BTOS API Reference Documentation

Last updated: April 28, 2025

Currently, BTOS data are accessible through the API either by period with all strata, or by a single strata per period. National estimates are available but requires filtering the data *after* accessing the API (by filtering all strata variables to null/NA values).

Since each period is stored as a distinct dataset, creating time series data requires accessing each desired collection period in sequence and joining the frames together. Accessing multiple datasets in sequence may result in you being rate-limited; if you run into errors, please increase your program's timeout duration.

EMPSIZE datasets from PERIOD_ID <= 30 use a 3-bin system:

- EMPSIZE A: 4 or fewer employees.
- EMPSIZE B: 5-19 employees.
- EMPSIZE C: 20+ employees.

These datasets correspond to the "BTOS V1" files located on the Historical Data section of the 'Downloads and Documentation' tab. Additionally, BTOS data from these periods only included single location businesses, so data may not be comparable with later BTOS data. Please see the methodology documentation for more details.

For PERIOD_IDs >= 31, BTOS moved to a 7-bin EMPSIZE classification:

- EMPSIZE A: 4 or fewer employees.
- EMPSIZE B: 5-9 employees.
- EMPSIZE C: 10-19 employees.
- EMPSIZE D: 20-49 employees.
- EMPSIZE E: 50-99 employees.
- EMPSIZE F: 100-249 employees.
- EMPSIZE G: 250+ employees

Strata/question/answer cells that are suppressed due to data quality and privacy concerns ('S' values in the Excel downloads) are rendered as null/NA estimates in the API datasets.

Note: state x sector estimates, URR, and supplemental content are currently not available through the API. Please use the Excel files if you wish to access these data.