

# Upcoming Accidental Librarian Webinars

- December 3: Education Data (with Katharin Peter)
  - December 11: The Budget of the United States (with Morgan Stoddard)
  - January 12: Fugitive Documents (with James Jacobs)
  - February 25: Finding Data at NARA (with Lynn Goodsell)
- Brought to you by the **North Carolina Library Association's Government Resources Section**. Join us!
- <http://www.nclaonline.org/government-resources>

# Bureau of Labor Statistics: How Americans Spend Their Time and Money

Help! I'm an Accidental Gov Docs Librarian

Mary G. Scanlon

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# Agenda

## Content:

- Consumer spending
- Household characteristics
- Consumer time use

## Navigation:

- Find and retrieve data
- Download data

# Learning Outcomes

- Master definitions of select BLS terms
- Grasp scope of consumer data available at BLS
- Be able to navigate to consumer data, access data tables and download to Excel

# So What?

CEX is the only Federal source for consumers' expenditures and incomes, as well as the characteristics of those consumers.



ECONOMY

# U.S. Consumers Cut Spending for First Time Since January

Move Raises Doubts About Sustainability of Summer's Economic Growth

By **JOSH MITCHELL**

15 COMMENTS

Updated Oct. 31, 2014 12:08 p.m. ET



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5. Chinese Undergrads Help Set New Record

### VIDEOS

1. How Gut Bacteria Can Lead to Weight Gain

# Consumer Expenditures

## Contents

The buying habits of American consumers including data on:

- Income
- Expenditures
- Consumer unit (families and single consumers) characteristics

# Consumer Expenditures

## Methodology

### Data sources:

- Two surveys:
  - the Quarterly Interview Survey
  - the Diary Survey
- Collected for BLS by the U.S. Census Bureau
- Data are available back to 1984



# Consumer Expenditures

## Methodology, cont'd

- The Interview survey
  - Monthly out-of-pocket expenditures
  - Examples: housing, apparel, transportation, health care, insurance, and entertainment
- The Diary survey
  - Weekly expenditures of frequently purchased items
  - Examples: food and beverages, tobacco, personal care products, and nonprescription drugs and supplies

# Consumer Expenditures

## Methodology, cont'd

- US non-institutionalized population
- 7,000 sample households
- Each survey has its own independent sample

# Consumer Expenditures

## Data availability:

- Annual
- Mid-year
- Multi-year

# Consumer Expenditures Data Segmentation

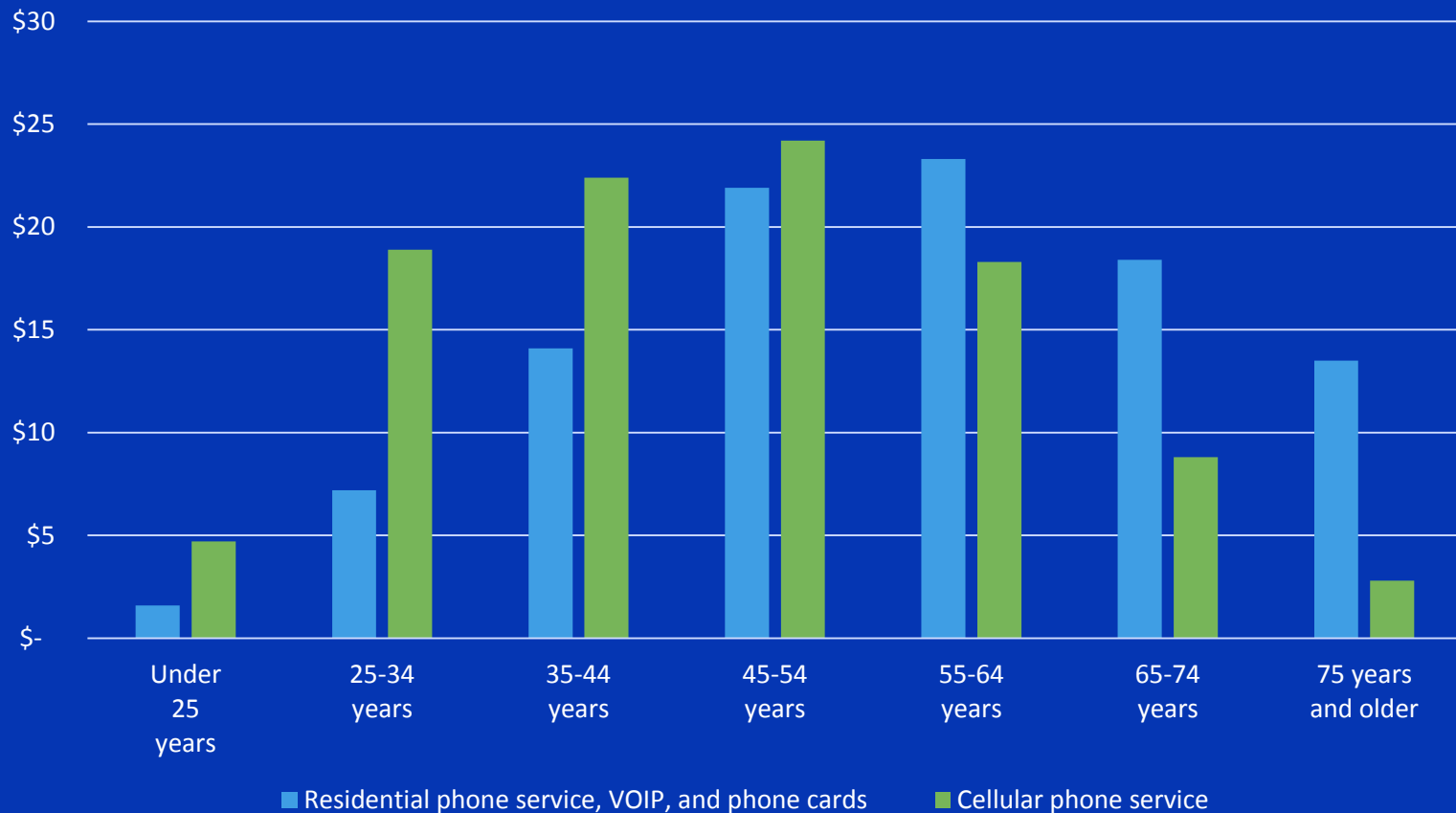
- Age
- Composition
- Highest education level
- Hispanic or Latino origin
- Housing tenure
- Income before taxes
- Number of earners
- Population size of area
- Quintiles of income
- Race
- Region
- Size of unit

