

## Introduction

Several programs at the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) have created experimental data series by size class.

The Business Employment Dynamics program (BED), the Current Employment Statistics program (CES), and the Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey (JOLTS) have developed methods to publish data by size class, distinguishing among small, medium, and large companies. Size-class data totals for an industry show differences in trends among business size groups and provide a more detailed picture of changes in the US economy.

The purpose of this survey is to find out how useful BED data by size class is to you, which additional survey programs are of interest to you (CES, JOLTS, or something else), and what characteristics of the data are of most interest to you.

Your participation in this survey is voluntary. We estimate that it will take you 4 minutes to complete this survey about BED size-class data. We are collecting this information under OMB Number [1225-0088](#). Without this currently approved number, we could not conduct this survey. (Expiration: April 30, 2018)

We appreciate your time and help. Thank you!

Click **Next** below to begin.

This survey is being administered by SurveyMonkey.com and resides on a server outside of the BLS domain. Since the BLS cannot guarantee the protection of survey responses, we advise against including any sensitive or personal information.

## BED Questions

1. How useful are BED employment data by size class to you? (Choose one)
  - Extremely useful
  - Very useful
  - Somewhat useful
  - A little useful
  - Not useful at all
  - Don't know/Not sure
2. When using BED data, what size companies are of interest to you? (Check all that apply)
  - 1-4 employees
  - 5-9 employees
  - 10-19 employees

- 20-49 employees
  - 50-99 employees
  - 100-499 employees
  - 500 or more
  - All of the above
  - I am interested in size class divisions other than those listed above – please describe the size class divisions of interest in the box below
3. When using BED data, what level of industry detail for employment data by size class is of interest to you? (Check all that apply)
- Aggregate industry sectors
  - Major industry sector
  - Detailed industries, including aggregate and major industry sectors
  - Don't know/Not sure
4. When using BED data, what frequency of size-class employment interests you? (Check all that apply)
- Annual
  - Quarterly
  - Don't know/Not sure
5. BED currently offers size-class data at various levels and by multiple methodologies.

BED publishes quarterly firm-size data, at the national level, using “dynamic sizing” methodology. Dynamic sizing allocates each firm’s employment gain or loss during a quarter to each respective size class in which the change occurred. In addition to quarterly dynamic firm-size data, BED also offers annual research size-class data at the firm and establishment level by both “base size” and “average size” methodology. Base sizing assigns the size of a firm during the previous March while average sizing is the average of employment in March of the current year and March of the previous year.

In addition to the three methodologies outlined above, would BED data published using max sizing be useful to you? (Note: Max sizing uses the maximum size of a firm over the past year.)

- Yes – Please explain in the box below
  - No
  - Don't know/Not sure
6. Size class is one of many potential business demographics. In addition to size-class data, BED is developing business demographic data by age of firm. How useful is employment data by age of firm to you? (Choose one)
- Extremely useful
  - Very useful

- Somewhat useful
  - A little useful
  - Not at all useful
  - Don't know/Not sure
7. Do you have any additional suggestions or comments about BED size-class employment data? (Choose one)
- Yes – Please list your suggestions or comments in the box below
  - No
8. Do you use size-class data from another BLS program besides BED or from another source? (Check all that apply)
- Yes, CES employment data by size class
  - Yes, JOLTS data by size class
  - Yes, size-class data from another BLS program – please describe the other BLS size-class data in the box below
  - Yes, size-class data from another source – please describe the other size-class data in the box below
  - No, I don't use other size-class data

## Demographic Questions

9. Which category below best describes the organization at which you work or study? (Choose one)
- University
  - Research organization
  - Financial institution
  - News media
  - U.S. Government
  - State Government
  - Local Government
  - Chamber of Commerce
  - Non-U.S. Government or international organization
  - Industry or trade association
  - Labor union
  - Data supplier/re-packager
  - Internet blog
  - Private citizen
  - Private business, not listed above
  - Other (please specify)
10. What best describes your job type? (Choose one)
- Professor or teacher
  - Student

- Researcher
- Financial analyst or broker
- Human resources staff
- Management
- Journalist
- Blogger
- Lawyer or legal analyst
- Data scientist or data analyst
- Economist
- Government employee
- Other – please specify

11. How do you plan on using BLS data by size class? (Check all that apply)

- To better understand other BLS data
- In a news article
- For background or data for research
- In developing a business plan
- In writing a business contract
- In planning a budget
- To make government policy
- For a class or assignment
- For stock or investment research
- I have no current plans to use this data
- Other – please describe

12. Which of the following best describes how you use BLS data? (Choose one)

- New User:** New to the BLS website and BLS data.
- Basic User:** Occasionally access the BLS website to obtain economic statistics. Use BLS new releases and data tables as is.
- Intermediate User:** Access the BLS website to obtain economic statistics, as well as data tables or charts for other uses. Occasionally use data-retrieval tools such as the on-screen data search.
- Super user:** Access a wide range of BLS statistics. Comfortable using a range of BLS data tables and charts and often uses data-retrieval tools such as one-screen or multi-screen search.

