2021 LED Workshop - April 30, 2021

LEHD Updates Session

Video begins at 05:14:21

Keith Bailey: I now wish to invite Erika McEntarfer, the Lead Economist for the Center for Economic Studies to share with you several LEHD updates. Please welcome Erika.

Erika McEntarfer: Hey how's everybody doing. Keith just let me know when…

Keith: You have the ball.

Erika: I have the ball.

Keith: And we are seeing content thank you.

Erika: All right.

Keith: And you have 30 minutes.

Erika: All right thanks so much. So it's my pleasure today to cap us off by talking about what's new with the LEHD data. This is sort of an unusual conference in that it's partly a data user conference for folks that use the data and it's partly a data partner conference for - because LEHD is very unique in that many of our users are also providers of the data and without them we couldn't do any of this.

And so what I'm going to try to do in the 30 minutes I have to me is to brief you on what's going on with improvements to existing products for data users and also to talk about new things that we've been doing both so that you're aware, you know, that this data is out there but also because many of you who have made this data possible we want to communicate to you, like, what it is that you have enabled.

This partnership is very unique in the federal statistical system. We're very excited that it's been expanding and I'm really, really excited to show you the new things that are going on.

So just a brief overview, so I'm going to try to quickly go through some products and application updates for the existing products that are produced from the LEHD data, the quarterly workforce indicators, LODES, OnTheMap, Job to Job Flows and OnTheMap for Emergency Management.

And then I'm going to spend the bulk of my time showing the new stuff that has been released since we last met. In particular the PSEO the last time we had this workshop was very new and it really just rolled out. The data has expanded both in scope and in partnership and so there's just a lot more available and I want to show you the new things that are available to you.

And then I'm going to also demonstrate a brand new data product that we just rolled out with a new partner the US Army looking at how veterans transition into the civilian labor market after they leave service.

So quickly updates for the QWI so we've been working very hard to improve data quality in the QWI over the last couple of years. We implemented a wage record update which it fills in gaps in wage record histories when employers fail to report or they underreport. And we're also designing - that's already in production.

We've spent the last year improving the weights that better align the data with the quarterly Census and employment and wages. They're also going to make the data less noisy and improve the identifiers. So that's actually coming out in the next few weeks. It's rolling through production right now. The release that's coming this May will contain that data.

And for Job to Job Flows there's been a lot of interest lately on labor supply chains and better understanding flows of workers in the labor market. We're going to release more detailed industry origin destination job to job flows as a research release later this year.

The LODES data 2018 LODES was released in December. We are anticipating the 2019 data will be released later this year. We don't yet have a release date but hopefully it will be soon.

Updates to applications, so J2J Explorer we added a national and metropolitan area tables in 2020. OnTheMap was updated with the 2018 data in December. For those of you who use OnTheMap and I know there are many of you, we are planning a future redesign of OnTheMap and we're hoping to start that later this year to refresh it. It's been a little while since we refreshed the application.

A lot of the big activity in applications you're going to see in this demonstration which is the PSEO Explorer and VEO Explorer, PSEO has had expanded capabilities as Andrew mentioned in his panel. The data is now available in API. And OnTheMap for Emergency Management was also updated with LODES data and ACS and we're expecting to roll J2J data in the data extraction tool.

So the - since I don't have very much time I wanted to roll through those improvements very quickly because I do want to spend the bulk of my time showing you the new stuff. So I'm going to show you the new PSEO data particularly the expanded data on where graduates work after college. And also the VEO data which is brand new, it was only released in May.

So one of the biggest things that happened with PSEO if you saw this morning's panel probably the enthusiasm of our PSEO partners came across. When we rolled out the Texas data in the initial release in 2018 we really got hammered with requests for more states, more systems that really wanted this data for themselves. And we realized that we tapped into something, a clearly unmet need for data.

And so we've been working as hard as possible to expand this partnership. Every state here on this map in blue represents a state that has released data. The darker blue it is the more complete coverage we have of all institutions in the state. So Texas we now have a Texas higher education quorum board so we have over 75% of graduates.

You can see the lighter blue we have some partners but maybe not all. In the case of New York it just turns out that - we have all the publics but publics are a smaller share of the total university populations in New York than they are in Texas. Everything in yellow is a new partner that does not yet have data but we'll probably receive data later this year.

So the data's not only just expanded in coverage but it's also expanded in what's available. So I'm also going to show you the data on where workers work and we're going to go through a specific example looking at this particular welding program at this particular community college and see if the manufacturing jobs - so it's a welding program that markets itself as training workers for manufacturing jobs, are they indeed finding manufacturing jobs. We can actually take this to the data now and look which is very exciting.

And also I'm going to of course show you the new Veterans Employment Outcomes data. So this is a new data partnership so we've partnered with the Army particularly the Office of Economic and Manpower Analysis which is

located at West Point. They've given us university data on army veterans and we have matched it to the LEHD jobs data to look at employment outcomes for recent veterans. And I'm going to show you this cool data tool that this is in and walk through some applications of the data.

