

# What's up with innovation at BLS?

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# BLS mission

- Principal Federal agency responsible for measuring

- ▶ labor market activity
- ▶ working conditions
- ▶ price changes in the economy



- Collect, analyze, and disseminate essential economic information
- Support public and private decision making

# BLS building blocks



ccurate. . . Getting it right



bjective. . . Free from bias



relevant. . . Information you can use



imely. . . Getting it out quickly



ccessible. . . Meeting you where you are

# Challenges are a catalyst for innovation

- Doing more with less
- Keeping pace with changing world
- Improving through innovation



# Non-survey data sources

## ■ Types

- ▶ Government administrative data
- ▶ Private sector aggregators
- ▶ Corporate data

## ■ Challenges

- ▶ Access
- ▶ Quality
- ▶ Customized programming



# Non-survey data sources (cont'd)

## ■ Benefits

- ▶ Reduce respondent burden
- ▶ Reduce collection costs
- ▶ Expand coverage



# Innovative techniques: web scraping

- Web scraping at BLS
  - ▶ Collect model attributes and prices for Consumer Price Index quality adjustment
- Benefits
  - ▶ Enhance quality of indexes
  - ▶ Reduce collection cost
  - ▶ Reduce respondent burden







# Innovative techniques: data matching

- Leveraging BEA data

- ▶ Augments existing BEA data with QCEW data
- ▶ Enhances value of data to the American public



# Interactive chart galleries

- New feature in news releases
- Customizable data visualization
- Added to all Principle Federal Economic Indicators by end of year
- Coming soon to more releases



# Example: Employment Situation

## Civilian unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted

Click and drag within the chart to zoom in on time periods



# Contingent Workers Survey

- Increased interest in the “gig economy”
- Last done in 2005
- New focus on jobs
  - ▶ Obtained through Internet/mobile app-based intermediary companies
  - ▶ Done in-person or completely online



# Occupational Requirements Survey

- Provide unique data on job-related demands
- View data from different perspectives through an interactive platform



# Conclusion

- Innovate as the workplace continues to evolve
- Adapt to meet customers' needs whenever feasible
- Explore new opportunities for improvement
- Unlock potential for long-term growth



# You can help



# Contact Information

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# Appendix



# News release re-design: key feedback

- Less text & simplified language
- More charts and maps
- Link to data, definitions, and methodology
- Data in accessible formats



# Contingent vs. Alternative employment arrangements

- Not mutually exclusive concepts
- A person can be both



# Resources for researchers and leaders

## ■ BLS public data

- ▶ Aggregate data (all programs, with API option)
- ▶ Supplemental data and charts

## ■ Protected confidential microdata

- ▶ BLS microdata access program
- ▶ Federal Statistical Research Data Centers