

Openings for Economists at the U.S. Census Bureau

Economists at the Census Bureau conduct independent economic research using the high quality and detailed business and household microdata collected by the agency. This research provides a benefit to the Census Bureau. Many of our papers published in professional journals and presented at various conferences feature analyses using internal data files.



WHAT WE DO

- Relevant research topics include
 - Industrial organization, productivity, trade, entrepreneurship, innovation
 - Labor market dynamics, inequality, and economic mobility
 - Income, assets, poverty, program participation, health and disability
 - Housing, family, education, migration



QUALIFICATIONS

- While Ph.D.s are preferred, advanced ABDs are also encouraged to apply
- U.S. citizenship is required
- Experience with administrative, household-, firm-, and/or industry-level data
- Data manipulation and analysis



LOCATION AND BENEFITS

- [Location and Work Environment](#)
- [Benefits and Compensation](#)



HOW TO CONTACT US

- See the U.S. Census Bureau listing in Job Openings for Economists
- Submit required materials via the “Apply for this job” link found in the JOE ad
 - Vita
 - Research paper demonstrating strong empirical skills
 - Three letters of recommendation
- We will recruit at the 2020 American Economic Association meetings.
- Positions are subject to budgetary approval; U.S. Census Bureau is an equal opportunity employer

Look for Census Bureau tweets about the stages of our hiring process #EJMinfo

Working at the Center for Economic Studies (CES)



CES MISSION

The Center for Economic Studies (CES) partners with stakeholders within and outside the Census Bureau to improve measures of the economy and people of the United States through research and the development of innovative data products.



ABOUT CES

- Over 50 Ph.D. economists conduct research over a variety of fields using Census Bureau business and household data to inform government, academia, and business
- Researchers are required to actively participate in the wider research community by publishing research papers and presenting research results at professional conferences
- Collaboration with researchers within and outside the Census Bureau is strongly encouraged and is facilitated by the [Federal Statistical Research Data Center](#) network
- CES is part of the Census Bureau's Research and Methodology Directorate



CES HISTORY

CES was established in 1982, in what is now the Economic Programs area of the Census Bureau. It was a small research unit that focused on creating longitudinal databases and used them to conduct innovative research, initially only in the manufacturing sector. In the 1980s and early 1990s, researchers who wanted to work with business microdata needed to conduct that research onsite at Census Bureau headquarters in Suitland, MD. In his 1991 Nobel Prize Lecture, Ronald Coase acknowledged, "we can also hope to learn much more in the future from the studies of the activities of firms which have recently been initiated by the Center for Economic Studies of the Bureau of the Census of the United States." By the mid-1990s, the scope of the center's work had greatly expanded, culminating in the creation of the new economy-wide Longitudinal Business Database and the creation of new research data centers (RDC) at remote locations. The creation and expansion of the RDCs in CES from 1994 to 2018 has led to a highly collaborative research environment among the staff and also with outside researchers. In the late 2000s, the Longitudinal Employer and Household Dynamics (LEHD) program was folded into CES greatly expanding the breadth of research conducted by the economists in CES. It also resulted in CES becoming much more closely tied to the creation of new statistical products instead of just conducting and supporting research at the Census Bureau. In 2018, CES was part of a larger reorganization of the Census Bureau, which resulted in the creation of four distinct, but collaborative research areas within CES: Business Research, Interdisciplinary Research, LEHD Research and Demographic Research. CES has roughly 70 researchers, with over 50 holding Ph.D.s, in an array of fields including economics, sociology, demography and history.



CES RESEARCH

CES research staff use confidential microdata from Census Bureau censuses and surveys of business and households, linked employer-employee data, and administrative records from federal and state agencies to carry out empirical research that leads to:

- Discoveries in economics and other social sciences not possible using publicly available data.
- Improvements in existing Census Bureau surveys and data products.
- Enhancements to research microdata for future researchers.
- New statistics and information products for public use.

Research findings are disseminated through [publications](#), [CES discussion papers](#), conferences and seminars, and our [annual report](#).

To learn more about the CES researchers and their work, please visit our [list of researchers](#).



CES DATA PRODUCTS

In addition to leading to important discoveries in economics, CES research has led to the creation of a number of innovative public-use data products, including:

- [Business Dynamics Statistics \(BDS\)](#)
- [Business Formation Statistics \(BFS\)](#)
- [Job-to-Job Flows \(J2J\)](#)
- [LEHD Origin-Destination Employment Statistics \(LODES\)](#)
- [Opportunity Atlas](#)
- [Post-Secondary Employment Outcomes \(PSEO\)](#)
- [Quarterly Workforce Indicators \(QWI\)](#)
- [Synthetic Longitudinal Business Database \(SynLBD\)](#)

These products all use data from existing censuses and surveys, as well as from administrative sources, thereby imposing no additional reporting burden.



