2017 Economic Census: Data Dissemination

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What Is the Economic Census?

Economic Census
The foundation for measuring business activity across the U.S. economy

Source
Why Do We Need an Economic Census?

• To provide data at detailed geographic and industry levels, which smaller surveys cannot do.
• To obtain comprehensive data on total activity to benchmark smaller, more frequent surveys.
• To update the Census Bureau’s master list of businesses.

From the FAQ
The Economic Census 2017

• Data releases start this month with “Economy Wide Business Statistics for the U.S.” and will be completed by December 2021.

• Key changes relative to the Economic Census 2012:
  • Uses the new data.census.gov platform, replacing American Fact Finder.
  • Uses the new 2017 North American Product Classification System (NAPCS) for detailed data on Product Lines, which are distinct from industry classifications (NAICS).
  • Accommodates new privacy rules, particularly the suppression of the establishment count when less than 3.
Questions for the Committee, I

• Looking ahead to the 2022 Economic Census, are there emerging trends that may need to be researched and data collected on?
  • The gig economy, as a (possibly) growing share of economic activity
  • Integration of data on non-employer businesses, more generally
  • Inclusion of data on occupation types (e.g. skilled versus unskilled), as a matter of economic importance comparable to main business activity (industry) and product lines.
## Where Was Uber in 2012?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAICS 485310</th>
<th>Number of establishments</th>
<th>Revenue ($1,000)</th>
<th>Annual payroll ($1,000)</th>
<th>First-quarter payroll ($1,000)</th>
<th>Paid employees for pay period incl. March 12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All establishments</td>
<td>3,050</td>
<td>2,476,673</td>
<td>729,417</td>
<td>176,179</td>
<td>33,404</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operated entire year</td>
<td>2,515</td>
<td>2,408,643</td>
<td>713,097</td>
<td>172,834</td>
<td>32,603</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 5 Employees</td>
<td>1,427</td>
<td>246,091</td>
<td>43,881</td>
<td>10,531</td>
<td>2,467</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 - 6</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>89,333</td>
<td>22,322</td>
<td>5,524</td>
<td>1,238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 - 9</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>152,805</td>
<td>30,698</td>
<td>7,574</td>
<td>1,798</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 - 14</td>
<td>227</td>
<td>197,526</td>
<td>50,550</td>
<td>12,244</td>
<td>2,638</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 - 19</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>120,700</td>
<td>32,460</td>
<td>8,432</td>
<td>1,721</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 - 49</td>
<td>209</td>
<td>469,605</td>
<td>129,315</td>
<td>31,885</td>
<td>6,074</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 - 99</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>364,692</td>
<td>96,576</td>
<td>23,692</td>
<td>3,858</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100 or more</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>767,891</td>
<td>307,295</td>
<td>72,952</td>
<td>12,809</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did not operate entire year</td>
<td>535</td>
<td>68,030</td>
<td>16,320</td>
<td>3,345</td>
<td>801</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Can We Make This More of a Census?

Is it possible to merge in data from the Nonemployer Statistics dataset, following the example of the merged file of the NES with the County Business Patterns dataset?
Thinking About Occupations

• When local governments and businesses worry about their local economies, are they thinking only about industries (firms) and products, or are they thinking about occupations (workers) too?

• The Census Bureau has several household level surveys that include information on occupation and industry – ACS, CPS, and SIPP.

• The BLS has an establishment level survey, Occupational Employment Statistics, to produce estimates of wages and employment by occupation, at state- and MSA-levels of geographic detail.

• Would occupational information not also be relevant in the Economic Census, to capitalize on its geographic detail and sampling frame?
Questions for the Committee, II

• What are the concerns about the impact on data and availability of data with changes to disclosure (…)? How should we inform the data users about this change and its effects on the data products?
  • I don’t think that “Percentage of Rows Suppressed” is enough – I would want to also know the Percentage of Revenue that is omitted. I suspect it is small, given the skewness of that distribution.
  • Let the focus group and literature review be your guide.