

## Bureau of Labor Statistics, Dallas, Texas Fax-On-Demand and Internet Access Tips

The Bureau of Labor Statistics offers two "self-service" methods to quickly retrieve various types of economic information. If you need routine data (i.e., the latest CPI or U.S. unemployment rate) the best method may be our automated fax-on-demand system. By calling **214-767-9613** and entering a document code you can receive the latest information on many programs. The documents will be sent directly to your fax machine in about 15 seconds. A catalog of the most frequently requested codes in the Dallas Region may be obtained by calling the system, pressing the number 1, and then entering document code 9000. If you would like a listing of *all* available documents simply call the system and enter the number 2 after the recorded introduction.

The same information is also available on the Worldwide Web. In addition, more detailed or less frequently requested data (such as average hourly earnings in computer programming services, the Employment Cost Index for blue-collar workers, and Producer Price Indexes for petroleum refining) can be found through the Bureau's Homepage at <http://www.bls.gov/>. (A portion of that page is displayed below.)

The screenshot shows the Bureau of Labor Statistics homepage in Microsoft Internet Explorer. The browser title is "Bureau of Labor Statistics Home Page - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by Bureau of Labor Statistics". The address bar shows "http://www.bls.gov/home.htm". The page features the U.S. Department of Labor logo and the text "U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics". Below this is a navigation bar with "www.bls.gov" and a search box. A menu bar contains links: "About BLS", "Jobs in BLS", "Get Detailed Statistics", "Economic News Releases", "Glossary", "What's New", "Contact Us", and "Find It! In DOL". The main content area is divided into three columns. The left column lists categories: "Inflation & Consumer Spending", "Wages, Earnings, & Benefits", "Productivity", "Safety & Health", and "International". The middle column, titled "Latest Numbers", lists: "CPI: +0.3% in Sep 2003", "Unemployment Rate: 6.1% in Sep 2003", "Payroll Employment: +57,000(p) in Sep 2003", "Average Hourly Earnings: -\$0.01(p) in Sep 2003", "PPI: +0.3%(p) in Sep 2003", "ECI: +0.9% in 2nd Qtr of 2003", "Productivity: +6.8% in 2nd Qtr of 2003", and "U.S. Import Price Index: -0.5% in Sep 2003". The right column lists: "Employment & Unemployment", "At a Glance Tables", and "Publications & Research Papers". A footer at the bottom right says "Local intranet".

If you scroll down the homepage you will see a map of the U.S. labeled "Regional Resources." Clicking on a particular area will take you to that region's homepage. It is quite possible that questions regarding local states or metropolitan areas may be quickly answered through the "Regional Economy," "Most Requested Statistics," or "Economic News Releases" links on those pages. The Dallas Information Office homepage is shown on the following page.

Southwest Information Office Home Page - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by Bureau of Labor Statistics

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Address http://www.bls.gov/to6/home.htm

 **U.S. Department of Labor**  
Bureau of Labor Statistics  
*Southwest BLS Information Office in Dallas*

[www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov) Search | A-Z Index

BLS Home | Programs & Surveys | Get Detailed Statistics | Glossary | What's New | Find It! In DOL

RELATED LINKS GO

The Southwest BLS Information Office in Dallas services the states of Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.

- General Information
- Special Notices
- Quick Look
  - Southwest Regional Economy
  - Census Region at a Glance
  - Get Detailed Statistics
- Economic News Releases & Tables Created by BLS
  - Inflation & Consumer Spending
  - Employment & Unemployment
  - Wages, Earnings & Benefits
- Ready Facts (Fax-on-demand Catalog)
- Need Help?

