

# The Changing Landscape of Federal Workforce Statistics: The Context for Real-Time LMI

Andrew Reamer  
George Washington Institute of Public Policy  
George Washington University

Credentials That Work

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# The Changing Landscape of Federal Workforce Statistics

- Historical Orientation
- Vision – 1995-2000
- Challenges and Innovations – 2001-2011
- Moving Forward
  - Priorities
  - Current Developments

# Federal Workforce Statistical System: Historical Orientation

- Paradigm: social science/engineering
- Serves federal needs – macroeconomic policy, distressed regions and disadvantaged workers
- Production-oriented, supply-driven
- Silo world – disconnection from education statistics

## Wagner-Peyser Act Section 14

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to enable the Secretary to provide funds through reimbursable agreements with the States to operate statistical programs which are essential for development of estimates of the gross national product and other national statistical series, including those related to employment and unemployment.

# Federal Workforce Statistical System: Vision 1995-2000

- ALMIS report 1995 -> WIA 1998
- Paradigm: improve labor market functioning
- Serve labor market participants and state/local policymakers
- Demand-driven
- Collaboration-oriented

# National Employment Statistics System [Wagner-Peyser Section 15]

- Mission—address the “needs of Congress, States, localities, employers, jobseekers, and other consumers . . .” as well as local workforce investment boards and students
- Responsibility—Secretary of Labor
- Management—BLS in collaboration with state LMI agencies
- Content—“statistical data ... that ... enumerate, estimate, and project employment opportunities and conditions at national, State, and local levels in a timely manner ....”

# National Employment Statistics System [Wagner-Peyser Section 15]

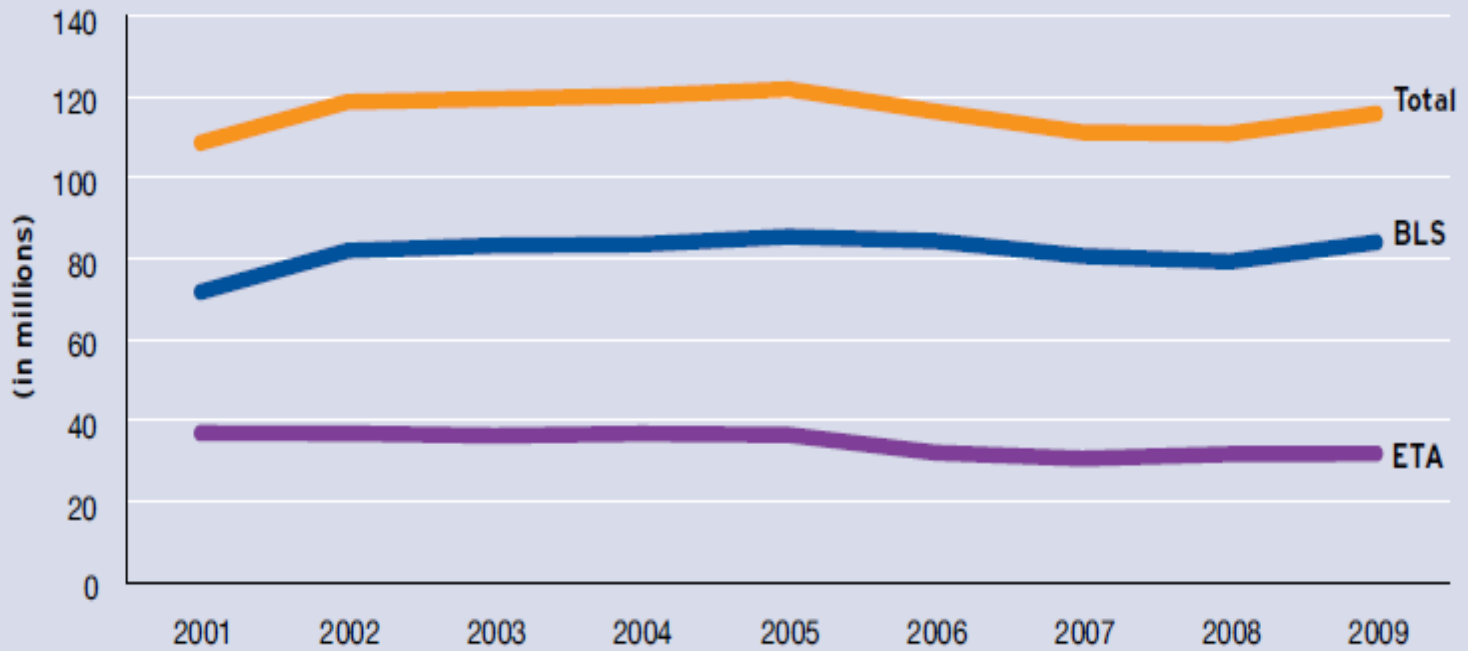
- Data collection—by BLS and states, “actively seek cooperation of other Federal agencies” to ensure “complementarity and nonduplication”
- Data dissemination—wide, user-friendly, reliance on state systems
- Identification of user needs—through surveys and state consultations
- Strategic planning—BLS-state development of annual five-year plan
- Appropriations—budget requests based on five-year plan

