About YE data

The primary source of data for YourEconomy.org (YE) comes from the National Establishment Time Series (NETS), which is a longitudinal database created by Walls & Associates. Each year YE is updated with the newest NETS release.

In order for YE to deliver the most current data available on the U.S. economy, the Edward Lowe Foundation has also invested in Dun & Bradstreet (D&B) data sets that provide data for the previous lapsed calendar year. This data contains much of the same robust coverage and information related to establishment demographics, operations and performance as NETS. The YE team then scrubs this data and merges it with the latest NETS release.

Although previous-year data goes through a rigorous inspection process and matching with previous data, it should always be considered preliminary information. As new data is obtained, this preliminary data will be further verified — and updated whenever necessary — to bring you the most robust, reliable view possible of your business community.

About NETS

Drawing from Dun and Bradstreet's Market Identifier and other D&B files, NETS covers more than 52 million establishments from 1990 to its most recent year release.

With more than 300 variables related to company demographics, operations and performance, this establishment-level database provides information on all businesses, including sole-proprietors and the self-employed, along with public and private companies. It also covers corporate affiliation with detailed linkage, relocation behavior, and industry classifications for every year.

NETS counts jobs rather than full-time employees, which means it includes part-timers, undocumented workers and people holding down more than one job. It also provides ZIP codes, street addresses, longitude and latitude for each business covered, so it can track trends at a very granular level.

Researchers at the University of California, Berkeley published the first paper using NETS in 2004, and since then different academic teams have tested the data's validity and compared it with federal statistics. The verdict: NETS has a few limitations, but offers a viable alternative to traditional federal data — along with a number of distinct advantages.

"Bottom line, NETS provides more complete coverage of the economy," points out Gary Kunkle, economist and research fellow at the Edward Lowe Foundation's Institute for Exceptional Growth Companies. "No other dataset allows such a micro view of the economy with as few usage restrictions."

For more information about how NETS compares to federal data, read Kunkle's paper at http://youreconomy. org/pages/insights.lasso. For more information about NETS, including database content details and pricing, contact: Donald Walls at Walls & Associates, 720-255-2869 or dwalls2@earthlink.net.