JOLTS Item Imputation using Historical JOLTS data

Mark Crankshaw
Bureau of Labor Statistics
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College Park, MD

Disclaimer: The views expressed are those of the author and do not reflect the views of the Bureau of Labor Statistics.



JOLTS

- Job Opening and Labor Turnover Survey (JOLTS)
- Sample Survey of US businesses
- Frame: BLS Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages
- Sample Size: ~21,000 business establishments
- Since Dec 2000
- Historical Response Rate: 55%
- Item Response Rate: ~90%



Job Openings and Labor Turnover Report

U.S. Department of Labor



This report is authorized by 29 U.S.C.2. Your voluntary cooperation is needed to make the results of this survey comprehensive, accurate, and timely. The Bureau of Labor Statistics, its employees, agents, and partner statistical agencies, will use the information you provide for statistical purposes only and will hold the information in confidence to the full extent permitted by law. In accordance with the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act (44 U.S.C. 3572) and other applicable Federal laws, your responses will not be disclosed in identifiable form without your informed consent. Per the Federal Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2015, Federal information systems are protected from milicious activities through cybersecurity screening of transmitted data.

BLS Form No. BLS-1411-C1

Your reporting number is: Need help with this form? Call 1-800-341-4620.

1	1 This form requests information about job openings and employee turnover at: COUNTY:								
				UI: in					
2	Please check all that apply: Employees are paid each week every two weeks twice a month once a month other								
3			time period indicate back of this page for				IA" if data		
		EMPLOYMENT	JOB OPENINGS	HIRES		SEPARATIONS			
		Number of full- or part-time employees who worked or received pay for the pay period that includes the 12th of	A job is open if it meets all three conditions: • A specific position exists	A hire is any addition to your payroll, and: May be a new hire or a previously separated rehire	Quits (Except retirements)	Layoffs and Discharges • Layoffs • Discharges • Terminations	Other Retirements Transfers from this location		
		the month	Work could start within 30 days You are actively seeking workers from outside this location to fill the position	May be permanent, short-term, or seasonal May be a recall from layoff		of permanent, short-term, or seasonal employees	Employee disability Deaths		
		Α	В	C	D	E	F		
	Report for month of:	Total Employment for the pay period that includes the 12th of the month	Number of Job Openings on the last business day of the month	Hires and Recalls for the entire month	Quits	Layoffs and Discharges for the entire mon	Other Separations		
_									
-									

C1 - CATT_BASIC Page 1

IMPORTANT

This form requests information about employees on your payroll at the location shown in Section 1 on the front of this page. Please follow these instructions as you prepare your information.

Column A

Total Employment

for the pay period that includes the 12th of the month. Report all persons on your payroll who worked or received

pay for the pay period that includes the 12th of the month. INCLUDE:

- . Full-time and part-time employees
- · Permanent, short-term, and seasonal employees
- · Salaried and hourly workers
- Employees on paid vacation or other paid leave

DO NOT INCLUDE:

- Proprietors and partners of unincorporated businesses
- · Unpaid family workers
- . Employees on strike for the entire pay period
- Employees on leave without pay for the entire pay period
- Employees of temporary help agencies, employee leasing companies, outside contractors, or consultants. (These employees will be counted by their employer of record.)

Column B

Job Openings

on the last business day of the month.

Report all positions that are open (not filled) on the last business day of the month. A job is open only if it meets all three of these conditions:

- A specific position exists and there is work available for that position. The position can be full-time or part-time, and it can be permanent, short-term, or seasonal, and
- The job could start within 30 days, whether or not you find a suitable candidate during that time, and
- You are actively recruiting workers from outside the location shown in Section 1 on the front of this page

What is active recruiting? Active recruiting means your establishment is taking steps to fill a position. It may include advertising in newspapers, on television, or on radio; posting Internet notices; posting "help wanted" signs; networking or making "word of mouth" announcements; accepting applications; interviewing candidates; contacting employment agencies; or soliciting employees at job fairs, state or local employment offices, or similar sources.

DO NOT INCLUDE:

- Positions open only to internal transfers, promotions or demotions, or recall from lavoffs
- Openings for positions with start dates more than 30 days in the future
- Positions for which employees have been hired, but the employees have not yet reported for work
- Positions to be filled by employees of temporary help agencies, employee leasing companies, outside contractors, or consultants

Column C

Hires and Recalls

Report all additions to your payroll during the month.

