

FFC/2015: The 21st Federal Forecasters Conference

- Date:** Thursday, September 24, 2015
- 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, 2015**
- Contest Entry Deadline:** **August 1, 2015**
- Register Online By:** **September 10, 2015** at www.21st-ffc-2015.eventbrite.com
There is no charge for participation

Theme: Are Forecasts Accurate? Does it Matter?

Forecasts typically undergo a review before they are released to judge whether or not the forecast adheres to commonly accepted technical practice. Forecasts often face an ex post evaluation that focuses on realized accuracy. Whether forecasting immigration or emigration, agricultural production and price, mineral reserves and prices, or forecasting the direction of labor, economic, education, energy, and revenue trends, forecasters face similar private and public scrutiny. How are forecasts evaluated? How is forecast accuracy judged? How does the accuracy of forecasts affect users? Add your voice to the discussion. Join us at the 21st Federal Forecasters Conference, where these and other forecasting questions will be addressed.

Suggested Presentation Topics for the Afternoon Sessions

- **General topics in forecasting**
- **Case studies: Using forecasts in policy decision making**
- **Forecast methodology**
- **Forecast evaluation**

~ Sponsoring Agencies ~

Bureau of Labor Statistics • Department of Veterans Affairs
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U.S. Energy Information Administration • U.S. Geological Survey

~ Partnering Organizations ~

Research Program on Forecasting, The George Washington University
Society of Government Economists
Office of Revenue Analysis,
DC Office of the Chief Financial Officer

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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. 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: Michelle.Chu@irs.gov by August 1, 2015.

All presenters must provide an electronic copy of their paper in a Microsoft Word file (preferred) or Adobe Acrobat PDF file by November 1, 2015 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 November 1, 2015 will be published as Proceedings of the 2015 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/2014 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 November 1, 2015. 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/2015 Proceedings Volume if you fail to conform to these guidelines.

**FFC/2015--- The Federal Forecasters Conference Contest
Official Entry Form
Entries due August 1, 2015**

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 2015. (Example: For April 2014, the national unemployment rate was 6.7%)	
2. Number of privately-owned housing starts, seasonally adjusted, in July 2015. (Example: In April 2014 the number of privately-owned housing starts, seasonally adjusted, was 907,000)	
3. Average temperature at Reagan National Airport for August 15, 2015. (Example: On April 1, 2014, the average was 52 °F)	
4. Closing price of the S&P 500 on August 14, 2015. (Example: The closing price of the S&P on April 1, 2014 was 1,885.52)	
5. Closing price of Green Mountain Coffee Roasters Inc. on August 14, 2015 (Ticker: GMCR). (Example: Closing price closed at \$109.77 on April 1, 2014) Note: Green Mountain Coffee Roasters Inc. changed its name in 2014 to Keurig Green Mountain Inc. The ticker symbol is still the same.	

We will announce the winner at the FFC/2015 Conference, Thursday, September 24, 2015. 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.