

# Current Employment Statistics Survey

## A Federal-State Cooperative Program


Casualty Actuarial Society  
2022 Ratemaking, Product and Modeling Seminar  
March 16<sup>th</sup> 11:30 am CT / 12:30 pm ET

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Economist  
Current Employment Statistics  
U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics


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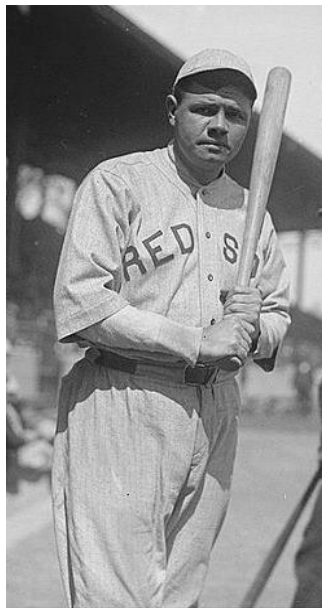
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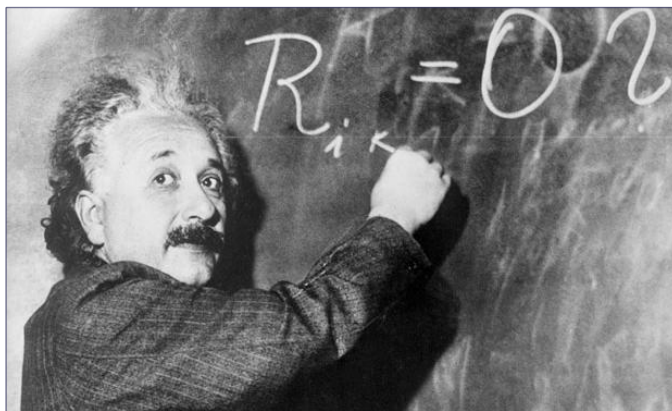
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## Seminar Objectives

- Overview of the CES program
- Recent improvements
- Series produced
- News releases

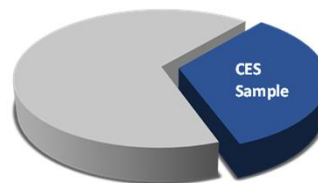
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## What is the CES survey?

- Monthly payroll survey
- 149,000 nonfarm businesses and government agencies
- 651,000 worksites
- One-third of all jobs



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## CES Mission

**Accurate, timely, objective, and relevant data**  
industry employment, hours, and earnings  
national, state, and metropolitan areas.



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## Accuracy

- Revised monthly estimates to incorporate additional sample
- Annual benchmarks
- Updating methods to improve accuracy

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## Program Improvements

- Quarterly sample rotation
- Data collection capacity expanded
- Centralized state and area estimation
- Alternative estimation methods for cells with little sample
- Quarterly net birth/death updates
- Probability sample design

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## Timeliness—It’s all in the name

- Reference period: Pay period including 12<sup>th</sup> of the month
- Published on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday after the week of the 12<sup>th</sup>

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4

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## Timeliness—It’s all in the Name

CES release schedules driven by other programs’ schedules

Release	CES Data	Other Program	News Release Timing
Employment Situation	National	CPS	3rd Friday after the week of the 12 <sup>th</sup>
Real Earnings	Inflation adjusted national earnings	CPI	Concurrent with the CPI release
Regional and State Employment and Unemployment	State	LAUS	5th week after the week of the 12 <sup>th</sup>
Metropolitan Area Employment and Unemployment	MSA	LAUS	About 7 weeks after the week of the 12 <sup>th</sup>

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## Relevance


- Principal Federal Economic Indicators:
  - ▶ Employment Situation
  - ▶ Real Earnings
  
- *“The employment situation is the primary monthly indicator of aggregate economic activity because it encompasses all major sectors of the economy...”*

*-Wall Street Journal*


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## Origin of Today's CES



**NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES AND AMOUNT OF EARNINGS IN IDENTICAL ESTABLISHMENTS IN CERTAIN INDUSTRIES DURING ONE WEEK OF OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER, 1915.**