ICLUDE:

- · Newly hired and rehired employees
- · Full-time and part-time employees
- · Permanent, short-term, and seasonal employees
- Employees who were recalled to a job at this location following a layoff (formal suspension from pay status) lasting more than 7 days
- On-call or intermittent employees who returned to work after having been formally separated
- · Workers who were hired and separated during the month
- Transfers from other locations

DO NOT INCLUDE:

- · Transfers or promotions within this location
- Employees returning from strike
- Employees of temporary help agencies, employee leasing companies, outside contractors, or consultants

Columns D, E, and F

Separations

for the entire month.

Report all separations from your payroll during the month. Report by type of separation.

- Column D, Quits: Employees who left voluntarily.
 Exception: Report retirements or transfers to other locations with Other Separations in Column F.
- Column E, Layoffs and Discharges: Involuntary separations initiated by the employer, including:
- Layoffs with no intent to rehire
- Layoffs (formal suspensions from pay status) lasting or expected to last more than 7 days. (If the employee was later recalled, also include in the Hires column.)
- Discharges resulting from mergers, downsizing, or closings
- Firings or other discharges for cause
- Terminations of permanent or short-term employees
- Terminations of seasonal employees (whether or not they are expected to return next season)
- Column F, Other Separations: Retirements; transfers to other locations; separations due to employee disability; deaths.

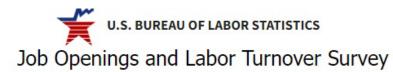
DO NOT INCLUDE:

- · Transfers within this location
- Employees on strike
- Employees of temporary help agencies, employee leasing companies, outside contractors, or consultants

We estimate it will take an serrage of 10 minutes to complete this form each month, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, guthering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing this information. If you have any comments regarding these estimates or any other appet on this survey, send them to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Valuanashaneth Avenues, NR, Boom 4484, Washington, Dr. 2021; X our are not required to respond to the cellection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB central number.

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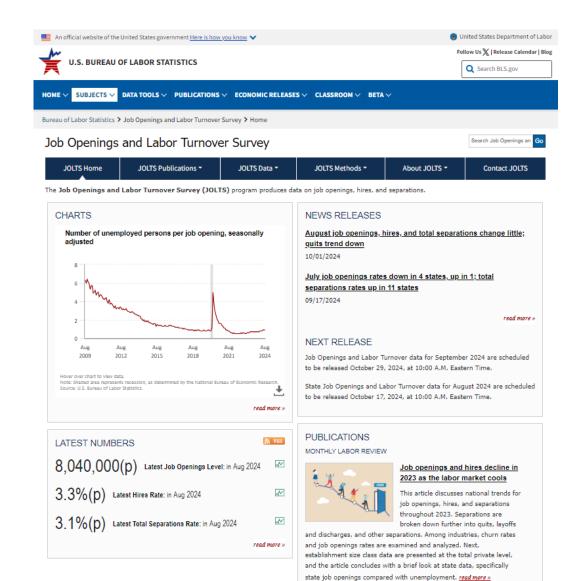












1 2 3 4

■ Publish:

- ▶ Job Opening Rate
- Hires Rate
- Quits Rate
- L&DRate
- Other Sep Rate
- ► Total Sep Rate
- Monthly Estimates
- Rates relative toCES Employment



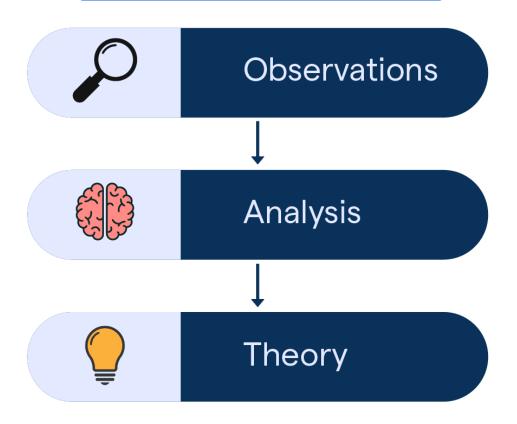
Item Imputation

EMP	JO	Н	Q	LD	os	TS
82	2	2	1	0	0	1
9	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
51	2	0	0	0	0	0
NRESP						
NRESP						
42	0	1	1	2	0	3
43	0	NA	1	0	0	1
16	1	5	1	0	0	1
10	NA	4	3	0	1	4
99	2	NA	0	1	0	1

