

Dataset Name: **WIOA PIRL (Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, Participant Individual Record Layout)**

Publisher: Employment and Training Administration, U.S. Department of Labor

Website: <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/performance/reporting>

Unit of Analysis: Individual

Purpose of Dataset: The WIOA PIRL is used to calculate performance statistics about the U.S. public workforce system. It aggregates data collected by individual states on individuals who participate in any type of WIOA workforce development program, including programs for displaced workers, youth, and disabled adults. It includes data on post-program labor market outcomes taken from state unemployment insurance wage records, which is intended to be used to evaluate the effectiveness of WIOA programs.

Quality Metrics

Metric	Rating	Summary Explanation
Non-response	Excellent	With 20,356,612 records in the most recently released data file (Q1 2021), we believe that the dataset contains records on all Americans who have participated in or completed a WIOA program within the year prior to the reference period.
Coverage	Fair	Due to computing power limitations, we were unable to calculate exact coverage rates but based on prior research with the PIRL we note that there are significant issues with missing data. Many fields are blank by design: for example, there are only about 700,000 cases with data to report on credential attainment because the remainder of the population did not attain a credential with WIOA support. Missing data for certain fields seems to be concentrated in specific states.
Granularity	Excellent	The PIRL contains detailed (though sometimes top-coded) data on pre-entry and post-completion earnings. It also contains detailed information on the credentials completed while receiving WIOA support, including text strings indicating the full name of the training provider.
Consistency	N/A	We have not been able to find datasets that would lend themselves to an “apples to apples” comparison with NSC.
Timeliness	Good	Data tends to be released to the public with a lag of about one year, though this lag has been decreasing recently. At one point during the COVID-19 pandemic the lag time was two years.
Integrity	Excellent	We did not identify any risks to data integrity.
Accessibility	Fair	Anyone can download the data from the ETA website, however the file is massive and requires significant computer capacity to do even simple calculations.
Interoperability	Good	One should be able to link to IPEDS or TrainingProviderResults.gov at the training program level on the basis of the name and location of the training provider. However, such interoperability could be improved with the creation of a unique common identifier for training providers. Since most identifying personal information is suppressed to maintain confidentiality, it would likely not be possible to make linkages at the individual level to other datasets.
Suitability for Longitudinal Research	Good	Data files go back to 2016 and can be freely downloaded from the DOL website, though computing power may be an issue for analyses that integrate multiple files.
Overall Recommendation	Good	While limited to the WIOA population, this dataset contains rich data on the pre-and post-completion experiences of individuals who obtain many different types of non-degree credentials.

Relevance to Use Cases

Use Case	Rating	Summary Explanation
Analyze the Overall Prevalence of NDCs	Poor	The WIOA PIRL only covers less than 10 percent of the U.S. adult population.
Identify Which NDCs are Associated with Highest Earnings	Good	Detailed analyses relating the attainment of different credentials to earnings can be completed with the PIRL, keeping in mind the limitations of the nature of the population.
Identify Patterns of Inequality in NDC Attainment	Excellent	In addition to detailed labor market data, PIRL contains indicators of demographic characteristics.
Enrichment of NTEWS Microdata	Good	It is possible that restricted versions of the PIRL may contain identifiers that would permit linkages with restricted versions of the NTEWS at the individual level for at least some subset of the skilled technical workforce. Moreover, one could link at the level of occupation or field of study to compare labor market outcomes reported in the PIRL and in the NTEWS.