welcome
#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
- Were available for work, except for temporary illness
- Made specific (active) efforts to find work during the prior 4-week period
- 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

ACS Civilian Unemployed

CPS Unemployed, Annual Average
UI vs. CPS Unemployed

- Total Unemployed, not seasonally adjusted
- State UI adjusted continued weeks claimed
UI vs. CPS Unemployed

- Total Unemployed Job Losers and Persons Who Completed Temporary Jobs Unemployed 26 Weeks & under
- State UI adjusted continued weeks claimed

Millions

UI vs. CPS Unemployed

- Total Unemployed Job Losers and Persons Who Completed Temporary Jobs Unemployed 26 Weeks & under
- State UI adjusted continued weeks claimed
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
Contact Information

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