

FFC/2012: The 19th Federal Forecasters Conference

- Date:** Thursday, September 27, 2012
- Location:** **Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference and Training Center**
2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20212
- Check-In:** 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
- Schedule:** 9:00 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.
(Plenary and concurrent session schedule to follow)
- Abstract Submissions Due:** August 1, 2012
- Contest Entry Deadline:** August 1, 2012
- Register Online By:** September 7, 2012 at <http://ffc2012.eventbrite.com>
There is no charge for participation

Theme: The Value of Government Forecasts

Government forecasts are necessary and valuable for understanding the fiscal tradeoffs and implications of different policies to the public and private sector. The President, Congress, and policy analysts rely on forecasts for allocating government resources and budgets. Federal forecasters make projections across a broad array of issues including population, the labor force, defense requirements, medical costs, agricultural programs, energy supply and demand, tax revenues, pollution, transportation, infrastructure investments, social insurance, and regulatory programs. They provide this critical input using analytical and quantitative models under varying degrees of uncertainty.

The 2012 Federal Forecasters Conference will examine how government forecasters face these challenges and how policy-makers and other decision-makers use forecasts to make decisions.

Suggested Presentation Topics for the Afternoon Sessions

- Scenario analysis as forecasts in policy-making
- Case studies: Using forecasts in policy decision making
- Forecast process: How can it be improved?
- Federal forecasters and their customers
- Forecast evaluations
- Forecast methodologies
- Forecasting with limited resources
- General topics in forecasting

~ Sponsoring Agencies ~

**Bureau of Labor Statistics • Bureau of Transportation Statistics • Department of Veterans Affairs
Economic Research Service • Internal Revenue Service • International Trade Administration
National Center for Education Statistics • U.S. Census Bureau
U.S. Energy Information Administration • U.S. Geological Survey • U.S. Postal Service**

~ Partnering Organization ~

Research Program on Forecasting, The George Washington University

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CALL FOR PAPERS

The FFC Board invites you to present a paper at one of the afternoon concurrent sessions. Please note, papers are not restricted to the official conference theme and may cover any subject relating to forecasting or estimation. Presenters are encouraged to provide a written version of their presentation. The papers are to be a maximum of 12 pages long, including references, tables, charts, and appendices. Individual presentations of the papers will be limited to 15 to 20 minutes in length. Please send your abstract of 100 or fewer words to: lane.erin@bls.gov by August 1, 2012.

All presenters must provide an electronic copy of their paper in a Microsoft Word file by November 8, 2012 to William Hussar to ensure their paper's inclusion in the conference proceedings. See below for the required format. All papers presented in the afternoon concurrent sessions and provided in accordance with the guidelines will be published as Proceedings of the 2012 Federal Forecasters Conference. A panel of judges will determine the best paper presented during the concurrent sessions and recognition will be awarded at the following Federal Forecasters Conference.

Title Centered in 12-Point Bold Times New Roman Type

Author and organization centered in normal 10-point Times New Roman

Please compose, format, and spell check your document in Microsoft Word. Format all text in a double-column, normal 10-point Times New Roman font type, and columns should be square. Left and right margins must be 1" and the spacing between the two columns must be 0.2".

Text should be single-spaced, with double spacing between paragraphs. Small tables and figures may be included in the column text, but place all larger tables and figures at the end of the document in single column format.

Please remember that the maximum length of your paper is 12 pages. Refer to the FFC/2011 Proceedings volume for examples of the acceptable paper format (available at www.federalforecasters.org).

All presenters must provide an electronic copy of their papers in a Microsoft Word file by November 8, 2012. Please email the file to William Hussar at william.hussar@ed.gov. We will translate your final paper into an Adobe Acrobat PDF file for final publication.

Your paper may be omitted from the FFC/2012 Proceedings Volume if you fail to conform to these guidelines.

**FFC/2012--- The Federal Forecasters Conference Contest
Official Entry Form
Entries due August 1, 2012**

Name: _____

Agency/Department: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Please write your forecasts in the boxes provided for the following 5 items. Put your forecasts in the same format as the example. The forecasts will be judged by the ranking method (analysis of variance by ranks).

Question	Forecast
1. Seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the month of July 2012 (Example: For January 2012, the national unemployment rate was 8.3%)	
2. Number of privately-owned housing starts, seasonally adjusted, in July 2012 (Example: In December 2011 the number of privately-owned housing starts, seasonally adjusted, was 657,000)	
3. Average temperature at Reagan National Airport for August 15, 2012 (Example: On January 1, 2012, the average was 48 °F)	
4. Closing price of the S&P 500 on August 15, 2012 (Example: The closing price of the S&P on February 1, 2012 was 1,324.18)	
5. Closing price of Green Mountain Coffee Roasters Inc. on August 15, 2012 (Ticker: GMCR) (Example: Closing price closed at \$53.65 on February 1, 2012)	

We will announce the winner at the FFC/2012 Conference, Thursday, September 27, 2012. All decisions of the contest judges are final. FFC board members are not eligible to participate in this forecasting contest. Each person may submit only one entry. All contest entries are confidential. For more information, please call Brian Sloboda at (202) 693-5904 or e-mail at sloboda.brian.w@dol.gov. Each individual will receive confirmation of receipt of his/her submission.

Please e-mail entry form by August 1, 2012 to:

Brian W. Sloboda
U.S. Department of Labor
E-mail: sloboda.brian.w@dol.gov
Phone: (202) 693-5904