



THE ASPEN INSTITUTE
Philanthropy & Social Innovation

**VOICE YOUR NEED FOR NONPROFIT EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS:
SEND COMMENTS TO THE BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS NOW!**

After a concerted, multi-year effort by the country's leading nonprofit research groups, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) recently released nonprofit employment and wage statistics, finding that nationally, the nonprofit sector comprises more than 10% of all private sector employment in the country, accounting for 11.4 million employees.

BLS has indicated that they will release this information annually only if it hears from nonprofit organizations like YOURS that such data is useful.

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR COMMENTS TODAY!

What type of submissions has BLS requested?

The comments need not be elaborate, but it is helpful for BLS to see interest from a variety of users. The more specificity you provide, the more clearly BLS will understand the demand for and potential of the data. Please consider the following:

- **Annual data:** BLS will consider the annual release of national and state employment and wage data based on user demand. Make sure to specifically emphasize the utility of annual data.
- **MSA and County-Level Data:** In addition, please note the applicability of Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) and county-level data to you or your organization, if relevant, as we are hoping that BLS will release MSA and county-level data, which will enable a more accurate view of the geographic distribution of nonprofit activity.
- **Provide an example:** It is important to highlight the potential for sector-wide impact, but it is also essential to lift up the effects that the data will have on your organization, community and local stakeholders through specific examples.
- **Make the social & economic case:** As the BLS makes plans for next steps, it is critical that they understand both the social and economic effects that employment data could have on communities across the country.

SAMPLE LANGUAGE FOR COMMENTS:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit comments and for your recent release of nonprofit employment data. My name is ____, and I am writing in my capacity as leader of ____organization in ____. I am writing to express strong support for the annual release of nonprofit employment data at the state, county and MSA level.

As a (national/state/or community-based) philanthropic organization working to help____, there are a number of ways we could deliver improved social outcomes to the communities we serve through the release of regular nonprofit employment data. These include:

- To assess where gaps in personnel and service are located in our state;
- To better understand how we might collaborate with peer organizations to collectively address urgent social issues;
- To understand the economic impact of nonprofit organizations in ____ County;
- To understand how national economic trends impact nonprofit employment;
- To track the growth and decline of nonprofit personnel over time, as a way of assessing how to address problems in our state and preparing for the future.
- To track trends in nonprofit wages from year to year.

Where can I submit comments?

Follow this link: <http://data.bls.gov/cgi-bin/forms/bdm?/bdm/home.htm>

Enter comments in the “Enter your question in the box” section (pictured below). Comments need not be in question form.

The screenshot shows a web form titled "Request for Business Employment Dynamics (BDM) Information". At the top, there is a link to "View the frequently asked questions". Below this, a section asks the user to "enter the following:" information. This section includes several required fields: "Email address", "Full name", "Telephone number" (with a sub-field for "Ext:" and a note "(For example, 1234567890)"), and "Subject". Below the contact information is a large text area labeled "* Enter your question in the box:". At the bottom of the form, there are "Clear" and "Preview" buttons, followed by a note: "You will have a chance to review your question before sending it. We expect to reply within three working days. If you have not received a response within three working days, please send your request again."

Does BLS require a specific format?

No, BLS has no designated a format; enter comments electronically in the comment page link above.

INFORMATION ON THE DATA:

What are some highlights from the release?

Research from BLS shows that in 2012, nonprofit organizations comprised more than 10% of all private sector employment in the country, accounting for 11.4 million employees. *In some states, more than 15% of private sector jobs are nonprofit!*

Particularly striking, nonprofit employment steadily increased from 2007 through 2012, even as the rest of private employment fell during that period as a result of the recession. The vast majority of nonprofit jobs (68%) are in health care and social services followed by education (16%).

Would you like to see the BLS webinar on the research?

Access to slides from BLS webinar can be found online. Follow this link:

http://www.aspeninstitute.org/sites/default/files/content/upload/Nonprofits_in_America_BLS_Q_CEW_101714.pdf.

THE ASPEN INSTITUTE’S NONPROFIT DATA PROJECT

Since 2008, the Aspen Institute’s Program on Philanthropy and Social Innovation has convened leading figures in the field of nonprofit research and data to discuss and improve our nation's nonprofit data collection system. Primary participants include representatives from GuideStar, the National Center for Charitable Statistics at the Urban Institute, the Foundation Center, the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy at Indiana University, and the Center for Civil Society Studies at Johns Hopkins University. Johns Hopkins, in particular, worked with BLS on a method for identifying nonprofit employment, merging the Bureau’s Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages with information from the IRS.