



## YourEconomy.org (YE) FAQ - 2016

### What changes were made to the YE website?

We tinkered with quite a few things to bring you a better interface in which to learn about your economy! Some of the changes:

- Replaced NETS data with the YourEconomy Time-Series (YTS) data.
- Updated the data from preliminary 2013 thru a verified version of 2015 data.
- Merged the two versions of YE (Profile and Change) into one.
- Changed the Dashboard indicators to allow quicker access to the most requested data.
- Changed the Nonresident definition to region being viewed and not state for all regions.
- Updated MSA to CBSA metro regions.
- Brought more consistency to the YE Indicator dashboard summaries and navigation.
- Made things prettier, and squashed a few bugs.

### What is YTS Data?

YTS is a brand new time series being developed by BDRC and UW-Extension. YTS uses the Infogroup Historical Database as its nucleus, with additional Infogroup data files added to complete recent year updates, and then we locate and correct establishment reporting lapses back through the historical data. We are also implementing an ongoing process to scrub and refurbish the data regularly through techniques we have learned during our 10-years of experience with [youreconomy.org](http://youreconomy.org).

### Why change from the National Establishment Time Series (NETS) data and use Infogroup Historical Data to build a new time series (YTS)?

That was a tough decision, but it came down to the availability of current data. YTS uses Infogroup data, and fortunately, Infogroup releases thoroughly verified data by March each year, which means YTS can be updated for time series accuracy using previous year data with only a 3-6 month lag from year end!

### What are the differences between YTS and the former NETS database?

One of our favorite features of YTS is that its source data Infogroup uses several databases and direct phone contact to isolate and enhance the quality of micro establishments. They make it a point each year to verify “in- business” before adding or keeping establishments in the database. Otherwise these two large establishment databases have a lot in common:

#### Establishments, jobs, and sales

- NETS contains *significantly more unverified* micro (1-4 employees) establishments than YTS data, particularly in the self (1) employed category.
- NETS has *significantly lower* survival rates (1-5 years) when compared with YTS, in some cases 3-4 times more micro establishments in NETS no longer exist after 5 years, trending the total number of establishments more in line with YTS.

- YTS tends to have *slightly more* employment in the Middle Market (10-499 employees), and Large (>500) employment size categories.
- YTS has a *more sophisticated sales* verification process resulting in more nuanced establishment level sales reflecting actual activity.

#### Verification and assembly method

- Infogroup verifies, edits, and assembles data every day of the year with over 100 people assigned to this task. At the end of the year, they close that years data file and no longer make changes to it. Then the [YourEconomy.org](http://YourEconomy.org) team (BDRC) takes all the individual years and assembles YTS, adding additional Infogroup data and verification for latest year by activating more current establishments that are pre-verified and ready to add to the database.
- NETS latest years of data are used to update and verify all previous years in the database and released as one database (without the most current years) which can take over a year to produce, resulting in much longer data delivery schedules.

I noticed the preliminary version of YE has fewer establishments than previous versions. S'up?

Glad you asked...we are in the process of adding over 13 million NEW establishments, and 5 million records that will be ADDED to existing companies. The YTS database is starting from the most verified businesses and adding Infogroup's Pre-verified data file (1997-2016) to complete what we think is the best representation of the dynamics of your economy.

What about YE Plus?

The YE Plus service which allowed you to build custom regions and acquire contact information for specific sets of companies in your economy is planned in 2017. For now, we have a new menu of services giving you access to the same custom information in an order and download format: see [YE Plus Services](#).

