

BLS Update



U.S. Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Statistics

1998-4

The Editor's Desk

Every magazine has what the trade calls "front-of-the-book" departments. These are the best short features the editor can find and produce. At *Monthly Labor Review*, we restrict ourselves to a single page of front-of-the-book material. The "Labor Month in Review" department briefs our readers on the most important news from the Bureau of Labor Statistics during the month.

However, more happens at the Bureau of Labor Statistics each month than this single page can cover. Getting you this additional material was behind the original idea for putting *The Editor's Desk* online: Move the extra material from our desks to you over the Internet. Once we started working on this concept more ideas started flowing, and we decided to:


- Use a fresh slant on editing—focusing on one point rather than a general summary.
- Go beyond the news releases to extend *The Editor's Desk's* editorial approach to other BLS reports and bulletins—even to the *Review's* own feature articles.
- Move past getting material off our desks—bringing a wide range of economic news and

information sources to within a mouse click.

- Make it our job to be selective—helping the reader to focus on what's important.

The Editor's Desk in the *Monthly Labor Review*:

- Brings you clear, well-focused material through the *Desk Blotter*
- Finds you the deeper analyses behind the story through links at the bottom of the page
- Links you to the full scope of BLS publications, using the buttons in the *Desk Blotter's* margin

We think that if you give *The Editor's Desk* 10 minutes a day, within a week you'll sound pretty clever about economics, within a month you will be extremely well-informed about the economy, and within a year you will be broadly educated in economic statistics and labor economics. Take a look at <http://www.bls.gov/opub/ted/tedhome.htm>. Use the Feedback button. — Let us know what you think! 

These symbols indicate the mediums in which these products are available.



Release Dates for BLS Statistical Series		
Series	Release date	Period date
The Employment Situation	February 5 March 5 April 2	January February March
State and Regional Employment and Unemployment	January 22 March 4 March 19	December January February
Metropolitan Area Employment and Unemployment	February 3 March 17 March 31	December January February
Consumer Price Index/Real Earnings	February 19 March 18 April 13	January February March
Producer Price Index	February 18 March 12 April 9	January February March
U.S. Import and Export Price Indexes	February 17 March 11 April 8	January February March
Productivity and Costs	February 9 March 9	4 th qrt. preliminary 4 th qrt. revised
Employment Cost Index	April 29 July 29	March June

Monthly Labor Review

The Monthly Labor Review (MLR) features analytical articles on employment and unemployment, prices, compensation, productivity, and other topics. The Review also contains 50 tables of current labor statistics, book reviews, and occasional columns on workplace performance and the law at work. (\$25.00 annually) The MLR is also available online <http://stats.bls.gov/opub/mlr/mlrhome.htm>.

Issue	Articles
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September 1998

- Persons with disabilities: labor market activity, 1994
- Persons with disabilities: demographic, income, and health care characteristics, 1993
- Prescription drug prices for the elderly
- BLS completes major expansion of industry productivity series

October 1998

- Incorporating a geometric mean formula into the CPI
- How hours of work affect occupational earnings
- Auto retailing: changing trends in jobs and business
- How do labor and management view collective bargaining?

November 1998

- Workers in alternative employment arrangements: a second look
- Contingent work: results from the second survey
- Occupational injury and illness rates, 1992-96: why they fell

LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, AND UNEMPLOYMENT

Occupational Employment and Wages, 1996

Bulletin 2506. GPO Stock No. 029-001-03310-9. \$5.00

This bulletin provides national data on industry wage distributions and detailed occupational employment and mean wages for nonfarm industries. Data for this survey was provided from all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands. Three tables are shown which depict the largest proportion of employees at various earnings levels.



Issues in Labor Statistics: Employment Growth Among Sectors in the United States, Japan, and Europe Based upon Educational Attainment

Summary 98-7, July 1998

Employment growth in the United States outpaced that of Japan and Europe between 1980 and 1996.

