

The Your Economy Times Series vs. Government Data Primer

When reviewing the Your Economy Times Series (YE Time Series) data, many researchers require comprehensive and accurate data measuring U.S. and regional employment or that tracks time series establishment-level employment. This primer looks at 4 key differences between YE Time Series data and the most used government sources¹.

This information is drawn from years of working with researchers (both inside and outside of government) who conclude that the YE Time Series data is an important and necessary resource when analyzing economic data in any regional economy.

Time Series vs. Snapshot - YE Time Series tracks establishments at their unique location and their changes from 1998. The government sources are based on surveys that are typically non-longitudinal “snapshots” with different participation rates by period and do not relate to changes in a previous or later period.

Jobs vs. Employment - The term “Jobs” is used in YE Time Series as 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.). Employment is used by government sources to indicate a full time employee or FTE (paid employee employed on average at least 30 hours of service per week) and would not begin tracking the business until it hires one full-time worker and began submitting unemployment compensation filings.

Employer vs. Non-employer - YE Times Series does not discriminate and includes all establishments in all industries whereas the government data sources used for statistics on the U.S. economy primarily include only Employer data and are missing 81% (government estimates) of all small businesses in the U.S.

Verified vs. Tax Filed Employment Data - YE Time Series focuses on establishments that are “in-business”, meaning they are or intend to be conducting commercial activities (Verified). By contrast, businesses that are created for the purpose of housing financial, real estate, and tax reporting entities, or are suspected of never actually conducting commercial activities, are not included in YE Time Series.

For more information see our most recent data comparison documents: [Business Employment Data: YTS versus CES and CPS](#) and [Comparing Frequently Cited Economic Data Sources](#).

¹ County Business Patterns (CBP), Current Employment Statistics (CES), Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW)