

Comparing Frequently Cited Economic Data Sources

	YourEconomy Time Series (YTS)	County Business Patterns (CBP)	Current Employment Statistics (CES)	Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW)	American Community Survey (ACS)
Provided by	University of Wisconsin System	US Census	Bureau of Labor Statistics	Bureau of Labor Statistics	US Census
Reported time period	Annually	Annually	Monthly	Quarterly	Annually and 5 year
Availability	3 months after subject year	16 months after subject year	First week after subject month	5 months after subject quarter	1 year after subject year
Source of data	Time series assembled from verified individual establishment records collected by Data Axle	Payroll records filed the week of March 12	Survey of businesses	State unemployment insurance filings, supplemented by survey data	Survey of households
Excluded industries and/or sizes	None	Farms, rail, postal service, notaries, and government Establishments without employees on payroll	Farms, self-employed persons, some government workers	Establishments with fewer than 3 employees on payroll Farms are also excluded	N/A Questionnaire asks about household members, not establishments
Geographic areas available	US, state, metro area, county, congressional district and zip code	US, state, metro area, county, congressional district and zip code	US, state, metro area	US, state, metro area and county	US, state, metro area, county, congressional district, zip code and census tract
Availability of individual records	Available for purchase, including all variables	None Prohibited by law	None Prohibited by law	None Prohibited by law	N/A Does not survey establishments
Units measured	Firms, establishments, jobs	Establishments, employees on payroll, annual payroll	Establishments, employees on payroll, number of paid hours	Establishments, employees on payroll, wages, unemployment	Household members, demographics, personal finances, work status
Time series or snapshot	Time Series	Snapshot	Snapshot	Snapshot	Snapshot
Formats available	Aggregated numbers, Time Series graphs, individual records, custom graphs, charts and maps	Aggregated numbers	Aggregated numbers	Aggregated numbers, interactive maps	Aggregated numbers, maps, tables, custom tabulations

- QCEW relies on unemployment insurance (ES-202) data which is also used in Business Employment Dynamics (BED/BDM) data
- Census tract available from 2019 City and Latitude/Longitude available for most recent year
- There are two variations of “workers” among these sources The term “jobs” is used here when the data includes all people engaged in the operations of the establishment, whether they are on official payroll filings or are non-payroll workers (owners, partners, self-employed, etc)