

BLS Federal-state cooperative program: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

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Agenda

- QCEW general background
- Data acquisition
- Quality and curation
- Linking
- Uses and analysis
- Sustainable, scalable, matchable
- Archiving



QCEW general background

- Essential economic information
 - ▶ Number of establishments
 - ▶ Monthly employment
 - ▶ Total and average wages
- Issued quarterly (frequent)
 - ▶ Available 6 months after quarter ends
- Published detail
 - ▶ Nation, states, MSAs and counties
 - ▶ By 6-digit NAICS industry
- Covers 96.5% of civilian employees
 - ▶ U.S., Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands



Data acquisition

■ Fed-state cooperative program

- ▶ BLS provides funding, training, IT system, quality standards, processing, analysis, enhancements
 - \$58 million in FY2016; over half goes to states
 - 100 BLS and 300+ state employees
- ▶ State LMI agencies prepare and provide quarterly UI tax micro data
 - Establishment-level
 - Within 15 weeks
- ▶ Shared governance council (BLOC)



Quality and curation

- Working together to ensure gold-standard data
 - ▶ Acquiring
 - ▶ Transforming
 - ▶ Reviewing and editing
 - ▶ Processing
- Data enhancements
 - ▶ Annual Refiling Survey
 - ▶ Multiple Worksite Report
 - ▶ Linking...



Linking

- Establishments linked across quarters to create longitudinal records
 - ▶ Sampling frame for BLS establishment surveys
 - ▶ Input to Local Area Unemployment Statistics
 - ▶ Source of Business Employment Dynamics (BED) and new variables
 - Births, deaths, expansions, contractions
 - Age, survival rates, firm size



Uses and analysis

- An example of high-quality data BLS provides to inform smart, evidence-based decisions



Uses and analysis – cont'd.

- QCEW's strong, wide user base
 - ▶ Bureau of Economic Analysis
 - ▶ Census Bureau
 - ▶ Outside researchers—top ranked
 - ▶ Programmatic
 - Employment and Training Administration
 - State and local government
 - ▶ Private sector
 - Modeling and weighting big data
 - Sales plans and location decisions
 - Forecasts



Map of QCEW uses

BLS Publications

- **QCEW:** Quarterly Releases: County by detailed NAICS - 5 month lag
- Annual Employment and Wages
- Special publications/maps

BED: Job Creation/Destruction

- Quarterly and Annual
- Size Class Dynamics
- Firm and establishment births/deaths
- Business Survival Rates
- Monthly Labor Review

Census Bureau Uses of QCEW

- **LEHD:** QCEW is essential matching key and source of geography and industry and link to other datasets, and employment
- **Business Register:** Sharing to reduce costs, burden and improve consistency
Industry Code Sharing (3 Million/year)
- **COS:** Multi-unit sharing- reduces cost and improves consistency
- **CPS Redesign:** QCEW used after decennial Census to improve sample design

State and Local Government

- Services Planning
- Transportation planning
- Emergency planning

Economic Development Indicators

- Cluster Analysis
- Shift Share
- Industry Diversity Indexes
- Location Quotients
- Local Impact analysis
- Site planning decisions

Gross Domestic Product (BEA)

Personal Income (BEA) Largest single input

State Revenue Projections

Economic Forecasting

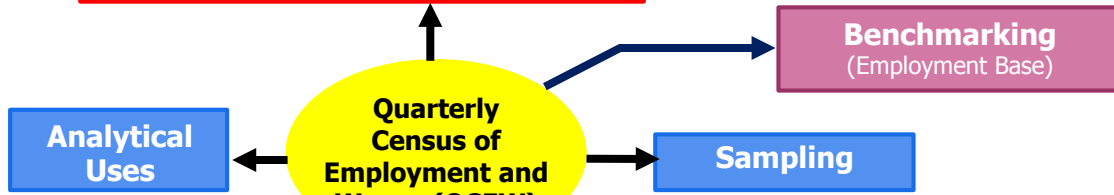
General Economic Uses

Current Employment Statistics

Occupational Employment Statistics

Occupational Safety and Health Statistics

Jobs Openings & Labor Turnover Survey



Programmatic Uses

UI Tax Rate & Actuarial Analysis

UI-Covered Employment

Local Area Unemployment

Social Security Administration

Federal Funds Allocation
\$321 Billion
(HUD, USDA, HCFA/CHIP)

Industrial Price Program

National Compensation Survey

Current Employment Statistics

Occupational Employment Statistics

Occupational Safety and Health Statistics

Job Openings & Labor Turnover Survey

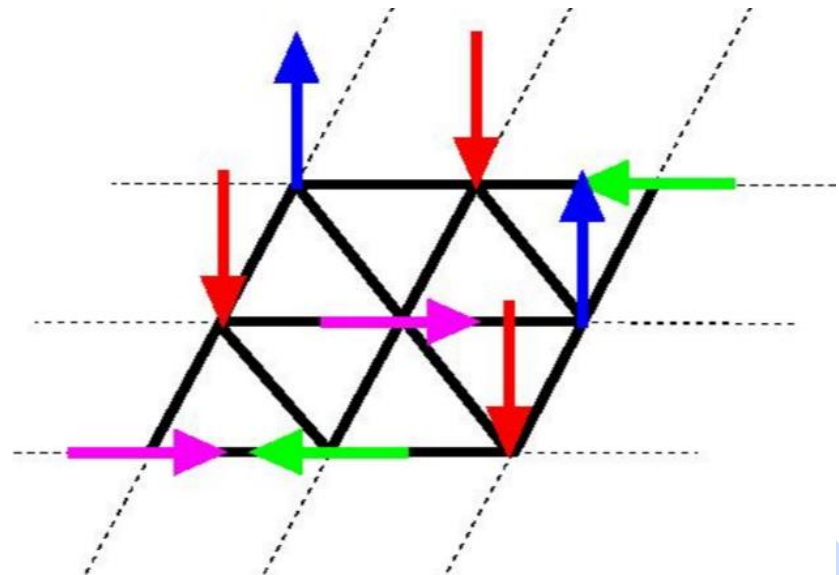
Other Agencies and States:

- NAWS/DOL
- NASS: Rural Innovation Survey
- States: Job Vacancies, Green Jobs Wage and Benefits Surveys



Uses and analysis – cont'd.

- Users of BED job dynamics data include
 - ▶ Federal Reserve System
 - ▶ Small Business Administration
 - ▶ Academics



Sustainable, scalable, matchable

- QCEW can be leveraged for new uses with **little to no additional:**
 - ▶ Respondent burden
 - ▶ Cost
- Examples
 - ▶ Non-profit economy
 - ▶ Hurricane flood zone maps



Sustainable, scalable, matchable – cont'd.

■ More initiatives to leverage QCEW

- ▶ Intra-BLS projects
 - Foreign Direct Investment
 - Quarterly Refiling Survey pilot
- ▶ Enterprise data
- ▶ Wage records



Archiving

- **Linked micro data**
 - ▶ 1990-present
 - ▶ Confidential
- **Unlinked micro data**
 - ▶ 1975-present
 - ▶ Confidential
- **Detailed tabulations**
 - ▶ 1975-present
 - ▶ Public website



QCEW bottom line

- Product of robust Fed-state partnership
- Comprehensive, detailed, accurate, relevant and timely
 - ▶ Supports decentralized decision-making
 - ▶ Cannot be replicated by private sector
 - ▶ Underlies key official and nonofficial statistics
 - ▶ Serves all parts of country and economy
- Flexible—supporting modernization, add-ons, matching, modeling and upgrades to other programs



QCEW: High-ROI component of our national informational infrastructure



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