NRESP Unit Non-Respondent
NA Item Non-Respondent



Inductive Reasoning



Employment Change drives JOLTS



Employment Change













Employment Change



Implied Employment Change









MONTH: PREVIOUS							
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY		
XXX			TID 16	WDYY.			
WE	EK (JRMIN		71U-1			
		MONDAY TUESDAY	MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY	MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY	IVIOIN I I I ¹		

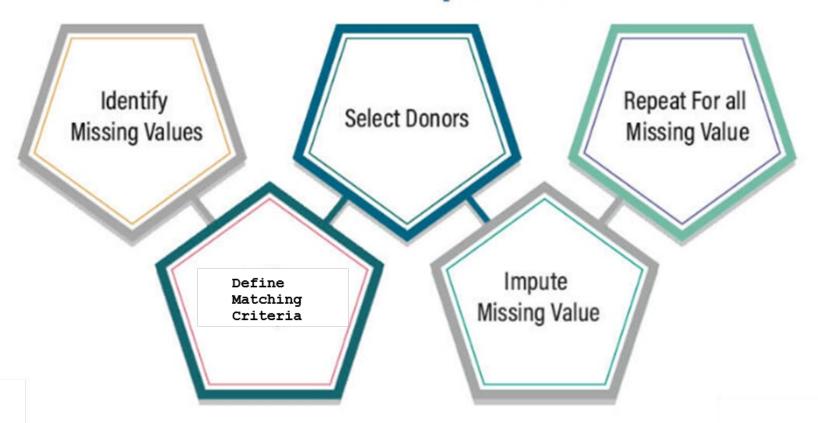
_						
		MONTH:	CURR	ENT		
SUNDAY	MONDAY		WEDNESDAY		FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	•					
	WH	EK (F TI	TR 19	тн	
	'' -					

	MONTH: CURRENT						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
				1			
	,						



JOLTS Imputation History

Hot Deck Imputation







Problem

Matching Criteria

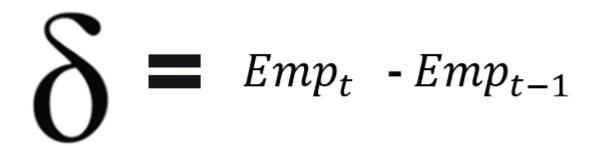
Nearest Current Employment

Sub Optimal



Employment Change





 Emp_{t-1}

EMP





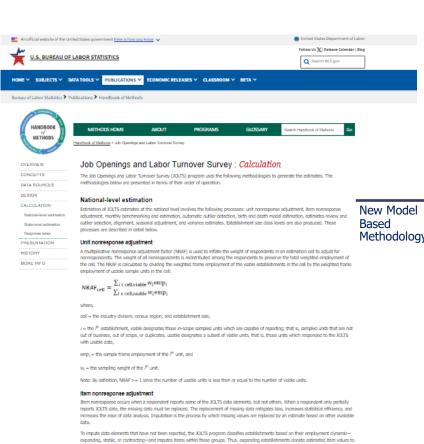
 Emp_{t-1}



Current Employment Statistics (CES)

• Item Imputation added to CES-JOLTS Divergence





expanding establishments, stable to stable, and contracting to contracting. Drawing imputed values from a model-based donor distribution derived from reported data within a dynamic grouping reduces variation in the estimates. The imputation model also ensures that imputed

The imputation methodology produces three separate models for each of the XOLTS industry imputation cells. One model is based on the respondent rate distribution of stable establishments, a second is based on the respondent rate distribution of expanding establishments, and a third is based on the respondent rate distribution of contracting establishments. The employment dynamics dessification is based on the reported over-the-month employment change of the respondents. The purpose of the models is to estimate vital characteristics of the entire distribution (mean, standard-deviation, skewness) based on full respondent data and then to impute missing values using a random draw from the estimated distribution.

data within dynamic groups are consistent with reported data within the corresponding groups without biasing the means of the data