Industry.	Establishments reporting.	Employees.			Earnings.		
		Number on pay roll in—		Per cent of increase (+) or decrease (—).	Amount of pay roll in—		Per cent of increase (+) or decrease (—).
		October.	November.		October.	November.	
Boots and shoes .....	66	54,517	57,551	+5.6	\$688,724	\$752,578	+9.3
Cotton goods .....	56	44,665	44,518	— .3	338,079	349,371	+3.3
Cotton finishing .....	14	12,422	12,548	+ .1	136,349	138,207	+1.4
Hosiery and underwear .....	57	30,494	30,836	+1.1	274,851	278,690	+1.4
Iron and steel .....	65	.....	104,782	.....	.....	1,664,189	.....

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## Employment Series

- All Employees
- Women employees
- Production and nonsupervisory employees
  - ▶ Production workers in goods producing industries
  - ▶ Nonsupervisory workers in private service-providing industries

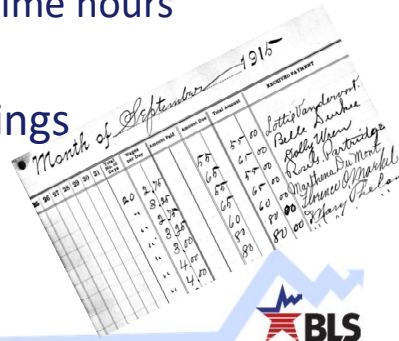
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## Additional series produced

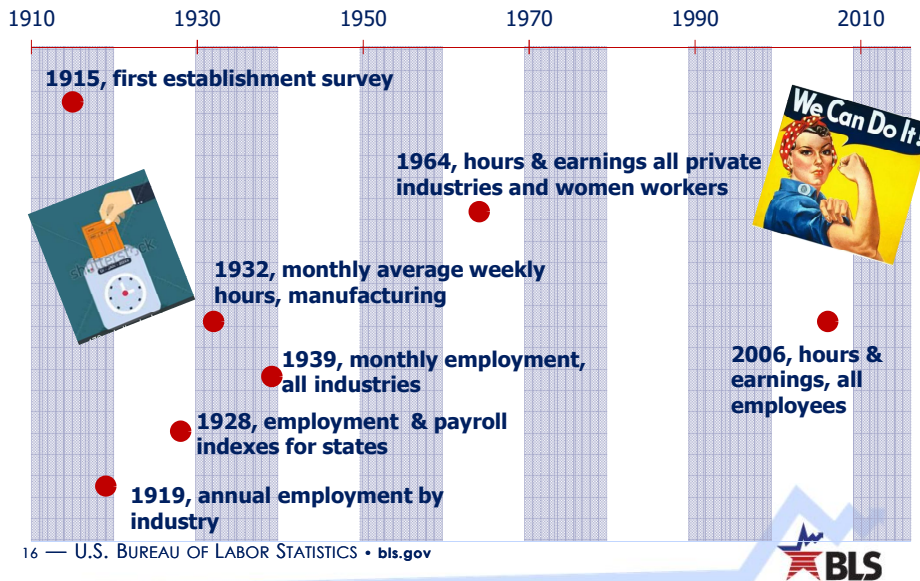
- Hours and Earnings for private-sector employees
  - ▶ Average weekly hours
    - Average weekly overtime hours (manufacturing only)
  - ▶ Average hourly earnings
- Derivative series



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## Expanding Series and Industry Details



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## Industry Detail Today

- North American Industry Classification System
- Employment for about 900 industries
- Hours and earnings for about 600 industries
- Details vary by industry and by geography

