Creating the Unavailable: The Case of US Employment Data by Zip Code

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Background

• Employment data is issued by the Bureau of Labor Statistics:
  - Monthly by MSA (SM)
  - Quarterly by county (QCEW)
Geography

- 20,105 sq mi
- 7,303 sq mi
Too large for analysis

20,105 sq mi
2.1 million pop

60 sq mi
213,708 pop
Our Approach

- Census Zip Code Business Patterns (Annual)
- BLS MSA and County Data (Monthly)

Monthly employment by industry and zip code for U.S.
1990 – current
Simple principle, tedious process

- Match fine-grained Census business pattern data to more coarse BLS data
- Missing data in the Census data
- Interpolation for months in between years
- Forecasts of business patterns for years not yet released
Census Zip Code Data

By Zip Code, NAICS

Number of Companies

Company Size (Employees)
Example: Warehousing & Storage

- NAICS 43-493100
Example: Warehousing & Storage

21,935 employees (BLS)
Viola!
Maps!
Animations!
Data Explorer!

- www.isea.redlands.edu/map
Thank you!

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