Suppose that \$\tilde{\theta}_{\text{d.t.}}\$ represents a variable of interest in JOLTS (job openings, hires, etc.) in industry id for a given month t. JOLTS item imputation is concerned only with those sampled establishments that reported at least employment. Complete nonrespondents are accounted for in XXLTS using a nonresponse adjustment factor (NRAF). Therefore, for each variable θ_{ML} , respondent establishments can be classified as either item respondents (OM.t.III) or as item nonrespondent (OM.t.IIII). Suppose that OIAT represents reported employment for a JOLTS respondent within a given industry id and given month t and that \$16.1-1 represents reported employment for the same JOLTS respondent within a given inclustry id and in the previous month. We can then define employments change as $(\epsilon_{\text{ld},t} - \epsilon_{\text{ld},t-1})$.

The XXITS imputation methodology subdivides the current industry imputation cell into three parts based on the reported employment change (\$16.t - \$16.t-1) for each respondent establishment.

 $\epsilon_{id,t} = \epsilon_{id,t-1} = 0$ is the stable group with donor rates denoted as $\omega_{i,id,stbi}$

 $\epsilon_{id,t} = \epsilon_{id,t-1} > 0$ is the expanding group with donor rates denoted as $\omega_{\ell,id,exp}$

Methodology

Model donor rates

Based on Employment Change

2018



Expanding ($\delta_{EMP} > 0$)

Stable (δ_{EMP} =0)

Contracting (δ_{EMP} < 0)



Current Month Industry **Establishment Size**



Model Donor Rate Distribution (DRD)

Random Draw from DRD

Level: Reported Emp * Imputed Rate



Better



New Model Based Methodology

Reduced Imputation Contribution to CES-JOLTS Divergence

Reduced burden on JOLTS program office



Limitations



Using only current month data is limiting



Limitations

Little Data in each imputation cell

High Variance

Distributional Skew

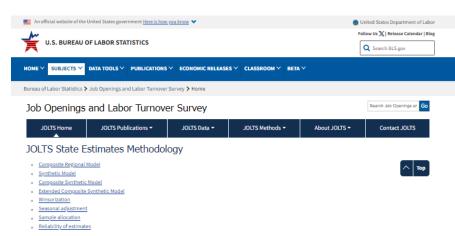
Asymmetrical







Meanwhile...



The JOLTS sample of 21,000 establishments does not directly support the production of sample based state estimates. However, state estimates have been produced by combining the available sample with model-based estimates. As of October 2021, JOLTS state-level estimates will be made available in an official monthly release approximately two weeks after the JOLTS national release. BLS invites data users to comment on both the methodology used to produce these estimates and on the usefulness of these data.

These estimates consist of four major estimating models the Composite Regional model (an unpublished intermediate model), the Synthetic model (an unpublished intermediate model), the Composite Synthetic model (published intermediate model), the Composite Synthetic model (published current benchmark year), and published estimates, composite Synthetic model (published current year monthly series). The Composite Regional model uses DICTS microdata, JOLTS regional published estimates, and Current Employment Statistics (CES) employment data. The Composite Synthetic model uses 10LTS microdata and Synthetic model estimates derived from monthly employment changes in microdata from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), and JOLTS published regional data. The Extended Composite Synthetic extends the Composite Synthetic estimates by ratio-adjusting the Composite Synthetic by the ratio of the current Composite Regional model estimate from one year ago.

The Extended Composite Synthetic model (and its major component—the Composite Regional model) is used to extend the Composite Synthetic estimates because all of the inputs required by this model are available at the time monthly estimate are produced. In contrast, the Composite Synthetic model (and its major component—the Synthetic model) can only be produced when the latest QCEW data are available. The plan is to use Extended Composite Synthetic model estimates to extend the Composite Synthetic model estimates during the annual JOLTs re-tabulation process. The extension of the Composite Synthetic model using current data-based Composite Regional model estimates will ensure that the Composite Synthetic model estimates reflect composite Regional conditions.

The following outlines each model in a non-technical summary format. Each model is summarized separately, and answers the following:

- . What is the approach attempting to do?
- What data inputs are used in the approach?
- How does the approach attempt to use that data?
- What data outputs are produced by the approach?
- What limitations does the approach have?
- What more needs to be done?

