Post-Secondary Employment Outcomes
Using National Jobs Data to Measure Graduate Impact

SHEEO Community of Practice
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Outline

• What is Post-Secondary Employment Outcomes (PSEO)?
• How is it made?
• What will PSEO 2.0 look like?
• How can I join?
What is PSEO?

An experimental data product based on partnerships between university systems, state higher education systems, and the Census Bureau, the **Post-Secondary Employment Outcomes (PSEO)** are tabulations providing national earnings and employment statistics for graduates of post-secondary institutions.

**Goal:** Provide students, parents, institutions and workforce agencies better data on the return on investment to post-secondary degrees and the flows of graduates across the country.
What does PSEO currently release?

• **Earnings**: 25\textsuperscript{th}, 50\textsuperscript{th}, and 75\textsuperscript{th} percentiles of annual earnings for college and university graduates

• **Employment Flows**: Employment within industry sector and Census division

• Statistics available by institution, degree level, graduation cohort, and field of degree, one year, five years, and 10 years after graduation
PSEO coverage

• Current coverage
  • 825 public and private four-year and two-year institutions
  • ~29% post-secondary awards (using 2015 AY as baseline)
Post-Secondary Employment Outcomes (PSEO) Explorer

Source: https://lehd.ces.census.gov/data/pseo_explorer.html
How is it made?
How are the PSEO data created?

- Census enters into legal agreements with state departments of higher education (or similar entities) and receives records of graduates from all covered institutions
- Using a masked version of the SSN, we match these data with the unemployment insurance wage records, which we obtain from state employment security agencies
- These longitudinal job histories allow us to measure earnings for graduates over a long time horizon
Jobs data

• Census maintains a national database of jobs data, which includes information about employers (establishments, industry, location) and employees (demographics)

• Enables us to measure earnings (from quarterly wages) and employer characteristics (industry sector and employment location)

• Longer term, there is a broad effort at Census to create an integrated jobs frame using UI, W2 and Schedule SE records (prototype due at end of FY2024)
New and improved!
Looking forward

• In PSEO 2.0, we are developing three major updates to the data we release:
  • Enhanced wage records (using new jobs frame, which includes W2 and 1099 records)
  • Earnings outcomes by gender and race/ethnicity
  • Release of state by industry flows, which would be incredibly helpful from a workforce perspective
• There are other data linkages we are exploring, including linking PSEO graduate records to SS-4 filings (EIN creation) to measure business start-up activity by graduates.
How can I join?
Steps for Joining PSEO

• Reach out to Census (CES.PSEO.Feedback@census.gov)
• Sign an MOU with Census
• Transfer data
  (https://lehd.ces.census.gov/data/pseo_sop/standard_operating_procedures.html)
• PSEO data for your state/institutions is released!
Thank you!