

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Twin Cities Campus

*Institute for Social Research and Data Innovation
Minnesota Population Center
IPUMS Center for Data Integration
Minnesota Research Data Center
Life Course Center*

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March 30, 2026

Erin Good
BLS Clearance Officer
Division of Management Systems
Bureau of Labor Statistics

Dear Erin Good,

I am writing on behalf of IPUMS, which houses the world's largest and most intensively used database covering the human population, in response to the Bureau of Labor Statistics request for review on the Contingent Work Supplement (CWS) to the Current Population Survey (CPS) (Docket Number 2026-02629). The IPUMS Center for Data Integration is housed at the University of Minnesota. IPUMS data are used extensively by the research community, but also by policymakers, non-governmental organizations, journalists, students and educators, and even individual community members. IPUMS disseminates harmonized versions of CPS data, including the CWS, and we appreciate the opportunity to share our observations about data users' interest in the CWS.

Over 80,000 people have registered to use IPUMS CPS. These users have included variables from the CWS in their customized data files more than 1,000 times. We know that IPUMS CPS users are interested in understanding contingent work arrangements using CWS data, and eager for access to data that allow them to examine digital-platform-based work. These users are eager for the 2023 CWS data, where such changes were piloted, to be released. We anticipate they will be enthusiastic about further revisions that better capture those engaged in "gig work." Additionally, the CPS allows for the understanding of contingent work within a household and family context – providing insight about the demographic and job characteristics of other household members. The CPS panel component allows for the study of CWS measures alongside other supplements (e.g., health insurance and income from the ASEC, bank account access via the Un(der)banked Supplement).

Thank you for considering our perspective as you undertake this important work.

Best Regards,



Steven Ruggles
Director of IPUMS Center for Data Integration
University of Minnesota