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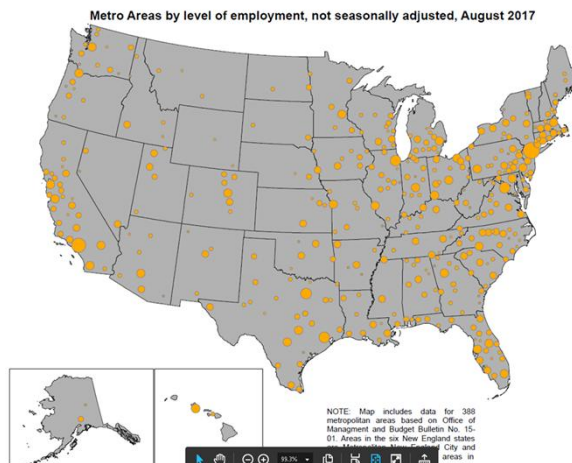


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## Geographic Detail Today

- National
- 50 States & D.C.
- Puerto Rico & U.S. Virgin Islands
- ~450 metropolitan areas and divisions

<http://www.bls.gov/sae/saeseries.htm>



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## One Survey, Two Divisions

- National Estimates, 5 branches
  - ▶ Registry and data flows
  - ▶ Data collection
  - ▶ Benchmark
  - ▶ National estimates (2 branches)
- State and Area, 4 branches
  - ▶ Microdata issues and training
  - ▶ Research & support monthly production
  - ▶ Select estimators, seasonally adjustment, maintain datasets
  - ▶ Publication and annual benchmarking

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## Support

- Statistical Methods Staff
- Office of Field Operations
- Systems development and operation
  - ▶ Division of Industry and Data Development,
  - ▶ Systems staff in the State of Iowa
  - ▶ Division of Federal/State Monthly Surveys
- Plus other BLS support offices

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## But, it takes a Nation

- CES operates in a Federal/State cooperative environment
- Labor Market Information offices in 50 states and DC
- 634,000 individual worksites across the nation
- Representing all nonfarm industries and government agencies

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## To inform the Nation

- Four monthly News Releases
  - ▶ LABSTAT database updates
  - ▶ CES Highlights
  - ▶ Analytical tables and interactive charts
- Analytical and technical research papers
- Documentation

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## Why follow CES data?

- Evaluate current health of the economy
- Fiscal and monetary policy, informed decision making, and revenue forecasting
- Identify inflation trends

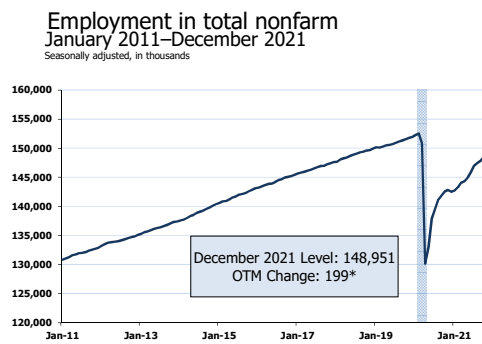
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## Uses and users of CES data

- Identify business cycle turning points
- Investors and economic forecasters
- Economic research, academic and business
- News media



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## Input into other economic data

- Industrial production (Federal Reserve)
- Personal income (BEA)
- Indexes of leading and coincident economic indicators (Conference Board)