The number of jobs in sectors requiring high levels of education grew at roughly comparable rates in these economies. In the United States by 1996, 47.4 percent of the employed worked in sectors with high educational attainment up from 40.6 percent in 1980. In Japan by 1996, 33.9 percent of the employed were in high attainment sectors up from 28.2 percent in 1980. Both the United Kingdom and Italy were up about 10 percentage points by 1996 from 1980, 45.1 percent and 36.9 percent respectively.

For more information, request a copy of *Issues in Labor Statistics: Employment Growth Among Sectors in the United States, Japan, and Europe Based upon Educational Attainment*, Summary 98-7, July 1998.



Work Experience of the Population in 1997

News Release, USDL 98-470

A total of 143.2 million persons worked at some time during 1997, according to the annual survey of work experience. This was 1.8 million above the level of the previous year. The number who experienced some unemployment declined by 1.2 million, to 15.6 million.

Some highlights are:

- Seventy percent of the working-age population 16 years of age and older were engaged in some work activity during 1997, up slightly from 1996.
- The number of persons experiencing at least one week of unemployment was 15.6 million in 1997, down from 16.8 million the prior year. About 86.4 percent of those reporting some unemployment also were employed at some time during the year.

For more information, request a copy of news release, USDL 98-470, "Work Experience of the Population in 1997."



NLS NEWS

National Longitudinal Surveys
No. 98-95

Release of Mature and Young Women 1995 Survey Data

Two changes were introduced by this survey. Both groups were surveyed at the same

time and both used a computer-assisted personal interview (CAPI). These changes increased survey efficiency and made comparability of cohorts easier.

NLSY97

Article discusses youth custodial and living arrangements, characteristics of the relationship between youths and their parents, and the relationship a youth's parents have with each other.

NLS Benefits Data

BLS data show that benefits comprise a large and growing share of an employer's cost for employee compensation. This article provides an overview of the benefits questions found in the various NLS surveys and directs interested users to sources of additional information.

Completed NLS Research

For a comprehensive listing of recent research based on data from the various NLS cohorts, see the on-line NLS Annotated Bibliography



<http://www.chrr.ohio-state.edu/nls-bib/>

Periodicals

Occupational Outlook Quarterly

Each issue informs guidance counselors, career planners, and others of changing career opportunities. (\$8.00)

Issue	Articles
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Fall 1998	Matching Yourself With the World of Work, 1998
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Earnings of College Graduates in 1996
Career Counseling and Facilitating:
Standards for a New Century

Grab Bag

Here Today, Jobs of Tomorrow: Opportunities in
Information Technology

You're a What? Collector

OOChart: Percent of full-time wage and salary
workers who had flexible work schedules,
by occupational group, May 1997

LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, AND UNEMPLOYMENT

Publications

Employment and Earnings (\$35 annually)

1998 — August, September, October

BULLETIN

Occupational Employment and Wages, 1996. Bulletin 2506, 36 pp. GPO Stock No. 029-001-03310-9. \$5.00

NEWS RELEASES

<http://stats.bls.gov/newsrels.htm>

Usual Weekly Earnings of Wage and Salary Workers, Third Quarter 1998. USDL 98-425

Worker Displacement, 1995-97 USDL 98-347

Employee Tenure in 1998 USDL 98-387

Work Experience of the Population in 1997 USDL 98-470

Employment and Unemployment Among Youth—Summer 1998 USDL 98-386

Employment and Average Annual Pay for Large Counties, 1996 USDL 98-443

The Employment Situation

July 1998. USDL 98-333
August 1998. USDL 98-364
September 1998. USDL 98-407
October 1998. USDL 98-441
November 1998. USDL 98-481

Real Earnings

July 1998. USDL 98-349
August 1998. USDL 98-383
September 1998. USDL 98-421
October 1998. USDL 98-459

Extended Mass Layoffs

Second Quarter 1998. USDL 98-411

Monthly Mass Layoffs

April 1998. USDL 98-322
May 1998. USDL 98-350
June 1998. USDL 98-368
July 1998. USDL 98-426
August 1998. USDL 98-461
September 1998. USDL 98-471

Metropolitan Area Employment and Unemployment

July 1998. USDL 98-360
August 1998. USDL 98-401
September 1998. USDL 98-433

Regional and State Employment and Unemployment

July 1998. USDL 98-355
August 1998. USDL 98-384
September 1998. USDL 98-422
October 1998. USDL 98-465

SUMMARIES

<http://stats.bls.gov/opubilsh.htm>

Issues in Labor Statistics:

Employment growth among sectors in the United States, Japan, and Europe based upon educational attainment. Summary 98-7, July 1998

New Occupations Emerging Across Industry Lines.