**Latest Numbers**

**ECI Total Compensation, private industry workers**

**United States**  
 3-Month % Change: 0.8% in 2nd Qtr of 2003  
 12-Month % Change: 3.5% in 2nd Qtr of 2003

**Northeast**  
 3-Month % Change: 0.9% in 2nd Qtr of 2003  
 12-Month % Change: 3.3% in 2nd Qtr of 2003

**South**  
 3-Month % Change: 0.6% in 2nd Qtr of 2003  
 12-Month % Change: 2.5% in 2nd Qtr of 2003

**Midwest**

Going back to the Bureau's Homepage, the second major topic shown on the right-hand side of the screen is "At a Glance Tables." This site can be very useful if you are looking for a wide variety of current statistics for national, regional, state, or metropolitan economies. The section quickly pulls up tabular formatted data for the most frequently requested information for the specified area (see below). Links to historical data -- indicated by the "dinosaur" icons -- as well as charts, are clearly marked. The tabular pages also list additional links where further information may be researched or obtained.

United States Economy at a Glance - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by Bureau of Labor Statistics

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Address http://www.bls.gov/eag/eag.us.htm

 **U.S. Department of Labor**  
Bureau of Labor Statistics  
*U.S. Economy at a Glance*

[www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov) Search | A-Z Index

BLS Home | Programs & Surveys | Get Detailed Statistics | Glossary | What's New | Find It! In DOL

OTHER AVAILABLE AT A GLANCE TABLES GO

[Text Version](#) [About the data](#)

Data Series	Back Data	Apr 2003	May 2003	June 2003	July 2003	Aug 2003	Sept 2003
<a href="#">Unemployment Rate</a> <sup>(1)</sup>	 	6.0	6.1	6.4	6.2	6.1	6.1
<a href="#">Change in Payroll Employment</a> <sup>(2)</sup>	 	-22	-76	-83	-57	-41 <sup>(P)</sup>	57 <sup>(P)</sup>
<a href="#">Average Hourly Earnings</a> <sup>(3)</sup>	 	15.30	15.35	15.38	15.43	15.46 <sup>(P)</sup>	15.45 <sup>(P)</sup>
<a href="#">Consumer Price Index</a> <sup>(4)</sup>	 	-0.3	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.3 <sup>(P)</sup>	0.3 <sup>(P)</sup>
<a href="#">Producer Price Index</a> <sup>(5)</sup>	 	-1.7	-0.4	0.6 <sup>(P)</sup>	0.1 <sup>(P)</sup>	0.4 <sup>(P)</sup>	0.3 <sup>(P)</sup>
<a href="#">U.S. Import Price Index</a> <sup>(6)</sup>	 	-3.1	-0.7	0.9	0.5	0.1	-0.5
<a href="#">Employment Cost Index</a> <sup>(7)</sup>	 		0.9				
<a href="#">Productivity</a> <sup>(8)</sup>	 		6.8				

Footnotes:

The topics on the Bureau's Homepage are organized by general area of interest. For example, if you are interested in "**Consumer Price Indexes**," click that sub-category under "**Inflation and Consumer Spending**." You will be taken to the Bureau's Homepage for the Consumer Price Index (CPI) Program (shown below). If your questions are of a general nature such as data availability, uses, or methodology, the best choice is to click on one of the topics under "**General Overview**" or "**Frequently Asked Questions**." Access to news releases, data searches, and other items of interest are listed on each Program homepage.

The screenshot shows the homepage for the Consumer Price Indexes (CPI) program. The page includes a navigation menu with links to 'BLS Home', 'Programs & Surveys', 'Get Detailed Statistics', 'Glossary', 'What's New', and 'Find It! In DOL'. A 'Latest Numbers' box on the right provides the following data:

Category	NSA	SA	NSA (since)
CPI-U, US City Average, All Items	+0.3%	+0.3%	+2.3% since Sep 2002
CPI-U, US City Average, All Items Less Food and Energy	+0.1%	+0.1%	+1.2% since Sep 2002
CPI-U, US City Average, Medical Care	+0.3%	+0.5%	+4.0% since Sep 2002

