

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Program Comparisons

	Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) Labor Force	Current Employment Statistics (CES) Nonfarm Employment	Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages (QCEW) Covered Workers	Local Employment Dynamics (LED)	Occupational Employment Statistics (OES)
Data Collection Instrument	Monthly sample based on the Current Population Survey (CPS), a national household survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau.	Monthly survey of businesses. The current active CES sample includes approximately 2,000 individual worksites.	Quarterly state-mandated UI contribution report based on the physical location of business establishment, which includes employment count during reference week and corresponding quarterly wages.	Information sources include QCEW reports based on establishment physical location and UI worker wage records based on firm physical location.	Survey of businesses based on a three-year data collection cycle; surveys are sent out twice a year to capture data for the 2nd and 4th quarter reference periods.
Reference Period	Monthly	Monthly	Quarterly	Quarterly	Quarterly
Data Measurement	Number of people employed and unemployed by place of residence.	Number of jobs held.	Number of jobs held.	Number of jobs held.	Wages and employment by occupation.
Reference Period	The week inclusive of the 12th calendar day.	The week inclusive of the 12th calendar day.	The week inclusive of the 12th calendar day.	First calendar day of the quarter; last calendar day of the quarter; comprehensive of the quarter.	May and November payroll which includes the 12th calendar day.
Definition	Persons who, during the reference week, work at least one hour for pay/profit; or work at least 15 hours as an unpaid family worker; or are self-employed, or have a job but did not go to work.	Persons on establishment payrolls who receive pay for any part of the pay period which includes the 12th of the month.	Persons covered under state unemployment insurance (UI) laws or the Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) program.	Persons covered under state unemployment insurance (UI) laws and earned at least one dollar during reference period.	Persons included on the payroll which includes the 12th of the month during the months of May and November.
Coverage Inclusion	Includes persons who are 16 years or older, farm and nonfarm workers; self employed; unpaid family workers who worked 15 hours or more; and those temporarily absent from work.	Includes all ages of employed. Includes most covered workers and segments of non-covered employment which are referred to as presumed non covered (PNC).	Includes all ages who are paid a wage or salary from an employer liable to pay unemployment insurance. Agricultural workers and domestic workers are included if employer meets liability criteria.	Varies by state law; counts persons who are 14 years or older.	Includes all ages of employed.
Coverage Exclusion	Individuals not in the labor force, including those under age 16 or institutionalized.	Self-employed, agricultural workers, domestic workers and military.	Self-employed, military, unpaid family workers, railroad workers, work-study students, elected officials, or any business not covered by unemployment insurance.	Federal civilian workers, self-employed, military, unpaid family workers, railroad, and work study.	Self-employed, some agricultural workers, domestic workers, and military.
Statewide Estimates	The monthly statewide employed estimates are prepared using economic models which incorporate data from the CPS, CES and unemployment insurance claims.	Statewide and MSA estimates are created using sample based estimates and a modeled series.	Industry employment data is calculated directly from UI reports.	Industry employment data is calculated directly from firm-level UI wage records; per request from BLS, UI wage record firm-level employment target weighted to ES202 firm-level employment.	Occupational worker and wage estimates are produced from three years of survey data.
Substate Estimates	Combination of the "building block" method that uses administrative data, economic models and disaggregation methodologies; substate estimates are controlled to statewide estimates. Note: Substate CPS household sample not sufficient to calculate substate estimates.	An economic model is used to produce preliminary estimates for current month nonfarm worker levels until covered worker data for this time period becomes available, at which point the preliminary estimates are updated.	Industry employment data is calculated directly from establishment-reported employment; establishment employment by county is based on establishment location.	Industry employment estimate is calculated directly from firm-level UI worker wage records and QCEW establishment location.	Survey methodology allows for occupational estimates to be published for five substate regions including the Rapid City MSA, Sioux Falls MSA, Central Area, East Area and West Area.