

**FY 2026**

**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET JUSTIFICATION**

**BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS**

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# BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

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# **BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS**

## **APPROPRIATION LANGUAGE**

### **SALARIES AND EXPENSES**

No appropriations language is proposed within the Department of Labor.

Note.—This account is operating under the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025 (Division A of Public Law 119–4).

# BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

AMOUNTS AVAILABLE FOR OBLIGATION						
(Dollars in Thousands)						
	FY 2024		FY 2025		FY 2026	
	Revised Enacted		Revised Enacted		Request	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
<b>A. Appropriation</b>	<b>2,058</b>	<b>\$629,952</b>	<b>2,019</b>	<b>\$635,952</b>	<b>1,851</b>	<b>\$579,952</b>
<i>Subtotal Appropriation</i>	<i>2,058</i>	<i>\$629,952</i>	<i>2,019</i>	<i>\$635,952</i>	<i>1,851</i>	<i>\$579,952</i>
Unexpired Unobligated Balances Carried Forward from Prior Year	0	\$2,463	0	\$1	0	\$0
Recovery of prior year unpaid obligations	0	\$0	0	\$148	0	\$0
Unobligated Balances Transferred Between Expired/Unexpired Accounts	0	\$517	0	\$0	0	\$0
Offsetting Collections From:						
Reimbursements	169	\$41,309	156	\$40,305	144	\$40,305
Trust Funds	0	\$68,000	0	\$68,000	0	\$68,000
<i>Subtotal Offsetting Collections</i>	<i>169</i>	<i>\$109,309</i>	<i>156</i>	<i>\$108,305</i>	<i>144</i>	<i>\$108,305</i>
<b>B. Gross Budget Authority</b>	<b>2,227</b>	<b>\$742,241</b>	<b>2,175</b>	<b>\$744,406</b>	<b>1,995</b>	<b>\$688,257</b>
Unexpired Unobligated Balances Carried Forward from Prior Year	0	-\$2,463	0	-\$1	0	\$0
Recovery of prior year unpaid obligations	0	\$0	0	-\$148	0	\$0
Unobligated Balances Transferred Between Expired/Unexpired Accounts	0	-\$517	0	\$0	0	\$0
Offsetting Collections To:						
Reimbursements	-169	-\$41,309	-156	-\$40,305	-144	-\$40,305
<i>Subtotal Offsetting Collections</i>	<i>-169</i>	<i>-\$41,309</i>	<i>-156</i>	<i>-\$40,305</i>	<i>-144</i>	<i>-\$40,305</i>
<b>C. Budget Authority Before Committee</b>	<b>2,058</b>	<b>\$697,952</b>	<b>2,019</b>	<b>\$703,952</b>	<b>1,851</b>	<b>\$647,952</b>
Unexpired Unobligated Balances Carried Forward from Prior Year	0	\$2,463	0	\$1	0	\$0
Recovery of prior year unpaid obligations	0	\$0	0	\$148	0	\$0
Unobligated Balances Transferred Between Expired/Unexpired Accounts	0	\$517	0	\$0	0	\$0
Offsetting Collections From:						
Reimbursements	169	\$41,309	156	\$40,305	144	\$40,305
<i>Subtotal Offsetting Collections</i>	<i>169</i>	<i>\$41,309</i>	<i>156</i>	<i>\$40,305</i>	<i>144</i>	<i>\$40,305</i>
<b>D. Total Budgetary Resources</b>	<b>2,227</b>	<b>\$742,241</b>	<b>2,175</b>	<b>\$744,406</b>	<b>1,995</b>	<b>\$688,257</b>
Unexpired Unobligated Balance Carried Forward	0	-\$1	0	\$0	0	\$0
FTE Lapse and Unobligated Balance Expiring:						
Budget Authority Before Committee	4	-\$442	0	\$0	0	\$0
Reimbursements	-3	-\$4,065	0	\$0	0	\$0
<i>Subtotal FTE Lapse and Unobligated Balance Expiring</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>-\$4,507</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>\$0</i>
<b>E. Total, Estimated Obligations</b>	<b>2,228</b>	<b>\$737,733</b>	<b>2,175</b>	<b>\$744,406</b>	<b>1,995</b>	<b>\$688,257</b>

# BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

## SUMMARY OF CHANGES

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2025 Revised Enacted		FY 2026 Request		Net Change			
<b>Budget Authority</b>								
General Funds	\$635,952		\$579,952		-\$56,000			
Trust Funds	\$68,000		\$68,000		\$0			
Total	\$703,952		\$647,952		-\$56,000			
<b>Full Time Equivalents</b>								
General Funds	2,019		1,851		-168			
Total	2,019		1,851		-168			
<b>FY 2026 Change</b>								
Explanation of Change	FY 2025 Base		Trust Funds		General Funds		Total	
<b>Increases:</b>								
<b>A. Built-Ins:</b>								
To Provide For:								
Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA)	0	\$155	0	\$0	0	\$119	0	\$119
<b>Built-Ins Subtotal</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>+\$155</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>+\$119</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>+\$119</b>
<b>Total Increase</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>+\$155</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>+\$119</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>+\$119</b>
<b>Decreases:</b>								
<b>A. Built-Ins:</b>								
To Provide For:								
Working Capital Fund	0	\$42,334	0	\$0	0	-\$2,880	0	-\$2,880
<b>Built-Ins Subtotal</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>+\$42,334</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-\$2,880</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-\$2,880</b>
<b>B. Programs:</b>								
Savings from Staff Attrition and Statistical Agency Reorganization	2,019	\$703,952	0	\$0	-168	-\$53,239	-168	-\$53,239
<b>Programs Subtotal</b>	<b>2,019</b>	<b>+\$703,952</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>-168</b>	<b>-\$53,239</b>	<b>-168</b>	<b>-\$53,239</b>
<b>Total Decrease</b>	<b>2,019</b>	<b>+\$703,952</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>-168</b>	<b>-\$56,119</b>	<b>-168</b>	<b>-\$56,119</b>
<b>Total Change</b>	<b>2,019</b>	<b>+\$703,952</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>-168</b>	<b>-\$56,000</b>	<b>-168</b>	<b>-\$56,000</b>

## BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

SUMMARY BUDGET AUTHORITY AND FTE BY ACTIVITY								
(Dollars in Thousands)								
	FY 2024 Revised Enacted		FY 2025 Revised Enacted		FY 2026 Request		Diff. FY 26 Request / FY 25 Revised Enacted	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
<b>Labor Force Statistics</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>\$315,952</b>	<b>526</b>	<b>\$317,150</b>	<b>483</b>	<b>\$293,431</b>	<b>-43</b>	<b>-\$23,719</b>
General Funds	539	247,952	526	249,150	483	225,431	-43	-23,719
Unemployment Trust Funds	0	68,000	0	68,000	0	68,000	0	0
<b>Prices and Cost of Living</b>	<b>977</b>	<b>\$241,000</b>	<b>954</b>	<b>\$244,436</b>	<b>885</b>	<b>\$225,217</b>	<b>-69</b>	<b>-\$19,219</b>
General Funds	977	241,000	954	244,436	885	225,217	-69	-19,219
<b>Compensation and Working Conditions</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>\$91,000</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>\$92,354</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>\$83,188</b>	<b>-38</b>	<b>-\$9,166</b>
General Funds	332	91,000	328	92,354	290	83,188	-38	-9,166
<b>Productivity and Technology</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>\$12,500</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>\$12,360</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>\$11,322</b>	<b>-5</b>	<b>-\$1,038</b>
General Funds	50	12,500	52	12,360	47	11,322	-5	-1,038
<b>Executive Direction and Staff Services</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>\$37,500</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>\$37,652</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>\$34,794</b>	<b>-13</b>	<b>-\$2,858</b>
General Funds	164	37,500	159	37,652	146	34,794	-13	-2,858
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,062</b>	<b>\$697,952</b>	<b>2,019</b>	<b>\$703,952</b>	<b>1,851</b>	<b>\$647,952</b>	<b>-168</b>	<b>-\$56,000</b>
<b>General Funds</b>	<b>2,062</b>	<b>629,952</b>	<b>2,019</b>	<b>635,952</b>	<b>1,851</b>	<b>579,952</b>	<b>-168</b>	<b>-56,000</b>
<b>Unemployment Trust Funds</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>68,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>68,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>68,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

NOTE: FY 2024 reflects actual FTE.



# BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

<b>BUDGET AUTHORITY BY OBJECT CLASS</b>					
(Dollars in Thousands)					
		<b>FY 2024 Revised Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2025 Revised Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2026 Request</b>	<b>Diff. FY 26 Request / FY 25 Revised Enacted</b>
	Full-Time Equivalent				
	Full-time Permanent	1,824	1,789	1,621	-168
	Other	234	230	230	0
	Reimbursable	169	156	144	-12
	Total	2,227	2,175	1,995	-180
	Average ES Salary	\$206,000	\$213,000	\$214,000	\$1,000
	Average GM/GS Grade	11/4	11/5	11/5	0
	Average GM/GS Salary	\$113,000	\$116,000	\$117,000	\$1,000
11.1	Full-time permanent	\$225,715	\$230,296	\$209,693	-\$20,603
11.3	Other than full-time permanent	13,583	13,672	13,672	0
11.5	Other personnel compensation	6,756	6,857	6,857	0
11.9	Total personnel compensation	246,054	250,825	230,222	-20,603
12.1	Civilian personnel benefits	89,222	91,295	83,625	-7,670
13.0	Benefits for former personnel	90	61	61	0
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons	4,000	2,600	2,600	0
23.1	Rental payments to GSA	19,258	22,831	22,831	0
23.2	Rental payments to others	81	84	84	0
23.3	Communications, utilities, and miscellaneous charges	2,835	1,865	1,865	0
24.0	Printing and reproduction	1,000	1,017	1,017	0
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources	11,547	6,617	4,632	-1,985
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources 1/	154,535	159,524	156,644	-2,880
25.5	Research and development contracts	24,700	25,324	17,731	-7,593
25.7	Operation and maintenance of equipment	51,275	50,919	35,650	-15,269
26.0	Supplies and materials	300	250	250	0
31.0	Equipment	11,500	7,600	7,600	0
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	81,455	83,120	83,120	0
42.0	Insurance claims and indemnities	100	20	20	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$697,952</b>	<b>\$703,952</b>	<b>\$647,952</b>	<b>-\$56,000</b>
1/ Other goods and services from Federal sources					
	Working Capital Fund	\$42,863	\$42,334	\$39,454	-\$2,880
	DHS Services	4,125	3,645	3,645	0
	Census Bureau	99,047	103,990	103,990	0

# BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

## AUTHORIZING STATUTES

<b>Legislation</b>	<b>Statute No. / US Code</b>	<b>Expiration Date</b>
An Act to Establish the Bureau of Labor, 1884 (amended by Act of 1913 to establish the Department of Labor)	29 U.S.C. 1 et. seq.	n/a
The Wagner-Peyser Act of 1933, as amended	29 U.S.C. 49 et. seq.	n/a
Veterans' Employment, Training, and Counseling Amendments of 1988	38 U.S.C. 4110A	n/a
Trade Act of 1974	19 U.S.C. 2393	n/a
Federal Employees Pay Comparability Act	5 U.S.C. 5301-5304	n/a
Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970	29 U.S.C. 673	n/a

## BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

APPROPRIATION HISTORY (Dollars in Thousands)					
	Budget Estimates to Congress	House Allowance	Senate Allowance	Appropriations	FTE
2016					
Base Appropriation	\$632,737	\$609,000	\$579,194	\$609,000	2,195
2017					
Base Appropriation	\$640,943		\$609,000	\$609,000	2,185
2018					
Base Appropriation	\$607,842	\$607,936	\$609,000	\$612,000	2,022
2019					
Base Appropriation	\$609,386	\$612,000	\$615,000	\$615,000	2,057
2020					
Base Appropriation...1/	\$655,000	\$675,800	\$615,000	\$655,000	1,961
2021					
Base Appropriation...1/	\$658,318	\$655,000	\$641,000	\$655,000	1,965
2022					
Base Appropriation...1/	\$700,653	\$700,653	\$685,183	\$687,952	1,949
2023					
Base Appropriation...2/	\$741,744	\$726,334	\$723,454	\$697,952	2,023
2024					
Base Appropriation...3/	\$758,370	\$657,952	\$697,952	\$697,952	2,058
2025					
Base Appropriation...4/	\$712,786	\$697,952	\$702,952	\$703,952	2,019
2026					
Base Appropriation	\$647,952				1,851

- 1/ This bill was passed by the House. It was not taken up by the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee or full Appropriations Committee.
- 2/ This bill was reported out of the House Committee and was not passed by the Full House. It was not taken up by the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee or full Appropriations Committee.
- 3/ This bill was passed by the House Subcommittee and Senate Full Committee. Neither bill was taken up by the Full House or Full Senate.
- 4/ This bill was passed by the House and Senate Full Committees. Neither bill was taken up by the Full House or Full Senate. A Full-Year Continuing Resolution was passed for FY 2025.



