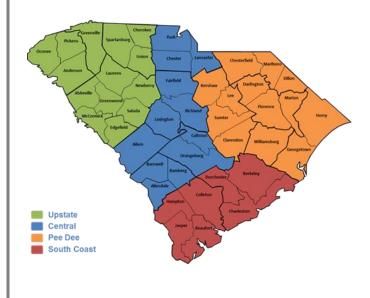
How Have South Coast Commuting Patterns Changed in the 21st Century?







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About SCDEW and BID:

The Business Intelligence Department compiles and publishes employment statistics, job forecasts, wage data, demographics, and other labor market information to help public and private organizations, researchers, and others better understand today's complex workforce.

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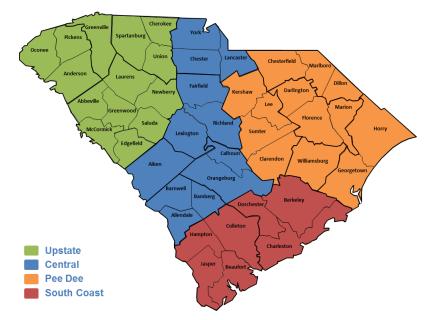
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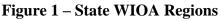
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2016

In the fall of 2015, the South Carolina Workforce Development Board approved a regional system for workforce planning in accordance with the federal law *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 (WIOA)*. The South Coast was one of the four newly-created regions as shown in Figure 1.





Commuting patterns or the travel characteristics of workers from their homes to their jobs were one of the important elements in determining the regional system. Recently, the U.S. Census Bureau released an updated set of commuting information from the Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (LEHD) program. This report analyzes that data from a historical perspective and answers the question "How have commuting patterns for the South Coast Region changed over time?"

The dataset from the LEHD program highlights annual information from 2002 to 2014 and gives a view of the changing nature of commuter travel characteristics in the South Coast. A job in this context is the "primary" job or the highest paying job that a person holds if one is a multi-job holder. The information is derived from a partially synthetic dataset that describes geographic patterns of jobs by their employment locations and residential locations as well as the connections between the two locations. These data and marginal summaries are tabulated by several categorical variables.¹

South Coast Worker Inflow/Outflow

The South Coast has seen the number of jobs grow from 293,000 in 2002, reaching a peak of 334,000 in 2008, and falling during the Recession and early recovery (see Appendix 1). The region has surpassed its previous high, rising to 359,000 jobs in 2014. The number of working South Coast residents followed a similar pattern as the number of jobs, in that, the number rose from 296,000 in 2002 to a peak of 333,000 in 2008 before falling and then exceeding its earlier peak, ending at 363,000 in 2014.

The South Coast has had slightly more working residents than jobs through most of the 2002-2014 period by a varying amount. The differential has fluctuated from +2,500 in 2002 to -3,500 in 2007 to +4,400 in 2010 and in 2014 with declines and upswings in the interim periods. The area is adding working residents slightly faster than jobs over time with a job gain of 65,000 from 2002 to 2014, while the worker gain was 67,000 over the same period. Thus, the net outflow is growing as the influx of working residents is just outpacing the region's ability to create jobs.

Region Efficiency

An interesting aspect of the commuting pattern data is labor force and employment efficiencies for the region. The labor force element is shown by viewing the region's working residents, 363,000 in 2014, by their work location being inside or outside of the region. Of those 363,000 workers more than 299,000 or 82.4 percent hold a job within the region, while 64,000 or 17.6 percent work outside of the region. The within-region labor force efficiency measure has been falling from 86.8 percent in 2002 to the 82.4 percent figure stated above.

Meanwhile, the employment efficiency measure has been declining also. This statistic involves the jobs located in the region, 359,000 in 2014, and whether the workers' home locations are inside or outside of the region. The same 299,000 region workers, mentioned in the previous paragraph, who hold a South Coast job, represent 83.4 percent of all of the region's jobs. This figure has fallen from 87.5 percent in 2002. Sixteen and six-tenths percent of the region's jobs were filled by workers from outside of the region in 2014.

