**Program: Bureau of Labor Statistics**

**Agency:** Department of Labor  
**Bureau:** Bureau of Labor Statistics

The BLS collects and disseminates data on employment and unemployment, price change, compensation, productivity, safety and health, and associated labor-related statistics.

**Rating:** Moderately Effective  
**Program Type:** Direct Federal  
**Program Summary:**

The assessment found:

1. Design for data collection and reporting is sound; BLS fills a unique role in the development of national labor-related statistics.
2. BLS is a pioneer in performance budgeting, but its approximately 364 performance measures (listed in a 56-page table) are too many and do not clearly explain how resources drive performance. The program carefully monitors its operations.
3. Independent, quality evaluations have demonstrated program effectiveness and have been used by BLS to improve its practices.
4. Judging by a variety of informal information, the program's efficiency has been improving. Also, despite their limitations, its long-term goals have been largely achieved. However, BLS lacks outcome-based, quantitative, and transparent performance measures. Many performance targets are established only in terms of completion of activities on schedule. Also, there are no explicit efficiency goals.

In response to these findings, DOL will ensure:

1. The development of more outcome-based, quantitative, and transparent performance measures.
2. That an efficiency measure is developed.
3. That the new performance measures clearly demonstrate improved accuracy to the general data user.
4. The maintenance of BLS' current successes in program monitoring and operations.