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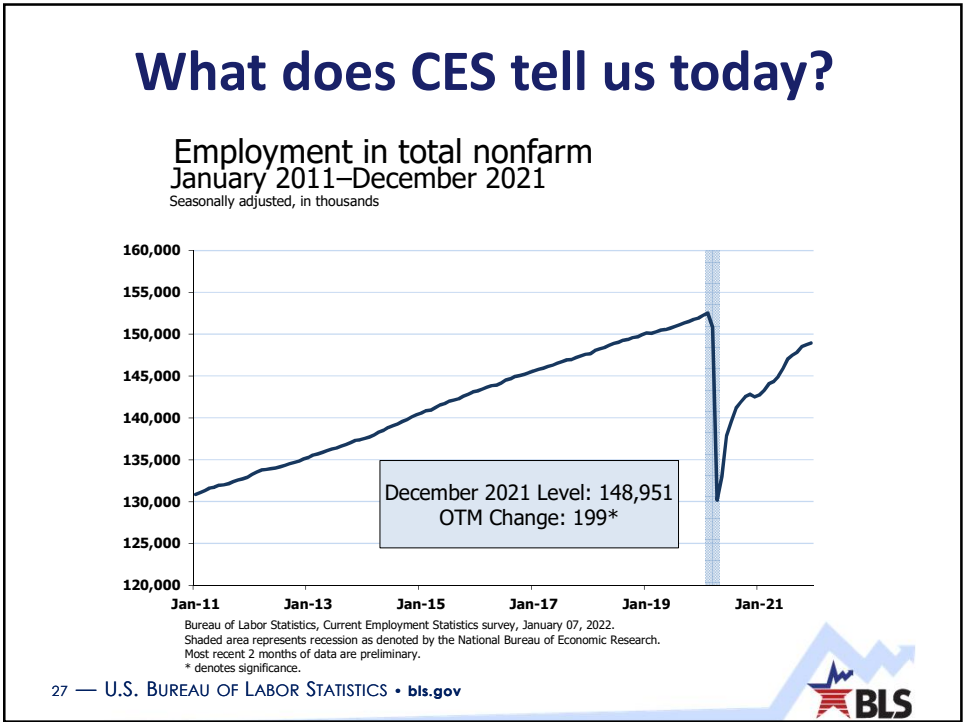
## Input into BLS economic data

- Job Openings and Labor Turnover
- Local Area Unemployment Statistics
- Employment Projections
- Productivity, Labor and Multifactor
- Employer Costs for Employee Compensation

