CPA Practice **Advisor**

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Jul. 16, 2013

The U.S. Census Bureau has added three key economic indicators to America's Economy, the Census Bureau's widely downloaded mobile app that provides constantly updated statistics on the U.S. economy, including monthly economic indicators and trends, along with a schedule of upcoming releases. The move was made in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)

These indicators join 16 others that were already available on America's Economy and means that the top four BLS data sets are now included in the app. The number of people accessing the Census Bureau's economic indicators has quintupled since the app's launch in August 2012.

"I'm extremely pleased that the Census Bureau continues to iterate and expand upon its highly successful mobile app," said Steven VanRoekel, chief information officer of the United States. "America's Economy embodies the goals of the Digital Government Strategy, which seeks to build a government that is efficient, effective and focused on improving the delivery of information and services to the American people."

The producer price index (PPI), consumer price index (CPI) and nonfarm payroll employment indicators each come from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The CPI program measures change in prices paid by urban consumers for a representative mix of goods and services. The PPI measures change over time in the selling prices received by U.S. producers. Nonfarm payroll employment represents the number of jobs in the economy.

"We are pleased that our colleagues at the Census Bureau have added nonfarm payroll employment, the PPI and the CPI to America's Economy. This mobile app

now has the four most widely referenced BLS economic indicators, with the

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construction, international trade, personal income, retail sales and manufacturing.

The America's Economy app was developed as part of the Census Bureau's Digital Transformation Project to provide the general public and government workforce with access to information anywhere, anytime, on any device.

"The creation of this app is consistent with the Census Bureau's longtime mission of providing accurate statistics about the nation's growing, changing economy. We're using 21st century technology to make that information available more quickly and easily," said William G. Bostic Jr., the Census Bureau's associate director for economic programs.

The 19 indicators on the app are:

Census Bureau:

- Advance Monthly Retail Sales
- New Residential Construction
- New Residential Sales
- Construction Spending
- International Trade
- Advance Report Durable Goods
- Business Inventories
- Manufacturers' Goods
- Monthly Wholesale
- Homeownership Rate
- Quarterly Services Survey
- Quarterly Financial Report Retail Trade
- Quarterly Financial Report Manufacturing

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• Nomarm Payron Employment – New

Users may set alerts to receive notifications when economic indicators are updated. They can also add statistical release schedules to their personal calendars. When each indicator is released, users can also share the news on both Facebook and Twitter.

The America's Economy app is available now for Android and Apple smartphone and tablet users.

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