# **BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS**

## **OVERVIEW**

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) is the principal federal statistical agency responsible for measuring labor market activity, working conditions, price changes, and productivity in the United States economy to support public and private decision-making. The June 27, 1884 Act that established the BLS states, “The general design and duties of the Bureau of Labor Statistics shall be to acquire and diffuse among the people of the United States useful information on subjects connected with labor, in the most general and comprehensive sense of that word, and especially upon its relation to the capital, the hours of labor, social, intellectual, and moral prosperity.”

### **FY 2026 Request Summary**

For FY 2026, the BLS requests \$647,952,000, which is a reduction of \$56,000,000 from the FY 2025 Enacted level. The FY 2026 request is included in the Department’s budget materials, but the Budget proposes to reorganize the BLS, the Census Bureau, and the Bureau of Economic Analysis at the Department of Commerce, under the policy direction of the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs. This reorganization proposal aims to leverage data collection and analysis synergies, increase cost-effectiveness, improve data quality, and reduce respondent burden.

Within the funding level, to achieve cost savings beyond those enabled by the reorganization proposal, and prioritize the most mission critical activities necessary for the production of the core data series, the BLS will refocus efforts on producing data from statistical programs that are Principal Federal Economic Indicators (PFEIs), required by statute, or in use in current law.

### **Statistical Work and Uses of BLS Data**

Like all federal statistical agencies, the BLS executes its mission with independence from partisan interests while protecting the confidentiality of its respondents and their data. The BLS serves the general public, the U.S. Congress, federal agencies, state and local governments, and business and labor by providing gold-standard statistics and analyses that are accurate, objective, relevant, timely, and accessible. Policies and decisions based on BLS data affect virtually all Americans, and the wide range of BLS data products provide policymakers and the public with a first look at economic activity each month, including measures of employment, unemployment, and inflation in a rapidly-changing economy.

The BLS conforms to the conceptual framework of the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy’s “Guidelines for Reporting Performance by Statistical Agencies” and the Office of Management and Budget’s Statistical Policy Directives. BLS data are essential for supporting evidence-based decision making and evaluation activities.

The BLS measures the timeliness, accuracy, and relevance of its PFEIs and accessibility of and customer satisfaction with its statistical products. These criteria are common among statistical agencies because they represent critical aspects of a statistical program’s performance. Using these common concepts as a basis for measuring and reporting on statistical agency outcomes helps to inform decision-makers more consistently about the performance of statistical agencies.

## BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

As the BLS refocuses its efforts on producing data and the information that it makes available to decision-makers and a broad base of data users and customers as described above, the BLS will reflect these changes in its performance measures and targets in budget submissions and other documents. Additionally, in support of the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018, the BLS Commissioner currently is the Designated Statistical Official advising on statistical policy, techniques, and procedures for DOL.

Several BLS series are used in the administration of federal programs. For example, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) ties changes in federal income tax brackets to changes in the Chained Consumer Price Index (CPI). The IRS also uses the CPI to adjust income eligibility thresholds for the Earned Income Tax Credit. In addition, the Social Security Administration uses the CPI as an adjustment mechanism for payments to its beneficiaries. Select CPIs and Employment Cost Indexes also are used in updates to the Medicare Prospective Payment System, and Consumer Expenditure (CE) data are used to adjust the U.S. cost of living allowances for U.S. military locations. Changes in BLS data have direct effects on overall federal budget expenditures, including federal allocations to state and local jurisdictions. Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) data are used to allocate federal funds from assistance programs to states and local jurisdictions in such areas as employment, training, public works, and welfare assistance. Businesses use BLS data to make employee wage and benefit decisions, and private citizens make relocation decisions based on unemployment data for states, metro areas, and major cities.

The BLS continues to monitor and assess mission performance, and seeks to transform how it collects, analyzes, and delivers its data by increasing its use of technology and identifying efficiencies to improve data accuracy, lower respondent burden, increase survey responses, and better reach its customers, while providing high-quality data for decision making. The BLS will continue to be responsive to users' needs to understand changes in the economy while safeguarding respondent confidentiality and ensuring data are released appropriately. The BLS is adhering to all protocols to protect respondent identifiable information and is ensuring embargoed economic data are released fairly, securely, and orderly. In addition, the BLS continues to take action to ensure compliance with Executive Orders in support of the Administration's priorities and goals.

### **FY 2026 Request by Budget Activity**

For FY 2026, the request of \$647,952,000 and 1,851 FTE will enable the BLS to continue to advance the vision of an efficient, effective, and accountable government, as well as meet its responsibilities through its five budget activities:

(1) **Labor Force Statistics** – The request of \$293,431,000 and 483 FTE will provide funds to support the refocused production, analysis, and publication of data on payroll employment and the civilian labor force, employment and unemployment, persons not in the labor force, labor demand and turnover, wages, hours, earnings, occupational employment, and employment projections.

(2) **Prices and Cost of Living** – The request of \$225,217,000 and 885 FTE will provide funds to support the refocused production, analysis, and publication of a wide variety of

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information on price changes in the U.S. economy, specifically the CPI, the Producer Price Index (PPI), the U.S. Import and Export Price Indexes from the International Price Program (IPP), and data from the CE program.

**(3) Compensation and Working Conditions** – The request of \$83,188,000 and 290 FTE will provide funds to support the refocused production, analysis, and publication of a diverse set of measures of employee compensation; and the compilation of data on work-related injuries, illnesses, and fatalities.

**(4) Productivity and Technology** – The request of \$11,322,000 and 47 FTE will provide funds to support the refocused production, analysis, and publication of data on productivity trends in the U.S. economy, as well as in major sectors and individual industries; and the examination of the factors underlying productivity growth.

**(5) Executive Direction and Staff Services** – The request of \$34,794,000 and 146 FTE supports refocused agency-wide direction, and centralized program support activities, such as data dissemination, field operations, the Internet Data Collection Facility, and statistical methods and data science research necessary to produce and release statistical and research output in a reliable, secure, timely, and effective manner.





# LABOR FORCE STATISTICS

<b>BUDGET AUTHORITY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE</b>				
(Dollars in Thousands)				
	<b>FY 2024 Revised Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2025 Revised Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2026 Request</b>	<b>Diff. FY 26 Request / FY 25 Revised Enacted</b>
<b>Activity Appropriation</b>	<b>\$315,952</b>	<b>\$317,150</b>	<b>\$293,431</b>	<b>-\$23,719</b>
FTE	539	526	483	-43

NOTE: FY 2024 reflects actual FTE. Authorized FTE for FY 2024 was 542.

## **Introduction**

Labor Force Statistics programs produce, analyze, and publish data on payroll employment and the civilian labor force, employment and unemployment, persons not in the labor force, labor demand and turnover, wages, hours, earnings, occupational employment, time use, and employment projections. The programs prepare studies that cover a broad range of topics, including annual analyses of labor market developments, occupational analyses, characteristics of special worker groups, time-use patterns of workers and non-workers, and labor force experiences of displaced workers. In addition, these programs develop information about the labor market and project labor force trends 10 years into the future. They also make assessments of the effect on employment of specified changes in economic conditions and/or changes in federal programs and policies.

Labor Force Statistics programs are authorized by an Act dated July 7, 1930, which provides that the BLS shall prepare “...full and complete statistics of the volume of and changes in employment...” (29 U.S.C. 1 and 2). Programs in this area help fulfill many requirements of the Wagner-Peyser Act as amended by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) of 2014, including requirements that the Secretary of Labor “...develop and maintain the elements of the workforce and labor market information system ...” as well as develop and maintain national projections of employment opportunities by occupation and industry. This legislation requires the development of information on jobs in demand to support states’ efforts to better train for the hiring needs of businesses.

## **Current Population Survey**

The Current Population Survey (CPS), a monthly household survey, provides a comprehensive body of information on the employment and unemployment experience of the nation’s population, classified by age, sex, race, Hispanic ethnicity, and a variety of other characteristics. The CPS also provides key inputs into the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) models for estimating employment and unemployment for states and selected local areas.

Labor force statistics from the CPS, together with data from the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program, are among the earliest economic indicators available each month and represent the nation’s most comprehensive measures of national employment and unemployment. The CPS is a primary source of data on employment status, characteristics of the labor force, and emerging trends and changes in the employment and unemployment status among various groups

## **LABOR FORCE STATISTICS**

of workers. These BLS data serve as aids in: monitoring the performance of the job market, developing more complete data for labor force planning, determining the factors affecting changes in the labor force participation of different population groups, and evaluating earnings trends for specific demographic groups.

The BLS data available from this program include:

- Employment status of the working-age population by age, sex, race, Hispanic ethnicity, marital status, family relationship, educational attainment, professional certification or license attainment, disability status, veteran status, and nativity (i.e., foreign born or native born);
  - Employed persons by occupation, industry, class of worker, telework status, hours of work, full- and part- time status, and reason for working part time (i.e., economic or noneconomic);
  - Unemployed persons by occupation, industry, and class of worker; duration of unemployment; reasons for unemployment; and methods used to find employment;
  - Characteristics and job-seeking intentions of persons not in the labor force, including information on discouraged workers and others of significant public policy interest;
  - Special topics on particular sub-groups of the population, such as women maintaining families and working women with children, or on particular topics, such as work experience and status of high school graduates and dropouts; and
  - Information on weekly and hourly earnings by demographic group, full- and part-time employment status, occupation, and industry.
- The BLS and the Census Bureau jointly sponsor and oversee the monthly sample survey, with the BLS supporting a sample of about 60,000 households. Households are contacted through in-person and telephone interviews. Data generally relate to the calendar week that includes the 12th day of the month.

### **Labor Market Information Cooperative Statistical Program**

The BLS operates the CES, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS), and LAUS programs in cooperation with the states and territories. As noted within their respective descriptions, these programs compose the BLS Labor Market Information (LMI) Cooperative Statistical Program, which is conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Wagner-Peyser Act as amended by WIOA. The BLS uses cooperative agreements to fund the states for these programs. BLS regional staff, under the direction of the Office of Field Operations in the national office, negotiate and monitor LMI cooperative agreements.

