



MEMORANDUM FOR: STATE AGENCY WORKFORCE ADMINISTRATORS
STATE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DIRECTORS

FROM: GAY M. GILBERT *gms*
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Office of Unemployment Insurance

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Office of Employment and Unemployment Statistics
Bureau of Labor Statistics

SUBJECT: Unemployment Insurance Information Technology
Modernization and Labor Market Information

We want to remind you that as your Agency makes decisions to modernize your Unemployment Insurance (UI) information technology (IT) systems, it is very important that you include your Labor Market Information (LMI) staff in the planning, testing, and implementation phases of new Benefit and Tax systems. Your LMI staff routinely use data extracts from your UI systems to generate statistics for your state and to meet contract deliverables your agency has with the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). In addition to engaging your state LMI staff, we also encourage you to work closely with BLS staff in our regional offices who have expertise in the business requirements for these BLS contract deliverables.

The recurring UI data extracts are used to measure employment, unemployment and wage changes by industry at national, state and local levels. These statistics are critical economic indicators, providing data necessary to measure the economic health of the Nation at detailed levels of geography and industry. The data are used by a number of Federal agencies to allocate federal dollars to states and local areas. All states use the data to make state revenue projections, state budget allocations, occupational projections, and in economic development projects and occupational training programs.

To effectively support your LMI shop in meeting its contractual responsibilities to BLS, state UI data extracts must meet BLS specifications for processing. BLS is anxious to support states as they modernize by providing states with any clarifications necessary on the specifications and assisting with testing data from the "old" UI systems against the same data from the "new" systems to ensure quality is maintained and the resulting data from both systems are the same.

It is critical that this testing be done in concert with other user acceptance testing and before new UI systems are fully implemented so you have the time to address any issues that may arise.

If you have any questions or want to discuss in more detail how your LMI staff and BLS use UI data or how BLS can support your UI IT system modernization, please contact your regional ETA and/or BLS office.