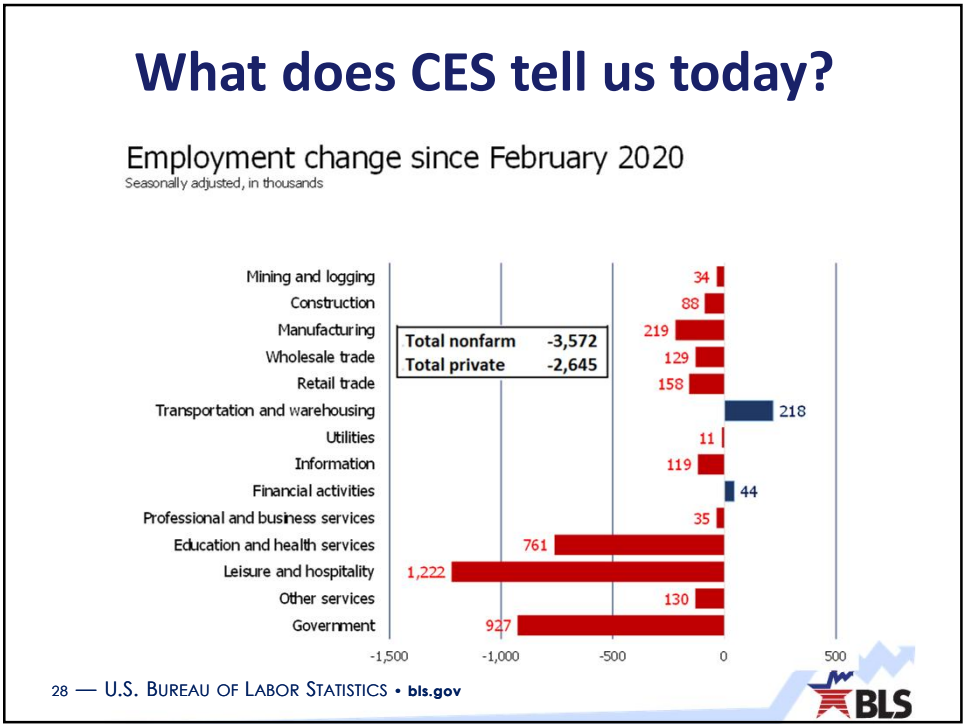
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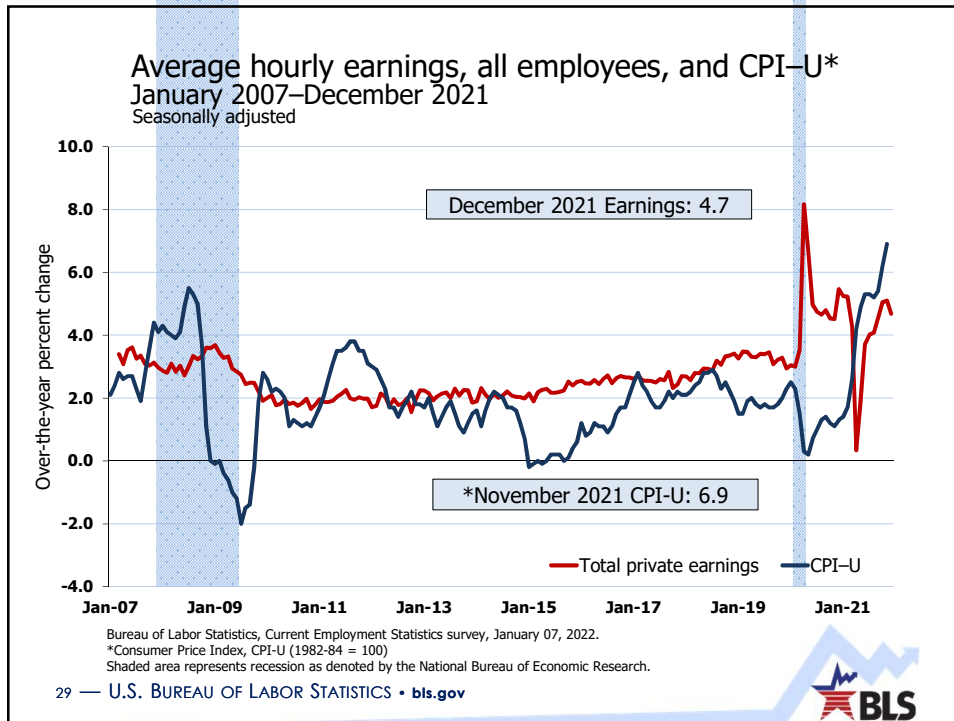
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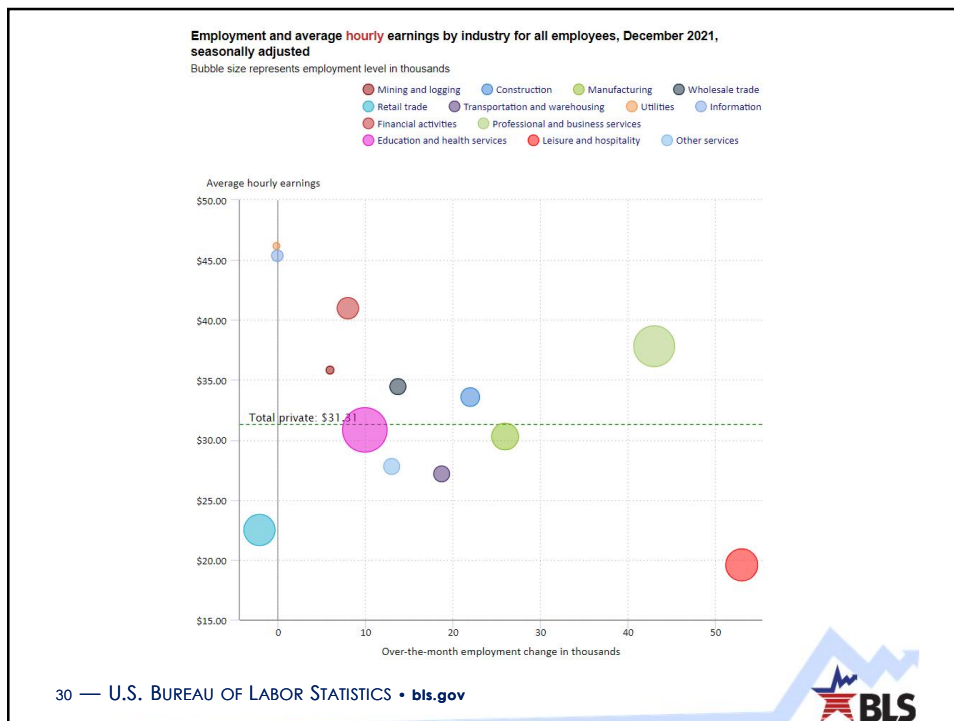
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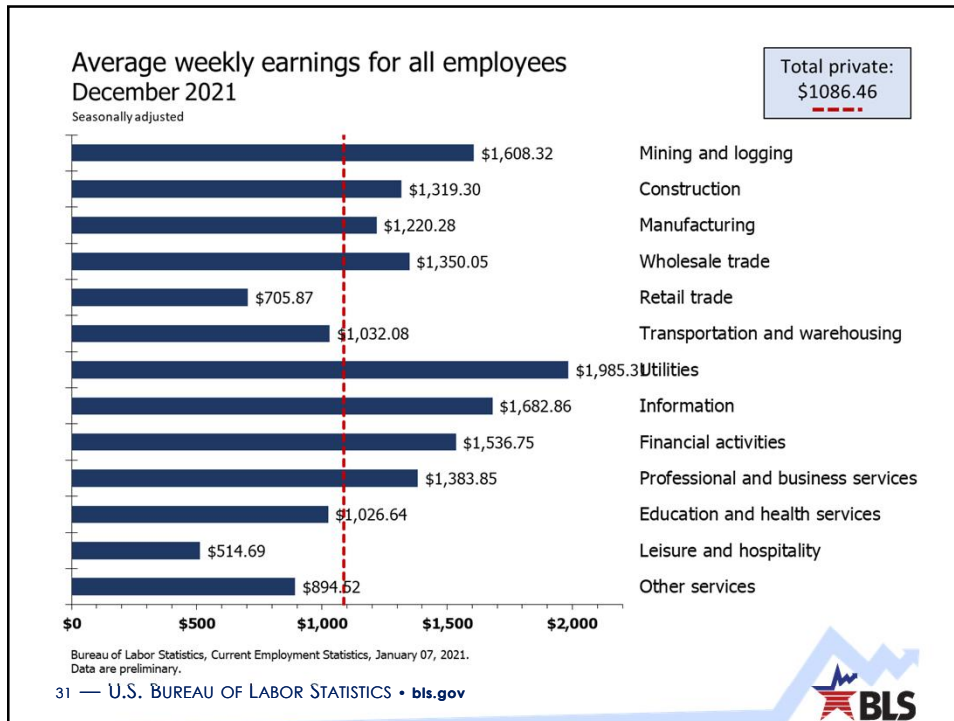
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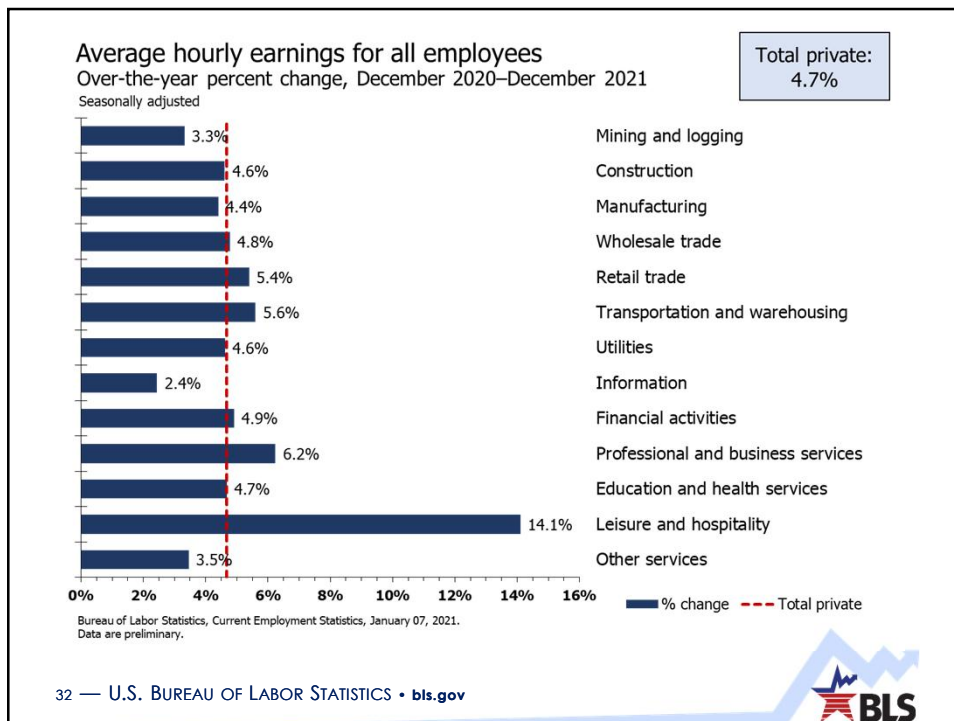
