

**Subject:** Problem Set #1

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Problem Set #1

Due: Tuesday, January 26 (at the beginning of class)

(1) Diebold, Chapter 1, Exercise 1.

(2) The BLS announces the PPI for December 2009 on Jan 20. Find the release and answer the following questions.

(a) What was the monthly percentage change in Dec 2009 in the price index for finished goods, both Total, and excluding food and energy?

(b) What was the monthly percentage change for the price index for dairy products? (we are in Wisconsin). To answer this question, you will have to examine the BLS announcement carefully.

(3) The BLS announces regional and state employment figures (for Dec 2009) on Jan 22.

(a) Find the number of seasonally adjusted of unemployed (the total number, not the unemployment rate) in Wisconsin.

(b) Find the unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted) for Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa.

The BLS website is here:

<http://www.bls.gov/>