

Economic Data Users - Public Data User Impact Snapshots

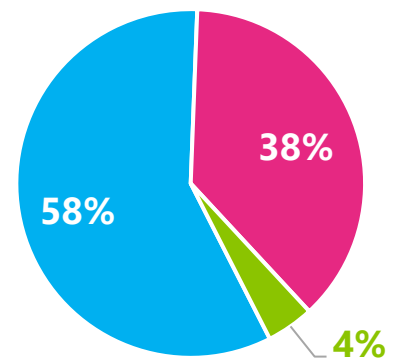
From the SSRS 2026 EMERGE survey¹, supported by the Knight Foundation, this brief examines how users of employment and economic data rely on federal statistical data.

In 2025, government shutdowns, budget cuts, and layoffs impacted the collection and dissemination of federal data. Over **nine in ten** employment and economic public data users report major (58%) or minor (38%) impacts to their work due to federal data changes.

*“The shutdown last fall led to **the first instance in 70+ years of a Current Population Survey not being fielded**. This meant that could not construct the New Hires Quality Index, which merges occupation-based earnings from OEWS to **CPS sample individuals reporting job changes**, for October and November, as two consecutive months of the CPS are required.”*

- Employment and Economic Public Data User

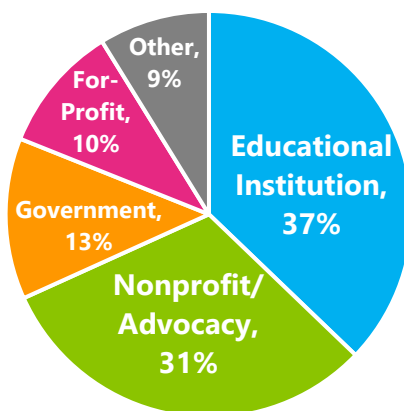
Impact of Federal Statistical Data Changes



Major Impact
Minor Impact
No Impact

Employment and economic data users most often work for educational institutions (37%), nonprofits (31%), government (13%), or for-profit companies (10%). Changes targeting these settings can affect modeling and policy interventions.

Work Settings that Leverage Federal Economic Data



*“While there are **other data sources** (such as QCEW), these sources are **incomplete**, even when we try to incorporate nonemployer statistics data. We have been trying to find a **statistical way to create estimates**, but so far we have **not had success**.”* - **Employment and Economic Public Data User**

¹ The SSRS EMERGE program surveyed 521 online respondents from February 6 through March 9, 2026 through a nonprobability convenience sample. <https://ssrs.com/emerge-initiative/>