### **Current Employment Statistics**

The CES program collects information on employment, hours, and earnings from the payroll records of employers. The BLS produces national, state, and metropolitan area data. These data are released in partnership with the State Workforce Agencies (SWAs), which provide additional state analysis and help disseminate the estimates. National data available from the CES program

## LABOR FORCE STATISTICS

include: nonfarm employment for detailed industry classifications; all employee average weekly hours and average hourly and weekly earnings; production worker average weekly hours and average hourly and weekly earnings; manufacturing worker overtime hours; indexes of aggregate hours and payroll; and diffusion indexes of employment change for the nation. Diffusion indexes are a measure of the dispersion of employment change, indicating how widespread employment increases and decreases are across industries. The program also provides similar data for all states, metropolitan areas, and metropolitan divisions, but with less industry detail.

The payroll statistics from the CES program, along with data from the CPS, are among the earliest economic indicators available each month and measure the health of the U.S. economy in terms of job creation, average earnings, and average length of workweek. These data serve as direct inputs into other major U.S. economic indicators, including the Index of Leading Economic Indicators, the Index of Coincident Economic Indicators, the advance and preliminary Personal Income estimates produced by the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), the Industrial Production Index, and productivity measures. In addition to their critical use as economic indicators, the private sector uses these data in worksite location planning, wage negotiations, economic research and planning, regional analysis, and industry studies.

- The BLS collects data each month from about 120,000 businesses and government agencies (composed of approximately 630,000 individual worksites) nationwide. The sample is stratified by state, industry, and the employment size of the business. Respondents provide data for the payroll period that includes the 12th day of the month.

### **Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages**

The QCEW program provides national, state, metropolitan and micropolitan statistical area, and county data on monthly employment and quarterly total wages and the number of establishments, by 6-digit North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code and size of establishment, with a five-month lag after each quarter. These data originate largely from the administrative records of the Unemployment Insurance (UI) system in each state. The program includes all employees covered by state and federal UI laws, or about 95 percent of total nonfarm employment. The workers excluded from the UI files are railroad employees, members of the Armed Forces, self-employed persons, unpaid family workers, and some agricultural and private household employees.

The BLS uses these data to construct an up-to-date “universe” file, or sample frame, of the establishments reporting under the state and federal UI systems, from which it selects samples for its establishment-based surveys, such as the CES, OEWS, Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey (JOLTS), Employment Cost Index, Occupational Safety and Health Statistics (OSHS), and Producer Price Index. The QCEW program is responsible for maintaining the accuracy of each establishment’s industry code, county code, size class, physical location address, mailing address, and other information that directly affects the quality of the survey programs' samples.

In addition, the BLS uses data from this program as the annual employment benchmark by industry in the CES, OEWS, OSHS, and JOLTS programs. Total wages and salaries from the QCEW program compose about 48 percent of Personal Income, as measured by the BEA, for the

## LABOR FORCE STATISTICS

nation, states, and counties. The QCEW wage data are the largest single input to the Personal Income component of the National Income and Product Accounts. QCEW data also underlie state UI actuarial systems (tax rates, employer contributions, and benefit levels). Other uses include state and local labor force information, industry trends, forecasting, transportation planning, local economic development planning, and allocation of \$692 billion in FY 2021 in federal funds under such programs as the State Children's Health Insurance Program. Economic research, regional analysis, marketing studies by private industry, industry analysis, and worksite location studies are further uses of data from this program. The rich industry and geographic detail—all 6-digit NAICS industries by county—makes these among the most prized data for state and local implementation of the statutory requirements. QCEW also shares data with the BEA, Census Bureau, Employment and Training Administration (ETA), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and other agencies to assist with their ongoing production and special studies. For example, each quarter, QCEW provides hundreds of thousands of industry codes to the Census Bureau for mostly new and small businesses, which improves data quality and decreases respondent burden and costs for the Census Bureau. QCEW data also are the basis for the BLS Business Employment Dynamics series. These series cover gross job gains and losses, data on establishment age and survival, and firm size. In addition, the series include data on establishment births, openings and expansions; and deaths, closings and contractions, by major industry and state. QCEW data also are used to prepare maps and tabulations of the economic impacts of natural disasters for state and federal officials, and are used on an ongoing basis to document recovery efforts in affected areas.

In addition, there is a wide array of uses at the state level. For example, decision-makers use QCEW data as an input into the state and local occupational employment projects and for revenue projections. Workforce information boards use QCEW data for job training. QCEW data also assist local economic developers in identifying occupational needs for attracting businesses. States also rely on QCEW data to conduct longitudinal analyses of firms, cluster analysis (e.g., biotech, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) jobs, healthcare, tourism, and high and low wage industries), and high growth business analyses; plan for local services and local transportation; determine wage rates; and define UI extended benefit triggers.

- The SWAs, in cooperation with the BLS, collect employment and wage data from an estimated 12 million establishments subject to UI laws. The UI data are supplemented with two BLS collections, the Multiple Worksite Report (MWR) and Annual Refiling Survey (ARS), which are necessary to provide accurate industry and geographical measures at the local level. First, in the MWR, each quarter, over 149,000 multi-unit firms (representing more than 1.9 million worksites and about 42 percent of the employment) report their employment and wages for each establishment, which improves the geographic and industrial accuracy of these key data. Second, in the ARS, the SWAs contact approximately one-third of all establishments in the private sector with more than three employees (about 1.3 million establishments) to maintain the accuracy of their industry coding under the NAICS and to update geographical information, such as addresses, which are integral to its use as a sample frame for other BLS business surveys. While the majority of establishments are contacted on a three-year cycle, some establishments in industries that exhibit lower rates of change are selected for a six-year cycle.

# LABOR FORCE STATISTICS

## Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics

The OEWS program is the only comprehensive source of regularly produced occupational employment and wage rate information for the U.S. economy, as well as states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, metropolitan areas, and balance-of-state areas for each state. The OEWS program produces employment and wage estimates by nonfarm industry and occupation.

Uses of the data include evaluating employment and wages by industry, occupation, and geographic area; updating prevailing wages for foreign labor certification; projecting occupational employment for the nation, states, and areas; informing vocational planning; estimating social security receipts, as an input to calculating reimbursement rates for Medicare and Medicaid providers; calculating occupational injury rates; serving as an input to the Employment Cost Index and to the President's Pay Agent report; and improving sample efficiency in the O\*NET and Occupational Requirements Survey (ORS) and industry skill and technology studies.

The OEWS information available on the BLS public website generates some of the highest levels of activity among all program areas. In addition, OEWS data are the foundation of the industry-occupation matrix used in the Employment Projections (EP) program to produce national occupational projections. These data are a critical input to the states' production of jobs in demand to support WIOA. OEWS employment and wage data are used throughout the *Occupational Outlook Handbook (OOH)* and related career publications, as well as in similar products produced by the SWAs for state and local areas.

- The SWAs, in cooperation with the BLS, collect employment and wage information from semi-annual sample panels of approximately 187,000 establishments, for a total of 374,000 for the year. Respondents provide data for a payroll period that includes the 12<sup>th</sup> day of the survey month.

## Local Area Unemployment Statistics

The LAUS program provides timely information on labor force and unemployment trends for states and local areas. The LAUS program issues monthly estimates for regions and states two weeks after the release of national estimates in The Employment Situation. Metropolitan area estimates, as well as all remaining sub-state area estimates, are issued about one-and-a-half weeks later. LAUS estimates serve as economic indicators and are a major source of information for labor market research, analysis, and planning. In addition to economic analysis, another important use of LAUS data is in the allocation of federal funds to states and local jurisdictions covered by 27 assistance programs across 9 Departments and independent agencies in areas such as employment, training, public works, and welfare assistance.

Using data from the CPS, CES, and state UI programs, the LAUS program uses time-series models to produce monthly estimates for all states, the District of Columbia, New York City, the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Glendale metropolitan division, and the balances of New York and

## LABOR FORCE STATISTICS

California. Time-series models also are used for the Cleveland, Detroit, and Seattle metropolitan areas, the Chicago and Miami metropolitan divisions, and the five respective balance-of-state areas. The LAUS program also seasonally adjusts the resultant model-based estimates for these areas. Estimates for counties are produced through a building-block approach that also utilizes data from several sources, including the CES, QCEW, CPS, and state UI programs, as well as the American Community Survey (ACS) and Population Estimates Program of the Census Bureau, and are adjusted to statewide measures of employment and unemployment. The remainder of the sub-state area estimates are produced using a disaggregation technique.

Each month, the SWAs, in cooperation with the BLS, develop the labor force, employment, and unemployment estimates. The LAUS program runs the state model-based estimates. Also, the LAUS program is responsible for the concepts, definitions, and technical procedures that the SWAs use in the preparation of sub-state labor force and unemployment estimates. Both the SWAs and the BLS analyze and publish the LAUS state and sub-state estimates each month.

- The BLS publishes monthly estimates of employment and unemployment for approximately 8,300 geographic areas, including all states, labor market areas, counties, and cities with a population of 25,000 or more. The BLS seasonally adjusts estimates for non-modeled metropolitan areas and metropolitan divisions.

### National Longitudinal Surveys

The National Longitudinal Surveys (NLS) provide a set of data on the labor force experience (current labor force status, employment status, work history, and characteristics of current/last job), as well as significant life events, of two randomly sampled groups of the U.S. population, with a third cohort under development. These data are essential to understanding changes in labor force behavior of groups over time and informing policymakers at all levels of government.

Cross-sectional data, such as those from the CPS, primarily provide snapshots of the labor market and are used to track changes in the labor force behavior of groups over time. The NLS focuses on capturing changes in individual labor force behavior by re-interviewing the same individuals multiple times over extended time periods. Economists, sociologists, and other researchers in government, the academic community, and private organizations use NLS data to examine and inform policymakers at all levels of government about a variety of issues such as:

- Employment and earnings of workers in the labor market;
- Educational experience, achievement, and the transition from school to work;
- The effects of training on future employment and wages;
- The ability to advance out of low-wage jobs;
- Relationships between work and various indicators of family well-being;
- The long-term effects of unemployment; and
- The retirement behavior of older workers and the problems of the elderly.

In 1979, a cohort was fielded to research the “baby boomer” generation, with a sample of over 12,000 young men and women who were 14-21 years of age as of December 31, 1978. In 1985 and 1991, oversamples were dropped leaving a total sample of about 10,000 individuals. This

## LABOR FORCE STATISTICS

survey, conducted every year through 1994, is known as the 1979 National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (NLSY79). In 1994, the survey began operating on a biennial interview cycle.

In 1997, the BLS began the 1997 National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (NLSY97), a survey consisting of 9,000 individuals aged 12-16 as of December 31, 1996. The young age of this sample (when compared with past NLS cohorts) reflects the increased emphasis on early labor market activity and other aspects of youths' lives that have an impact on their labor market successes and their general success in becoming productive adults. The long-term objectives of the study are to relate early development and influences to later-life outcomes. In 2011, the NLSY97 survey began operating on a biennial interview cycle.

In 2023, the BLS began work on development activities for a new NLSY cohort. This will be the first new NLSY cohort in about 30 years and will allow the BLS to collect data on a younger generation of workers and provide a rich, new dataset. Data collected from these individuals and their families will provide researchers and policymakers with invaluable data on the development of skills through education and training, the effects of early labor market experiences, the impacts of public policies, the dynamics of early career employer-employee matching, and many other relevant topics.

- The NLS program collects and publishes data for the NLSY79 and NLSY97 cohorts on a biennial basis.