Taken together, these efficiency measures show that the area has become a little less efficient or self-sufficient over time even though the overall numbers of jobs and workers have increased. A higher percentage of residents live in the region but work out-of-area, and a higher percentage of the region's jobs are filled by out-of-area workers. This means there is more cross-regional commuting occurring as employers stretch out their employee networks farther from the worksite (to be analyzed further in a succeeding section).

South Coast Jobs by Industry and Worker Characteristics

The number of jobs in the South Coast Region stood at 359,000 in 2014, rising from 293,000 in 2002 (see Appendix 2). The top three industries in 2014 were Health Care and Social Assistance with 13.2 percent of the jobs, Retail Trade at 12.6 percent, and Accommodation and Food Services with 12.3 percent. Health Care and Social Assistance grew from 10.5 percent of region jobs in 2002, while Retail Trade fell from 13.9 percent in the same year. Accommodation and Food Services rose from 11.9 percent of jobs in 2002.

The increase in the number of jobs occurred in all three age categories of workers as their numbers grew by 65,000 overall from 2002 to 2014. The *Age 55 and older* group gained in percentage terms to compose 20.9 percent of the workforce in 2014 up from 13.6 percent in 2002. The percentage of workers in each of the two categories under the age of 55, *Age 29 or younger* and *Age 30 to 54*, fell.

In terms of worker race holding South Coast jobs, the *White Alone* category rose slightly by 0.4 percent from 2009 to 2014 to 70.6 percent, while the *Black Alone* category dipped by 0.3 percent to 26.3 percent of the total jobs in 2014. The *Hispanic* share of workers fell 0.1 percent since 2009 to 3.4 percent in 2014. Females' majority share of the workforce declined from 51.9 percent to 51.1 percent over the same period.

Four categories of educational attainment showed gains over the six-year span to 2014 in percentage and absolute terms. The *Less than High School, High School, Some College*, and *Bachelor's Degree and above* categories each increased their share of the workforce by less than one percent each, while the *Not Available* category lost in overall proportion.

Home Counties of South Coast Workers

With 83.4 percent of the region's 359,000 jobs held by South Coast residents, it is not surprising that the top home counties of workers would also be in the South Coast (see Appendix 3). In fact, Charleston, Berkeley, Dorchester, Beaufort, and Colleton were the top five home counties in 2014. Interestingly, Charleston, Berkeley, and Dorchester together accounted for over half of the total gain of jobs for the region from 2002 to 2014. Of the top 25 counties, only Colleton lost jobs in absolute terms. Charleston, Beaufort, and Colleton lost percentage share, while Berkeley, Dorchester, and Jasper gained.

The job gain was widespread across the state and into Georgia as well. Horry, Georgetown Orangeburg, and Clarendon counties grew along with Richland, York, Aiken, Greenville, and Savannah area counties.

Home Distance and Direction from South Coast Worksites

The proportion of workers whose homes were less than 10 miles from their South Coast work location fell by 7.5 percent even while growing by 9,400 people from 2002 to 2014 (see Appendix 4). The share of workers in each of the remaining three distance categories from their South Coast workplace, *10 to 24 miles*, *25 to 50 miles*, and *Greater than 50 miles*, rose. The number of workers residing 10 miles or greater from their South Coast workplace grew by a whopping 56,000 over the period.

The workers, whose homes were located in the northwest direction from their South Coast worksite, composed the highest percent of the overall workforce, having a 27 percent share. The workers residing to the north of their workplace held the second highest share of the workforce at 16 percent. The number of workers from each of the eight primary directions from their worksite rose from 2002 to 2014.

Summary

This analysis shows the South Coast to be a fast growing if more focused economy as four industries each employ over 8 percent of the workforce in 2014, transforming from a more diversified region in the past. Demographics have remained stable, while the workforce has aged as a whole. Efficiency measures, at about 83 percent on average, show the region becoming a bit less self-sufficient in terms of workforce even as commuter travel is lengthening over time.

