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#Trending in 2020: Data Privacy, Accuracy, and Access

July 27-31, 2020

Intermediate Application of Data Sets BLS Unemployment Data (201 Series)

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Association of Public Data Users Webinar
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Outline

- Comparing Sources
- BLS Data Concepts and Methods
- Accessing BLS Data



Comparing Sources of Unemployment Data



Sources of Unemployment Data

- Unemployment Insurance (UI)
- BLS Data
 - ▶ Current Population Survey (CPS)
 - ▶ Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)
- Census Data
 - ▶ American Community Survey (ACS)



Unemployment Insurance

- Weekly state government administrative data
- Eligibility rules vary by state and over time
 - ▶ Usually requires no-fault, involuntary separation from a job with a minimum tenure
 - ▶ Limits on some industries and classes of worker
 - ▶ Limited number of weeks of benefits
- Other unemployment compensation programs exist

CPS and LAUS

- Nationally from a monthly survey interviewing about 60,000 households
- Sub-nationally from
 - ▶ Survey sub-samples
 - ▶ Statistical modeling
 - ▶ Mixing alternative data sources (like UI)



CPS and LAUS Unemployment Includes All Who...

Did not work during the reference week

AND

Were available for work, except for
temporary illness

AND

Made specific (active) efforts to find
work during the prior 4-week period

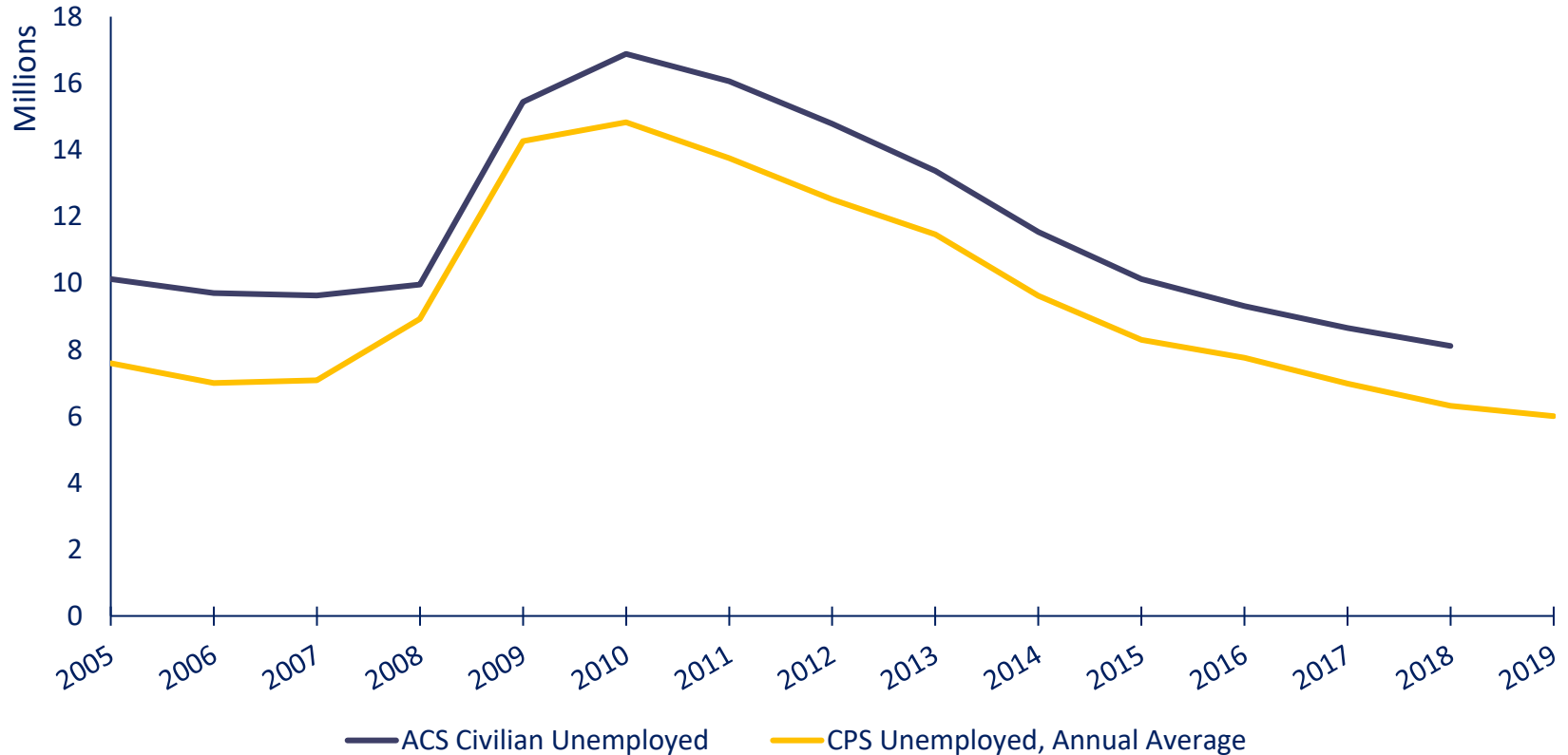
OR

Were on temporary layoff and may or
may not have searched for work

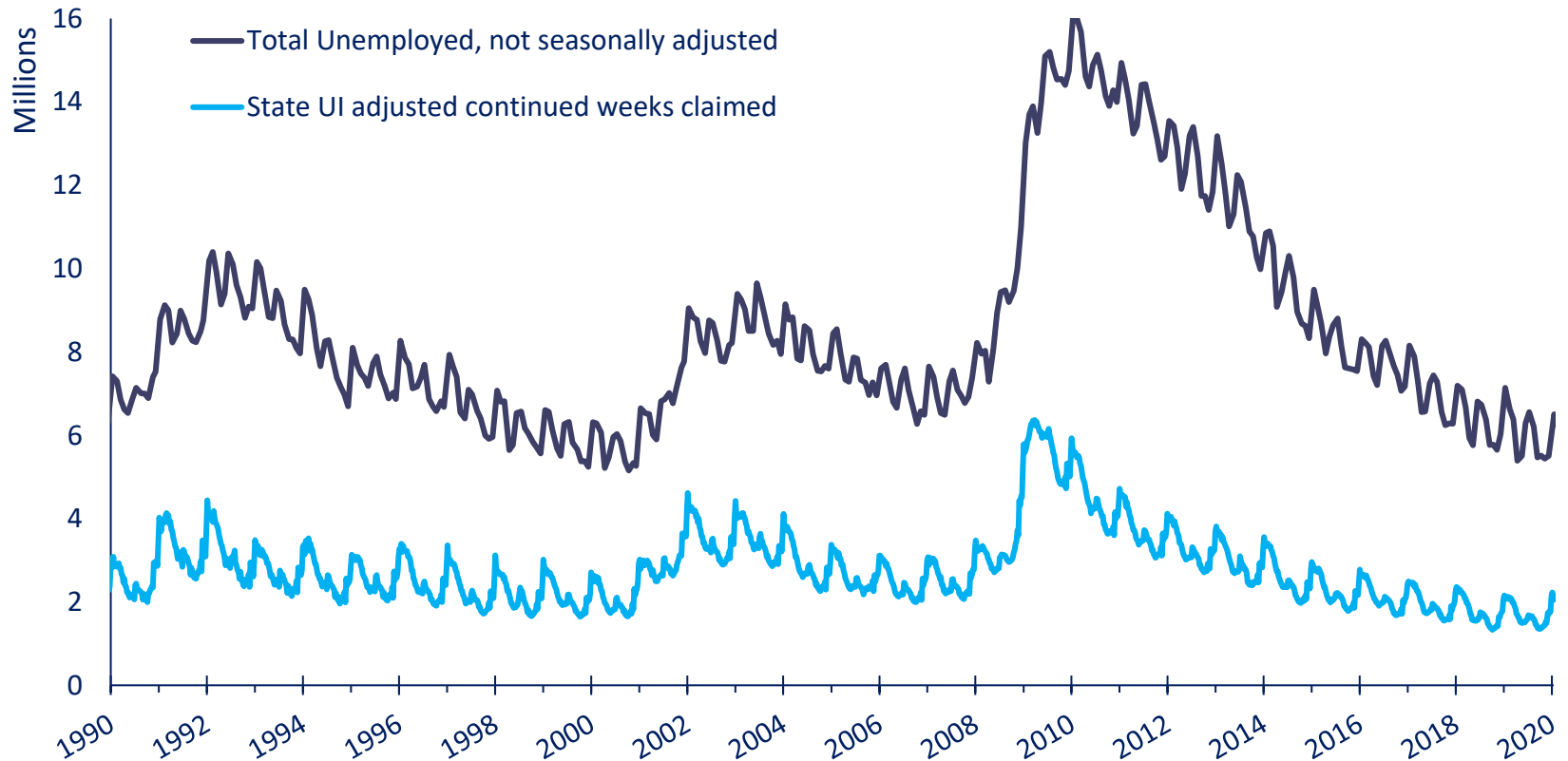
ACS

- Annual survey mostly self-administered to about 3.5 million households
- Covers more topics than CPS
- Aligns with CPS labor force concepts but asks fewer questions
- Provides more geographic and demographic detail than CPS or LAUS