### **Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey**

The JOLTS program provides monthly national measures on labor demand by broad industry groups and by establishment size. These measures complement the unemployment rate, which measures labor supply. Data published include the levels and rates for job openings, hires, and total separations, as well as three breakouts of separations: quits, layoffs and discharges, and other separations. These data items also are provided at the total nonfarm level for four regions. JOLTS also publishes state data at the total nonfarm level for all states and the District of Columbia. Thus, policymakers and analysts have a better understanding of imbalances between the demand for and the supply of labor, and improved tools for assessing the presence of labor shortages in the U.S. labor market. JOLTS data are used for labor market analysis, by the Federal Reserve in setting monetary policy, and by states in analyzing state labor market dynamics. These data also provide evidence of upward pressures on wage rates at the national and state levels.

- The BLS collects data each month from a sample of approximately 21,000 businesses and derives estimates on levels and rates of job openings, hires, and separations (quits, layoffs and discharges, and other separations) at the national level for major industry groups. At the total nonfarm industry level, the BLS also publishes data at the regional level for total nonfarm employment, size-class estimates at the national level, and state data estimates for all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

# **LABOR FORCE STATISTICS**

## **American Time Use Survey**

The American Time Use Survey (ATUS) provides nationally representative estimates of how Americans spend their time during an average day, both for weekdays and weekends. Data from the ATUS enable researchers to develop broader assessments of national well-being and national production than otherwise would be available. The ATUS is the only federal survey that provides data on the full range of nonmarket activities, from childcare to volunteering. ATUS data provide widely used information about how Americans balance work with family and community commitments.

Analysts use these data about time-use, combined with information about respondents' demographics, labor force status, and household composition, to examine how much time is being invested in childcare and eldercare in the United States; how time-use varies based on marital and employment status; and how much time people spend in education, among other questions. The availability of national time-use data also facilitates comparisons of time-use patterns in the United States with patterns in other countries, including alternative measures of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) that include measures of the value of non-market work. Depending on sponsor availability, modules periodically are added to the survey. Additional uses of ATUS data include supplying information to other BLS programs, including the EP program; federal agencies and forums, such as the BEA, and the Federal Interagency Forums on Aging-Related and Child and Family Statistics; and international organizations, such as the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the United Nations.

- The BLS and the Census Bureau survey about 650 individuals ages 15 and older each month, drawn from households that recently have completed the monthly CPS.

## **Employment Projections**

The EP program produces long-term (10-year) projections for the labor force, the overall economy, and industry and occupational employment and job openings by occupation. National employment projections from the BLS are used by each state to develop state and area projections, which are funded by the ETA. Projections are a critical component of workforce development systems and serve as the basis for determining jobs in demand. Determining jobs in demand helps align education and training programs with the hiring needs of businesses and is a key component of WIOA. Projections also are used for individual career decision purposes by students, parents, counselors, dislocated workers, jobseekers, and career changers. The program relies on a wide variety of data from the OEWS, CES, CPS, and QCEW programs, and from other federal agencies, such as the BEA and the Census Bureau.

Labor force and labor force participation rate projections for detailed demographic groups are produced using CPS data and Census Bureau population projections. These projections are used as an input to the preparation of the overall economic, industry, and occupational projections, and to further analyze the demographic characteristics of future workers and future training and education needs.



## LABOR FORCE STATISTICS

The overall economic projections include the GDP, the demand and income composition of the GDP, and the industrial structure of the U.S. economy. These projections are prepared under specific assumptions for government economic policies and for basic economic variables, such as exports and imports, unemployment, and productivity. Projections of final demand, industry output, and employment, as well as input-output tables, also are produced. These data are the basis for evaluating alternative policy options affecting the medium- and long-term outlook, developing estimates of occupational requirements by industry, and evaluating the future size and composition of the labor force.

Finally, a national industry-occupation employment matrix and the industry projections are used to project employment by occupation. EP staff analyze the occupational structure of detailed industries and evaluate the expected impact of changes in demographics, technology, product mix, business practices, and other factors on the demand for specific occupations. The matrix quantifies in detail the distribution of occupational employment by industry for both the current and projected years. The 2023-33 matrix, which was released in FY 2024, covered projections for 832 detailed occupations in 292 detailed industries. In addition to the projections of openings resulting from job growth, the EP program also estimates openings resulting from existing workers who separate from their occupation, either by transferring to a new occupation or exiting the labor force entirely.

The EP program also produces the *OOH*. This web-based publication provides information on the type of work; education, training, and other qualifications; employment; job outlook; wages; similar occupations; and sources of additional information for hundreds of occupations. The program also produces Career Outlook, a career information web-based publication that presents a wide variety of supplemental information on occupational employment prospects, educational requirements, and earnings. Guidance and career counselors across the country use the information in these publications to advise students and adults/jobseekers on job training and future employment opportunities. Individuals also use these publications for personal career planning and development. The most widely used BLS website is the *OOH*, and the information in the *OOH* is presented in numerous private publications and websites on vocational guidance and career planning.

- The BLS updates occupational career information, including wage data, in the *OOH* throughout the year.

### **Five-Year Budget Activity History**

<b><u>Fiscal Year</u></b>	<b><u>Funding</u></b> (Dollars in Thousands)	<b><u>FTE</u></b>
2021	\$290,370	499
2022	\$296,537	501
2023	\$316,560	520
2024	\$315,952	542
2025	\$317,150	526

# LABOR FORCE STATISTICS

## **Funding Mechanism**

As previously discussed, the LMI Cooperative Statistical Program is operated in cooperation with the states and territories. Section 14 of the Wagner-Peyser Act (29 U.S.C. 491-1) authorizes the Secretary of Labor to reimburse the states to provide data for national statistical programs. Since 1917, the BLS has entered into cooperative arrangements to fund and use employment statistics collected by the states and territories.

On an annual basis, the BLS contracts with the Census Bureau to conduct the CPS. Under the agreement of November 18, 1959, between the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Commerce, the BLS obtains budgetary support for this program and annually reimburses the Census Bureau for the collection and related support services associated with the monthly CPS and selected supplements. The authority for the Census Bureau to enter into this agreement is 13 U.S.C. 8(b). The authority for the BLS to enter into this agreement is 29 U.S.C. 2.

## **FY 2026**

In FY 2026, though the BLS request is included in the Department's budget materials, the Budget proposes to reorganize the BLS, the Census Bureau, and the Bureau of Economic Analysis at the Department of Commerce, under the policy direction of the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs. This reorganization proposal aims to leverage data collection and analysis synergies, increase cost-effectiveness, improve data quality, and reduce respondent burden.

To achieve cost savings beyond those enabled by the reorganization proposal, and prioritize the most mission critical activities necessary for the production of the core data series, the BLS will refocus efforts in Labor Force Statistics on producing data from statistical programs that are Principal Federal Economic Indicators (PFEIs), required by statute, or in use in current law.

## **FY 2025**

Discretionary amounts shown for FY 2025 reflect the FY 2025 full-year Continuing Resolution amounts (P.L. 119-4).

DOL agencies will utilize funding provided through the full-year continuing resolution to realign agency operations with Administration priorities including, but not limited to, executing Executive Order 14158 titled *Establishing and Implementing the President's "Department of Government Efficiency"* (January 20, 2025); Executive Order 14210 titled *Implementing the President's "Department of Government Efficiency" Workforce Optimization Initiative* (February 11, 2025); Executive Order 14219 titled *Ensuring Lawful Governance and Implementing the President's "Department of Government Efficiency" Deregulatory Initiative* (February 19, 2025); Executive Order 14151 titled *Ending Radical And Wasteful Government DEI Programs And Preferencing* (January 20, 2025); and Executive Order 14278 titled *Preparing Americans for High-Paying Skilled Trade Jobs of the Future* (April 23, 2025). To the extent any of these Executive Orders are subject to an injunction, DOL will conduct any realignment activities consistent with such injunction(s).

# LABOR FORCE STATISTICS

## **Workload and Performance Narrative**

The BLS seeks to transform how it collects, analyzes, and delivers its data by increasing its use of technology and identifying efficiencies to improve data accuracy, lower respondent burden, and increase survey responses, while providing policymakers and the public with a first look at economic activity each month. Labor Force Statistics programs produce, analyze, and publish data on payroll employment and the civilian labor force, employment and unemployment, persons not in the labor force, labor demand and turnover, wages, hours, earnings, occupational employment, and employment projections.

In FY 2026, the Budget proposes to reorganize the BLS, the Census Bureau, and the Bureau of Economic Analysis at the Department of Commerce, under the policy direction of the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs. This reorganization proposal aims to leverage data collection and analysis synergies, increase cost-effectiveness, improve data quality, and reduce respondent burden. To achieve cost savings beyond those enabled by the reorganization proposal, and prioritize the most mission critical activities necessary for the production of the core data series, the BLS will refocus efforts on producing data from statistical programs that are Principal Federal Economic Indicators (PFEIs), required by statute, or in use in current law.

## LABOR FORCE STATISTICS

<b>BUDGET ACTIVITY BY OBJECT CLASS</b>					
(Dollars in Thousands)					
		<b>FY 2024 Revised Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2025 Revised Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2026 Request</b>	<b>Diff. FY 26 Request / FY 25 Revised Enacted</b>
11.1	Full-time permanent	\$66,813	\$68,392	\$63,118	-\$5,274
11.3	Other than full-time permanent	519	444	444	0
11.5	Other personnel compensation	2,058	2,081	2,081	0
11.9	<b>Total personnel compensation</b>	<b>69,390</b>	<b>70,917</b>	<b>65,643</b>	<b>-5,274</b>
12.1	Civilian personnel benefits	25,103	25,725	23,731	-1,994
13.0	Benefits for former personnel	47	55	55	0
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons	629	535	535	0
23.1	Rental payments to GSA	4,647	5,332	5,332	0
23.2	Rental payments to others	42	43	43	0
23.3	Communications, utilities, and miscellaneous charges	2,085	1,243	1,243	0
24.0	Printing and reproduction	709	717	717	0
25.1	Advisory and assistance services	0	0	0	0
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources	5,006	2,240	1,568	-672
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources 1/	78,815	81,918	81,213	-705
25.5	Research and development contracts	24,700	25,324	17,731	-7,593
25.7	Operation and maintenance of equipment	26,913	24,947	17,466	-7,481
26.0	Supplies and materials	79	71	71	0
31.0	Equipment	3,960	2,769	2,769	0
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	73,799	75,311	75,311	0
42.0	Insurance claims and indemnities	28	3	3	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$315,952</b>	<b>\$317,150</b>	<b>\$293,431</b>	<b>-\$23,719</b>
1/ Other goods and services from Federal sources					
	Working Capital Fund	\$10,930	\$10,368	\$9,663	-\$705
	DHS Services	1,104	876	876	0
	Census Bureau	64,566	67,708	67,708	0

# LABOR FORCE STATISTICS

## CHANGES IN FY 2026 (Dollars in Thousands)

### Activity Changes

#### Built-In

To Provide For:

Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA)	\$0
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Working Capital Fund	-705
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<b>Built-Ins Subtotal</b>	<b>-\$705</b>
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<b>Net Program</b>	<b>-\$23,014</b>
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<b>Direct FTE</b>	<b>-43</b>
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	Estimate	FTE
<b>Base</b>	<b>\$316,445</b>	<b>526</b>
<b>Program Increase</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Program Decrease</b>	<b>-\$23,014</b>	<b>-43</b>



## PRICES AND COST OF LIVING

<b>BUDGET AUTHORITY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE</b>				
(Dollars in Thousands)				
	<b>FY 2024 Revised Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2025 Revised Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2026 Request</b>	<b>Diff. FY 26 Request / FY 25 Revised Enacted</b>
<b>Activity Appropriation</b>	<b>\$241,000</b>	<b>\$244,436</b>	<b>\$225,217</b>	<b>-\$19,219</b>
FTE	977	954	885	-69

NOTE: FY 2024 reflects actual FTE. Authorized FTE for FY 2024 was 981.

