

FFC/2014: The 20th Federal Forecasters Conference

- Date:** Thursday, April 24, 2014
- 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:** March 15, 2014
- Contest Entry Deadline:** March 15, 2014
- Register Online By:** April 10, 2014 at <http://ffc2014.eventbrite.com>
There is no charge for participation

Theme: The Roles of Government Forecasts

Government forecasts are critical to assessing the future needs of the nation. These forecasts are used by those in the public and private sectors for planning and decision-making in a variety of areas: agriculture, energy, the environment, demographics, geologic hazards, healthcare, job trends, social security, veteran's issues, and more. For example, policy makers use forecasts to create laws, direct resources and establish budgets. Individuals use forecasts of salary and employment trends to make career decisions, and nominal price forecasts and interest rate trends to decide whether to buy a home. Government agencies are also consumers, using forecasts of weather and commodity supply and demand to project crop yield and prices. Labor force projections are also based on government-produced projections of the population.

At FFC/20, presenters from a variety of agencies will share their experience in developing and using forecasts. Add your voice to the conversation! Please join our discussion of the unique role played by federal forecasts, and how forecasts are used by the government, private industry, and the public.

Suggested Presentation Topics for the Afternoon Sessions

- Scenario analysis
- Case studies: Using forecasts in policy decision making
- How are forecasts used?
- Private sector versus government forecasts
- Forecast evaluation
- Forecast methodologies
- How are future needs identified?
- General topics in forecasting

~ Sponsoring Agencies ~

Bureau of Labor Statistics • Department of Veterans Affairs
Economic Research Service • Internal Revenue Service
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U.S. Energy Information Administration • U.S. Geological Survey

~ 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 written version of their presentation. 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: woodward.maggie@bls.gov by March 15, 2014.

All presenters must provide an electronic copy of their paper in a Microsoft Word file (preferred) or and Adobe Acrobat PDF file by June 1, 2014 to William Hussar (william.hussar@edu.gov) to ensure their paper's inclusion in the conference proceedings. See below for the recommended format. All papers presented in the afternoon concurrent sessions and provided by June 1, 2014 will be published as Proceedings of the 2014 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.

Refer to the FFC/2012 Proceedings volume for examples of the recommended paper format (available at www.federalforecasters.org).

All presenters must provide an electronic copy of their papers in a Microsoft Word file (preferred) or Adobe Acrobat PDF by June 1, 2014. Please email the file to William Hussar at william.hussar@ed.gov. Final papers will be published on the Federal Forecasters website as an Adobe Acrobat PDF file.

Your paper may be omitted from the FFC/2014 Proceedings Volume if you fail to conform to these guidelines.

FFC/2014--- The Federal Forecasters Conference Contest
Official Entry Form
Entries due March 15, 2014

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 March 2014 (Example: For September 2013, the national unemployment rate was 7.2%)	
2. Number of privately-owned housing starts, seasonally adjusted, in February 2014 (Example: In August 2013 the number of privately-owned housing starts, seasonally adjusted, was 891,000)	
3. Average temperature at Reagan National Airport for April 1, 2014 (Example: On September 16, 2013, the average was 70 °F)	
4. Closing price of the S&P 500 on April 1, 2014 (Example: The closing price of the S&P on September 16, 2013 was 1,697.60)	
5. Closing price of Green Mountain Coffee Roasters Inc. on April 1, 2014 (Ticker: GMCR) (Example: Closing price closed at \$84.51 on September 16, 2013)	

We will announce the winner at the FFC/2014 Conference, Thursday, April 24, 2014. 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.