# Consumer Expenditure Data How Used?

- Measures the impact of policy changes on economic groups
- Sets thresholds for the Supplemental Poverty Measure
- Reveals consumers' spending habits and trends
- Determines the CPI market basket of goods and services and their relative importance

# Annual Expenditure on Telephone Services by Age

(\$ Mil)



# Shares of Home Ownership by HHI, 2013



# How Do I Use CEX?

Establish a rough estimate of market opportunity.

Example:

Use Census data to determine number of people in the target market.

Use CEX data find this group's annual spending on the target category.

(No. of people) X (avg. annual spending) = market opportunity.



# Consumer Expenditures

Questions about content?

# American Time Use Survey (ATUS)

Measures the amount of time people spend doing various activities.

Examples:

- Paid work
- Childcare
- Volunteering
- Socializing

# American Time Use Survey (ATUS)

Provides nationally representative estimates  
of  
how, where and with whom  
Americans spend their time.

# American Time Use Survey (ATUS)

It is the only federal survey providing data on a full range of nonmarket activities.

# American Time Use Survey

## Uses

- Economic Research
- Health and safety
- Family and work-life balance
- International comparisons

# American Time Use Survey

## Methodology

- Sponsored by the BLS, conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau
- Data are collected via phone interviews
- Respondents are interviewed only once

# American Time Use Survey

## Methodology, cont'd

Trained coders classify each activity according to the ATUS classification system

- 17 major time-use categories
- Each category has 2 additional levels of detail

# American Time Use Survey

Methodology, cont'd

Who is asked to respond to the ATUS?

Households that have completed their final (8th) month of the Current Population Survey are eligible to complete the survey.



# American Time Use Survey

## ATUS Data availability

- Annually from 2003 – 2013
- For the following groups:
  - Civilian non-institutional population age 15 +
  - Employed persons
  - Married parents

# Questions about ATUS?

AUG

08

### Productivity grows 2.5% in 2nd quarter 2014 (annual rate); unit labor costs grow 0.6%

Productivity increased 2.5 percent in the nonfarm business sector in the second quarter of 2014; unit labor costs increased 0.6 percent (seasonally adjusted annual rates). In manufacturing, productivity increased 3.6 percent and unit labor costs decreased 1.3 percent.

[HTML](#) | [PDF](#) | [RSS](#)

AUG

07

### Productivity rose in 39 of 54 detailed mining, trade and food services industries in 2013

Labor productivity rose in mining, in wholesale trade and in retail trade but fell in food services and drinking places in 2013. Within these sectors, productivity increased in nearly three-fourths of the detailed industries studied.

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08/01/2014

**Payroll employment increases in July (+209,000); unemployment rate changes little (6.2%)**

07/31/2014

**Compensation costs up 0.7% March-June 2014, and 2.0% over the year ending June**

07/30/2014

**Gross job gains 7.3 million and gross job losses 6.5 million in the 4th quarter of 2013**

07/30/2014

**June jobless rates down over the year in 359 of 372 metro areas; payroll jobs up in 307**

07/25/2014

**Medical care benefits available to 86 percent of full-time private workers in March 2014**

[read more »](#)

## MONTHLY LABOR REVIEW



### Multiple jobholding in states in 2013

In 2013, the multiple-jobholding rate in individual states continued to vary considerably from the national average of 4.9 percent, a rate that has been unchanged since 2010. [read more »](#)

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## GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION »

LATEST PRODUCTS

PRODUCTS BY STATE

PRODUCTS BY SUBJECT

### LATEST PRODUCTS FROM THE REGIONAL OFFICES:

#### New England:

Boston area households paid an average of \$3.699

#### Midwest:

Chicago area consumer prices were up 0.4% in

Mary G. Scanlon

## LATEST NUMBERS

Consumer Price Index (CPI):  
+0.3% in Jun 2014



Unemployment Rate:  
6.2% in Jul 2014



Payroll Employment:



**AUG**  
**08**

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**AUG**  
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**LATEST PRODUCTS FROM THE REGIONAL OFFICES:**

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# Bureau of Labor Statistics

[BLS.gov](https://www.bls.gov)

# Quick Review

- BLS is a free, reliable source for data on consumer spending and time use.

Questions?

# Bureau of Labor Statistics

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