



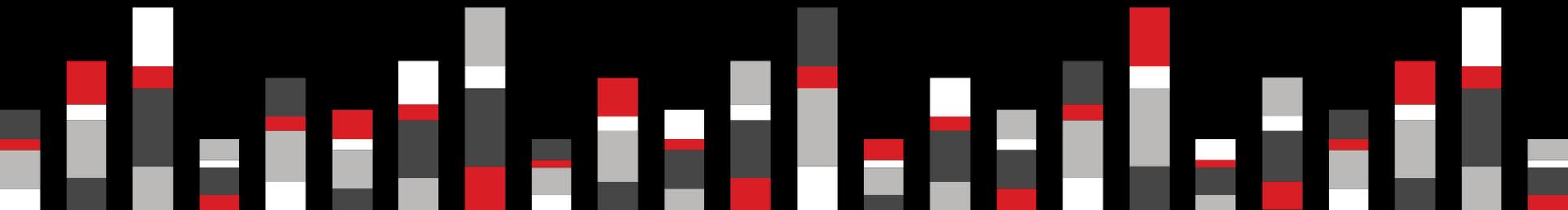
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA

CENTER FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS RESEARCH

Data and Research Series for Community Impact

PART TWO

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National and Regional Perspectives on Safeguarding Data Integrity

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What will it take to protect the credibility and availability of data in a time of rapid change and growing skepticism?

What are those rapid changes?



Photo: U.S. Census Bureau, FOSDIC (Film Optical Sensing Device for Input to Computers) for 1960 Census

Examples from 2024...

- Survey response rates falling.
- American Community Survey sample size hasn't kept up with population.
- Current Population Survey faced budget cuts and sample size reduction (averted).
- Bureau of Labor Statistics scaled back reporting on consumer prices.
- Bureau of Economic Analysis discontinued state & county employment, farm income, nat'l self-employment by industry, etc...



Photo: Daniel Lincoln via Unsplash

Pace of threats sped up in 2025.

- Cuts to budgets, contracts, and staff.
- Widespread discontinuation of data.
- Deletion of taxpayer-funded public data, tools, and websites.
- Termination of scientific advisory committees (an important mechanism for unbiased oversight).
 - Full list here: <https://tinyurl.com/TerminatedCommittees>
- Reports of unauthorized access to confidential data (reduces public trust even if not all reports are verified).
- Removal of agency leaders for political reasons.
- Replacing Chief Statistician with a political appointee.

Source: <https://www.amstat.org/the-nations-data-at-risk-year-two-ongoing-monitoring>

Example 1: Employment Data

What's happening?

In addition to removal of BLS Commissioner...

- In late 2024 Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) suspended data on
 - State/local farm/nonfarm empl.
 - Personal current transfer payments.
 - Many other state/local series...

Why does it matter?

- BEA provides the most comprehensive measure of jobs, incl. “gig work,” family farms, commission-based, and others missed in BLS wage & salary stats.

The screenshot shows the BEA website's 'Discontinued or Delayed Statistics: 2024-2025' page. The page title is 'Discontinued or Delayed Statistics: 2024-2025' and the subtitle is 'Statistical products and data tables impacted by budget or resource constraints.' The page features a navigation bar with 'Data', 'Tools', 'News', 'Research', 'Resources', 'About', and 'Help' menus. A search bar is located in the top right corner. Below the navigation bar, there is a 'Filter' section with a text input field labeled 'Start typing to filter...'. To the right of the filter is a 'Refine' section with three rows of radio button options: 'Type' (All, Products, Tables), 'Status' (All, Discontinued, Delayed, Impacted), and 'Geographic Area(s)' (All, National, State & Local, International). Below the filter and refine sections is a table with the following columns: 'Announced', 'Geographic Area(s)', 'Name & Archive Link', and 'Status'. The table contains one row of data:

Announced	Geographic Area(s)	Name & Archive Link	Status
Jul 2025	International	U.S. Direct Investment Abroad Country by industry detail Financial transactions without current-cost adjustment Equity other than reinvestment of earnings 1982-1989 ^{XLS} , 1990-1999 ^{XLS} , 2000-2009 ^{XLS} , 2010-2019 ^{XLSX} , 2020-2023 ^{XLSX}	Discontinued

Source: <https://www.bea.gov/data/discontinued-or-delayed-statistics>

Example 2: Price Data

The screenshot shows the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics website. At the top left is the BLS logo and the text "U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS". To the right is a "Release Calendar | Subsc" link and a search bar labeled "Search BLS.gov". Below this is a blue navigation bar with links for "HOME", "SUBJECTS", "DATA TOOLS", "PUBLICATIONS", "ECONOMIC RELEASES", "CLASSROOM", and "BETA". Underneath is a breadcrumb trail: "Bureau of Labor Statistics > Consumer Price Index > About > Notices". The main heading is "Consumer Price Index" with a "Search Consumer Price" box. Below the heading is a dark blue navigation bar with links for "CPI Home", "CPI Publications", "CPI Data", "CPI Methods", "About CPI", and "Contact CPI".

