Initiatives, Opportunities, Challenges Facing OEUS

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Focus of Presentation

Presentation will focus on initiatives, opportunities, and constraints facing BLS’ Office of Employment and Unemployment Statistics (OEUS)
OEUS Household Data

- OEUS Programs

Individuals and Household Data
Current Population Survey (CPS)
Local Area and Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)
National Longitudinal Surveys (NLSY79, NLSY97, NLSY79 Children and Young Adults)
OEUS Establishment Data

Establishment Data

Current Employment Statistics (CES)
Quarterly Census of Emp. and Wages (QCEW)
Business Employment Dynamics (BED)
Job Openings & Labor Turnover Statistics (JOLTS)
Occupational Employment Statistics (OES)
Employment Projections (EP)
Challenges

- Survey response rates have been falling over time
- Difficult budgetary environment
Current Initiatives (OES)

- OES Time Series
  - Improved Sampling and estimation technology will yield more precise estimates and allow annual comparisons over time
Current Initiatives (QCEW,OES)

- Foreign Direct Investment Statistics
  - Matching QCEW data to BEA data on firms engaged in foreign direct investment will allow us to obtain occupational employment and wage estimates for firms engaged in FDI. Challenge – QCEW is establishment based, FDI is by firm.
Current Initiatives (QCEW)

- Nonprofits
  - We are now producing wage and employment estimates on nonprofits; obtained by matching the QCEW and the IRS’ publicly available Exempt Organization Business Master File
Current Initiatives (CPS)

- Contingent Worker Supplement
  - last one was in 2005. In addition to the questions asked last time, we plan to obtain information on workers who obtain jobs by being matched electronically to customers
Current Initiatives (NLS,BLS)

- Census Research Data Center
  - Will begin moving BLS data into the Census RDC. Start with the confidential NLS data and the Survey of Occupational Illnesses and Injury (produced by the Office of Compensation and Working Conditions)
Longer Term Initiatives

- Wage Records - We’d like to get access to wage records, either on our own or through Census
- Data matching - We’d like to do more of this, placing NLS data in RDC may yield opportunities. Legal constraints pose a challenge
 Longer term Initiatives

■ “Big Data” – general interest in utilizing alternative data sources. For example, Help Wanted Online might be used to supplement JOLTS. One issue here is the nonrepresentativeness of other data sources. Modeling may be necessary.

■ Quick Turnaround Surveys (perhaps using the Annual Refiling Survey)
Contact Information

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