

Your-economy Time Series (YTS) In-business Focus

YTS (Your-economy Time Series) is an annual establishment-level time-series database used by academic researchers, policy makers, and economic development analysts following companies at their unique locations across the U.S. YTS tracks all establishments (and their jobs and sales), including for-profit (both privately-owned and publicly-traded), non-profits, and government establishments.

Dynamic In-business Establishments

YTS focuses on establishments that are “in-business” meaning they are, or intent on, conducting commercial activities. By contrast, businesses that are created for the purpose of housing financial, real estate, and tax reporting entities, or are suspected of never actually starting commercial activities are not included in YTS.

Why Use Only In-business Establishments?

BDRC learned from several research initiatives working with both Dun & Bradstreet (D&B) and Infogroup longitudinal establishment data that it would be more accurate to use highly verified, in-business data. Overall we find the dynamic nature (peaks and valleys) of establishment data maintained, discovering trends that accurately reflect business activity without the use of heavy estimation or the inclusion of businesses that likely do/did not participate in the economy.

By definition and due to the volatile nature of non in-business (or Suspect) establishments, they will have incomplete information, particularly as it pertains to longitudinal data. The primary areas where this is obvious and can noticeably bias the data:

- Jobs and Sales - some Suspect jobs and most Suspect sales numbers are null and would need estimation effecting job churn factors (birth, death, expansion, contraction, moves)
- Industry Codes - some Suspect establishments strongly cluster in particular industry codes or are unclassified and need further verification for more accurate placement
- Actual Year Started - most Suspect establishments do not have a verified year established or “year start” date. Determining or estimating these actual start dates accurately (and not the date the establishment was entered into the data) is almost impossible.

Jobs in YTS vs. FTE

Jobs in YTS are defined as all persons currently working at an establishment including full-time, part-time, and temporary workers. This includes proprietorships and sole-proprietorships (self-employed), and makes no distinction between employee or non-employee designations.

The government data (QCEW) will not count proprietorships (partners) and sole-proprietorships as jobs, and will only begin to count jobs when they hire a full-time employee (FTE). **Example:** two people file an LLC online to start a business. They begin commercial activity, and after 3 months they hire their first FTE. Total jobs in YTS, 2 when commercial activity began and 3 when the first FTE is hired. Total jobs from the government's definition, 0 when commercial activities began and 1 when the first FTE is hired.