CES BUSINESS RESEARCH AREA PROJECTS

Researchers in the Business Research Area work on a variety of projects. Some examples include:

- *Longitudinal Business Database (LBD) Development:* Link business data snapshots over time to provide longitudinally consistent time series of firm activity in the US economy. Work is on-going to improve linking methods, imputation methods, and provide a consistent set of NAICS industry codes. The LBD is the source data for the Business Dynamics Statistics (BDS) annual publication.
- *Business Dynamics Statistics of Globally Engaged Firms:* Use administrative data to identify firms that export and import merchandise goods and investigate annual patterns in their business dynamics (such as job creation and destruction) for the economy and aggregated by establishment and firm characteristics.
- *Identifying Innovative Firms:* Leverage administrative and survey data to identify firms engaged in innovative activities. This often involves linking external data sources such as patents and trademarks or BLS industry-occupation employment estimates, but we also use R&D survey data and information on employment growth dynamics.

- *Innovation Measurement Initiative (IMI)*: The Innovation Measurement Initiative (IMI) is part of the project to enhance the Longitudinal Business Database, and aims to develop innovation indicators based on administrative data from universities (UMETRICS) matched to federal data. The UMETRICS data include information on awards, wage payments from awards to university research employees, vendor purchases, subcontracts, and the unit performing the funded research for 26 universities. These data can be linked to internal Census Bureau data products, such as the Decennial Census, American Communities Survey, Longitudinal Employee-Employer Household Dynamics database (LEHD), and the integrated Longitudinal Business Database, providing researchers with a comprehensive view on the businesses associated with the production of scientific research.



CES DEMOGRAPHIC RESEARCH AREA PROJECTS —

Researchers in the Demographic Research Area work on a variety of projects. Some examples include:

- *Program participation estimates*: Link state administrative data on federally funded, stat-run programs (SNAP, TANF, and WIC) to data from the American Community Survey to produce program participation estimates for demographic subgroups at the county and congressional district levels.
- *Non-Employer Statistics by Demographics (NESD)*: Use administrative and survey data to attach demographic characteristics to owners of businesses that don't have employees and characterize these businesses as owned by members of various demographic groups.



Working at Social Economic and Housing Statistics Division (SEHSD)



ABOUT SEHSD

- Federal government's provider of regularly updated information on U.S. social, economic, employment, and housing characteristics
- Staff of economists, sociologists, demographers, and other social scientists
- Conduct all phases of socio-economic research from survey design through data analysis
- Collaboration with SEHSD colleagues and researchers within and outside the Census Bureau is strongly encouraged



SEHSD MISSION

In concert with others at the Census Bureau, we compile, analyze, and publish timely and accurate data on the physical, social, and financial characteristics of the Nation's housing, on its use and occupancy, and on the income, labor force, and other socioeconomic characteristics of the Nation's households, families, and individuals.

We review and release almost all of the socioeconomic and housing data on households and individuals. Our data production activities cover a wide range of topics, including income, poverty, health insurance, disability, homeownership rates, wealth, marriage, and fertility. They also cover several large-scale, widely used datasets, including the Current Population Survey, American Community Survey, Survey of Income and Program Participation, and American Housing Survey.

SEHSD analysts conduct research and develop new data products using data from Census Bureau surveys and administrative records from federal agencies, state and local governments, and private sources. Recent research and data products include a new supplemental poverty measure, an analysis of the returns to schooling when individuals have multiple unobserved skills, a demographic portrait of multiple partner fertility in the United States, and improved estimates of the financial resources of older Americans. Many of these products use unique datasets available to Census Bureau researchers, including survey data linked to administrative records.

We have about 40 Ph.D. level analysts, including about 15 economists. We view the Ph.D. level analysts as ambassadors for Census Bureau data. To learn more about the work of SEHSD researchers, please visit our [researcher profiles](#).



SEHSD RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT

- Examine methodological and analytic research questions that cannot be addressed by publicly available data
- Internal confidential versions of data available including:
 - [Current Population Survey](#)
 - [Survey of Income and Program Participation](#)
 - [American Community Survey](#) and [Decennial Census](#)
 - Housing data from the [American Housing Survey](#) and the [New York City Housing and Vacancy Survey](#)
- Research contributions are valued, including
 - Census Bureau reports
 - Working papers
 - Conference presentations
 - Peer-reviewed publications
- Work independently and jointly with
 - Other government agencies
 - Academic and private collaborators including [National Science Foundation](#) grant recipients
- Two seminar series foster active collaboration with other researchers
 - Informal “Research Lunch” working paper development series
 - Formal Research Seminar series with speakers from academia and other government agencies



SEHSD WORKING PAPER SERIES

SEHSD maintains a working papers series with contributions from our multidisciplinary team of researchers. The series includes papers on a broad range of social, economics, and demographic topics. The following list contains some recent examples. To browse a complete list of SEHSD working papers released since 1985, or to access the full text of a paper, please visit the [SEHSD Working Papers](#) page of the Census library website.



RECENT SEHSD CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

SEHSD researchers have recently presented their research at professional association conferences including:

- Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, November 2019, 2018
- Joint Statistical Meetings, July 2019
- Western Economic Association, June 2019
- Eastern Economic Association, March 2019
- Population Association of America, April 2019, 2018
- Southern Economic Association, November 2018
- American Economic Association, January 2018