

Presenters: Julie Gershunskaya & discussant Erin Huband

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Topic: Everything a Math Stat Wants to Know About the BLS Regional Offices but Was Afraid to Ask

Date: 10/3/06

Presenters: Samantha Cruz & Megan O'Malley

Topic: 24 Hours: An Overview of the Recall Diary Method and Data Quality in the American Time Use Survey

Date: 12/11/06

Presenter: Polly Phipps, Margaret Vernon, & discussant Dorinda Allard

Topic: Evaluating an Alternative Weighting Scheme for Elementary Indexes for Commodities and Services in the U.S. Consumer Price Index

Date: 2/26/07

Presenters: Sylvia Leaver, Rob Cage, & discussant Alan Dorfman

BLS Best Practices in Methodology 2006-2008 Seminars

Topic: Methodologies for Estimating OES Wages

Date: 3/27/07

Presenters: Mallika Kasturirangan, Shail Butani, Tamara Zimmerman, & discussant Larry Ernst

Topic: Empirical Evaluation of X-11 and Model-based Seasonal Adjustment Methods

Date: 4/23/07

Presenters: Stuart Scott, Dan Chow, Dick Tiller, & discussant David Findley

Topic: Sample Reductions in Bureau of Labor Statistics Surveys

Date: 6/25/07

Presenters: Larry Ernst, Gwyn Ferguson, Bill Johnson, & Ed Robinson

Topic: Reallocation of Resources in the Current Employment Statistics Survey

Date: 10/23/07

Presenters: Greg Erkens & discussant Phil Selby

Topic: Methodology for Estimation of Indexes

Date: 3/4/08

Presenters: Owen Shoemaker, Bradley Rhein, & Helen McCulley

Topic: Cognitive Testing of Updates to the Consumer Expenditure Interview Survey

Date: 4/29/08

Presenter: Jennifer Edgar

Topic: Nonresponse Bias Analysis

Date: 6/10/08

Presenters: Brian Harris-Kojetin, Chester Ponikowski, Steven Paben, & Julie Gershunskaya

BLS Best Practices in Methodology 2006-2008 Seminars cont.

Topic: Reduction of Revisions in Estimates in the U.S. Current Employment Statistics Program

Date: 6/27/08

Presenter: Partha Lahiri

2007-2008 OPT Seminars:

Office of Productivity and Technology (OPT)

2 Topics:

Labor Productivity Trends Since 2000

DIPS Intranet and OPT Wiki

Date: 5/21/08

Presenters: OPT Staff

2 Topics:

Camp KILM: Detail to the ILO

Harnessing Technology in OPT Production

Date: 1/16/08

Presenters: OPT Staff

3 Topics:

Are Those Who Bring Work Home Really Working Longer Hours? Implications for BLS Productivity Measures

Background Paper

Adding Australia to the International Productivity Comparisons

Date: 1/18/08

Presenters: OPT Staff

Other BLS Seminars:

Topic: LAUS Overview

Date: TBD

Presenters: Regional Staff

Related Information:

The LAUS Overview is a three-day course designed to introduce the framework and methods used by the LAUS program. Concepts and procedures are covered using a mixture of lectures and workshops. This course is intended for State and regional office staff who have at least one month of experience on the LAUS program.

Topic: LAUS Model & Analysis Course

Date: Typically offered twice a year

Presenters: Regional Staff

Related Information:

This is a three-day course designed for LAUS staff with at least 2 years of experience in the LAUS program. The training focuses on the employment and unemployment models, but it also covers the smoothing, benchmarking, and analysis of statewide estimates. In addition to lectures, the course has several workshops aimed to provide first hand practice as to how statewide estimates are developed and analyzed. The LAUS Overview course is a prerequisite.

Other BLS Seminars continued

Topic: Mass Layoff Statistics Overview

Date: TBD

Presenters: Regional Staff

Related Information:

This 3-day course is designed for new employees in the MLS program. The training provides an overview of the MLS program, focusing on the sources of data and the methodology.

BLS Presentation Materials:

Topic: OEUS Annual Meeting

Date: 9/16/08

Presenters: OEUS Staff

Agenda Information:

- Plenary Session - Tuesday, Sept. 16, 2008
 - OEUS Developments and Plans, 2008-2009 (Galvin)
 - Executive Agencies During a Presidential Transition (Kamensky)

- Concurrent Sessions - Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2008
 - 9:00 a.m.
 - Labor Market Trends in CES (Liddel)
 - Labor Force Status Flows: Concepts and Analysis of Recent Labor Market Developments (Ilg)
 - Comparing Current CPS Data to Recession Periods (Borbely)
 - OES Email Data Collection (Jones)
 - Internet Data Collection in CES (Maxfield)
 - MWRweb (Higgins)
 - CES: Special Estimation Methods for Business Births and Deaths (Getz, Manning, Mueller)

