



Your-economy Time Series (YTS) In-business Establishments

YTS (Your-economy Time Series) is an annual establishment-level time-series database used by academic researchers, policy makers, and economic development analysts following companies at their unique locations across the U.S. YTS tracks all establishments (and their jobs and sales), including for-profit (both privately-owned and publicly-traded), non-profits, and government establishments.

Dynamic In-business Establishments

YTS focuses on establishments that are “in-business” meaning they are, or intent on, conducting commercial activities. By contrast, businesses that are created for the purpose of housing financial, real estate, and tax reporting entities, or are suspected of never actually starting commercial activities are not included in YTS. In either case, BDRC labels these establishments as “Suspect”. Suspect establishments can account for 25% to 35% of the total number of establishments, particularly in the period beginning in 2011.

Why Use Only In-business Establishments?

BDRC learned from several research initiatives working with both Dun & Bradstreet (D&B) and Infogroup longitudinal establishment data that it would be more accurate to use highly verified, in-business data. Overall we find the dynamic nature (peaks and valleys) of establishment data maintained, while discovering similar trends that continue to accurately reflect business activity without the use of heavy estimation or the inclusion of businesses that likely do/did not participate in the economy.

By definition and due to the volatile nature of Suspect establishments, they will have incomplete information, particularly as it pertains to longitudinal data. The primary areas where this is obvious and can significantly bias the data:

- Jobs and Sales - most Suspect jobs and sales numbers are null and would need estimation (imputation) effecting establishment and job churn factors (birth, death, expansion, contraction, moves)
 - Industry Codes - some Suspect establishments strongly cluster in particular industry codes
 - Actual Year Started - most Suspect establishments do not have a verified year established or “year start” date. Determining these actual start dates (and not the date the establishment was entered into the data) is almost impossible
- ◆ The In-business methodology started with the YTS 2017 data.
- ◆ The Suspect data is available for research upon request and project approval.