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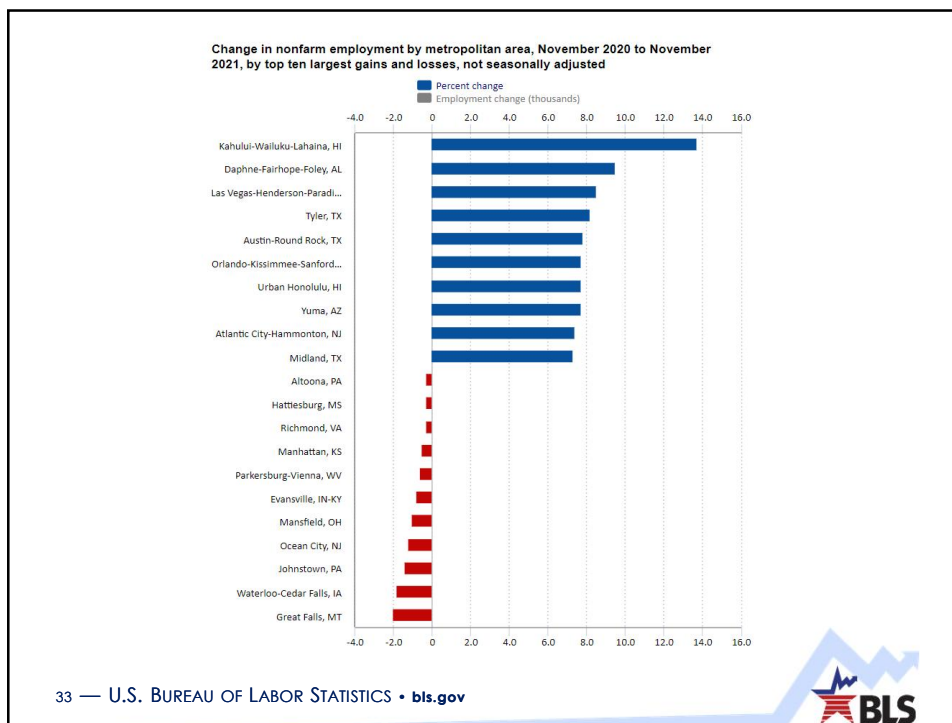


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## Current Employment Statistics (CES) Survey

**CES - National**  
[bls.gov/ces](https://www.bls.gov/ces)  
[cesinfo@bls.gov](mailto:cesinfo@bls.gov)  
 (202) 691-6555

**CES - State and Metro Area**  
[bls.gov/sae](https://www.bls.gov/sae)  
[sminfo@bls.gov](mailto:sminfo@bls.gov)  
 (202) 691-6559

**Upcoming releases**  
 The Employment Situation: April 1<sup>st</sup>  
 Real Earnings: April 12<sup>th</sup>

**Upcoming releases**  
 Metro: March 18<sup>th</sup>  
 State: March 25<sup>th</sup>

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