All right so I am going to switch from PowerPoint and over to the web application so Keith just let me know if this does not work.

Keith: I can see the web app. And now I don't.

Erika: Sorry.

Keith: There it is for reprisal.

Erika: All right let me push that button. Yes no I tried to move my browser and accidentally triggered the stop button, won't do that again. Okay so I'm going to start with PSEO and let's see here.

So this is the introduction to the PSEO application and you'll see you can click states, those are the university in the states, degree level, cohorts, time, percentage. I'll walk through these. And then down here these are all the instructional programs.

Keith: Erika can you enlarge that view to take up more of the screen or are you at your maximum at this point?

Erika: Does this enlarge it for you all?

Keith: That is better thank you.

Erika: Thank you. So we're going to look at a community college system in Texas so I'm going to go to Texas here and I'm going to scroll down. It's a very long list of Texas universities and I'm looking for Houston Community College. And I'm looking for a welding program that's a certificate program so I'm going to go to certificates here.

And I'm looking for - I want the detailed list. Let me uncheck some things. And here we are precision metalworking so this is the program I want. I'm going to get rid of this business program. So this is earnings for folks from this program when one, five and ten years after graduation. I can also flip over and look at the distribution of earnings instead of the time. And you could see, you know, the graduate program five years after make approximately $50,000.

This data the earnings data is what was available the last time we met. What is new is this tab here called flows and I'm going to click that. So it's rolling up to a higher category which the welding program is the only thing in this category so this is still just the welding graduates. And you can see that - I'm going to click share here because I find that easier to understand rather than divide in my head. About 50% of graduates - actually let me flip to one year outcomes, we're on five but this is the same. Just under 50% of graduates of this program actually find jobs in manufacturing.

The next categories down this is a big temporary help group and construction, these probably are also too welding jobs. So in terms of, like, degree related employment probably all three of these are welding. But then we get into accommodation and food service wholesale trade et cetera, and into industries where it's less likely that the graduate is in fact doing welding.

As many of you know there is no occupation data on the UI. We would love to know what occupation these folks are working at but industries is as close

as we've got and you can infer a lot by what industries graduates are working in.

So one reason I wanted to emphasize this example we heard in an earlier panel about all of the uses of the data for education institutions but I know a great deal of this audience is a workforce - a labor market information and workforce development. And so if you're hearing from manufacturing firms like we're in need of welders, you know, there aren't any out there, one of the questions is like well then why for these programs that apparently manufacturers are crying for why are only half the graduates winding up in manufacturing, is a think a good question to ask ourselves. Before we expand more training programs I think better understanding the demand for these programs is very interesting.

Another new feature here is the geo tab which I'm also going to click. This will tell you where these folks are working. So this is a community college program in Texas. Texans, love Texas and so it's not surprising that many of them remain in Texas. If I am only interested in the people that stayed employed in Texas I can just click that tab. And if I want it to go away I can have it go away.

So this data is very exciting. It's super cool to be able to see how - where graduates are going from particular programs. I could stay here all day but I do have limited time and I do want to be able to show you the veterans data.

So this is a super neat partnership and data application. I really want to just applaud, you know, I'm an economist. My expertise is the data. I cannot generate data visualization tools like this. We have the type of team for that and they just do an amazing job.

So this partnership with the Army they were very interested in data by military occupation like how different types of graduates were, sorry graduates, different types of veterans with different military occupations were succeeding in the labor market. And one of the reasons they really wanted to know this was because they're worried about retention.

So there's a lot of very skilled people in the Army with some very valuable skills in the private sector and the Army is very worried about their ability to retain that talent. So one of the things they're really interested in is their cyber workforce. So you can go here in the occupation section and you can just start typing.

One of the really cool things about this app it automatically maps military MOS codes to DoD occupation groups so you don't have to really know what you're looking for. So I'm also going to pick electronic warfare, that's another cyber group. And I'm going to pick these guys. And I'm just - let me get rid of infantry because I just want to compare it to all.

And now you could see the military is right to be worried about losing these guys to the private sector. They do very well especially relative to veterans in general entering the labor market. This is one year after they leave. I can look ten years.

The all group is catching up a bit but still these skills are in high demand. These veterans do really well in the civilian labor market and particularly in the 75th percentile of the distribution which is probably the very skilled senior service members that they would like to retain, they're doing very well.

So another thing we wanted people to be able to do with the data was if they were leaving the Army and they wanted to see what kind of jobs they could

get to be able to look at what industries were paying different types of military specialties particularly well.

So I just went up here and instead of clicking detailed occupation I went to occupation by industry and it sent me here. And I went ahead and picked infantry, this is one of the largest classes of occupations in the Army and it's also one of the ones that has the hardest time transitioning into the civilian labor market. A lot of these professions don't have easily equivalent occupations, civilian occupations.

So I'm going to do something bold here and I'm just going to select all industries because I want to compare, like, all of them. So and I'm just going to - so if you hover over it'll tell you what industry you're in. So mining pays really well, utilities pay really well, professional services, educational services and the federal government. So these are some of the highest paying industries for these types of workers. And you can of course clear, sorry, look at some individually and you'll get, you know, much more detailed information.