# Federal Statistical System: Challenges 2001-2011

- Wagner-Peyser 15 intent for collaborative, demand-driven system largely unfulfilled
  - Secretary – not high priority
  - Annual Plan – latest 2001
  - Workforce Information Council – narrow focus, tension
- Slashed workforce information budgets
- Substantial increase in labor market participant/policymaker need for information
  - Industrial, technological change
  - Increased need for postsecondary credential



### LMI Grants to States from BLS and ETA, 2001-2009



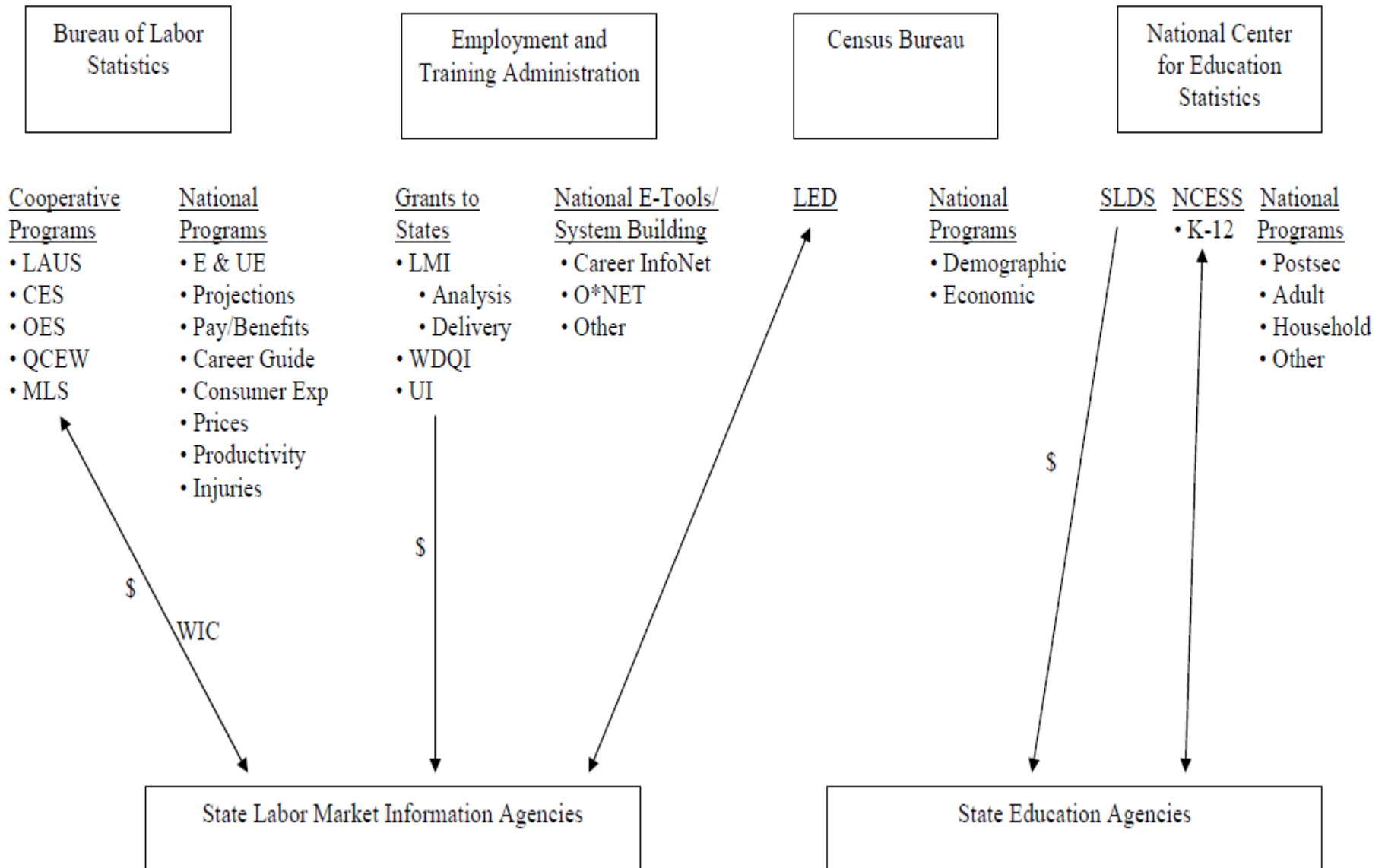
*Note: BLS totals are for the fiscal year; ETA totals are for program year*

