

2022 CIFA SRF Workshop Online Program

Economic Outlook: Wednesday, October 5, 2022, 2:30 – 4:00 pm (ET)

State of the Economy

Learn about the current state of the economy, from inflation, rising interest rates and supply chain disruptions to job growth and consumer confidence, and what it means for the SRFs and investment in water infrastructure.

- Curtis Dubay, chief economist with U.S. Chamber of Commerce, will give an overview of economic conditions, from rising interest rates to the Federal Reserve's efforts to tamp down inflation to
- Ken Simonson, chief economist with Associated General Contractors of America, will share insights into how economic factors, material costs, and labor availability are impacting general contractors and infrastructure projects.
- Bill Simon, business consultant and former President and CEO of Walmart US, will share his thoughts on the current state of the global supply chain and what to expect in the coming months and years.

Meet the Speakers



Curtis Dubay
Chief Economist,
U.S. Chamber of
Commerce



Ken Simonson
Chief Economist,
Associated General
Contractors of America



Bill Simon
Business Consultant and
Former President and
CEO of Walmart US

[Read Their Bios](#)



Curtis Dubai

Chief Economist, U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Curtis Dubai is senior economist in the Economic Policy Division at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce where he tracks the condition of the economy, analyzes the impact of public policy on economic growth, and runs the Chamber's Chief Economists Committee, whose members are chief economists from member businesses that provide analysis to federal policymakers and formulate economic policies for the organization.

Previously, Dubai was senior economist at the American Bankers Association where he worked on tax issues and followed the economic trends affecting the banking industry. Prior to ABA, he was a research fellow in tax and economic policy at The Heritage Foundation, where he researched and published on tax and economic policy issues. Earlier in his career, Dubai worked at PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) in the firm's transfer pricing division structuring international transactions.

Dubai has researched and published frequently on a wide range of tax and economic issues. He is regularly quoted by the press and has appeared often in the media, including on CNBC, Fox Business, Fox News, and C-SPAN. He has testified before Congress several times and been cited in newspapers such as The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, The Washington Post, USA Today, and Politico.

Dubai received his master's degree in economics from the University of Connecticut and his bachelor's degree in economics and leadership studies from the University of Richmond.

Ken Simonson

Chief Economist, Associated General Contractors of America

Ken Simonson has been Chief Economist for the Associated General Contractors of America, the leading construction trade association, since 2001. He provides insight into the economy and what it implies for construction and related industries through frequent media interviews, presentations, and the *Data DIGest*, his weekly one-page e-newsletter that goes to more than 20,000 subscribers.

Ken has over 40 years of experience analyzing, advocating and communicating about economic and tax issues. He currently serves as an advisor to the Census Bureau's construction data re-engineering initiative. He is a Fellow and past president of the National Association for Business Economics, and he is co-director of the Tax Economists Forum, a professional meeting group he co-founded in 1982.

Ken has a BA in economics from the University of Chicago, and an MA in economics from Northwestern University.

Bill Simon

Business Consultant and Former President and CEO of Walmart US

Bill Simon is a senior advisor to the investment firm KKR and serves on the Board of Directors for Darden Restaurants and Hanes Brands. He is also the Founder and President of the management and consulting firm WSS Venture Holdings.

Bill was President and CEO of Walmart U.S. from 2010 to 2014 where he was responsible for over \$280 billion in revenue and 1.2 million associates. He developed and led Walmart's initiative to buy \$250 billion in US manufactured products, making the company a national driver in the resurgence in America manufacturing. When he joined the company in 2006, he led the team that created and launched Walmart's \$4 prescription drug program, leading a revolution of drug pricing across the retail industry. A passionate supporter of veterans, Bill was instrumental in the company's pledge to hire any returning veteran.

Prior to joining Walmart, Bill held several senior positions at global companies, including Brinker International, Diageo, Cadbury-Schweppes, PepsiCo and RJR-Nabisco. From 2002-2004 he was Secretary of the Florida Department of Management Services under Governor Jeb Bush. Before retiring in 2006, Bill served 25 years in the U.S. Navy and Naval Reserves. Bill attended the University of Connecticut, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in economics and an MBA in management.