

# LAUS Data User Stakeholder Survey

## Introduction

Thank you for helping the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) collect critical feedback regarding the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program. The LAUS program is a Federal-State cooperative effort in which monthly estimates of total employment and unemployment are prepared for approximately 7,500 areas. Your responses will be used to develop new products and improve our existing services.

Even if you are not a frequent user of LAUS products, any feedback you can provide would be appreciated. Your participation in this survey is voluntary. We estimate that it will take approximately 10 minutes to complete. We are collecting this information under OMB Number [ ]. Without this currently approved number, BLS could not conduct this survey (Expiration date: ).

The survey questions are based on broad user experience and responses will be aggregated for analysis. Your responses will remain anonymous and confidential.

If you have any questions about this survey, please e-mail [Christopher Erickson](#) or call (202)-691-6458.

Click Next below to begin the survey.

This survey is being administered by SurveyMonkey.com and resides on a server outside of the BLS domain. BLS cannot guarantee the protection of survey responses and advises against the inclusion of sensitive personal information in any response.

## Uses of LAUS Data

### 1. How do you use Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) data? (Check all that apply):

- Forecasting
- Reporting
- Policy research/analysis
- Economic research/analysis
- Financial research/analysis
- Legislative requirement
- EB-5 requirement (Immigrant Investor Program)
- Educational uses
- Personal interest
- Do not use LAUS data
- Other (please specify):

## Difference between CPS and LAUS Data

**2. The LAUS program is responsible for producing monthly estimates for several different geographic areas, referred to as LAUS data. The LAUS program is also responsible for tabulating and distributing annual subnational data directly from the Current Population Survey (CPS). How familiar are you with the distinction between LAUS and CPS data?**

- Very familiar
- Familiar
- Somewhat familiar
- Not at all familiar
- Not sure/Don't Know

# LAUS Data User Stakeholder Survey

## Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) Data

### 3. How often have you accessed each of the following types of LAUS data in the past 12 months?

	More than 12 times	6-12 times	1-5 times	0 times
State, seasonally adjusted	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
State, not seasonally adjusted	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Metropolitan area, seasonally adjusted	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Metropolitan area, not seasonally adjusted	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
County, not seasonally adjusted	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
City, not seasonally adjusted	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other type of LAUS data	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please specify the other type of LAUS data you use (if applicable):

## LAUS Data

### 4. For which of the following time periods do you use LAUS data?

- Current month
- Current month and previous twelve-month period
- 2010 to present
- 2000 to present
- Entire historical series
- All of the above

# LAUS Data User Stakeholder Survey

## LAUS Data Sources

### 5. In the past 12 months, how often did you obtain LAUS data from the following sources?

	More than 12 times	6-12 times	1-5 times	0 times
One-screen search (database tool on the website using pop-up data browser)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Multi-screen search (database tool on the website using multiple search screens)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Text files	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tables	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
News releases	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
State websites	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Compressed tape files	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
.api files	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Technical notes, FAQs, other explanatory documentation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Maps	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
From BLS staff	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## LAUS Data

### 6. How useful are LAUS data to you and/or the function of your organization?

- Extremely useful
- Very useful
- Moderately useful
- Slightly useful
- Not at all useful

Please explain (optional)

## LAUS Data and Publications

### 7. Are LAUS data and publications available for the geographic areas you require?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure/Don't know
- Not applicable/Do not use

Please explain (optional):

### 8. Are LAUS data and publications available in the file formats that you need?

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable/Do not use
- Not sure/Don't know

Please explain (optional):



## Using LAUS Data

### 9. Please rate how easy or difficult the following tasks are for LAUS data and publications:

	Easy	Somewhat easy	Neither easy nor difficult	Somewhat difficult	Difficult
Finding the data I need	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Downloading the data I need	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Finding the data release schedules	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## Timeliness of LAUS Data

### 10. How timely are the following LAUS data?

	Very timely	Timely	Somewhat timely	Not at all timely	Don't Know
State data	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Metropolitan area data	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
County data	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
City data	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please explain (optional)

