

# FFC/2009

## *The 17th Federal Forecasters Conference*

**Thursday, September 24, 2009**

### **Forecasting and Risk**

Risk is an ever-present phenomenon. Economic adversity, natural disasters, transportation disasters, health epidemics, and other misfortunes are always a possibility. Forecasters are accustomed to uncertainty, but must address the potential for loss or injury with particular care. Forecasters also aid in establishing recommendations for resolving the outcomes of those uncertainties, especially if the loss or injury would be of catastrophic proportions. Turning points, unusual events, and low-probability shocks can take on enormous significance when their consequences are damaging. FFC/2009 will examine this intersection between risk and forecasting as participants review how forecasters deal with risk and how they can help policy-makers and other decision-makers use forecasts to respond to potential adversity.

Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Conference and Training Center  
2 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E.  
Washington, DC

**June 19, 2009**  
**August 21, 2009**

**Abstract Submission & Contest Entry Deadlines**  
**Conference Registration Deadline**

~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. Geological Survey  
U.S. Postal Service**

~ PARTNERING ORGANIZATION ~

**Center for Economic Research, The George Washington University**

**For registration forms and other information:**  
*[www.federalforecasters.org](http://www.federalforecasters.org)*



## *The 17th Federal Forecasters Conference*

### **CALL FOR PAPERS**

The FFC/2009 Organizing Committee 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. Individual agencies are no longer expected to organize entire sessions but are encouraged to generate a number of submissions. 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: Byun.Kathryn@bls.gov by June 19, 2009.

All presenters must provide an electronic copy of their paper in a WORD file by September 24, 2009 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 Papers and Proceedings of the 2009 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 Roman Type**

Author & organization centered in normal 10-point Times Roman

Please compose, format, and spell check your document in MS Word software. All text should be presented in a double-column format in normal 10-point Times New Roman 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 all larger tables and figures should be placed at the end of the document in single column format.

Please remember that the maximum length of your paper is 12 pages. You may refer to the

FFC/2008 Proceedings volume for examples of the acceptable paper format (available at [www.federalforecasters.org](http://www.federalforecasters.org)).

All presenters must provide an electronic draft of their papers in a WORD file by September 24, 2009. Final versions of the papers must be submitted by October 23, 2009. Please e-mail all papers to William Hussar, at William.hussar@ed.gov. We will translate your final paper into an Adobe Acrobat PDF file for final publication.

Failure to conform to these guidelines may result in your paper being omitted from the FFC/2009 Proceedings volume.

# Announcing

## *The 17th Federal Forecasters Conference*

*Thursday, September 24, 2009*

*BLS Conference & Training Center*

***Registration Form -- Due by August 21, 2009***  
*(Schedule for plenary and concurrent sessions to follow)*

There is no charge for participation. Please share this form with your colleagues.

Name:

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Agency/Department:

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Address:

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City/State/Zip:

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Phone Number:

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Fax Number:

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E-Mail Address:

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Return this information by **August 21, 2009** to Leann Weyl, FFC/2009 Registrar.  
E-mail registration is preferred and can be sent to: [Leann.Weyl@irs.gov](mailto:Leann.Weyl@irs.gov).  
Fax registration with cover page is also possible to Stephen MacDonald at 202-694-5820.

For more information, call FFC Committee Chair Stephen MacDonald at 202-694-5305.

**FFC/2009--- The Federal Forecasters Consortium**  
**Federal Forecasters Forecasting Contest**  
**Official Entry Form**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Agency/Department** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_  
**E-mail Address** \_\_\_\_\_

Please write in your forecasts 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).

1. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the month of June 2009. (**Example:** For January 2008, the national unemployment rate was 4.9%.)
2. The closing price in US dollars/per pound of zinc on July 1, 2009. (**Example:** On February 1, 2008, the closing price of zinc was 1.0973.)
3. The average temperature at Reagan National Airport for July 1, 2009. (**Example:** On February 1, 2008, the average was 41 °F.)
4. The closing price of the S&P 500 on July 1, 2009. (**Example:** The closing price of the S&P on February 1, 2008 was 1,395.42.)
5. The closing price/barrel of NYMEX crude oil on July 1, 2009. (**Example:** Price closed at 88.96/barrel on February 1, 2008.)

The winner will be announced at the FFC/2009 Conference which will be held on September 24, 2009. All decisions of the contest judges are final. FFC/2009 Governing Board members are not eligible to participate in this forecasting contest. Only one entry per person. All contest entries are confidential. For more information, call Brian Sloboda at (202)268-7826 or e-mail at [brian.w.sloboda@usps.gov](mailto:brian.w.sloboda@usps.gov). Each individual will receive confirmation of receipt of his/her submission.

Please e-mail entry form postmarked by June 15, 2009 to:

**Brian W. Sloboda**  
**Pricing Economist**  
**US Postal Service**  
**Pricing and Classification**  
**Pricing Systems and Analysis**  
**475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW Room 3636**  
**Washington, DC 20260-4261**  
**E-mail: [brian.w.sloboda@usps.gov](mailto:brian.w.sloboda@usps.gov)**  
**Phone: (202) 268-7826**