Nearly all of the Bureau's programs now have access to a simplified query system. From the specific Program Homepage (such as National Compensation Survey: Compensation Cost Trends shown on the following page), scroll down to the sub-heading of "**Get Detailed Statistics**." It will be worth your time to take a look at "**Most Requested Statistics**," but if this section doesn't have the information you need, then click on "**Create Customized Tables (one screen)**" -- previously known as *Public Data Query*. A new Internet window will open showing the screen for a "point and select" search for the particular program. An example of the "Query" system for the Employment Cost Index (ECI) is shown on the following page. (Note: Due to program data variations, most program screens will vary slightly from one another.) Regardless of the program, simply select the option desired under each of the bold, red numbers. For example, suppose you want to find the ECI for wages in private industry for All Workers *and* Sales Occupations. Select the following options under each of the numbered sections: 1) click Wages and Salaries; 2) click Private Industry; 3) click Index number; 4) click All Workers AND Sales Occupations; 5) if unsure of data needs, click both seasonally adjusted and not seasonally adjusted (this will retrieve both sets of data if available). Finally click "**Get Data**" under the number 6. A new Internet window will open to display the information. After printing the data screen, you should simply close that window. The Public Data Query window will remain open to allow further selections.

## Homepage for Compensation Cost Trends Program

(red arrow points to "Public Data Query")

**GENERAL OVERVIEW:**  
[Summary](#) | [Data Collection](#) | [Survey Methodology](#) | [Data Usage](#)  
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**SPECIAL NOTICES:**  
[Back to Top](#)

**ECONOMIC NEWS RELEASES:**

- Employment Cost Index ([TXT](#)) ([PDF](#) 99K)
- UPDATED** Employer Costs for Employee Compensation ([HTML](#)) ([PDF](#) 86K)
- Subscribe to the [BLS News Service](#)-- receive the Employment Cost Index news release by e-mail

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**GET DETAILED STATISTICS:**

- Most Requested Statistics** --Select from lists of the most popular Compensation Cost Trends statistics.
  - [Employment Cost Index](#) (ECI)
  - [Employer Cost for Employee Compensation](#) (ECEC)
- Create Customized Tables (one screen)** --this application (previously called "Public Data Query") requires a Java-enabled browser. Choose the data you want from BLS databases on a simple, one-screen form.
  - [Employment Cost Index](#) (ECI)
  - [Employer Cost for Employee Compensation](#) (ECEC)
- Create Customized Tables (multiple screens)** --a form-based query application which allows you to obtain BLS time series data based on choices you make (previously called "Selective Access").
  - [Employment Cost Index](#) (ECI)

**2003**  
**12-Month % Change (NSA)**  
 3.5% in 2nd Qtr of 2003  
**State and Local Government, Compensation**  
**3-Month % Change (SA)**  
 1.0% in 2nd Qtr of 2003  
**12-Month % Change (NSA)**  
 4.1% in 2nd Qtr of 2003

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 » SA- Seasonally Adjusted  
 » NSA- Not Seasonally Adjusted  
 » Click on the icon for 10-years of historical data.

**People Are Asking...**

- [Is the ECI adjusted for inflation?](#)
- [What is the Employment](#)

## Public Data Query -- Employment Cost Index

(red arrow indicates button used for multiple selections)

**Employment Cost Index** HELP

**1 Select a Compensation Component**      **2 Select Economy Sector**      **3 Select Index Number or Change Periodicity**

Total compensation       Civilian       12 month percent cha  
 Wages and salaries       Private industry       Index number  
 Benefits       State and local government       3 month percent chan

**4 Select one or more Series**

**5 Select Seasonal Adjustment**

Seasonally Adjusted  
 Not Seasonally Adjusted

**6**       Your Selection: (0 series selected)      NOTE: Select a maximum of 200 series.

000 All workers  
 101 Production and non-supervisory occupations  
 110 White-collar occupations  
 111 Executive, administrative, and managerial occupations  
 112 Professional, specialty, and technical occupations  
 113 Sales occupations  
 114 Administrative support, including clerical, occupations  
 120 Blue-collar occupations  
 121 Precision, production, craft, and repair occupations  
 122 Making operators, assemblers, and inspectors occupations

