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Director

## Covered Employment, Wages Program gathers valuable data used by federal, state programs

By the U.S. Department of Labor  
Bureau of Labor Statistics

The Covered Employment and Wages Program is a cooperative program involving the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor and the state employment security agencies.

The CEW program produces a comprehensive tabulation of employment and wage information for workers covered by state unemployment insurance laws and federal workers covered by the Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees program.

Publicly available files include data on the number of establishments, monthly employment and quarterly wages by NAICS industry, by county, by ownership sector for each state in the United States. These data are aggregated to annual levels, to higher industry levels (NAICS industry groups, sectors and supersectors), and to higher geographic levels (national, state, and Metropolitan Statistical Area).

The CEW program serves as a near census of monthly employment and quarterly wage information by six-digit NAICS industry at the national, state and county levels.

At the national level, the CEW program publishes employment and wage data for nearly every NAICS industry. At the state and area level, the CEW program publishes employment and wage data down to the six-digit NAICS industry level, if disclosure restrictions are met.

In accordance with BLS policy, data provided to the bureau in confidence are not published and are used only for specified statistical purposes. BLS withholds publication of UI-covered employment and wage data for any industry level when necessary to protect the identity of cooperating employers.

Totals at the industry level for the states and the nation include the

nondisclosable data suppressed within the detailed tables. However, these totals cannot be used to reveal the suppressed data.

Employment data under the CEW program represent the number of covered workers who worked during, or received pay for, the pay period including the 12th of the month. Excluded are members of the armed forces, the self-employed, proprietors, domestic workers, unpaid family workers and railroad workers covered by the railroad unemployment insurance system.

Wages represent total compensation paid during the calendar quarter, regardless of when services were performed. Included in wages are pay for vacation and other paid leave, bonuses, stock options, tips, the cash value of meals and lodging, and in some states, contributions to deferred compensation plans (such as 401(k) plans).

The CEW program does provide partial information on agricultural industries and employees in private households.

Data from the CEW program serve as an important input to many BLS programs. The CEW data are used as the benchmark source for employment by the Current Employment Statistics program and the Occupational Employment Statistics program.

The UI administrative records collected under the CEW program serve as a sampling frame for BLS establishment surveys. In addition, data from the CEW program serve as an input to other federal and state programs.

The Bureau of Economic Analysis of the Department of Commerce uses CEW data as the base for developing the wage and salary component of personal income. The Employment and Training Administration of the Department of Labor and the SESAs use CEW data to administer the employment security program. *See Program on back*

## Internet tax, wage reporting system offers new features

By Judy Thompson  
Contributions Operations Manager

Employers wanting a convenient way to file their Contribution and Wage Reports should use the Official State of Arkansas Tax Portal. The system is free and offers employers the option of paying taxes by electronic funds transfer.

Since the Arkansas Employment Security Department and the Information Network of Arkansas brought the system online at the beginning of the third quarter in 2001, many enhancements have been made to the system.

Some of the changes include:

- Tax preparers only have to register once to file reports for all of their clients.
- AESD calculates taxable wages based on wages previously submitted by the employer.
- Employers can file their reports immediately after the quarter's end and ask that their bank account not be drafted until a later date not to exceed the actual due date of the quarterly report.
- Employers can now see and print a list of their previously online reported wages.

This system allows employers to input a list of employees on a Web page or upload a data file. The system then calculates the taxes due based on the current and past returns that an employer has submitted.

Employers may either print out their invoice and pay by check or continue and pay online via electronic funds transfer. Employers may designate the effective date of the funds transfer, up to the tax due date. Immediate verification of reporting is provided.

AESD has approximately 3,000 employers utilizing this online method who are submitting 1,652,500 quarterly wage items. More than 48 percent of these employers have opted to pay their taxes by EFT. Employers are encouraged

*See System on back*

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Employer & Legislative Newsletter

# AESD *update*

**Arkansas Employment Security Department**

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to go to the Official State of Arkansas Tax Portal [www.ar-tax.org](http://www.ar-tax.org) or visit the AESD Web site at [www.accessarkansas.org/esd](http://www.accessarkansas.org/esd) and use this method to file and pay their quarterly unemployment tax. For questions or assistance, please call (501) 682-3100.

## **Program** continued from front

The CEW data accurately reflect the extent of coverage of the state UI laws and are used to measure UI revenues, national, state and local area employment, and total and UI taxable wage trends. Arkansas issues quarterly and annual reports of CEW data.

Can your community  
benefit  
from federal tax credits?

For more information,  
go to our Web site at

[www.accessarkansas.org/esd/  
ForEmployer/A\\_wotc.htm](http://www.accessarkansas.org/esd/ForEmployer/A_wotc.htm).



You can also call  
your local  
Arkansas Workforce  
Center  
or  
1-866-330-9459.