Thank you for your help!

We would appreciate it if you could answer a few more questions about Current Employment Statistics (CES) size-class data and Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey (JOLTS) size-class data. The CES questions should take about 4 minutes, and the JOLTS questions should also take about 4 minutes. Please select what you would like to do next.

- Please take me to the CES size-class questions

- Please take me to the JOLTS size-class questions
- I don't use either CES or JOLTS size-class data
- Exit the survey

## CES Questions

13. How useful is CES employment data by size class to you? (Choose one)

- Extremely useful
- Very useful
- Somewhat useful
- A little useful
- Not useful at all
- Don't know/Not sure

14. What size companies are of interest to you? (Check all that apply)

- 1-249 employees
- 250-499 employees
- 500 or more
- All of the above
- I am interested in size-class divisions other than those listed above – please describe the size-class divisions of interest in the box below

15. What level of industry detail for employment data by size class is of interest to you? (Check all that apply)

- Aggregate industry sectors
- Major industry sector
- Detailed industries, including aggregate and major industry sectors
- Don't know/Not sure

16. What frequency of size-class employment interests you? (Check all that apply)

- Annual
- Quarterly
- Monthly
- Don't know/Not sure

17. How useful would employment data by age of firm be to you? (Choose one)

- Extremely useful
- Very useful
- Somewhat useful
- A little useful
- Not at all useful
- Don't know/Not sure

18. Do you adjust employment data by size class in any of the following ways? (Check all that apply)

- Combine size divisions to make larger size classes
- Combine industries to create customized industry groupings
- Combine months, quarters, or years to create customized frequencies
- Average months, quarters, or years to create averages for a higher frequency
- Something else? Please describe your methods in the box below.

19. Limitations in the CES data by size class prevent the calculation of a continuous time series of employment levels. However, a CES time series of over-the-month changes in employment by size class is possible and is available currently. How interested are you in (a) a point-in-time level estimate of employment by size class and/or (b) an over-the-month change in employment time series by size class? (Choose one for each category)

Not at

All    A little    Somewhat    Very    DK/NS

- a. Point-in-time level
- b. Over-the-month change time series

20. Do you have any additional suggestions or comments about CES size-class employment data? (Choose one)

- Yes - Please list your suggestions or comments in the box below
- No

We would appreciate it if you could answer a few more questions about Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey (JOLTS) size-class data. Questions about JOLTS will take about 4 minutes.

- Please take me to the JOLTS size-class questions
- I don't use JOLTS size-class data
- Exit the survey

## JOLTS Questions

21. How useful is JOLTS data by size class to you? (Choose one)

- Extremely useful
- Very useful
- Somewhat useful
- A little useful
- Not useful at all
- Don't know/Not sure

22. What size companies are of interest to you? (Check all that apply)

- 1-249 employees
- 250-499 employees

- 500 or more
- All of the above
- I am interested in size class divisions other than those listed above – please describe the size class divisions of interest in the box below

23. What level of detail for data by size class is of interest to you? (Check all that apply)

- Aggregate industry sectors
- Major industry sector
- Don't know/Not sure

24. What frequency of size-class data interests you? (Check all that apply)

- Annual
- Quarterly
- Monthly
- Don't know/Not sure

25. Do you have any additional suggestions or comments about JOLTS size-class data? (Choose one)

- Yes – Please list your suggestions or comments in the box below
- No

We would appreciate it if you could answer a few more questions about Current Employment Statistics (CES) size-class data. Questions about CES will take about 4 minutes.

- Please take me to the CES questions
- I don't use CES size-class data
- Exit the survey

### **Thank you!**

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid OMB control number. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 4 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The obligation to respond to this collection is voluntary. Your responses are intended to be anonymous. Please do not include personal information (e.g. your name or address) in any answer. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Attention: Departmental Clearance Officer, 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Room N-1301, Washington, DC 20210 or email [DOL\\_PRA\\_PUBLIC@dol.gov](mailto:DOL_PRA_PUBLIC@dol.gov) and reference the OMB Control Number 1225-0088.