Composite Regional Model

What Approach?

The Composite Regional approach calculates state-level JOLTS estimates from JOLTS microdata using sample weights, and the adjustments for non-response (NRAF). The Composite Regional estimate is then benchmarked to CES state-supersector employment to produce state-supersector estimates. The JOLTS sample, by itself, cannot ensure a reasonable yiezed sample for each state-supersector cell. The small JOLTS sample results in quies unimper of state-supersector cells that lack enough data to produce a reasonable estimate. To overcome this issue, the state-level estimates derived directly from the JOLTS sample are augmented using JOLTS regional estimates when the number of respondents is low (that is, less than 30). This approach is known as a composite estimate which leverages the small JOLTS sample to the regarded state processible and suppressible a

JOLTS State Estimation

Model Based (since 2018)

Impute JOLTS data for entire QCEW data using monthly QCEW employment change along with JOLTS Historical data

Ratio adjust model estimates at regional level (imputed JOLTS/estimated JOLTS)



JOINT POINT AND VARIANCE ESTIMATION UNDER A HIERARCHICAL BAYESIAN MODEL FOR SURVEY COUNT DATA* September, 2023

BY TERRANCE D. SAVITSKY^{1,a}, Julie Gershunskaya^{2,b} and Mark Crankshaw^{2,c}

¹Office of Survey Methods Research, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, ^aSavitsky.Terrance@bls.gov

² OEUS Statistical Methods Division, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, bGershunskaya Julie@bls.gov; Crankshaw.Mark@bls.gov

We propose a novel Bayesian framework for the joint modeling of survey point and variance estimates for count data. The approach incorporates an induced prior distribution on the modeled true variance that sets it equal to the generating variance of the point estimate, a key property more readily achieved for continuous data response type models. Our count data model formulation allows the input of domains at multiple resolutions (e.g., states, regions, nation) and simultaneously benchmarks modeled estimates at higher resolutions (e.g., states) to those at lower resolutions (e.g., regions) in a fashion that borrows more strength to sharpen our domain estimates at higher resolutions. We conduct a simulation study that generates a population of units within domains to produce ground truth statistics to compare to direct and modeled estimates performed on samples taken from the population where we show improved reductions in error across domains. The model is applied to the job openings variable and other data items published in the Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey administered by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

1. Introduction. Count data response variables are commonly measured by government surveys; for example, the American Community Survey administered by the U.S. Census Bureau counts the population below a poverty threshold for household domains indexed by geography (e.g., census tracts). The U.S. Census Bureau administer the Consumer Expenditures surveys of consumer units (independent households) for the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) that include count variables related to local and regional locations of the consumer units. BLS administers surveys and a census instrument of business establishments related to total employment and its components (e.g., job openings, hires, separations).

As with surveys conducted for continuous data response types, surveys that include count data responses aggregate respondent-level counts, such as total employment for a business establishment respondent, to a collection of domains (such as state-by-industry classification) and produce both a point estimate and an estimated variance statistic for each domain. Small domain estimation models for the continuous response type that jointly model the point estimates and the estimated variances for the domains exist within both frequentist and Bayesian frameworks; see, for example, Maiti et al. (2014) and Sugasawa et al. (2017). These models borrow strength from the underlying correlations among the domain estimates to provide de-noised model-based estimators that are

arXiv: math.PR/0000000

APPLIED STATISTICS AN OVEREME JOHNNON OF THE INSTITUTE OF MATHEMATICAL STATISTICS

THE ANNALS

JOLTS State **Estimation**

Bayesian (QCEW model prior, posterior informed by reported JOLTS data

Terrance Savitsky, Julie Gershunskaya

https://www.bls.gov/osmr/researchpapers/2023/pdf/st230090.pdf



^{*}U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2 Massachusetts Ave. N.E, Washington, D.C. 20212 USA Keywords and phrases: Bayesian hierarchical models, Small Area Estimation, Count data, Stan.



JOLTS Item Imputation

If we can impute QCEW records using employment change and historical JOLTS data, why could we not impute JOLTS data using historical JOLTS data?



