How BLS Collects and Publishes Statistics

1. BLS conducts surveys of both businesses and households.
   - First, BLS develops survey questions that obtain accurate and useful information from households and businesses.
   - Then, statisticians at BLS develop a survey sample.

2. Interviewers contact households or businesses and ask them to participate in a survey.
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   - BLS collects statistics on employment, unemployment, wages, prices, and much more.

3. Businesses and individuals then begin reporting their statistics to BLS over the internet, by phone, personal visits, and through the mail.

4. BLS collects these statistics in a database and stores them for processing.

5. Economists and statisticians make sure the data make sense and analyze trends.

6. Economists check the data again! (It’s really important that the numbers are right!)

7. BLS combines the survey answers in a database to calculate statistics about broader groups, rather than focusing on the answers of any single household or business.

8. Economists prepare a news release that summarizes the statistics and how they have changed over time.

9. BLS shares the statistics with the world by posting news releases and data to the website, www.bls.gov, and on Twitter, @BLS_gov.

The statistics are then used by businesses, jobseekers, students, teachers, policymakers, journalists, consumers, and investors to make important decisions.