### **Introduction**

Prices and Cost of Living programs collect, compile, and disseminate a wide variety of information on price change in the U.S. economy, and conduct research and analysis to improve the economic statistics produced. The programs include Consumer Prices and Price Indexes (CPI), Producer Prices and Price Indexes (PPI), the International Price Program (IPP), and the Consumer Expenditure (CE) Survey. In addition to meeting general statutory responsibilities assigned to the BLS (29 U.S.C. 1 and 2), these programs produce data that form the basis for adjusting or setting payments, benefits, or other income as required by many laws and private sector contracts.

### **Consumer Prices and Price Indexes**

The CPI program, the nation's principal gauge of inflation, provides measures of price change for all urban areas, four Census regions, nine Census divisions, and 23 core-based- statistical- areas (CBSAs). Indexes are produced for two population groups: all urban consumers, and urban wage earners and clerical workers. For the population of all urban consumers, there are two indexes: the traditional index (CPI-U) and the superlative index, also known as the chained-CPI (C-CPI-U). The C-CPI-U reflects the effect of substitutions that consumers make across item categories in response to changes in relative prices. The indexes for all urban consumers cover over 90 percent of the U.S. population. The index for the urban wage-earner population group, the CPI-W, covers nearly 30 percent of the U.S. population. The CPI is based on a market basket representing all goods and services that consumers purchase for everyday living. Published measures include various monthly, bi-monthly, and semi-annual and annual average indexes; and monthly average retail prices for selected items.

The numerous uses of the CPI data include: primary measure of price change at the consumer level; indicator of inflationary or deflationary trends in the economy; measure of the purchasing power of the consumer dollar; aid in formulation and evaluation of economic policy; adjustment mechanism for payments under many government programs, including payments to Social Security beneficiaries, retired military and federal civil service employees and survivors; adjustments to the official U.S. poverty thresholds, rental/lease agreements, and payments from trust funds and wills; deflator of earnings to provide a measure of real earnings; factor in collective bargaining and wage and pension adjustments; and adjustment factor for the income tax structure, including standard deductions and brackets. These last adjustments are intended to prevent inflation from automatically generating tax rate increases.

## **PRICES AND COST OF LIVING**

Through personal visits, telephone interviews, and selected data accessed from the internet, the program collects prices for food, rent, utilities, and a few other items monthly in all areas, and most other commodities and services monthly in the three largest areas, and bi-monthly in other areas.

- The BLS collects approximately 100,000 commodity and service prices (monthly) and 125,500 Rent/Rental equivalence prices (annually).

### **Producer Prices and Price Indexes**

The PPI program measures average changes in prices received by domestic producers for their output. It is an industry-based survey that provides monthly price indexes for virtually all agricultural, mining, and manufacturing industries, for selected construction industries, and for a number of service industries. Indexes are available for two different product classification systems. The commodity classification system organizes products by similarity of end use or material composition and features comprehensive intermediate demand and final demand indexes that are designed to facilitate the analysis of the transmission of inflation through the economy. The industry classification system organizes products by industry of origin.

Indexes from the PPI program are used extensively as: major indicators of inflationary trends in the economy; deflators of nominal dollar values over time; escalators of long-term contracts; market research tools; inventory valuation measures; and major inputs to the evaluation and formulation of economic policy. Net inputs to industry indexes, produced by PPI but also using import data from IPP, provide information on the average change in prices for domestic and imported inputs consumed by selected industries and industry groups.

- The BLS collects approximately 52,000 price quotations monthly.

### **International Price Program**

The IPP produces the Import and Export Price Indexes (MXPI), which measure price change of merchandise goods in U.S. foreign trade classified by BEA end use, NAICS, and Harmonized classification systems. The MXPI also cover a limited number of international services, as well as goods-industry competitiveness measures that are country-specific, including U.S. import prices by locality of origin, U.S. export prices by locality of destination, and terms of trade.

Various uses of IPP data include: deflation of the Foreign Trade sector of the National Accounts; assessment of effects of import and export price changes on the U.S. economy; exchange rate analysis; analysis of price behavior in international markets, including assessing U.S. competitiveness, calculating changes in the volume of net exports; and analysis and formulation of economic policy.

- The BLS collects approximately 9,900 prices monthly.



## PRICES AND COST OF LIVING

### Consumer Expenditure Survey

The CE program provides information on consumers' expenditures and income. Detailed data from this program are published as comprehensive, annual expenditure estimates for a large number of demographic characteristics, such as income, consumer unit size, and region.

These estimates are used for a variety of purposes, including revisions of weights and item samples of the CPI, economic policy analysis of segments of the population, market research, and economic research and analysis. The CE program also collects data on where consumers shop, which the CPI program uses to revise retail outlet samples for pricing.

The CE program is composed of two surveys: an interview and a diary. The quarterly Interview Survey is designed to collect data on major expenditures that respondents can recall for three months. The weekly Diary Survey is designed to obtain expenditure data on small, frequently-purchased items.

The Census Bureau collects for the BLS 11,400 weekly expenditure diaries and 16,900 quarterly interviews in 91 geographic areas of the United States.

### Five-Year Budget Activity History

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Funding</u> (Dollars in Thousands)	<u>FTE</u>
2021	\$220,324	953
2022	\$228,906	942
2023	\$240,868	969
2024	\$241,000	981
2025	\$244,436	954

### FY 2026

In FY 2026, though the BLS request is included in the Department's budget materials, the Budget proposes to reorganize the BLS, the Census Bureau, and the Bureau of Economic Analysis at the Department of Commerce, under the policy direction of the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs. This reorganization proposal aims to leverage data collection and analysis synergies, increase cost-effectiveness, improve data quality, and reduce respondent burden.

To achieve cost savings beyond those enabled by the reorganization proposal, and prioritize the most mission critical activities necessary for the production of the core data series, the BLS will refocus efforts in Prices and Cost of Living on producing data from statistical programs that are Principal Federal Economic Indicators (PFEIs), required by statute, or in use in current law.

### FY 2025

Discretionary amounts shown for FY 2025 reflect the FY 2025 full-year Continuing Resolution amounts (P.L. 119-4).

## PRICES AND COST OF LIVING

DOL agencies will utilize funding provided through the full-year continuing resolution to realign agency operations with Administration priorities including, but not limited to, executing Executive Order 14158 titled *Establishing and Implementing the President's "Department of Government Efficiency"* (January 20, 2025); Executive Order 14210 titled *Implementing the President's "Department of Government Efficiency" Workforce Optimization Initiative* (February 11, 2025); Executive Order 14219 titled *Ensuring Lawful Governance and Implementing the President's "Department of Government Efficiency" Deregulatory Initiative* (February 19, 2025); Executive Order 14151 titled *Ending Radical And Wasteful Government DEI Programs And Preferencing* (January 20, 2025); and Executive Order 14278 titled *Preparing Americans for High-Paying Skilled Trade Jobs of the Future* (April 23, 2025). To the extent any of these Executive Orders are subject to an injunction, DOL will conduct any realignment activities consistent with such injunction(s).

### **Workload and Performance Narrative**

The BLS seeks to transform how it collects, analyzes, and delivers its data by increasing its use of technology and identifying efficiencies to improve data accuracy, lower respondent burden, and increase survey responses, while providing policymakers and the public with a first look at economic activity each month. The Prices and Cost of Living programs collect, compile, and disseminate a wide variety of information on price change in the U.S. economy, and conduct research and analysis to improve the economic statistics produced.

In FY 2026, the Budget proposes to reorganize the BLS, the Census Bureau, and the Bureau of Economic Analysis at the Department of Commerce, under the policy direction of the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs. This reorganization proposal aims to leverage data collection and analysis synergies, increase cost-effectiveness, improve data quality, and reduce respondent burden. To achieve cost savings beyond those enabled by the reorganization proposal, and prioritize the most mission critical activities necessary for the production of the core data series, the BLS will refocus efforts on producing data from statistical programs that are Principal Federal Economic Indicators (PFEIs), required by statute, or in use in current law.

## PRICES AND COST OF LIVING

<b>BUDGET ACTIVITY BY OBJECT CLASS</b>					
(Dollars in Thousands)					
		<b>FY 2024 Revised Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2025 Revised Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2026 Request</b>	<b>Diff. FY 26 Request / FY 25 Revised Enacted</b>
11.1	Full-time permanent	\$90,508	\$91,994	\$83,532	-\$8,462
11.3	Other than full-time permanent	12,857	13,074	13,074	0
11.5	Other personnel compensation	2,633	2,643	2,643	0
11.9	<b>Total personnel compensation</b>	<b>105,998</b>	<b>107,711</b>	<b>99,249</b>	<b>-8,462</b>
12.1	Civilian personnel benefits	38,475	39,274	36,075	-3,199
13.0	Benefits for former personnel	28	6	6	0
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons	2,350	1,621	1,621	0
23.1	Rental payments to GSA	7,928	9,576	9,576	0
23.2	Rental payments to others	21	20	20	0
23.3	Communications, utilities, and miscellaneous charges	158	278	278	0
24.0	Printing and reproduction	24	37	37	0
25.1	Advisory and assistance services	0	0	0	0
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources	4,694	3,637	2,546	-1,091
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources 1/	58,841	62,075	60,777	-1,298
25.5	Research and development contracts	0	0	0	0
25.7	Operation and maintenance of equipment	17,393	17,238	12,069	-5,169
26.0	Supplies and materials	129	97	97	0
31.0	Equipment	4,926	2,864	2,864	0
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	0	0	0	0
42.0	Insurance claims and indemnities	35	2	2	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$241,000</b>	<b>\$244,436</b>	<b>\$225,217</b>	<b>-\$19,219</b>
1/ Other goods and services from Federal sources					
	Working Capital Fund	\$19,289	\$19,073	\$17,775	-\$1,298
	DHS Services	1,164	1,398	1,398	0
	Census Bureaus	34,466	36,264	36,264	0

# PRICES AND COST OF LIVING

## CHANGES IN FY 2026

(Dollars in Thousands)

### Activity Changes

#### Built-In

To Provide For:

Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA)	\$0
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Working Capital Fund	-1,298
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<b>Built-Ins Subtotal</b>	<b>-\$1,298</b>
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<b>Net Program</b>	<b>-\$17,921</b>
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<b>Direct FTE</b>	<b>-69</b>
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	Estimate	FTE
<b>Base</b>	<b>\$243,138</b>	<b>954</b>
<b>Program Increase</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Program Decrease</b>	<b>-\$17,921</b>	<b>-69</b>

## COMPENSATION AND WORKING CONDITIONS

<b>BUDGET AUTHORITY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE</b>				
(Dollars in Thousands)				
	<b>FY 2024 Revised Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2025 Revised Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2026 Request</b>	<b>Diff. FY 26 Request / FY 25 Revised Enacted</b>
<b>Activity Appropriation</b>	<b>\$91,000</b>	<b>\$92,354</b>	<b>\$83,188</b>	<b>-\$9,166</b>
FTE	332	328	290	-38

NOTE: FY 2024 reflects actual FTE. Authorized FTE for FY 2024 was 326.

### **Introduction**

Compensation and Working Conditions programs produce a diverse set of measures of employee compensation; compile work stoppages statistics; compile data on work-related injuries, illnesses, and fatalities; and conduct research to improve the measurement process. The programs fall into two major categories: Compensation Levels and Trends, and Occupational Safety and Health Statistics (OSHS).