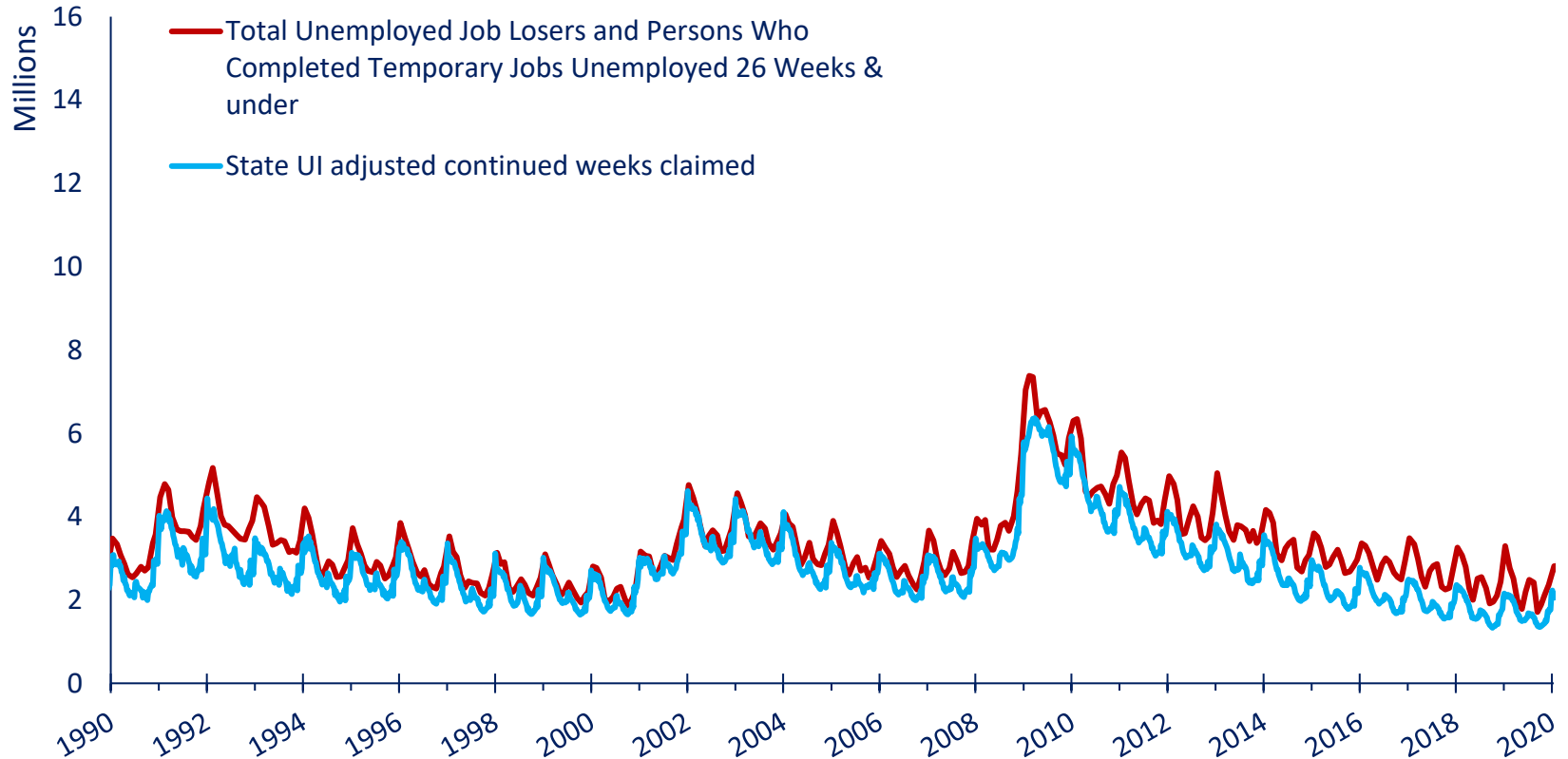
ACS vs. CPS Unemployed



UI vs. CPS Unemployed



UI vs. CPS Unemployed



UI vs. CPS Unemployed



Focus on CPS and LAUS Data



CPS and LAUS Concepts

- **Employed:**
 - ▶ Did any work for pay or profit last week
 - ▶ With a job, but not at work (e.g. vacation, maternity leave, bad weather)
- **Unemployed:**
 - ▶ Without a job last week
 - ▶ Currently available to take a job
 - ▶ Actively looking in prior 4 weeks or waiting to be recalled from layoff
- **Not in labor force: neither employed nor unemployed**



CPS and LAUS Concepts

Resident Population

Aged 16
Years and
Older

Active-Duty
Military

Institutional
Residents

Civilian Noninstitutional Population

Not in the
Labor Force

Civilian Labor Force

Employed

Unemployed

Reasons for Unemployment

- Job losers, including those on temporary layoff and persons who completed temporary jobs
- Job leavers
- New entrants
- Reentrants



CPS Methods

- National survey of about 60,000 households
- Questions regarding one week of activity
- In-person and telephone interviews
- Households interviewed 8 times over 16 months
- Sample stratified by geography
- Responses benchmarked to state population, age, sex, race, and ethnicity



LAUS Methods

- Time-Series model
 - ▶ Census Divisions
 - ▶ States (plus select metropolitan areas/divisions and their respective balances of state)
- “Handbook” method
 - ▶ Counties (Labor Market Areas in New England)
- Disaggregation
 - ▶ Cities and Towns
 - ▶ Minor Civil Divisions

LAUS Inputs

- Time-Series model
 - ▶ CPS unemployment
 - ▶ UI continued claims without earnings
- “Handbook” method
 - ▶ UI continued claims without earnings
 - ▶ CPS data
 - ▶ Intercensal population data
- Disaggregation
 - ▶ UI continued claims without earnings
 - ▶ Census population data



Accessing Data

- Time-series data
 - ▶ One-Screen tool
 - ▶ Flat files
- Tables
- Supplements
- Geographic Profile



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