



February 25, 2020

Dear Bureau Chiefs,

Since announcing on January 16, 2020 the upcoming changes to the Department of Labor's lock-up policies for release of BLS and other statistical data, BLS and other U.S. Department of Labor agencies have been planning and testing for this change. We have also communicated with a wide range of stakeholders, and are extremely grateful for the attention the user community is paying to the changes we are making and for the many suggestions we have received on how to implement these changes. We have undergone weeks of testing our capability to deliver data in an orderly and timely fashion over the internet and through other channels.

To ensure readiness, we have decided that the Department, the press, and the public at large will be best served by delaying implementation of the lock-up change for a relatively short period. Implementation of the changes to the Department's lock-up will now occur no sooner than March 9, 2020.

I am confident that BLS and the Department can make the planned changes to the lock-up in a way that offers the public equitable and timely access to data while ensuring the highest levels of security. I look forward to our continued interaction and your input during this additional time as we complete this important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "William W. Beach", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

WILLIAM W. BEACH
Commissioner