MOTIVATION

NUMBER OF JOLTS ITEM IMPUTATION DONORS





Hurdles to Using Historical Data



Hurdles

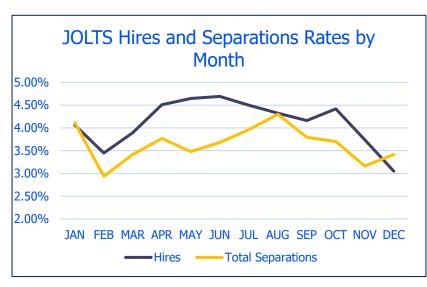
Current data reflects current seasonality and business cycle effects

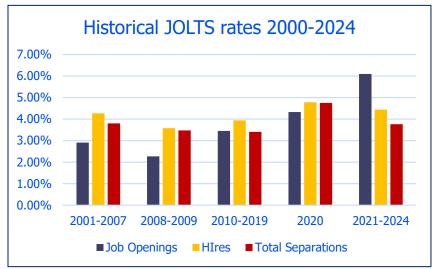
Historical data does not

How to tailor imputed values based upon historical data to reflect current seasonality and business cycle effects



JOLTS Seasonality and Business Cycle Effects



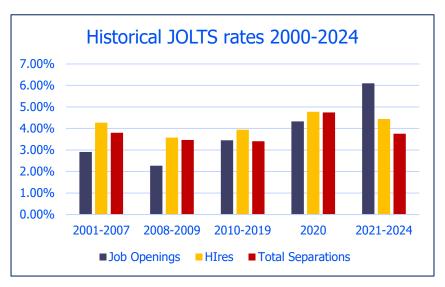


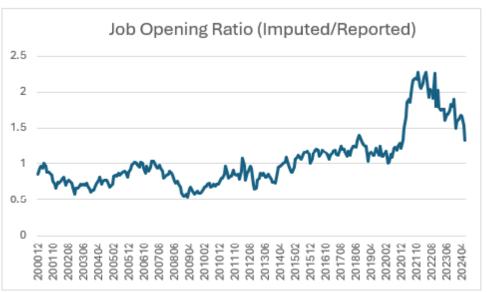


Solution

- Impute for item-respondents (time t)
- Each item respondent: imputed, reported values
- Sum imputed values for each JOLTS variable (t)
- Sum reported values for each JOLTS variable (t)
- Calculate ratio (R) of imputed to reported (t)
- Impute (I) for item-non-respondents (t)
- R * I







Ratio of Imputed to Reported

Ratio ~ 1 when current mean nears historical mean

Ratio > 1 when current mean above historical mean

Ratio < 1 when current mean below historical mean

PERIOD	%JOR
OVERALL	3.62
2001-2007	2.92
2008-2009	2.27
2010-2019	3.45
2020	4.28
2021-2024	6.10



Item Imputation using JOLTS Historical Data

Classify

All historical item reporters by classification scheme used in State QCEW model (2 million +)



Classification Scheme

Employment change (EC) classification	
Contracting Records $emp \Delta$ less than -50 $emp \Delta$ [-30 to -50] $emp \Delta$ [-10 to -30) $emp \Delta$ [-2 to -10) $emp \Delta$ (0 to -2)	Classification C5 C4 C3 C2 C1
Stable Records emp	Classification S
Contracting Records	<u>Classification</u>
emp ∆ (0 to 2)	E1
emp	E2
emp ∆ [10,30)	E3
emp ∆ [30,50)	E4
emp ⊿ greater than 50	E5
No over-the-month employment Records emp ∆ unknown (didn't respond consecutively)	<u>Classification</u> NA

Reported Employment size (SIZE) classification

 $\begin{array}{ll} {\rm Small} & emp_t < 250 \\ {\rm Medium} & 250 <= emp_t <= 1000 \\ {\rm Large} & emp_t > 1000 \end{array}$

Industry (ID) classification	
NAICS Super-sector	Classification
21	Mining & Natural Resources
23	Construction
31	Non-durable Manufacturing
33	Durable Manufacturing
42	Wholesale Trade
44	Retail Trade
48	Warehousing TTU
51	Information
52	Finance
53	Real Estate
54	Professional Services
56	Temp Help
61	Private Educational Services
62	Health & Social Assistance
71	Arts & Entertainment
72	Recreation & Food Services
81	Other Services
91	Federal Government
92	State & Local Education
93	State & Local Non-Education