## Accuracy of LAUS Data

### 11. In your opinion, how accurately do LAUS data reflect local economic conditions?

	Very accurately	Accurately	Somewhat accurately	Not at all accurately	Don't Know
State data	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Metropolitan area data	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
County data	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
City data	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please explain (optional)

## LAUS Methodology and Documentation

### 12. How familiar are you with LAUS state estimation methodology?

- Very familiar
- Somewhat familiar
- A little familiar
- Not at all familiar

### 13. How familiar are you with LAUS sub-state estimation methodology?

- Very familiar
- Somewhat familiar
- A little familiar
- Not at all familiar

### 14. How useful is the LAUS technical documentation?

- Extremely useful
- Very useful
- Moderately useful
- Slightly useful
- Not at all useful
- I am unfamiliar with the LAUS technical documentation

Please explain (optional)

## Other Sources

### 15. Do you use other sources of labor force data?

- Yes
- No

Please list the other sources:

## LAUS Technical Questions

**16. The following section has 2 questions that ask about technical aspects of LAUS data. If you are not familiar with LAUS state and substate estimates, please select "Skip the next section" below.**

- Continue to the next section
- Skip the next section

## LAUS Annual Revisions

**17. LAUS state and substate estimates are revised annually to incorporate revisions to the input data, a re-estimation of the model-based estimates, and more recent information. In your opinion, how accurately do the annual revisions reflect local economic conditions?**

- Very accurately
- Accurately
- Somewhat accurately
- Not at all accurately
- Don't Know

Please explain (optional)

## LAUS Data Revisions

### 18. How far back should data be revised?

- Data should not be revised
- Previous month
- One year
- Five years
- To the beginning of the dataset

Please explain (optional)



## Sub-national CPS Data

**19. Do you use sub-national CPS data (for example, alternative measures of labor underutilization, Geographic Profile of Employment and Unemployment)?**

- Yes
- No

## Sub-national CPS Data and Methodology

### **20. How familiar are you with sub-national CPS data and methodology?**

- Very familiar
- Familiar
- Somewhat familiar
- Not at all familiar

## CPS Data and Publications

### 21. Are CPS data and publications available for the geographic areas you require?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure/Don't know
- Not applicable/Do not use

Please explain (optional):

### 22. Are CPS data and publications available in the file formats that you need?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure/Don't know
- Not applicable/Do not use

Please explain (optional):

## Sub-national CPS Data

### 23. What sub-national CPS characteristic data do you use?

- Age
- Race and ethnicity
- Gender
- Educational attainment
- Industry
- Occupation
- Hours worked and full/part time
- Duration of unemployment and reason for unemployment
- Alternative measures of labor underutilization
- Other (please specify):

## Communication with BLS

**24. Have you communicated with BLS staff about LAUS and/or CPS data?**

Yes

No

## Communication with BLS

**25. How have you communicated with BLS staff about LAUS and/or CPS data? (Check all that apply):**

Email or Website forms

Telephone

## BLS Customer Service

### 26. How do you rate the service you received when communicating with BLS staff about LAUS and/or CPS data?

- Excellent
- Good
- Average
- Fair
- Poor

Please explain (optional):

## LAUS Products and Website

### 27. Are there other LAUS products you would like to see in the future?

- Yes
- No

Please describe the LAUS products you would like to see in the future:

### 28. Do you have any suggestions for improving the LAUS website?

- Yes
- No

Please describe the suggestions for improving the LAUS website:



## Other Information

### 29. Which category best describes the organization at which you work or study?

- Industry or trade association
- Federal government
- State government
- Local government
- University
- Research organization
- Financial institution
- News media
- Non-governmental organization
- Consulting institution
- Blog
- Private citizen
- Other (please specify):

## Other Information

**30. Are you a Labor Market Information director or a state employee that works on the LAUS program?**

Yes

No

## Other Comments

Thank you for participating in the LAUS Feedback Survey.

**31. Any other comments about the LAUS program, or suggestions for improvements to the program, are welcome.**