Appendix 1

Inflow/Outflow Report

Selection Area Labor Market Size (Primary Jobs)

	2014 2013		.3	3 2012		2011		
	Count	Share	Count	Share	Count	Share	Count	Share
Employed in the Selection Area	358,550	100.0%	344,622	100.0%	339,477	100.0%	332,164	100.0%
Living in the Selection Area	362,914	101.2%	347,732	100.9%	341,579	100.6%	334,394	100.7%
Net Job Inflow (+) or Outflow (-)	-4,364	-	-3,110	-	-2,102	-	-2,230	-

In-Area Labor Force Efficiency (Primary Jobs)

	201	2014 2013		2012		2011		
	Count	Share	Count	Share	Count	Share	Count	Share
Living in the Selection Area	362,914	100.0%	347,732	100.0%	341,579	100.0%	334,394	100.0%
Living and Employed in the Selection Area	299,098	82.4%	288,635	83.0%	286,206	83.8%	277,806	83.1%
Living in the Selection Area but Employed Outside	63,816	17.6%	59,097	17.0%	55,373	16.2%	56,588	16.9%

In-Area Employment Efficiency (Primary Jobs)

	2014 20		201	013 201		12 201		1
	Count	Share	Count	Share	Count	Share	Count	Share
Employed in the Selection Area	358,550	100.0%	344,622	100.0%	339,477	100.0%	332,164	100.0%
Employed and Living in the Selection Area	299,098	83.4%	288,635	83.8%	286,206	84.3%	277,806	83.6%
Employed in the Selection Area but Living Outside	59,452	16.6%	55,987	16.2%	53,271	15.7%	54,358	16.4%

Selection Area Labor Market Size (Primary Jobs)

	2010 2009		9 2008		8	2007		
	Count	Share	Count	Share	Count	Share	Count	Share
Employed in the Selection Area	320,057	100.0%	316,330	100.0%	333,595	100.0%	330,996	100.0%
Living in the Selection Area	324,456	101.4%	320,018	101.2%	333,125	99.9%	327,485	98.9%
Net Job Inflow (+) or Outflow (-)	-4,399	-	-3,688	-	470	-	3,511	-

In-Area Labor Force Efficiency (Primary Jobs)

	2010		2009		2008		2007	
	Count	Share	Count	Share	Count	Share	Count	Share
Living in the Selection Area	324,456	100.0%	320,018	100.0%	333,125	100.0%	327,485	100.0%
Living and Employed in the Selection Area	266,511	82.1%	263,561	82.4%	278,705	83.7%	278,529	85.1%
Living in the Selection Area but Employed Outside	57,945	17.9%	56,457	17.6%	54,420	16.3%	48,956	14.9%

In-Area Employment Efficiency (Primary Jobs)

	2010		2009		2008		2007	
	Count	Share	Count	Share	Count	Share	Count	Share
Employed in the Selection Area	320,057	100.0%	316,330	100.0%	333,595	100.0%	330,996	100.0%
Employed and Living in the Selection Area	266,511	83.3%	263,561	83.3%	278,705	83.5%	278,529	84.1%
Employed in the Selection Area but Living Outside	53,546	16.7%	52,769	16.7%	54,890	16.5%	52,467	15.9%

Appendix 1 – continued

Inflow/Outflow Report

Selection Area Labor Market Size (Primary Jobs)

	2006		2005		2004	
	Count	Share	Count	Share	Count	Share
Employed in the Selection Area	311,468	100.0%	307,758	100.0%	300,925	100.0%
Living in the Selection Area	314,190	100.9%	312,081	101.4%	304,183	101.1%
Net Job Inflow (+) or Outflow (-)	-2,722	-	-4,323	-	-3,258	-

In-Area Labor Force Efficiency (Primary Jobs)

	2006		2005		2004	
	Count	Share	Count	Share	Count	Share
Living in the Selection Area	314,190	100.0%	312,081	100.0%	304,183	100.0%
Living and Employed in the Selection Area	268,373	85.4%	268,031	85.9%	262,377	86.3%
Living in the Selection Area but Employed Outside	45,817	14.6%	44,050	14.1%	41,806	13.7%

In-Area Employment Efficiency (Primary Jobs)

	2006		2005		200)4
	Count	Share	Count	Share	Count	Share
Employed in the Selection Area	311,468	100.0%	307,758	100.0%	300,925	100.0%
Employed and Living in the Selection Area	268,373	86.2%	268,031	87.1%	262,377	87.2%
Employed in the Selection Area but Living Outside	43,095	13.8%	39,727	12.9%	38,548	12.8%