*Source: Office of Management and budget*

# Federal Workforce Statistical System: Innovations 2000-2011

- Local Employment Dynamics (Census)
- Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems (NCES, ETA)
- Real-time LMI (ETA)
- Skills-based Transferability and Projections (ETA)
- Career Management System (ETA)

**Figure 4. Federal Labor Market Statistics System**



# Brookings Report: Towards a New Federal Labor Market Statistics System

Mission: provide the data needed by labor market participants and policymakers to make well-informed decisions

Principles:

- Adequate appropriations
- Responsive to user needs
- Federal-state coordination and cooperation

# Brookings Report: Towards a New Federal Labor Market Statistics System

Recommended priority actions:

- White House commitment
- Expanded federal funding
- Assessment of the economic and fiscal impacts of labor market statistics
- Secretary of Labor commitment
- Expanded, functional interagency forum

# Current Developments: White House Competitiveness Policy

- Workforce development is central to “Winning the Future” efforts
  - State of the Union
  - America’s Innovation Strategy
  - Commerce competitiveness study
  - Manufacturing Policy Framework

# Current Developments: Programs, Tools, and Money

- Complete college initiatives
- WIA reauthorization
- Current investments in innovative workforce data tools
- Federal budget situation

# Current Developments: Shifts in BLS-State LMI Relations

- Reasons
  - Economic structural change → increases demand for state LMI services
  - Technological change → increases LMI tool options + BLS capacity to centralize
- Effects
  - Proposed WIC membership expansion
  - LED Partnership
  - Current Employment Statistics centralization



# Place of Real-Time LMI in the Workforce Statistics System: Questions

- Policy and market demand for R-T LMI
- Future structure of federal-state system
- Place of R-T LMI in statistical system
  - Ownership
  - Responsibilities
  - Products and services
  - Relation to other workforce data efforts
  - Funding

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Andrew Reamer, Research Professor  
George Washington Institute of Public Policy  
George Washington University

[areamer@gwu.edu](mailto:areamer@gwu.edu)

(202) 994-7866