It is possible to make multiple selections before retrieving data by clicking the **"Add To Your Selection"** button rather than **"Get Data"** under number 6. (See red arrow on previous screen depiction.) If you want to retrieve both the Index number and the 12-month percent change, for the ECI, simply follow all of the steps indicated in the preceding paragraph. However, instead of clicking "Get Data," click "Add To Your Selection." The codes and a description of the index series will appear in the **"Your Selection"** box. Now go back to number 3 and click on "12-month percent change." Under number 4, re-select "All Workers" and "Sales Occupations." Under number 6, again click "Add To Your Selection." Then click "Get Data." Both the indexes and the 12-month percent changes will appear in a new Internet window.

The Bureau has extensive information on wages and pay. Using the **National Compensation Survey**, you can search a specific city for average salaries by occupation and level or you can compare a particular job salary in many different metropolitan areas. From the Bureau's Homepage, click on **"National Compensation Data"** (under the main heading **"Wages, Earnings, & Benefits."**). From the next page, click on the underlined section entitled **"Occupational Earnings."** Then select **"Public Data Query."** The result is the screen below which allows a search for multiple occupations within a single area. If instead you wish to select a single occupation and compare salaries in different census regions, click **"View areas within an occupation"** at the top of the screen (indicated by red arrow). As in the previous example, make your selections in numbers 1 through 3. Then to choose additional areas or jobs, click "Add to Your Selection" on number 4. Finally click "Get Data."

**Public Data Query: nc - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by Bureau of Labor Statistics**

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Address <http://data.bls.gov/labjava/outside.jsp?survey=nc> Go

**National Compensation Survey** OVERVIEW HELP

Select how you want to view the data

View occupations within an area  View areas within an occupation

**1** Select an Area  Find

Greenville-Spartanburg-Anderson, SC  
 TENNESSEE  
 Knoxville, TN  
 Memphis, TN-AR-MS  
 TEXAS  
 Amarillo, TX  
 Andrews County, TX  
 Austin-San Marcos, TX  
 Brownsville-Harlingen-San Benito, TX  
 Corpus Christi, TX  
 Dallas-Fort Worth, TX

**2** Select an Occupation  Find

All occupations  
 All occupations, excluding sales  
 White collar occupations  
 White collar occupations, excluding sales  
 Professional specialty and technical occupations  
 Professional specialty occupations  
 Engineers, architects, and surveyors  
 Electrical and electronic engineers  
 Industrial engineers  
 Engineers, n.e.c.