Selection Area Labor Market Size (Primary Jobs)

	200)3	2002		
	Count	Share	Count	Share	
Employed in the Selection Area	296,144	100.0%	293,148	100.0%	
Living in the Selection Area	301,077	101.7%	295,696	100.9%	
Net Job Inflow (+) or Outflow (-)	-4,933	-	-2,548	-	

In-Area Labor Force Efficiency (Primary Jobs)

	200	3	2002		
	Count	Share	Count	Share	
Living in the Selection Area	301,077	100.0%	295,696	100.0%	
Living and Employed in the Selection Area	259,696	86.3%	256,640	86.8%	
Living in the Selection Area but Employed Outside	41,381	13.7%	39,056	13.2%	

In-Area Employment Efficiency (Primary Jobs)

	200)3	2002		
	Count	Share	Count	Share	
Employed in the Selection Area	296,144	100.0%	293,148	100.0%	
Employed and Living in the Selection Area	259,696	87.7%	256,640	87.5%	
Employed in the Selection Area but Living Outside	36,448	12.3%	36,508	12.5%	

Appendix 2

Work Area Profile Report

Total Primary Jobs

	201	4	2002		
	Count	Share	Count Share		
Total Primary Jobs	358,550	100.0%	293,148	100.0%	
Jobs by Worker Age					
Jobs by Worker Age					
	201	4	200	2	
	201 Count	4 Share	200 Count	2 Share	
Age 29 or younger		-		_	
Age 29 or younger Age 30 to 54	Count	Share	Count	Share	
	Count 86,182	Share 24.0%	Count 80,221	Share 27.4%	

Jobs by Earnings

	2014		2002	
	Count	Share	Count	Share
\$1,250 per month or less	78,816	22.0%	90,780	31.0%
\$1,251 to \$3,333 per month	139,688	39.0%	138,343	47.2%
More than \$3,333 per month	140,046	39.1%	64,025	21.8%

Jobs by NAICS Industry Sector

	2014		2014 200		2002	
	Count	Share	Count	Share		
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	1,412	0.4%	2,073	0.7%		
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	212	0.1%	209	0.1%		
Utilities	3,778	1.1%	2,801	1.0%		
Construction	19,519	5.4%	24,101	8.2%		
Manufacturing	27,360	7.6%	24,160	8.2%		
Wholesale Trade	9,810	2.7%	9,098	3.1%		
Retail Trade	45,240	12.6%	40,645	13.9%		
Transportation and Warehousing	11,630	3.2%	10,449	3.6%		
Information	6,289	1.8%	5,578	1.9%		
Finance and Insurance	9,591	2.7%	7,511	2.6%		
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	7,255	2.0%	6,605	2.3%		
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	23,280	6.5%	15,392	5.3%		
Management of Companies and Enterprises	2,933	0.8%	474	0.2%		
Administration & Support, Waste Management and Remediation	28,293	7.9%	19,697	6.7%		
Educational Services	33,474	9.3%	29,266	10.0%		
Health Care and Social Assistance	47,391	13.2%	30,889	10.5%		
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	6,547	1.8%	5,320	1.8%		
Accommodation and Food Services	44,256	12.3%	34,959	11.9%		
Other Services (excluding Public Administration)	11,954	3.3%	9,991	3.4%		
Public Administration	18,326	5.1%	13,930	4.8%		

Appendix 2 – continued

Work Area Profile Report

Jobs by Worker Race

	2014		200	9
	Count	Share	Count	Share
White Alone	253,217	70.6%	221,944	70.2%
Black or African American Alone	94,428	26.3%	84,094	26.6%
American Indian or Alaska Native Alone	1,392	0.4%	1,256	0.4%
Asian Alone	6,000	1.7%	5,840	1.8%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander Alone	270	0.1%	336	0.1%
Two or More Race Groups	3,243	0.9%	2,860	0.9%

Jobs by Worker Ethnicity

Jobs by worker Etimicity	201	4	200	9
	Count	Share	Count	Share
Not Hispanic or Latino	346,325	96.6%	305,263	96.5%
Hispanic or Latino	12,225	3.4%	11,067	3.5%