### ***COMPENSATION LEVELS AND TRENDS***

Compensation Levels and Trends programs include the National Compensation Survey (NCS) and Work Stoppages Statistics (WSS). The NCS outputs include the Employment Cost Index (ECI) and Employee Benefits Survey (EBS). The ECI is a measure of wage-push inflation used by economists, businesses, and policymakers, and is published quarterly. The EBS publications provide incidence, provisions, and features of employer-sponsored retirement, insurances (including health care), paid leave, wellness, and other benefits. EBS data frequently are used to establish benchmarks when considering changes to national benefits policies. Together, these program outputs along with information on work stoppages meet general statutory requirements assigned to the BLS (29 U.S.C. 1, 2, and 4) and specific legal requirements, including the requirements of the Federal Employees' Pay Comparability Act of 1990 (FEPCA) [5 U.S.C. 5301-5304]. The program also produces the Occupational Requirements Survey (ORS), funded by the Social Security Administration (SSA). The ORS provides job-related information regarding physical demands, environmental conditions, education, training, and experience, as well as cognitive and mental requirements in the U.S. economy.

### **NATIONAL COMPENSATION SURVEY**

The NCS provides comprehensive measures of occupational earnings (computed in conjunction with the OEWS program), compensation cost levels and trends, benefit incidence, and detailed benefit provisions. This includes the ECI and EBS.

- The BLS collects data from a sample of about 14,800 private industry establishments and state and local governments providing both wage and benefit information. The BLS collects data from a sample of occupations within establishments in private industry and state and local governments through a combination of personal visits, mail, telephone, and electronic contacts.

# COMPENSATION AND WORKING CONDITIONS

## Employment Cost Index

The ECI measures changes in total compensation (wages and salaries, and employer costs for employee benefits) for the civilian economy and is published quarterly. The ECI coverage includes private industry, and state and local government workers; and excludes the federal government, agricultural sector, as well as household, self-employed, and unpaid family workers. Indexes for compensation, wages and salaries, and benefit costs are available for selected industry and occupational groups and for workers in private industry by bargaining status and geographic area. In addition, the *Employer Costs for Employee Compensation (ECEC)* publication provides estimates of compensation costs per hour worked for those same categories as well as by establishment employment size, and full- and part-time employment status.

The ECI provides the estimate for the national pay adjustment for federal General Schedule (GS) workers in compliance with the FEPCA and information from the ECI is used in combination with data from the OEWS program to provide estimates of pay by area, occupational groups, and work level that are used to recommend the locality pay adjustments required under FEPCA. The ECI also provides the basis for pay adjustments for Congress, federal judges, and top government officials specified in the Ethics Reform Act, as well as the basis for pay adjustments for the military. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services uses the ECI to determine allowable increases in Medicare reimbursements for hospital and physician charges. In addition, the Wage and Hour Division uses the *ECEC* to set benefit costs required by the Service Contract Act. Other uses of ECI data include: setting and evaluating monetary policy; macro-economic forecasting; collective bargaining and other pay determinations; estimating compensation in the National Income and Product Accounts; contract cost escalation; minimum wage escalation; and studies on the structure of employee compensation.

- The BLS publishes 278 indexes and 331 levels quarterly from a sample of 14,800 establishments.

## Employee Benefits Survey

The EBS provides comprehensive data on the incidence and provisions of employee benefit plans in private industry and state and local governments. The benefits measured evolve to keep pace with changes in labor market practices. Examples of benefits included are: vacation and sick leave; long-term disability; health and life insurance; retirement plans; and health savings accounts. Incidence measures include the percentage of workers with access to and participating in employer-provided benefit plans, as well as take-up rates (an estimate of the percentage of workers with access to a plan who participate in the plan).

The BLS provides data on benefit incidence and provisions by full- and part-time status of employees, bargaining status, wage intervals, goods-producing and service-producing industries, establishment employment size, and by Census area. The BLS also provides statistics on both the employee and employer contributions to medical plan premiums. EBS data are published separately for occupational groups in private industry and state and local governments representing the civilian economy.

## **COMPENSATION AND WORKING CONDITIONS**

The varied uses of these data include: benefit administration and program development in public and private sectors; collective bargaining; conciliation and arbitration in the public and private sectors; and Congress and the President's consideration of legislation affecting the welfare of workers, including changes to retirement benefit plans, especially among small employers, and expanded sick leave policies. EBS data are used in studies that provide more details on health care services and limitations applicable to covered Americans. This information is essential to policymakers because employer-provided benefits are a primary source of health, disability, and retirement plans for American workers.

- The BLS collects data on benefit incidence and provisions from a sample of 14,800 establishments and publishes the results of benefit plans obtained from a sample of 4,917 private establishments.

### **WORK STOPPAGES STATISTICS**

The BLS compiles data on Work Stoppages to meet general statutory requirements assigned to the BLS (29 U.S.C. 4) "to investigate the causes of, and facts relating to, all controversies and disputes between employers and employees." The program produces monthly and annual data on major strikes and lockouts. The BLS collects from secondary sources the number of work stoppages, workers involved, and days idle.

### ***OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH STATISTICS***

OSHS assists employers and policymakers in focusing their safety and health efforts, and allows workers to be better informed about workplace hazards by providing relevant data on injuries, illnesses, and fatalities that affect America's workers. It includes the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (SOII) and the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI). The Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C. 673) requires the Secretary of Labor (who, in turn, authorizes the BLS) to compile statistics and to "promote, encourage, or directly engage in programs of studies, information, and communication concerning occupational safety and health statistics and make grants to states or political subdivisions thereof to assist them in developing and administering programs dealing with occupational safety and health statistics." The survey of non-fatal injuries and illnesses and the fatal injury census serve as the nation's primary public health surveillance system for job-related injuries and illnesses.

The BLS conducts the SOII to estimate the incidence rate and number of workplace injuries and illnesses and to gather information on the more seriously injured and ill workers and the circumstances of their injuries and illnesses. In 2022, the BLS expanded collection of these characteristics to include cases resulting in job transfer or restriction nationwide in addition to the previously collected cases that require days away from work. The BLS also conducts an annual fatal injury census that compiles a complete roster of job-related fatal injuries and provides detailed information on fatally injured workers and the circumstances of the injuries leading to their deaths. These data include the events or exposures incurred by the worker, and the nature and source of the injury or illness.

## **COMPENSATION AND WORKING CONDITIONS**

OSHS produces a variety of articles and papers highlighting specific aspects of the safety and health of the nation's workplaces and workers. In recent years, these have included new insights concerning occupational injuries, illnesses, and fatalities to specific groups, in a specific industry, and details of selected types of injuries and illnesses. Other areas of research have focused on injuries and illnesses that have led to job transfer or restriction, and the expanded use of computer-assisted coding to review or assign codes for injury and illness circumstances.

### **Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses**

The SOII provides injury and illness information by industry, worker characteristics, and the circumstances of the injury or illness. The survey estimates injury and illness incidence rates by nature of injury and event, industry, occupation, gender, and age for the nation and participating states. These estimates cover private industry and state and local government workers.

Government agencies, and industry, insurance, academic, public health, labor union, and private researchers analyze trends in these data. They also study the detailed circumstances of the injuries and illnesses to assess the overall occupational safety and health of workers and to identify ways to reduce injuries and illnesses, including potential changes in safety and health regulations or programs. Individual establishments compare their rates to those of their industry to benchmark their worker safety and health performance. Other researchers analyze the data to identify particular risks by occupation or event.

- The BLS conducts the annual survey in a 50/50 cost-sharing partnership with 42 states, the District of Columbia, and 3 territories, and collects the injury and illness data in nonparticipating states through its regional offices to produce national data. The BLS collects information, which is based on the records of job-related injuries and illnesses that the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requires many employers to keep and report to its employees annually, from a sample of approximately 228,000 establishments. Additionally, the survey collects nationwide detailed information on case circumstances and worker characteristics for approximately 560,000 injury or illness cases over a two year period that required days away from work, job transfer, or restriction to recuperate.

### **Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries**

The CFOI provides detailed information on fatally injured workers by industry and state, characteristics of workers, and the circumstances leading to their deaths. The program collects data from a wide variety of documents, such as death certificates, medical examiner records, media reports, and reports of fatalities submitted to federal and state workers' compensation and regulatory agencies. These diverse data sources allow the BLS and its state partners to compile a complete roster of fatal occupational injuries to workers in private and public sector establishments and to the self-employed.

The program provides a comprehensive count of work-related fatal injuries at the national and state level, by industry, and by occupation, as well as detailed information about the fatal



## COMPENSATION AND WORKING CONDITIONS

incident. The detailed data include information on the characteristics of the fatally injured workers (age, gender, race and ethnicity, and occupation), the nature and sources of the injury and the circumstances leading to the fatality. Providing these details allows the BLS and other researchers to produce special analyses on specific types of work-related fatal injuries, such as those associated with mine cave-ins, crane collapses, and explosions, and allows government, business, labor, and researchers to design strategies to reduce fatalities.

- The BLS conducts the fatal injury census in a 50/50 cost-sharing partnership with 46 states, the District of Columbia, 3 territories, and 1 city. The BLS collects fatal injury reports for the nonparticipating states and publishes data for the nation.

### **Five-Year Budget Activity History**

<b><u>Fiscal Year</u></b>	<b><u>Funding</u></b> (Dollars in Thousands)	<b><u>FTE</u></b>
2021	\$84,337	308
2022	\$87,309	314
2023	\$91,000	325
2024	\$91,000	326
2025	\$92,354	328

### **FY 2026**

In FY 2026, though the BLS request is included in the Department's budget materials, the Budget proposes to reorganize the BLS, the Census Bureau, and the Bureau of Economic Analysis at the Department of Commerce, under the policy direction of the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs. This reorganization proposal aims to leverage data collection and analysis synergies, increase cost-effectiveness, improve data quality, and reduce respondent burden.

To achieve cost savings beyond those enabled by the reorganization proposal, and prioritize the most mission critical activities necessary for the production of the core data series, the BLS will refocus efforts in Compensation and Working Conditions on producing data from statistical programs that are Principal Federal Economic Indicators (PFEIs), required by statute, or in use in current law.

### **FY 2025**

Discretionary amounts shown for FY 2025 reflect the FY 2025 full-year Continuing Resolution amounts (P.L. 119-4).

DOL agencies will utilize funding provided through the full-year continuing resolution to realign agency operations with Administration priorities including, but not limited to, executing Executive Order 14158 titled *Establishing and Implementing the President's "Department of Government Efficiency"* (January 20, 2025); Executive Order 14210 titled *Implementing the President's "Department of Government Efficiency" Workforce Optimization Initiative* (February 11, 2025); Executive Order 14219 titled *Ensuring Lawful Governance and Implementing the President's "Department of Government Efficiency" Deregulatory Initiative* (February 19, 2025); Executive Order 14151 titled *Ending Radical And Wasteful Government*

## COMPENSATION AND WORKING CONDITIONS

*DEI Programs And Preferencing* (January 20, 2025); and Executive Order 14278 titled *Preparing Americans for High-Paying Skilled Trade Jobs of the Future* (April 23, 2025). To the extent any of these Executive Orders are subject to an injunction, DOL will conduct any realignment activities consistent with such injunction(s).

### **Workload and Performance Narrative**

The BLS seeks to transform how it collects, analyzes, and delivers its data by increasing its use of technology and identifying efficiencies to improve data accuracy, lower respondent burden, and increase survey responses, while providing policymakers and the public with a first look at economic activity each month. The Compensation and Working Conditions programs produce a diverse set of measures of employee compensation and compile data on work-related injuries, illnesses, and fatalities.

