



Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW): Policy for Visiting Researcher State Microdata Access

Background

There are two classes of State microdata: 1) Cooperative Agreement Signatory States which grant blanket agreement to all BLS approved research projects, and 2) Non-Signatory States which elect to review projects and will approve projects based on their individual State laws. Non-signatory states are solicited for each agreement. Non-signatory States primarily approve or deny agreements based on the nature of the sponsoring institution (public vs. private).

Non-Signatory State Approval Status

- Kentucky – Approves projects on a case by case basis
- Illinois – Approves most projects
- Michigan – Approves projects from select Federal agencies only
- Missouri – Approves projects on a case by case basis
- Mississippi – Approves projects from select Federal agencies only
- Nebraska – Approves projects on a case by case basis
- New York – Approves projects from select Federal agencies only
- Oregon – Approves projects from researchers at public institutions only
- Pennsylvania – Approves most projects
- Wisconsin – Approves most projects
- Wyoming – Approves projects on a case by case basis

QCEW microdata is not available to researchers for the following States:

- Florida
- Massachusetts
- New Hampshire

Institution Transfer Procedures

Researchers sometimes change institutions during the course of their project; for example, when PhD candidates graduate and then find employment. BLS can transfer the legal agreement with the old institution to the new institution so data access may continue, but the consent from the non-signatory States does not transfer and BLS will not re-solicit non-signatory States for their consent. At the beginning of the project, researchers must choose one of the following paths:

- ❖ **Include non-signatory State data in output with the following restrictions:**
 - The data-sharing agreement will be non-transferable.
 - Data access for the project will be terminated on either the expiration date of the data-sharing agreement or when the researcher is no longer affiliated with the sponsoring institution or organization, whichever comes first.
- ❖ **Include only cooperative agreement State data in output:**
 - Access to non-signatory State data will be revoked.
 - The agreement will be transferable to any eligible institution.
- ❖ **If no output has been prepared prior to the researcher submitting a request to transfer sponsoring institutions:**
 - States will *not* be re-solicited for consent.
 - Access to non-signatory State data will be revoked.
 - The agreement will be transferable to any eligible institution.