Jobs by Worker Educational Attainment

Jobs by Worker Educational Attainment					
	201	4	2009		
	Count	Share	Count	Share	
Less than high school	33,109	9.2%	26,746	8.5%	
High school or equivalent, no college	80,045	22.3%	68,263	21.6%	
Some college or Associate degree	88,857	24.8%	76,054	24.0%	
Bachelor's degree or advanced degree	70,357	19.6%	61,021	19.3%	
Educational attainment not available (workers aged 29 or younger)	86,182	24.0%	84,246	26.6%	

Jobs by Worker Sex

	2014		2009	
	Count	Share	Count	Share
Male	175,302	48.9%	152,008	48.1%
Female	183,248	51.1%	164,322	51.9%

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Appendix 3

Home Destination Report - Where Workers Live Who are Employed in the Selection Area - by Counties

Total Primary Jobs

	2014		2002	
	Count	Share	Count	Share
Total Primary Jobs	358,550	100.0%	293,148	100.0%

Jobs Counts by Counties Where Workers Live - Primary Jobs

2014 2002					
	Count	Share	Count	Share	
Charleston County, SC	128,017		115,573	39.4%	
Berkeley County, SC	60,865	17.0%	48,806	16.6%	
Dorchester County, SC	48,286	13.5%	34,989	11.9%	
Beaufort County, SC	40,981	11.4%	39,287	13.4%	
Colleton County, SC	10,201	2.8%	10,669	3.6%	
Jasper County, SC	6,365	1.8%	3,456	1.2%	
Horry County, SC	5,512	1.5%	3,158	1.1%	
Richland County, SC	5,095	1.4%	4,299	1.5%	
Orangeburg County, SC	4,866	1.4%	3,249	1.1%	
Hampton County, SC	4,383	1.2%	3,860	1.3%	
Lexington County, SC	3,572	1.0%	3,520	1.2%	
Greenville County, SC	3,402	0.9%	1,654	0.6%	
Georgetown County, SC	2,722	0.8%	1,553	0.5%	
Chatham County, GA	1,977	0.6%	1,620	0.6%	
Spartanburg County, SC	1,963	0.5%	1,381	0.5%	
Florence County, SC	1,946	0.5%	1,240	0.4%	
York County, SC	1,552	0.4%	712	0.2%	
Williamsburg County, SC	1,453	0.4%	1,309	0.4%	
Anderson County, SC	1,331	0.4%	874	0.3%	
Clarendon County, SC	1,308	0.4%	538	0.2%	
Aiken County, SC	1,198	0.3%	554	0.2%	
Sumter County, SC	1,103	0.3%	661	0.2%	
Pickens County, SC	878	0.2%	534	0.2%	
Barnwell County, SC	766	0.2%	439	0.1%	
Effingham County, GA	746	0.2%	512	0.2%	
All Other Locations	18,062	5.0%	8,701	3.0%	

Appendix 4

Distance/Direction Report - Work Census Block to Home Census Block

Job Counts in Home Blocks by Distance Only

	201	4	200	2
	Count	Share	Count	Share
Total Primary Jobs	358,550	100.0%	293,148	100.0%
Less than 10 miles	171,490	47.8%	162,050	55.3%
10 to 24 miles	102,898	28.7%	77,046	26.3%
25 to 50 miles	25,035	7.0%	18,241	6.2%
Greater than 50 miles	59,127	16.5%	35,811	12.2%

Job Counts in Home Blocks to the North of Work Blocks by Distance

	2014		2002	
	Count	Share	Count	Share
Total Primary Jobs	57,071	100.0%	43,950	100.0%
Less than 10 miles	21,677	38.0%	19,688	44.8%
10 to 24 miles	16,637	29.2%	13,248	30.1%
25 to 50 miles	5,387	9.4%	4,129	9.4%
Greater than 50 miles	13,370	23.4%	6,885	15.7%

Job Counts in Home Blocks to the Northeast of Work Blocks by Distance

	2014		2002	
	Count	Share	Count	Share
Total Primary Jobs	43,429	100.0%	37,072	100.0%
Less than 10 miles	19,094	44.0%	19,091	51.5%
10 to 24 miles	8,546	19.7%	6,916	18.7%
25 to 50 miles	3,053	7.0%	2,617	7.1%
Greater than 50 miles	12,736	29.3%	8,448	22.8%