Summary 98-11, November 1998

WORKPLACE SAFETY AND HEALTH

Issues in Labor Statistics — Women Experience Fewer Job-related Injuries and Deaths than Men

Summary 98-8, July 1998

Between 1992 and 1996, slightly more than 2,500 women were killed on the job. Women accounted for 20 percent of all job-related homicides during the same timeframe. More than 25 percent of female victims were assaulted by people they knew. Two-thirds of the deaths occurred in the retail and service industries. About 16 percent of female homicides resulted from domestic disputes.

Other incidents resulting in fatalities for women resulted from aircraft crashes, falling objects, fire and explosions.

In 1995, women incurred over a third of non-fatal injuries and illnesses. Women accounted for more sprains and strains than men. Almost half of female workers' injuries and illnesses resulted from bodily reaction or exertion.

For more information, request a copy of "Women Experience Fewer Job-related Injuries and Deaths than Men" *Compensation and Working Conditions*, Summer 1998.



Publications

NEWS RELEASE

<http://stats.bls.gov/newsrels.htm>

National Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, 1997 USDL 98-336

SUMMARY

Issues in Labor Statistics: Women Experience Fewer Job-related Injuries and Deaths than Men. Summary 98-8, July 1998

COMPENSATION, LABOR COSTS, AND PRODUCTIVITY

Employer Costs for Employee Compensation, 1986-97

Bulletin 2505, 236 pp. GPO Stock No. 029-001-03309-5. \$16.00

In March 1997, employer costs for employee compensation for civilian workers (private industry and State and local government) in the United States averaged \$19.22 per hour worked, according to a 1997 survey conducted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Straight-time wages and salaries, which averaged \$13.85, accounted for 72 percent of these costs, whereas benefits, which averaged \$5.37, accounted for the remaining 28 percent. Among benefit categories, employer costs per hour worked were highest for legally required benefits (for example, Social Security, worker's compensation, and unemployment insurance) which averaged \$1.62, or 8.4 percent of total compensation. Paid leave benefits averaged \$1.27 (6.6 percent), insurance benefits averaged \$1.23 (6.4 percent), and retirement and savings benefits averaged 75 cents per hour worked (3.9 percent).

In March 1997, private industry employer compensation costs averaged \$17.97 per hour

worked. Wages and salaries averaged \$13.04 per hour worked (72.5 percent), whereas benefits averaged \$4.94 (27.5 percent). Compensation costs per hour worked in March 1997 averaged more for workers in goods-producing industries (\$21.86) than for those in service-producing industries (\$16.73). Among the published industry series, compensation costs ranged from \$9.92 in retail trade to \$23.49 in durable goods manufacturing. Average compensation costs were \$21.60 for white-collar occupations, \$17.19 for blue-collar occupations, and \$9.04 for service occupations. In all private industry, benefits accounted for a greater proportion of compensation costs for blue-collar occupations (31.4 percent) than for white-collar (26.2 percent) and service occupations (23.3 percent).

Average employer compensation costs in private industry in March 1997 were \$23.48 for union workers and \$17.21 for nonunion workers. Benefits represented a greater proportion of compensation costs for union workers (35.5 percent) than for nonunion workers (25.9 percent). These union and nonunion cost level differences reflect a variety of influences, including variation in the distribution of union and nonunion work-

ers among occupations, industries, and establishment size.