**3** Select a Work Level

Overall occupation average (no work level) OR Get help choosing a Work Level

**4** Get Data

OR for Multiple Queries

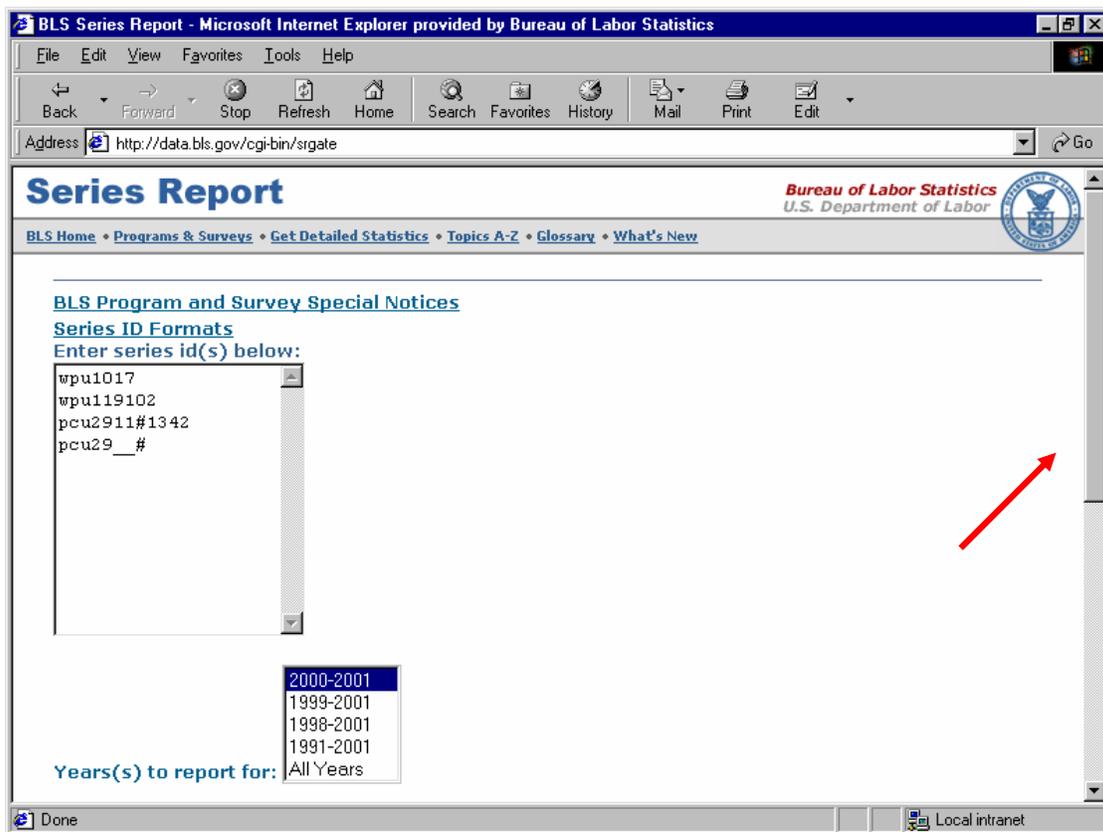
Add To Your Selection ->

Your Selection: (0 series selected) NOTE: Select a maximum of 200 series.

Applet started Local intranet

The Bureau's Public Data Query system is easy to use and formats the data for viewing and printing in a traditional Web style. For users who wish to download data for use in their own spreadsheets or programs, the methodology for changing formats is simple. After retrieving data using **Public Data Query**, click on "**Reformat**" button located at the top of the window. When presented with the reformatting options select your **Output Format** (table or column), select the items and dates to be shown (i.e., indexes or percent changes). Under **Output Type**, click on "Text (comma delimited)" and then click Retrieve. If you want to copy the data for use in a worksheet, use your mouse to highlight the data and select **Edit/Copy** from the main Web menu. Switch to your worksheet program and paste the data into place. (Your worksheet may require "Special Pasting" as "Unicode Text" as well as additional commands such as "parsing" or "text to data.")

If your company has a frequent need for historical Producer Price Indexes (PPIs), the "**Series Report**" program (accessed from the PPI Homepage via "Get Detailed Statistics") will be your best method. For *commodity codes* (table 6 from the PPI book), simply type the letters WPU in front of the codes you wish to request. For example, to retrieve data on commodity codes 1017 and 119102, type WPU1017 and WPU119102. If you need *industry codes* (table 5 in the PPI book) the database numbering system is slightly more complicated. Begin by typing the letters PCU at the beginning of the numeric code and placing a pound sign (#) between the first 4 digits and any remaining characters. If the PPI industry code has less than 4 digits, then type an underscore ( \_ ) in the missing digit(s) area and finish with a pound sign. For example, to retrieve industry codes 2911-1342 and 29, type PCU2911#1342 and PCU29\_#. (See picture below.) After entering the codes in the white box, scroll down the page using the *far right-hand scroll bar* (indicated by red arrow) and make any changes desired in the data presentation. (The default selections are normally sufficient.) Finally, click "Retrieve Data."



If you need further assistance using our automated fax system or the Internet site, or if you need to speak to someone concerning interpretation of the data, please call the **Dallas Economic Analysis and Information Unit at 214-767-6970**.