 - 10:30 a.m.
 - Occupational Employment in the Not-for-profit Sector (Warren)
 - Services Offshoring and the Labor Market (Wright)
 - Employment Situation of Gulf War-Era II Veterans in 2007 (Walker)
 - Take Off and Descent of Airline Employment (Goodman)
 - Birth and Death of Business Establishments (Sadeghi)
 - How High School Students Spend Time (Allard)
 - Research for Improving Job Openings and Labor Turnover Data (Wohlford)
 - Statistical Methods Staff Research on JOLTS (Crankshaw)
 - Research for Improving Job Openings and Labor Turnover Data (Oslund)

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- Wrapping Up: Summary and Look Ahead (Loewenstein) -

Topic: OEUS Annual Meeting

Date: 9/18/07

Presenters: OEUS Staff

Agenda Information:

- Plenary Session - Tuesday, Sept. 18, 2007
 - Developments in OEUS and its programs over the last year (Galvin)
 - Current Employment Statistics data revisions (Getz)
 - Occupational Employment Statistics - National Compensation Survey Integration (Sommers)
 - Current Population Survey program review (Nardone)
 - Plans for the Office of Publications and Special Studies (Levi)
- Concurrent Sessions - Wednesday, Sept. 19, 2007
 - 9:00 - 10:15 a.m.
 - Current Employment Statistics (CES) control totals for States (Gershunskaya)
 - New Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) sample design (Lawley)
 - Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) smoothed seasonally adjusted data (Tiller)
 - Manufacturers' Outsourcing to Employment Services: Effects on Employment Growth and Productivity (Dey)
 - Effect of reservists being called up to active duty on their spouses' behavior (Pinkston)
 - Effect of Hurricane Katrina on the labor market activities of evacuees (Groen)
 - Trends in distance learning (Farrell)
 - The customer satisfaction survey of States (Filemyr)
 - Cooperative agreement developments (Offutt)
 - 10:45 - Noon
 - The Occupational Employment Statistics Pilot Response Campaign project (Phipps, Stamas)
 - American Time Use Survey response improvement project (Lacey)

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- Current Employment Statistics all employee hours and earnings data (Hatch)
 - New data from Mass Layoff Statistics (MLS) on reasons for layoff, business function, and total unemployment insurance claims (Carey)
 - Business Employment Dynamics data for States (Simants)
 - Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) chart book (Ferree)
 - Recent trends in labor force participation (Mosisa)
 - Recent trends in youth enrollment and employment during the school year (Morisi)
 - What do nonworking men do? (Stewart)
-
- **CES "Get to know us" Seminar series -- August/September 2007**

DCES and its support offices are developing a seminar series where each branch and support group presents an overview of the role they play in producing CES National and CES State and Area estimates. The seminars create opportunities for employees and contractors to interact with each other and also offer a better perspective of how each unit contributes to the final CES products. DCES plans to expand the seminar series to better inform staff on topics related to production and use of CES data. Below is information from the latest sessions.

 - Sample Control Group
 - Division of Industry Data Development
 - Benchmarking: Bridging the gap between CES and QCEW
 - Automated Collection in the Current Employment Statistics Survey
 - Division of Federal/State Monthly Surveys; Data Collection and Transmission
 - CES National: Behind the Scenes
 - Current Employment Statistics: State and Area Branch
 - Office of Field Operations (OFO) Roles and Responsibilities
 - Statistical Methods Staff
-
- **Federal Forecasters Conference - to be held September 28, 2006**
 - **OEUS Programs Conference - June 27-28, 2006**

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- CES/QCEW integration plans
 - OES/NCS integration plans
 - 2014 employment projections
 - Employment in hospitals: unconventional patterns over time
 - Labor force participation trends among mothers of infants
 - Survival and longevity in Business Employment Dynamics data
 - Careers in the green industry: jobs for people with green thumbs
 - Geocoding the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages
 - Occupational structure and urban growth
 - Multiple jobholding in States
 - Recent trends in residential and nonresidential construction employment
 - Jobs in 2005: How do they compare to their March 2001 counterparts?
 - Research and technology occupational employment
 - Project managers stay in charge and out front
- Current Population Technical Document

The Current Population Survey (CPS) is a monthly survey of about 60,000 households conducted by the Bureau of the Census. The survey is jointly funded by the Census Bureau and the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The survey has been conducted for more than 50 years and produces a major economic indicator, the unemployment rate. Data from the survey include a wealth of information on the US civilian noninstitutional population, including the employment and unemployment characteristics of persons by sex, age, race, ethnicity, marital status, education and other characteristics.

Staff of the Census Bureau and the Bureau of Labor Statistics have attempted in this publication to provide data users with a thorough description of the design and methodology used in the CPS. The original preparation of this technical paper was a major undertaking, spanning several years and involving dozens of statisticians, economists, and others from the two agencies. The publication is revised after each decennial Census.

The CPS design and methodology document (Technical Paper 66) is available from OEUS staff.

Since the CPS state sample sizes are too small to produce reliable state monthly labor force estimates, the state labor force series are modeled using a signal plus noise time series approach. Please contact Richard Tiller for questions on state labor force estimation.