Notice of CPI collection reductions

BLS is reducing sample collection in areas across the country. In April, BLS suspended CPI data collection entirely in Lincoln, NE, and Provo, UT. In June, BLS suspended collection entirely in Buffalo, NY.

Collection reduction and suspension affect both the Commodity and Services survey and the Housing survey. These actions have minimal impact on the overall all-items CPI-U and CPI-W indexes. The actions may increase the volatility of subnational or item-specific indexes. The number of imputed items increased in April due to these actions. BLS makes reductions when current resources can no longer support the collection effort. BLS will continue to evaluate survey operations.

We have amended this notice to reflect an error found in the CPI response rate for April. Please see the [errata page](#) for further details.

Last Modified Date: June 16, 2025

- **What's happening?**

- BLS suspended Consumer Price Index (CPI) data collection in 3 cities (Buffalo, NY; Lincoln, NE; Provo, UT)
- Reduced CPI sample size by ~15% in all other locations.
- Suspended ~350 Producer Price Indices.

- **Why does it matter?**

- CPI sets cost of living increases for Social Security, safety net programs, and (at some companies) wages/salaries.
- Businesses use PPI for planning.

Sources: <https://www.bls.gov/cpi/notices/2025/collection-reduction.htm>
<https://www.bls.gov/ppi/notices/2025/bls-to-discontinue-selected-ppis.htm>

Example 3: American Community Survey (ACS)

• What's happening?

- Proposals to make ACS voluntary and to limit non-response follow-up.
- Cuts to staffing at the U.S. Census Bureau.
- Cuts to contracts ending key outreach programs like the ACS Data Users Group.

• Why does it matter?

- Poorer quality data, especially for small populations and rural areas.
- Less communication between agency and data users.
- Loss of public trust.

Housing

Please answer the following questions about the house, apartment, or mobile home at the address on the mailing label.

1 Which best describes this building?
Include all apartments, flats, etc., even if vacant.

- A mobile home
- A one-family house detached from any other house
- A one-family house attached to one or more houses
- A building with 2 apartments
- A building with 3 or 4 apartments
- A building with 5 to 9 apartments
- A building with 10 to 19 apartments
- A building with 20 to 49 apartments
- A building with 50 or more apartments
- Boat, RV, van, etc.

2 About when was this building first built?

- 2020 or later - Specify year →
- 2010 to 2019
- 2000 to 2009
- 1990 to 1999
- 1980 to 1989
- 1970 to 1979
- 1960 to 1969
- 1950 to 1959
- 1940 to 1949

4 How many acres is this house or mobile home on?

- Less than 1 acre → SKIP to question 6a
- 1 to 9.9 acres
- 10 or more acres

5 IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS, what were the actual sales of all agricultural products from this property?

- None
- \$1 to \$999
- \$1,000 to \$2,499
- \$2,500 to \$4,999
- \$5,000 to \$9,999
- \$10,000 or more

6 a. How many separate rooms are in this house, apartment, or mobile home? Rooms must be separated by built-in archways or walls that extend out at least 6 inches and go from floor to ceiling.

- INCLUDE bedrooms, kitchens, etc.
- EXCLUDE bathrooms, porches, balconies, foyers, halls, or unfinished basements.

Number of rooms

b. How many of these rooms are bedrooms?
Count as bedrooms those rooms you would list if this house, apartment, or mobile home were for sale or rent. If this is an efficiency/studio apartment, print "0".

Sources: <https://www.nlc.org/article/2025/03/25/5-reasons-the-american-community-survey-is-essential-for-cities/>
<https://thecensusproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/ACS-Funding-fact-sheet-3-25.pdf>
<https://thecensusproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/ACS-Fact-Sheet-With-Map-3-2025.pdf>
<https://thecensusproject.org/the-urgent-national-need-to-enhance-the-quality-and-timeliness-of-ac-s-data/>

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Photo: George Pagan III via UnSplash

For Early Warnings on Changes, Follow and Subscribe to dataindex.us

America's Data Index

Monitoring America's federal data infrastructure from dataset availability and new releases to planned and unplanned changes to collections.



To Keep Up To Date Join the Federal Data Forum.

federaldataforum.prb.org



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MM RE: September Release of CPS ASEC

By: [Mark Mather](#), 23 hours ago

Posted in: [Federal Data Users](#)

Hi Flo, I'm hoping the Census Bureau will announce their release schedule for the 2024 income, poverty, and health insurance data in the next couple of weeks. Last year, this information was posted on July 16: <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2024/schedule-income-poverty-ac.html> ...

JJ new book "Preserving government information: past, ...

By: [James Jacobs](#), 23 hours ago

Community Quick Links

- ? Community FAQs
- 📄 Data Resources

Community Events List

- JUL 9** Rapid Response Data Briefing: American Time Use Survey
📍 Online
- JUL 22** Association of Public Data Users' unConference 2025
📍 Online