So we put a lot of dimensionality into this data so there's also if you're instead of wanting to view the data by demographics you can also view it by sex. So this is outcomes in the civilian labor market for male versus female. You can see men in general do better in the civilian market but these are very much overlapping distributions.

And race and ethnicity. So here you can compare - honestly there's not a lot of and maybe as much as you would expect differences across race and ethnicity groups with the exception of American Indians and Alaska Natives who do appear to have somewhat lower.

Since I know there are plenty of folks interested in state level detail we also have occupation by state. I will give away the punchline here and say that if you are a recent veteran and you are looking for a high paying job locating in the Washington DC area is a probably a good idea. I'll pick a state. So it's correctly geolocating me in DC which is why I'm seeing the DC data.

I'm going to go ahead and grab, let's say Colorado and you can see Colorado looks a lot more like all but DC, Maryland, Virginia, there's a lot of military contractors and the federal government are some of the best places for high paying jobs for veterans not surprisingly so because a lot of those jobs are located in this area there is quite a lot of high paying jobs here.

I wanted to give plenty of time in this, let's see, in this session for questions so I think that I am going to leave it here. I do want to add one last thing about PSEO and VEO which is given the response that we've gotten for the Post-Secondary Employment Outcomes we are highly anticipating that that program will continue even though budgetarily of course we don't have any concrete word about that but there has been such a strong enthusiasm.

Veterans Employment Outcomes this is a very early experimental product. We don't yet have enough feedback but the Army loved it. They were so excited to see this data. We're still trying to suss out how broad the demand is. It did drop in May and which was not the ideal time to get anyone's attention about anything that was not COVID so we are hoping now that things are returning more to normal and the economy is coming back that we'll get some - it'll be a more normal time to assess interest in having this particular product continue.

Keith: Thank you Erika. It looks like we have about five, five and a half minutes for questions. Earlene would you like to let us know of any questions in the chat or contact the operator for any questions on the phone.

Earlene Dowell: Operator are there any questions on the phone?

Coordinator: I am showing no questions at this time but just a reminder you may press Star 1 to ask a question.

Earlene: Thank you. Erika I did have a few questions. One question was, I work with VIOA program and my county's office of workforce development and this is awesome. How does the data get reported into the PSEO? Are the schools community colleges et cetera, responsible for reporting it? There's a lot of questions in one thing. We have had a heck of a time along with our community colleges with getting responses and being able to get students to respond and I believe DOL is going to start requiring us to report this type of data, training program outcomes in terms of employment wages after exit, earning industry recognized credentials, et cetera. So this could be very helpful.

Erika: So I will try to break that question apart. Where does the data come from is a very good question. So we had a panel early this earlier today with some of our PSEO partners. The generic answer is it's usually from a state higher education system that has student record data or it's from the systems themselves. And both types of partners were represented in that earlier panel.

And so they have universe administrative data on their graduates and that's where we're getting their degree information and the other information about the students that is allowing us to match them to their employment outcomes in the LEHD data.

So this data doesn't exist without that partnership and those partners. And we have been extremely fortunate that they are as interested in seeing this data as many of the rest of us are. So there have been many willing new partners.

Earlene: Okay another question is, I work for vocational rehabilitation and see a great need for data to determine outcomes of employment for persons with disabilities and also have a demographic for disability owned businesses on your ABS. It would be great if someone from Census could reach out to me to discuss. Okay sorry that was sent to our panelists but yes.

Erika: Sure so it's very easy to get a hold of us on our Web site and send an email. We do talk to people about partnerships all the time so we're extremely approachable as probably evident from the large number of partnerships that we have. We do - we're very open to discussing new work.

Earlene: Okay and then the final question in the chat, I wonder if the pay occupational amounts can be split out by officers versus enlisted. Officers have college degrees, enlisted might not.

Erika: So the universe here is enlisted only. I didn't have enough time to go into the details and we do have it by rank and rank is very important. So I didn't show that particular stratification but it is not an unimportant feature of the data. I pulled it up right here. I kept my web browser open for the Q&A anticipating that I would mostly get questions about the parts of the data I hadn't yet shown them.

Earlene: And another question came in, we have two minutes. The veterans data is exciting I have a question about the geolocation. How do you reconcile jobs that have high veteran employment, for example airline pilots, with where

they are located and working? For example if you are a veteran and a Southwest Airlines pilot are you considered working in Texas where the company is based even if you are not an employee there.

Erika: So the geolocation is coming from the establishment location of the - from the firm data. So this is where you work not where you live. In the case of things like airlines that is especially problematic to infer from establishment level data for obvious reasons. You were - airline pilots, long haul truckers and fishermen you're not going to know where exactly they work from where their establishments are reporting their location. It is a pretty good data for most types of professions though.

Earlene: And I show no further questions in the chat. Operator are there any questions on the phone?

Coordinator: I am still showing no questions at this time.

Earlene: Thank you.

Keith: Thank you Erika.

Erika: All right thank you so much everyone.