Job Counts in Home Blocks to the East of Work Blocks by Distance

	2014		2002	
	Count	Share	Count	Share
Total Primary Jobs	26,160	100.0%	23,704	100.0%
Less than 10 miles	16,986	64.9%	16,772	70.8%
10 to 24 miles	7,193	27.5%	5,387	22.7%
25 to 50 miles	1,598	6.1%	1,259	5.3%
Greater than 50 miles	383	1.5%	286	1.2%

Job Counts in Home Blocks to the Southeast of Work Blocks by Distance

	2014		2002	
	Count	Share	Count	Share
Total Primary Jobs	28,404	100.0%	25,307	100.0%
Less than 10 miles	18,435	64.9%	17,140	67.7%
10 to 24 miles	8,718	30.7%	7,225	28.5%
25 to 50 miles	1,219	4.3%	911	3.6%
Greater than 50 miles	32	0.1%	31	0.1%

Job Counts in Home Blocks to the South of Work Blocks by Distance

	2014		2002	
	Count	Share	Count	Share
Total Primary Jobs	28,813	100.0%	26,563	100.0%
Less than 10 miles	19,345	67.1%	18,652	70.2%
10 to 24 miles	7,264	25.2%	6,478	24.4%
25 to 50 miles	1,416	4.9%	1,230	4.6%
Greater than 50 miles	788	2.7%	203	0.8%

Appendix 4 - continued

Distance/Direction Report - Work Census Block to Home Census Block

Job Counts in Home Blocks to the Southwest of Work Blocks by Distance

	2014		2002	
	Count	Share	Count	Share
Total Primary Jobs	34,360	100.0%	27,771	100.0%
Less than 10 miles	18,847	54.9%	18,139	65.3%
10 to 24 miles	8,631	25.1%	5,965	21.5%
25 to 50 miles	2,390	7.0%	1,572	5.7%
Greater than 50 miles	4,492	13.1%	2,095	7.5%

Job Counts in Home Blocks to the West of Work Blocks by Distance

	2014		2002	
	Count	Share	Count	Share
Total Primary Jobs	44,531	100.0%	35,157	100.0%
Less than 10 miles	25,724	57.8%	23,497	66.8%
10 to 24 miles	11,016	24.7%	7,408	21.1%
25 to 50 miles	3,983	8.9%	2,696	7.7%
Greater than 50 miles	3,808	8.6%	1,556	4.4%

Job Counts in Home Blocks to the Northwest of Work Blocks by Distance

	2014		2002	
	Count	Share	Count	Share
Total Primary Jobs	95,782	100.0%	73,624	100.0%
Less than 10 miles	31,382	32.8%	29,071	39.5%
10 to 24 miles	34,893	36.4%	24,419	33.2%
25 to 50 miles	5,989	6.3%	3,827	5.2%
Greater than 50 miles	23,518	24.6%	16,307	22.1%

Appendix 5

Data Source and Notes

Data Source: U. S. Census Bureau, 2016. *OnTheMap* Application. Longitudinal-Employer Household Dynamics (LEHD) Program. <u>http://onthemap.ces.census.gov/</u>

¹U. S. Census Bureau, 2016, from the *OnTheMap* Data Overview document at: <u>http://lehd.ces.census.gov/doc/help/onthemap/OnTheMapDataOverview.pdf</u>

The LEHD data infrastructure is based upon several core datasets provided by state partners. These datasets include Unemployment Insurance (UI) wage data and the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) as well as federal civilian workers. Coverage currently excludes several groups of workers: uniformed military, self-employed workers, and informally employed workers.

For the purposes of *OnTheMap*, LEHD defines a job as a link between a worker and a firm at which the worker has been employed during the reference quarter (Quarter 2 [April-June] 2014) and during the quarter prior to the reference quarter. This definition of "job" is sometimes called a "Beginning of Quarter" job because it is assumed that the worker was employed at that firm on the first day of the reference quarter. Jobs are associated with both a home census block for the worker and a jobsite census block in an origin-destination format.

This report uses the "primary job" variable. A primary job is the highest paying job for an individual worker for the year. The count of primary jobs is the same as the count of workers.

Required Language

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