In FY 2026, the Budget proposes to reorganize the BLS, the Census Bureau, and the Bureau of Economic Analysis at the Department of Commerce, under the policy direction of the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs. This reorganization proposal aims to leverage data collection and analysis synergies, increase cost-effectiveness, improve data quality, and reduce respondent burden. To achieve cost savings beyond those enabled by the reorganization proposal, and prioritize the most mission critical activities necessary for the production of the core data series, the BLS will refocus efforts on producing data from statistical programs that are Principal Federal Economic Indicators (PFEIs), required by statute, or in use in current law.

## COMPENSATION AND WORKING CONDITIONS

<b>BUDGET ACTIVITY BY OBJECT CLASS</b>					
(Dollars in Thousands)					
		<b>FY 2024 Revised Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2025 Revised Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2026 Request</b>	<b>Diff. FY 26 Request / FY 25 Revised Enacted</b>
11.1	Full-time permanent	\$39,737	\$41,113	\$36,453	-\$4,660
11.3	Other than full-time permanent	69	72	72	0
11.5	Other personnel compensation	1,082	1,115	1,115	0
11.9	<b>Total personnel compensation</b>	<b>40,888</b>	<b>42,300</b>	<b>37,640</b>	<b>-4,660</b>
12.1	Civilian personnel benefits	14,937	15,349	13,588	-1,761
13.0	Benefits for former personnel	0	0	0	0
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons	671	200	200	0
23.1	Rental payments to GSA	5,230	6,200	6,200	0
23.2	Rental payments to others	15	5	5	0
23.3	Communications, utilities, and miscellaneous charges	533	280	280	0
24.0	Printing and reproduction	264	254	254	0
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources	664	342	239	-103
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources 1/	12,677	11,629	10,969	-660
25.5	Research and development contracts	0	0	0	0
25.7	Operation and maintenance of equipment	5,485	6,610	4,628	-1,982
26.0	Supplies and materials	44	29	29	0
31.0	Equipment	1,907	1,333	1,333	0
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	7,656	7,809	7,809	0
42.0	Insurance claims and indemnities	29	14	14	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$91,000</b>	<b>\$92,354</b>	<b>\$83,188</b>	<b>-\$9,166</b>
1/ Other goods and services from Federal sources					
	Working Capital Fund	\$9,644	\$9,697	\$9,037	-\$660
	DHS Services	1,215	1,073	1,073	0
	Census Bureau	15	18	18	0

# COMPENSATION AND WORKING CONDITIONS

## CHANGES IN FY 2026

(Dollars in Thousands)

### Activity Changes

#### Built-In

To Provide For:

Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA)	\$0
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Working Capital Fund	-660
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Other Federal sources (Census Bureau)	0
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<b>Built-Ins Subtotal</b>	<b>-\$660</b>
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<b>Net Program</b>	<b>-\$8,506</b>
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<b>Direct FTE</b>	<b>-38</b>
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	<b>Estimate</b>	<b>FTE</b>
<b>Base</b>	<b>\$91,694</b>	<b>328</b>
<b>Program Increase</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Program Decrease</b>	<b>-\$8,506</b>	<b>-38</b>

## PRODUCTIVITY AND TECHNOLOGY

<b>BUDGET AUTHORITY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE</b>				
(Dollars in Thousands)				
	<b>FY 2024 Revised Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2025 Revised Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2026 Request</b>	<b>Diff. FY 26 Request / FY 25 Revised Enacted</b>
<b>Activity Appropriation</b>	<b>\$12,500</b>	<b>\$12,360</b>	<b>\$11,322</b>	<b>-\$1,038</b>
FTE	50	52	47	-5

NOTE: FY 2024 reflects actual FTE. Authorized FTE for FY 2024 was 50.

### **Introduction**

Productivity and Technology programs meet several major needs for economic statistics. Data from these programs measure productivity trends in the U.S. economy, as well as in major sectors, individual industries, and states. These programs also analyze trends in order to examine the factors underlying productivity change and growth in the economy. Data produced by the Productivity and Technology programs aid economic policymakers, business leaders, and researchers in analyzing current economic activity. In addition, these data are used as economic indicators; in studies of relationships between productivity, wages, capital, prices, profits, and employment; and as an aid in understanding sources of economic growth. The productivity measurement programs are authorized by an act dated June 7, 1940 (29 U.S.C. 2b), which directs that the BLS “make continuing studies of productivity and labor costs in the manufacturing, mining, transportation, distribution, and other industries.” In addition, the productivity measurement program supports the original directive of BLS (29 U.S.C 1) to “acquire and diffuse[...] useful information on subjects connected with labor[...] and especially upon its relation to capital, the hours of labor, the earnings of laboring men and women.” The BLS carries out its mandate to produce impartial and objective economic data for the nation in the area of productivity as described below for each program.

### **Major Sector Productivity**

The BLS develops quarterly and annual measures of labor productivity for sectors of the economy: business, nonfarm business, manufacturing, and nonfinancial corporations. These data are used to analyze current economic activity; study the relationships between productivity, wages, prices, profits, and employment; and to aid in understanding sources of economic growth. Labor hours worked data from this program are used by the Congressional Budget Office to estimate economic growth for the nation. Data available include indexes and percentage changes for labor productivity, hours worked, unit labor costs, and real and current dollar hourly compensation.

In addition, the BLS develops annual indexes and percentage changes of total factor productivity, also known as multifactor productivity. These data measure output per combined inputs of capital and labor, for the private business and private nonfarm business sectors. The BLS also develops annual total factor productivity measures for all subsectors of the economy that are constructed as output per combined inputs of labor, capital, energy, materials, and purchased services. The total factor productivity data help explain growth in output and

## PRODUCTIVITY AND TECHNOLOGY

labor productivity through industry's use of capital and labor. These data also form a basis for research on the sources of economic advancement and identify the subsectors within the economy that contribute to growth. The total factor productivity data from the BLS continue to be used to set the payment schedule of physicians treating patients under the Medicare program. The BLS uses data from its own programs, and obtains data from the BEA, the Census Bureau, and other federal and private sources, to calculate productivity and related measures for all sectors of the U.S. economy.

### Industry Productivity Studies

The BLS develops annual measures of labor productivity and total factor productivity for many detailed industries and annual measures of labor productivity by state. These productivity measures are used to compare trends in efficiency across industries and states, to analyze and compare trends in production costs, to examine the effects of technological improvements, and to understand the sources of aggregate productivity growth.

The BLS develops labor productivity measures for all 3- and 4-digit NAICS mining, manufacturing, trade, and food services industries and an extensive selection of other service-providing industries. The BLS also develops labor productivity measures for 50 states and the District of Columbia at the private nonfarm sector level. Measures include productivity, unit labor costs, and related indexes; rates of change; and levels of employment, hours worked, value of production, and labor compensation.

The BLS develops total factor productivity measures relating output to the combined inputs of capital, labor, and intermediate purchases (energy, materials, and purchased services) for all 4-digit NAICS manufacturing industries, as well as for air transportation and the line-haul railroads industry.

The BLS uses data from its own programs, the Census Bureau, the BEA, and other sources to calculate productivity and related measures for detailed industries.

### Five-Year Budget Activity History

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Funding</u> (Dollars in Thousands)	<u>FTE</u>
2021	\$11,464	50
2022	\$11,730	50
2023	\$12,524	52
2024	\$12,500	50
2025	\$12,360	52

### FY 2026

In FY 2026, though the BLS request is included in the Department's budget materials, the Budget proposes to reorganize the BLS, the Census Bureau, and the Bureau of Economic Analysis at the Department of Commerce, under the policy direction of the Under Secretary for

## PRODUCTIVITY AND TECHNOLOGY

Economic Affairs. This reorganization proposal aims to leverage data collection and analysis synergies, increase cost-effectiveness, improve data quality, and reduce respondent burden.

To achieve cost savings beyond those enabled by the reorganization proposal, and prioritize the most mission critical activities necessary for the production of the core data series, the BLS will refocus efforts in Productivity and Technology on producing data from statistical programs that are Principal Federal Economic Indicators (PFEIs), required by statute, or in use in current law.

### **FY 2025**

Discretionary amounts shown for FY 2025 reflect the FY 2025 full-year Continuing Resolution amounts (P.L. 119-4).

DOL agencies will utilize funding provided through the full-year continuing resolution to realign agency operations with Administration priorities including, but not limited to, executing Executive Order 14158 titled *Establishing and Implementing the President's "Department of Government Efficiency"* (January 20, 2025); Executive Order 14210 titled *Implementing the President's "Department of Government Efficiency" Workforce Optimization Initiative* (February 11, 2025); Executive Order 14219 titled *Ensuring Lawful Governance and Implementing the President's "Department of Government Efficiency" Deregulatory Initiative* (February 19, 2025); Executive Order 14151 titled *Ending Radical And Wasteful Government DEI Programs And Preferencing* (January 20, 2025); and Executive Order 14278 titled *Preparing Americans for High-Paying Skilled Trade Jobs of the Future* (April 23, 2025). To the extent any of these Executive Orders are subject to an injunction, DOL will conduct any realignment activities consistent with such injunction(s).

### **Workload and Performance Narrative**

The BLS seeks to transform how it collects, analyzes, and delivers its data by increasing its use of technology and identifying efficiencies to improve data accuracy, lower respondent burden, and increase survey responses, while providing policymakers and the public with a first look at economic activity each month. The Productivity and Technology programs produce data on productivity trends in the U.S. economy, as well as in major sectors and individual industries, and examine the factors underlying productivity change.

In FY 2026, the Budget proposes to reorganize the BLS, the Census Bureau, and the Bureau of Economic Analysis at the Department of Commerce, under the policy direction of the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs. This reorganization proposal aims to leverage data collection and analysis synergies, increase cost-effectiveness, improve data quality, and reduce respondent burden. To achieve cost savings beyond those enabled by the reorganization proposal, and prioritize the most mission critical activities necessary for the production of the core data series, the BLS will refocus efforts on producing data from statistical programs that are Principal Federal Economic Indicators (PFEIs), required by statute, or in use in current law.

## PRODUCTIVITY AND TECHNOLOGY

<b>BUDGET ACTIVITY BY OBJECT CLASS</b>					
(Dollars in Thousands)					
		<b>FY 2024 Revised Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2025 Revised Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2026 Request</b>	<b>Diff. FY 26 Request / FY 25 Revised Enacted</b>
11.1	Full-time permanent	\$6,947	\$7,042	\$6,429	-\$613
11.3	Other than full-time permanent	0	0	0	0
11.5	Other personnel compensation	189	202	202	0
11.9	<b>Total personnel compensation</b>	<b>7,136</b>	<b>7,244</b>	<b>6,631</b>	<b>-613</b>
12.1	Civilian personnel benefits	2,583	2,628	2,396	-232
13.0	Benefits for former personnel	0	0	0	0
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons	36	26	26	0
23.1	Rental payments to GSA	443	525	525	0
23.2	Rental payments to others	0	0	0	0
23.3	Communications, utilities, and miscellaneous charges	2	5	5	0
24.0	Printing and reproduction	0	0	0	0
25.1	Advisory and assistance services	0	0	0	0
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources	445	44	31	-13
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources 1/	1,571	1,446	1,359	-87
25.5	Research and development contracts	0	0	0	0
25.7	Operation and maintenance of equipment	222	311	218	-93
26.0	Supplies and materials	11	8	8	0
31.0	Equipment	51	123	123	0
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	0	0	0	0
42.0	Insurance claims and indemnities	0	0	0	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$12,500</b>	<b>\$12,360</b>	<b>\$11,322</b>	<b>-\$1,038</b>
1/ Other goods and services from Federal sources					
	Working Capital Fund	\$1,424	\$1,285	\$1,198	-\$87
	DHS Services	101	90	90	0
	Census Bureau	0	0	0	0



# PRODUCTIVITY AND TECHNOLOGY

## CHANGES IN FY 2026 (Dollars in Thousands)

### Activity Changes

#### Built-In

To Provide For:

Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA)	\$0
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Working Capital Fund	-87
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<b>Built-Ins Subtotal</b>	<b>-\$87</b>
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<b>Net Program</b>	<b>-\$951</b>
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<b>Direct FTE</b>	<b>-5</b>
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	Estimate	FTE
<b>Base</b>	<b>\$12,273</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>Program Increase</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Program Decrease</b>	<b>-\$951</b>	<b>-5</b>



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTION AND STAFF SERVICES

<b>BUDGET AUTHORITY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE</b>				
(Dollars in Thousands)				
	<b>FY 2024 Revised Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2025 Revised Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2026 Request</b>	<b>Diff. FY 26 Request / FY 25 Revised Enacted</b>
<b>Activity Appropriation</b>	<b>\$37,500</b>	<b>\$37,652</b>	<b>\$34,794</b>	<b>-\$2,858</b>
FTE	164	159	146	-13

NOTE: FY 2024 reflects actual FTE. Authorized FTE for FY 2024 was 159.

