

Post-Secondary Employment Outcomes (PSEO): Data Notices

Local Employment Dynamics

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Background

Data Notices

The Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (LEHD) program is continually working to improve and refine Post-Secondary Employment Outcomes (PSEO). This Data Notices document provides information to users on important updates to PSEO data and specific data issues that affect certain school and state partners. General data issues are posted at the top of the document; further below, partner- and state-specific notices highlight major data features or issues that affect individual school and state partners, respectively. These Data Notices are designed to inform users of large-scale updates and issues, and will be revised as processes are improved or new data quality issues are uncovered.

Post-Secondary Employment Outcomes (PSEO)

Post-Secondary Employment Outcomes (PSEO) are experimental tabulations developed by the Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (LEHD) program at the U.S. Census Bureau. PSEO data provide earnings and employment outcomes for college and university graduates by degree level, degree major, and post-secondary institution. A second set of tabulations also provide industry and location of employment. These statistics are generated by matching university transcript data with a national database of jobs, using state-of-the-art confidentiality protection mechanisms to protect the underlying data.

PSEO are made possible through data sharing partnerships between universities, university systems, State Departments of Education, State Labor Market Information offices, and the U.S. Census Bureau. The source of jobs data is the LEHD linked employer-employee microdata, which comprise a longitudinal database covering over 95% of U.S. private sector jobs. Much of these data are collected via a unique federal-state data sharing collaboration, the Local Employment Dynamics (LED) partnership. LED is a cooperative venture between the LEHD program and state agencies, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. By integrating data used to administer public programs with existing records and surveys, a new national jobs database is generated at very low cost and with no additional respondent burden.

PSEO data are currently only available for post-graduate institutions whose transcript data has been made available to the Census Bureau through a data-sharing agreement.

General Notices

October 2019 (R2019Q4)

Office of Personnel Management Data Coverage

Due to a processing error, OPM data was not fully integrated into the processing. For graduate earnings files, earnings data from OPM is not included after 2011, which affects earnings in years 2012 to 2016. For graduate employment flows files, OPM data was not included in the frame at all. Since OPM data are for a subset of the federal workforce, its omission likely affects data for roughly 1% of graduates.

July 2019 (R2019Q3)

Employment flows released

This release provides insights into the destination job characteristics for college and university graduates. Counts of employment flows (i.e. pseof_[st].csv) are now available by degree level, degree major, and post-secondary institution. They are tabulated by the following destination job characteristics:

- Census Division
- NAICS sector

Higher levels of aggregations in graduate earnings files released

Graduate earnings and employment outcomes are now available for all degree majors and all degree levels within post-secondary institutions. These rows will have values of '00' for the Degree Field and Degree Level variables, respectively.

Changes for graduate earnings files

To be more consistent with employment flows files, graduate earnings files are now named pseoe_[st].csv. Changes for two variables have additionally been made since the initial release to better conform to data from the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). The most noticeable changes include the following:

- The Institution ID variable now has a length of 6 (varied in the previous release), with leading zeros.
- The Degree Field variable now has a length of 5 (4 in the previous release), with values including a period after the first two digits (period not included in the previous release).
- Any aggregated values for the Degree Field variable end with 'XX' in the last two digits ('00' in the previous release).

IPEDS completion data appended

Completion data from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) have been appended to the graduate earnings files. Note that IPEDS completions are reported for the academic year while PSEO counts are of graduates employed in a calendar year. As a result, numbers may not line up. Some IPEDS observations have also been expertly edited and are flagged accordingly.

Excel versions of PSEO files now available

Excel versions of PSEO public-use files are now available for select tabulations. To get tabulations not available in the Excel files, see the CSV files.

New official data schema (V4.5.0-Draft) and documentation

New official data schema (V4.5.0-Draft) and documentation outlining the program's schema versioning process have been released. The new process provides machine-readable features as well as user-accessible documentation. See https://labordynamicsinstitute.github.io/qwi_schemas/formats/V4.5.0-draft/lehd_public_use_schema.html for more information.

March 2018 (R2018Q1)

First beta release

Post-Secondary Employment Outcomes (PSEO) are experimental tabulations providing earnings and employment outcomes for college and university graduates by degree level, degree major, and post-secondary institution. These statistics are generated by matching university transcript data with a national database of jobs, using state-of-the-art confidentiality protection mechanisms to protect the underlying data. Future releases will include higher levels of aggregations within post-secondary institutions as well as tabulations of flows to destination job characteristics of college and university graduates.

Partner-Specific Notices

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Data for the following degree fields were reported to IPEDS under different CIP codes. The CIP codes and affected graduation cohorts are listed below:

- CIP code 42.27 for the 2001 and 2004 graduation cohorts,
- CIP code 23.01 for the 2001, 2004, and 2007 graduation cohorts, and
- CIP code 14.18 for the 2001, 2004, and 2007 graduation cohorts.

IPEDS data in the PSEO public-use files have been edited and flagged accordingly.

State-Specific Notices

Hawaii

A large portion of public sector workers is not included in the data. This issue affects the entire time series.

Mississippi

There is an unusually high mismatch rate between firm identifiers on UI wage records and corresponding employers in QCEW data. As a result, there are more imputations of industry and geography for jobs that cannot be matched to employer records. While the mismatch is not severe enough to preclude publication of data, users should be aware of the issue. Research staff is currently investigating edits to improve match rates across job and employer data.