EDITING STRATEGIES USED BY THE U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS IN DATA COLLECTION OVER THE INTERNET

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Internet Data Collection Philosophy

- Decrease in perception of burden
- Improved response rates
- Control of costs
- Improved data quality and
- For surveys with multiple closings--smaller revisions between preliminary and final estimates

Internet Edits

- Start with a limited number of edits and build
- Limit type of edits
- Borrow edits from post-data collection processing

Current Employment Statistics Program

- All employees
- Women employees
- Production or nonsupervisory workers
- Production/Nonsupervisory payroll
- Production/Nonsupervisory hours
- Commissions collected for the Service Providing industry
- Overtime hours collected in Manufacturing

1997 CES Internet Edit Rules

- Logic errors--e.g. All Employment greater than Production Workers
- Range checks--Average hourly earnings between $1.00 - $150.00
- Validity checks--numeric entry
- Data entry errors
- Mandatory field (All employees) must be completed

Current Internet
Edit Rules

- Expanded basic and longitudinal edits
- Critical values vary by major industry division
- Over-the-month changes compared for each data element and for several "calculated" averages

CES Internet
Edit Experiences

- Approximately 40% of current web sample has failed at least one edit check over a 12 month span

- Approximately 3% of web reports fail one edit check each month

- In 88% of all edit failures, respondent corrected and submitted data during same session

Monthly Unit Cost of Data Collection

Messaging Function	CATI	Mail	EDI	TDE/VR/FAX	Web
Outbound messages (advance notices)	$0.23	$0.34	$0.01	$0.07	$0.00
Inbound messages (data)	$1.00	$0.34	$0.28	$0.14	$0.00
Non-response prompting	$0.00	$0.10	$0.01	$0.04	$0.00
TOTAL TRANSMISSION COSTS	**$1.23**	**$0.78**	**$0.30**	**$0.25**	**$0.00**
Hardware	$0.03	$0.01	$0.03	$0.03	$0.01
High speed communication lines	---	---	---	---	$0.12
Digital Certificates	---	---	---	---	$0.10
Labor	$5.00	$0.50	$0.43	$0.28	$0.10
TOTAL MONTHLY UNIT COSTS	**$6.18**	**$1.29**	**$0.76**	**$0.56**	**$0.33**

Research Issues Associated with Editing Schedules on the Web

- Respondent behavior
- Data quality
- Overall strategy