### **Introduction**

Executive Direction and Staff Services provide agency-wide policy and management direction, and centralized program support activities. Major goals of these programs are the development and improvement of economic and statistical programs, efficient management of ongoing programs, and provision of the technical, administrative, information technology, dissemination, and publication services necessary to produce and release statistical and research output in a reliable, secure, timely, and effective manner.

### **Office of the Commissioner**

The Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner, in cooperation with program and support offices, plan, direct, and manage all the BLS activities. In support of the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018, the Commissioner is the designated statistical official for DOL. The Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner also represent the agency in both national and international forums, including those with the U.S. Congress, the Administration, and economic and statistical organizations.

### **Administration**

The Administrative programs are responsible for planning, executing, and evaluating a broad and responsive management and administrative program that supports the programmatic and technical responsibilities of the BLS. Major functions of this program include budget formulation and execution, accounting and financial management, grants management, procurement liaison, travel program management, organizational performance management and reporting, workforce management, emergency management, specialized training, space management, building operations, facility security, administrative information applications, records management, Bureau-wide quality reviews of programs, statistical confidentiality (Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act (CIPSEA)) and security policy (Federal Information Security Modernization Act), and management control functions.

### **Technology and Survey Processing**

The Technology and Survey Processing program provides overall planning and execution of information technology (IT) activities integral to the production of accurate, objective, relevant, timely, and accessible economic data in accordance with CIPSEA and OMB Statistical Policy

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTION AND STAFF SERVICES

Directives. This includes the development, maintenance, and operation of systems that are used for sampling, data collection (including the Internet Data Collection Facility), estimation to produce the Principal Federal Economic Indicators (PFEIs) and other statistical measures, and dissemination of BLS data to the public. The program is responsible for maintaining and managing the BLS IT infrastructure and ensuring the security of BLS IT systems and data, as well as adherence to the Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act (FITARA) and all other federal laws, Executive Orders, and congressional mandates. The program researches and evaluates new IT tools, technologies, and software for use in the BLS IT infrastructure and ensures that IT activities in the BLS are conducted in accordance with the applicable statutes and regulations governing federal IT activities.

### **Publications**

The Publications program provides overall direction and coordination of the entire range of publications, information dissemination, and communications activities of the BLS. Using current technology to improve efficiency and customer service, this program makes the statistical materials and research findings of the agency available to the public and responds to inquiries from the public and the media on a timely basis. Information is available to the public 24 hours a day via the BLS website. Information specialists are available during business hours to answer requests submitted by e-mail, telephone, mail, or social media. Data and analyses are reviewed, edited, cleared, and made available online as news releases, periodicals, bulletins, reports, brochures, and flyers. Publications developed or coordinated within this program, including the *Monthly Labor Review*, *The Economics Daily*, the *BLS Handbook of Methods*, and the *Customer Service Guide*, provide a general overview of the work of the BLS, technical information about its many programs, and comprehensive analyses across all programs.

### **Survey Methods Research**

The Survey Methods Research program evaluates the effectiveness and soundness of the survey methods currently used by BLS programs, investigates alternative methods to determine their appropriateness for BLS programs, and develops new methods for improving the efficiency and quality of BLS programs. It also conducts research on cross-program issues, consults with program offices on an ongoing basis, and supports improvement activities for the major statistical programs.

The program consists of three parts: the Behavioral Science Research Center, the Mathematical Statistics Research Center, and the Data Science Research Center. Research conducted by the Behavioral Science Research Center concentrates on the measurement and reduction of non-sampling error through, for example, questionnaire design studies, investigations into respondent-interviewer interactions, usability studies of computer-assisted data collection systems, the development of response-level data quality measures, analysis of survey nonresponse and paradata (data collected about the survey process, such as contact history or interview time), the use of focus groups, and surveys of key stakeholders for BLS statistical programs. The Mathematical Statistics Research Center focuses on estimating and increasing the efficiency of sample designs and estimators to improve BLS data and statistics, and on formal disclosure limitation methods to protect the confidentiality of BLS respondents. This includes the

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTION AND STAFF SERVICES

development of computationally intensive methods for analyzing complex survey data, integrating alternative data sources, developing better seasonal adjustment methods, and handling missing data. The Data Science Research Center provides cross-office support and coordination for data science activities, such as staff training and technology improvements. This includes direct support for projects that involve unstructured text data, machine learning, and data visualization. The Survey Methods Research program also supports BLS programs through research activities that address the areas of human-computer interaction, information seeking and retrieval, knowledge management, and data that describe other data (i.e., metadata).

### Field Operations

The Field Operations program consists of a national office component and six regional offices. The national office provides overall operations planning and allocates workload and resources to regional offices. It monitors and evaluates national operation performance, provides technical direction and training, and provides collection expertise to other programs as they plan their survey approaches. The regional offices manage their workload and resources as assigned to complete various tasks, such as collecting survey data, providing and administering federal/state grants, monitoring and evaluating state work on BLS grants, disseminating region-specific data and information, and providing outreach to local and national audiences. These functions of the Field Operations program directly support survey response rates, which impact the quality of data received and produced by the BLS.

### Five-Year Budget Activity History

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Funding</u> (Dollars in Thousands)	<u>FTE</u>
2021	\$35,505	155
2022	\$35,000	142
2023	\$37,000	157
2024	\$37,500	159
2025	\$37,652	159

### FY 2026

In FY 2026, though the BLS request is included in the Department's budget materials, the Budget proposes to reorganize the BLS, the Census Bureau, and the Bureau of Economic Analysis at the Department of Commerce, under the policy direction of the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs. This reorganization proposal aims to leverage data collection and analysis synergies, increase cost-effectiveness, improve data quality, and reduce respondent burden.

To achieve cost savings beyond those enabled by the reorganization proposal, and prioritize the most mission critical activities necessary for the production of the core data series, the BLS will refocus efforts in Executive Direction and Staff Services to directing and supporting production of statistical programs that are Principal Federal Economic Indicators (PFEIs), required by statute, or in use in current law.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTION AND STAFF SERVICES

### **FY 2025**

Discretionary amounts shown for FY 2025 reflect the FY 2025 full-year Continuing Resolution amounts (P.L. 119-4).

DOL agencies will utilize funding provided through the full-year continuing resolution to realign agency operations with Administration priorities including, but not limited to, executing Executive Order 14158 titled *Establishing and Implementing the President's "Department of Government Efficiency"* (January 20, 2025); Executive Order 14210 titled *Implementing the President's "Department of Government Efficiency" Workforce Optimization Initiative* (February 11, 2025); Executive Order 14219 titled *Ensuring Lawful Governance and Implementing the President's "Department of Government Efficiency" Deregulatory Initiative* (February 19, 2025); Executive Order 14151 titled *Ending Radical And Wasteful Government DEI Programs And Preferencing* (January 20, 2025); and Executive Order 14278 titled *Preparing Americans for High-Paying Skilled Trade Jobs of the Future* (April 23, 2025). To the extent any of these Executive Orders are subject to an injunction, DOL will conduct any realignment activities consistent with such injunction(s).

### **Workload and Performance Narrative**

The BLS seeks to transform how it collects, analyzes, and delivers its data by increasing its use of technology and identifying efficiencies to improve data accuracy, lower respondent burden, and increase survey responses, while providing policymakers and the public with a first look at economic activity each month.

In FY 2026, the Budget proposes to reorganize the BLS, the Census Bureau, and the Bureau of Economic Analysis at the Department of Commerce, under the policy direction of the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs. This reorganization proposal aims to leverage data collection and analysis synergies, increase cost-effectiveness, improve data quality, and reduce respondent burden. To achieve cost savings beyond those enabled by the reorganization proposal, and prioritize the most mission critical activities necessary for the production of the core data series, the BLS will refocus efforts on producing data from statistical programs that are Principal Federal Economic Indicators (PFEIs), required by statute, or in use in current law.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTION AND STAFF SERVICES

<b>BUDGET ACTIVITY BY OBJECT CLASS</b>					
(Dollars in Thousands)					
		<b>FY 2024 Revised Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2025 Revised Enacted</b>	<b>FY 2026 Request</b>	<b>Diff. FY 26 Request / FY 25 Revised Enacted</b>
11.1	Full-time permanent	\$21,270	\$21,755	\$20,161	-\$1,594
11.3	Other than full-time permanent	138	82	82	0
11.5	Other personnel compensation	794	816	816	0
11.9	<b>Total personnel compensation</b>	<b>22,142</b>	<b>22,653</b>	<b>21,059</b>	<b>-1,594</b>
12.1	Civilian personnel benefits	8,124	8,319	7,835	-484
13.0	Benefits for former personnel	15	0	0	0
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons	314	218	218	0
23.1	Rental payments to GSA	1,010	1,198	1,198	0
23.2	Rental payments to others	3	16	16	0
23.3	Communications, utilities, and miscellaneous charges	57	59	59	0
24.0	Printing and reproduction	3	9	9	0
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources	738	354	248	-106
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources 1/	2,631	2,456	2,326	-130
25.5	Research and development contracts	0	0	0	0
25.7	Operation and maintenance of equipment	1,262	1,813	1,269	-544
26.0	Supplies and materials	37	45	45	0
31.0	Equipment	656	511	511	0
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	0	0	0	0
42.0	Insurance claims and indemnities	8	1	1	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$37,500</b>	<b>\$37,652</b>	<b>\$34,794</b>	<b>-\$2,858</b>
1/ Other goods and services from Federal sources					
	Working Capital Fund	\$1,576	\$1,911	\$1,781	-\$130
	DHS Services	541	208	208	0
	Census Bureau	0	0	0	0

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTION AND STAFF SERVICES

### CHANGES IN FY 2026 (Dollars in Thousands)

#### Activity Changes

##### Built-In

To Provide For:

Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA)	\$119
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Working Capital Fund	-130
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<b>Built-Ins Subtotal</b>	<b>-\$11</b>
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<b>Net Program</b>	<b>-\$2,847</b>
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Direct FTE	-13
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	Estimate	FTE
<b>Base</b>	<b>\$37,641</b>	<b>159</b>
<b>Program Increase</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Program Decrease</b>	<b>-\$2,847</b>	<b>-13</b>