

Glossary

Indicator	Source	Definition/Notes
Labor Market Terms		
Payroll Employment	Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS); Current Employment Statistics (CES) Survey, also known as the Establishment Survey	Payroll employment, also commonly known as Total Nonfarm or Total Nonfarm Payroll, is a measure of the number of U.S. workers in the economy that excludes proprietors, private household employees, unpaid volunteers, farm employees, and the unincorporated self-employed. This measure accounts for approximately 80 percent of the workers who contribute to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and provides useful insights into the current economic situation because it can represent the number of jobs added or lost in an economy.
Average Hourly Wages	BLS; CES/Establishment Survey	Average hourly wages, (or average hourly earnings) reflect the average gross earnings per hour among all payroll employees across all private industries in a given month. Average hourly wages are measured as gross payrolls divided by total hours for which employees receive pay—including sick pay or vacation pay—during the pay period that includes the 12th of the month. Average hourly wages are not a measure of total compensation or employers' total compensation costs because they exclude items such as employee benefits, irregular bonuses and commissions, retroactive payments, and the employer's share of payroll taxes.
Unemployment Rate	BLS; Current Population Survey (CPS), also known as the Household Survey	The unemployment rate represents the number of unemployed people as a percentage of the labor force (the labor force is the sum of the employed and unemployed).
Labor Force Participation Rate	BLS; CPS/Household Survey	The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the population that is either working or actively looking for work. In technical terms, it is the number of people in the labor force as a percentage of the civilian noninstitutional population.
Retail Sales		
Retail Sales	Census Bureau; Advance Monthly Retail Trade Survey	Retail sales are estimates of monthly sales for companies in the retail trade and food services sectors. Estimates are derived from the Advance Monthly Retail Trade Survey which is a voluntary survey covering retail companies with one or more establishments that sell merchandise and related services to final consumers. These firms provide data on dollar value of retail sales for selected establishments.
Price Indices		
Consumer Price Index	BLS; Consumer Price Index (CPI) program	The Consumer Price Index (CPI) program measures the average change over time in the prices paid by urban consumers for a market basket of consumer goods and services. The CPI measures price changes from the perspective of the consumer.
Producer Price Index	BLS; Producer Price Index (PPI) program	The Producer Price Index (PPI) program measures the average change over time in the selling prices received by domestic producers for their output. The PPI measures price changes from the perspective of the seller.
Gross Domestic Product		
Real Gross Domestic Product	Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA); National Income and Product Accounts (NIPA)	Gross domestic product (GDP) is the value of the goods and services produced by the nation's economy less the value of the goods and services used up in production. GDP is also equal to the sum of personal consumption expenditures, gross private domestic investment, net exports of goods and services, and government consumption expenditures and gross investment. Real GDP values are inflation-adjusted estimates—that is, estimates that exclude the effects of price changes.
Personal Consumption Expenditures		
Personal Consumption Expenditures	BEA; NIPA	Consumer spending, or personal consumption expenditures (PCE), is the value of the goods and services purchased by, or on the behalf of, U.S. residents. PCE shows how much of the income earned by households is being spent on current consumption as opposed to how much is being saved for future consumption.