Employer compensation costs for state and local government workers averaged \$26.58 per hour worked in March 1997. Wages and salaries, which accounted for 70 percent of the total, averaged \$18.61, whereas benefits, which accounted for the remaining 30 percent, averaged \$7.97. Average compensation costs in state and local governments were higher for white-collar occupations (\$29.54) than for blue-collar (\$21.50) or service (\$19.50) occupations. Service occupations include police and firefighters, as well as janitors, cooks, and nursing aides. Benefits accounted for about the same proportion of total compensation in service occupations (35.9 percent) and blue-collar occupations (35.2 percent); for white-collar occupations, benefits represented 28.2 percent of total compensation. Among industry groups, compensation costs were higher in services than in public administration (\$27.88 compared with \$24.07). Benefits, however, represented a greater proportion of total compensation in public administration (34.6 percent) than in services (27.7 percent).

Compensation cost level estimates in this publication are available for March 1991-97 for all workers in the civilian economy, as well as separately for private industry and State and local governments. Data for private industry workers only are available from March 1986.

For more information, request a copy of **Employer Costs for Employee Compensation, 1986-97**, Bulletin 2505.



Periodicals

Compensation and Working Conditions

Compensation and Working Conditions (CWC), published quarterly, includes articles on occupational pay, employee benefits, employer costs for employee compensation, occupational injuries, illnesses and fatalities, and other workplace issues. CWC also contains a statistical section with data on these topics. (\$9.50 annually) Recent issues of CWC are available online <http://stats.bls.gov/opub/cwc/cwchome.htm>.

Issue:

Fall 1998

- Caterpillar's prolonged dispute ends
- Social Security in the United States and Chile
- How do wages in Alaska compare to wages on the mainland?
- Job fatalities due to unintentional carbon monoxide poisoning, 1992-96
- Collecting data on human capital variables
- 1982-97 State and local government work stoppages and their legal background

Winter 1998

- Logging is perilous work
- Factors affecting employer-provided retirement payments
- Looking back at the SEPTA transit strike
- How do wages in San Juan compare to wages on the mainland?
- Comparing wage changes in Salt Lake City to the Nation: an NCS test
- Worker fatalities resulting from being caught in machinery
- Unpaid family leave

COMPENSATION, LABOR COSTS, AND PRODUCTIVITY

Publications

BULLETINS

Employment Cost Indexes, 1975-97.

Bulletin 2504. 189 pp. GPO Stock No. 029-001-03309-5. \$16.00

Employer Costs for Employee

Compensation, 1986-97. Bulletin 2505. 236 pp. GPO Stock No. 029-001-03311-7. \$20.00

Wages and Benefits, Construction Industry, Test Surveys.

Jacksonville, FL, April 1998. Bulletin 2510-1

Tucson, AZ, May 1998. Bulletin 2510-2

NATIONAL COMPENSATION SURVEY

<http://stats.bls.gov/comhome.htm>

Atlanta, GA, October 1997. Bulletin 3090-48

Cleveland-Akron, OH, February 1998. Bulletin 3090-47

Columbus, OH, March 1998. Bulletin 3095-01

Dallas-Fort Worth, TX, March 1998. Bulletin 3095-08

Houston-Galveston-Brazoria, TX, October 1997. Bulletin 3090-40

Indianapolis, IN, February 1998. Bulletin 3090-43

Detroit-Ann Arbor-Flint, MI, March 1998. Bulletin 3095-05

New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-CT-PA, March 1998. Bulletin 3095-04

Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City, PA-NJ-DE-MD, February 1998. Bulletin 3090-49

Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill, NC, March 1998. Bulletin 3090-46

Rochester, NY, January 1998. Bulletin 3090-45

Pittsburgh, PA., December 1997. Bulletin 3090-44

Orlando, FL, April 1998. Bulletin 309503

Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL, December 1998. Bulletin 3090-42

REPORT

Glossary of Compensation Terms. Report 923

NEWS RELEASES

<http://stats.bls.gov/newsrels.htm>

Employment Cost Index, September 1998. USDL 98-434

International Comparisons of Hourly Compensation Costs For Production Workers in Manufacturing, 1997. USDL 98-376

International Comparisons of Manufacturing Productivity and Unit Labor Cost Trends, 1997. USDL 98-393

