Review of BLS Employment Projection Methodologies: Foundations, Current Practices, and Opportunities for Enhancement

Satyadhar Joshi

Alumnus, International MBA, Bar-Ilan University, Israel

Alumnus, Touro College MSIT, NY, USA

ORCID: 0009-0002-6011-5080

satyadhar.joshi@gmail.com

Abstract: *This paper provides a comprehensive review of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) employment projection methodologies as documented in official BLS publications, including the Handbook of Methods, Monthly Labor Review articles, and technical documentation. The BLS Employment Projections program produces essential long-term forecasts of the labor force, industry output, and occupational employment that inform national policy and workforce development strategies. This review systematically examines the core methodological components: labor force projections using demographic models, macroeconomic projections of GDP and its components, industry output and employment projections using input-output analysis, and occupational employment projections based on industry staffing patterns. We analyze key technical documents including the occupational separations methodology, gross flows estimation frameworks, Bayesian inference for survey estimation, hedonic quality adjustment methods, multiple imputation techniques for missing data, and productivity measurement approaches. The review synthesizes findings from recent methodological innovations published in the Monthly Labor Review and working paper series, identifying strengths, limitations, and opportunities for enhancement. This comprehensive examination serves as a foundation for understanding how BLS methodologies might evolve to address emerging measurement challenges while maintaining historical continuity and statistical rigor.*