



YourEconomy Time Series (YTS)

YTS is a brand new time series being developed by BDRC and UW-Extension. Version 1 of YTS was released in April of 2017 and is now available thru our data discovery and time series locator (DDaTSL) tool online, and can be used at youreconomy.org.

YTS Concept - Overview

YTS focuses on establishments that are intent on going into business, or have a DBA (doing business as) presence. We use two very large Infogroup databases to assemble YTS, verified and pre-verified establishment data from 1997-2016. Conversely, government data and our experience with Dun & Bradstreet (D&B) data includes legal entity establishments (sometime referred to as “paper companies”) that are not and will never be “in business”.

Infogroup Historical Data Assembly

- Start with Infogroup Business Historical (“in business” verified file) data, annual snapshots from 1997-2016. Each Infogroup annual historical file is closed at the end of each year (12/31) and no other info is added to file
- From an Infogroup pre-verified database with over 30 million records, verify and update the entire verified database, adding over 18 million establishments with over 33 million jobs
- Combine all historical annual files into one master database using the Infogroup unique ID; ABI (American Business Identifier), and remove all ABI duplicate records

YTS Preliminary Version (v1.0)

- From the master file create a new database (YTS)
- Deactivate records reflecting ATM, kiosk locations, and other potential duplicates
- Add YTS unique annual field variables; e.g. HQFIPS, CBSA, CDIST (congressional district), and EstEmp and EstSales each year that track BDRC employment and sales estimates
- “Stitch” together all annual snapshots (1997-2016) by ABI, first by checking the pre-verified data completing any missing field information, then taking the previous year (including 0 and null values) and rolling it up to the next year where there are remaining missing values
- Find and verify employment and sales variables that showed *significant* annual change for all years using several outside sources found thru search engines on the web
- Add over 100 summary fields for resulting calculations used for data aggregates on YourEconomy.org and GrowthEconomy.org
- Import into DDaTSL and begin availability for paid subscriptions

YTS Ongoing Development

There are 3 primary *areas* where verification and imputation will continue for each release:

1. Employment and sales that appear to have been overestimated due to firm level numbers being used, or Infogroup estimations which do not show consistency over time
2. Potential establishment duplicates primarily found in large companies with many sibling/subsidiary relationships
3. With every new year of data, stitching together by ABI, first by checking the pre-verified data completing any missing field information, then taking the previous year (including 0 and null values) and rolling it up to the next year where there are remaining missing values

As is the nature of a young database, there is known data that fall under areas 1 and 2 above in need of verification and repair. Area 1 is scripted and will require no other intervention to repair thus taking the least amount of time. Area 2 will require a hands-on approach with several researchers working from lists of establishments to verify and repair each record. At some point, areas 1 and 2 above will cease to be separate processes and will be rolled up into area 3 becoming an annual process with the release of new data.