Productivity and Costs

Second Quarter 1998. USDL 98-335

Second Quarter 1998. USDL 98-363

Third Quarter 1998. USDL 98-442

SUMMARIES

National Compensation Survey

Delta County, MI, March 1998

July 1998

Issues in Labor Statistics: Employer-sponsored Childcare Benefits

Summary 98-9

August 1998

PRICES AND CONSUMER EXPENDITURES

Consumer Expenditure Survey: Quarterly Data from the Interview Survey, Fourth Quarter 1996

Owned Dwelling
Expenditures by Region

The share of average annual expenditures allocated to owned dwelling expenses increased from 10.3 percent in 1989 to 11.6 percent in 1995. Each of the three components of the owned dwelling category—mortgage interest and charges, property taxes, and maintenance, repairs, and insurance—has increased total expenditures.

Mortgage interest payments and charges, the largest component of the owned dwelling category, has increased by almost three-tenths of a percentage point. Maintenance, repairs, and insurance expenditures have also increased by three-tenths. Property taxes are now an additional eight-tenths of a consumer unit's share of total expenditures. There are regional differences in the component increases and in the overall increase in the allocation of expenditures on owned dwellings.

For more information, request a copy of *Consumer Expenditure Survey: Quarterly Data from the Interview Survey, Fourth Quarter 1996*, Report 924, 4 pp.



Publications

CPI Detailed Report

(\$25 annually)

1998—

June

July

August

September

PPI Detailed Report

(\$35 annually)

1998—

June

July

August

September

REPORTS

Consumer Expenditure Survey: Quarterly Data from the Interview Survey, Fourth Quarter 1996.

Report 924

Consumer Price Index Users Survey Results.

Report 921

NEWS RELEASES

<http://stats.bls.gov/newsrels.htm>

Consumer Expenditures in 1996.

USDL 98-415

Report on Quality Changes for 1999 Model Vehicles. USDL 98-457

Consumer Price Index.

July 1998. USDL 98-348

August 1998. USDL 98-382

September 1998. USDL 98-420

October 1998. USDL 98-458

Producer Price Index.

July 1998. USDL 98-345

August 1998. USDL 98-374

September 1998. USDL 98-419

October 1998. USDL 98-456

U.S. Import and Export Price Indexes.

August 1998. USDL 98-379

September 1998. USDL 98-417

October 1998. USDL 98-460

Department Store Inventory Price Indexes — September 1998

BLS DATA SERVICES

Bureau of Labor Statistics 1998 Customer Service Guide

The Bureau of Labor Statistics has issued an updated *Customer Service Guide* for 1998. The CSG is designed to provide customers with the ability to quickly and easily obtain BLS data and materials.

The *1998 Customer Service Guide* shows where to obtain BLS data: through the Internet, fax-on-demand, and printed publications. The *Guide* also explains how to contact BLS information providers in Washington, DC, and each of the eight BLS regional offices. Detailed descriptions are furnished for BLS programs on employment and unemployment; prices and living conditions; productivity; employment projections; and foreign labor statistics.

The *Guide* also lists telephone contacts for additional data sources in the Federal Government, includes an update on measures taken to improve customer service, and provides a calendar of news release dates in 1998. For the first time, CSG includes a "Frequently Requested BLS Contacts" list on the inside front cover.

Copies of the *Guide* can be obtained by calling the BLS Division of Information Services at (202) 606-5886, or any of the BLS regional offices.

Major Programs of the Bureau of Labor Statistics Report 919

This publication presents information on the scope of the Bureau's major statistical programs, the data available, the form of publication, Internet access, some of the uses of the data, and selected publications and data tapes. This edition of *Major Programs* introduces information on a major new program to produce data on employee compensation—the National Compensation Survey.

Copies of *Major Programs of the Bureau of Labor Statistics* can be obtained by calling the BLS Division of Information Services at (202) 606-5886.

How to Order BLS Publications

Printed publications may be purchased from the BLS Publications Sales Center, P.O. Box 2145, Chicago, IL 60690. Phone (312) 353-1880; fax (312) 353-1886; e-mail bls-info-chi@bls.gov. Visa, MasterCard, and Discover/Novus credit cards are accepted.