Classification

Classification Scheme

Classification

~2.1 million historical item reporters

Classified into 720 imputation cells

 $(11 \times 3 \times 20)$



JOLTS Data by Employment Change

EMP Change	N	JOR	HR	QR	LDR	OSR	TSR	H-S
ALL	2,141,794	3.28%	1.94%	0.90%	0.67%	0.20%	1.77%	0.16%
ec <-50	43,061	2.89%	1.56%	1.05%	1.42%	0.32%	2.79%	-1.22%
-30 <ec <="-50</td"><td>22,808</td><td>3.06%</td><td>1.35%</td><td>0.91%</td><td>0.71%</td><td>0.24%</td><td>1.86%</td><td>-0.52%</td></ec>	22,808	3.06%	1.35%	0.91%	0.71%	0.24%	1.86%	-0.52%
-10 < ec <=-30	82,089	3.21%	1.35%	0.93%	0.64%	0.23%	1.80%	-0.45%
-2 < ec <=-10	261,643	3.15%	1.40%	1.02%	0.56%	0.21%	1.80%	-0.39%
0 < ec <=-2	176,663	2.96%	1.42%	1.06%	0.50%	0.20%	1.77%	-0.34%
ec=0	959,221	2.48%	1.31%	0.77%	0.44%	0.14%	1.35%	-0.05%
0 < ec <= 2	173,059	3.03%	1.88%	0.90%	0.42%	0.15%	1.47%	0.41%
2 < ec <= 10	262,126	3.44%	2.02%	0.90%	0.41%	0.16%	1.47%	0.55%
10 < ec <= 30	87,106	3.70%	2.00%	0.83%	0.39%	0.16%	1.38%	0.62%
30 < ec <= 50	24,736	3.77%	2.04%	0.80%	0.38%	0.16%	1.34%	0.70%
ec > 50	49,282	3.49%	2.83%	0.79%	0.51%	0.16%	1.46%	1.37%

Benefit of using Historical Data

Rather than 3 categories there are now 11

Current imputation gets 'direction' but not 'magnitude' effect

Using historical data gets both



Summarize

- For each of the 720 imputation cells (ic) and for all 6 JOLTS variables calculate:
 - \blacktriangleright $(\bar{x}_{v,ic}, s_{v,ic})$ for each v,ic



Current Item Respondents

- Imputed Value= Reported Employment * $\bar{x}_{v,ic}$
- Each Item respondent now has
 - ► Reported Value
 - ► Imputed Value



Calculate Ratio

- For each JOLTS variable (v)
 - ► Calculate weighted sum of imputed values
 - Calculate weighted sum of reported values
 - ► Weight = sample weight



Calculate Ratio

- For each JOLTS variable (v)
 - ► Calculate weighted sum of imputed values (WSI)
 - Calculate weighted sum of reported values (WSR)
 - ► Weight = sample weight



PERIOD	%JOR
OVERALL	3.62
2001-2007	2.92
2008-2009	2.27
2010-2019	3.45
2020	4.28
2021-2024	6.10

Ratio (R) of WSI to WSR

Will be used when imputing item non-respondents

Each month, one R for each JOLTS variable



Current Item Non-Respondents

- Classify Item Non-respondents like Item Respondents
- Imputed Value= draw from $N(\bar{x}_{v,ic}, s_{v,ic})^* R_{v,t}$
- If $N(\bar{x}_{v,ic}, s_{v,ic}) < 0$, then $N(\bar{x}_{v,ic}, s_{v,ic}) = 0$.
 - ► Since JOLTS rates can not be less than 0



Incremental Improvement

- Using $R_{v,t}$ allows historical data derived imputed values to:
 - ► Have the positive attributes of using only current data
 - Seasonality
 - Business Cycle effects
 - Uses massively more data than with using only current data
 - Reduces variance of imputed values
 - Finer gradation of employment change
 - Gets at 'direction' AND 'magnitude'



Thanks

감사합니다 Natick Danke Ευχαριστίες Dalu 号 Тhank You Köszönöm Tack Таск Таск Опасибо Dank Gracias Seé 射射 Merci Seé ありがとう



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Bureau of Labor Statistics

2024 FCSM Research and Policy Conference

October 24, 2024

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