Periodical subscriptions only may be purchased from the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO). GPO can be reached by phone at (202) 512-1800; by fax at (202) 512-2250; or by mail to Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954.

Internet

The Bureau of Labor Statistics World Wide Web site on the Internet houses a wide range of data and information on consumer and producer prices, employment and unemployment, occupational

compensation, employee benefits, workplace injuries and illnesses, and productivity. The homepage, at <http://stats.bls.gov>, can be accessed using any Web browser. Some BLS data and information can also be accessed at stats.bls.gov through anonymous FTP or Gopher.

On the BLS homepage, users may access any one of nine different areas. **Data** allows customers to access BLS timeseries data through a variety of search mechanisms. **Economy at a Glance** provides a summary of major economic indicators. **Keyword Search of BLS Web Pages** enables a user to locate information by searching for key words and phrases. **Surveys & Programs** links to information about and data from BLS programs. **Publications & Research Papers** presents a sampling of major BLS publications.

Comments about our Web site can be e-mailed to blsdata@bls.gov, or phone (202) 606-5886.

Fax-On-Demand

The Bureau of Labor Statistics fax-on-demand service enables customers to request a fax of *Ready Facts*, including BLS news releases, historical data, and technical information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. To obtain information from the fax-on-demand service, call (202) 606-6325 on a touch-tone phone and follow the voice instructions for entering document codes and your fax number. The *Ready Facts* fax-on-demand catalog, containing a list of available documents and their corresponding codes, can be obtained by entering code 1000. Up to four documents may be requested with each call. After your call has been completed, the system immediately begins faxing documents to you. If your fax line is busy, the system will attempt to send the requested information four times before disconnecting.

In addition to the national fax-on-demand service in Washington, DC, eight regional fax-on-demand systems have been developed. These regional systems contain all documents available through the national office service, as well as additional data at the subnational level, with each region highlighting their respective States and metropolitan areas. The regional fax-on-demand numbers follow:

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Dallas	(214) 767-9613
San Francisco	(415) 975-4567

For questions or comments on the national fax-on-demand system, send e-mail to blsdata@bls.gov, or call (202) 606-5886.

Need Personal Help with Sources of BLS Data?

Visit the Bureau's Inquiries and Correspondence Center weekdays during regular business hours, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. eastern time. The center is located in Room 2860, 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE, Washington, DC 20212. Information specialists can be reached by telephone at (202) 606-5886 on weekdays during regular business hours, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Our statistics hotline can be accessed by calling (202) 606-7828, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

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Phone: (415) 975-4350
FAX: (415) 975-4371

Telephone Summaries

Recorded summaries of current BLS data are available on the following telephone hotlines:

AREA	DATA	PHONE
Anchorage	CPI—National, Anchorage	(907) 271-2770
Atlanta	CPI—National	(404) 331-3415
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Boston	CPI—National, Boston	(617) 565-2327
Chicago	CPI—National, Chicago	(312) 353-1880
Cincinnati	CPI—National, Cincinnati	(513) 684-2349
Cleveland	CPI—National, Cleveland	(216) 522-3852
Dallas	PPI; CPI—National	(214) 767-6970
Detroit	CPI—National, Detroit	(313) 226-7558
Honolulu	CPI—National, Honolulu	(808) 541-2808
Houston	PPI; CPI—National	(713) 718-3753
Indianapolis	CPI—National	(317) 226-7885
Kansas City	CPI—National, Kansas City	(816) 426-2481
Los Angeles	CPI—National, Los Angeles	(310) 235-6884
Milwaukee	CPI—National, Milwaukee	(414) 276-2579
Minneapolis	CPI—National, Minneapolis-St. Paul	(612) 290-3996
New York City	Major indicators	(212) 337-2400
	CPI—New York/Northeastern New Jersey	(212) 337-2404
	CPI—National	(212) 337-2405
	CPI—New York/Northeastern New Jersey and National	(212) 337-2406
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San Diego	CPI—National, San Diego, Los Angeles	(619) 557-6538
San Francisco	CPI—National, San Francisco	(415) 975-4350
Seattle	CPI—National, Seattle	(206) 553-0645
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