

Executive Summary

Key Dataset Facts

Dataset Name: **NLx (National Labor Exchange) Research Hub**

Publisher: Direct Employers Association; National Association of State Workforce Agencies

Website: <https://nlxresearchhub.org/>

Unit of Analysis: Job Posting/Vacancy

Purpose of Dataset: To enable researchers to conduct analyses using “big data” on job postings aggregated from multiple job and career search websites and workforce boards/agencies. This data is intended to enable research that informs policy and/or guides the decision-making of job and credential seekers.

Quality Metrics

Metric	Rating	Summary Explanation
Non-response	Good	There are about 4 million job postings in the NLx at any given moment. It is intended to be comprehensive. However, the full “denominator” or number of vacancies that exist is difficult to ascertain.
Coverage	Fair	Employers vary greatly in the amount of information that they put in job descriptions, ranging from a few sentences to several paragraphs. There is rich and ample data, but it is not consistent.
Granularity	Excellent	Some job postings are quite specific about what they are looking for. Names and physical locations of employers exist in the dataset, though are not always provided to researchers. Data on the O*Net codes associated with job postings exists, but there are limitations on its use by researchers.
Consistency	N/A	We have not been able to find datasets that would lend themselves to an “apples to apples” comparison with the NLx.
Timeliness	Excellent	The data is refreshed at least daily.
Integrity	Excellent	We did not identify any risks to data integrity.
Accessibility	Excellent	There is an application procedure that may take several hours to complete. Access to the microdata is through an API; while sample Python code is provided to approved researchers to access the data, significant technical expertise is required.
Interoperability	Good	There is certainly potential to establish linkages at various levels of geography, occupation, and employer name once the data has been suitably cleaned or processed. However, the data would require cleaning and special approval from the data owners may be required for some linkages.
Suitability for Longitudinal Research	Excellent	Data goes back several years and is updated on a daily basis enabling one to correlate job postings with the business cycle.

Overall Recommendation	Excellent	This is a unique source of data that, with sufficient investment in time and effort, could help researchers understand the dynamics of the relationship between workers and employers.
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Relevance to Use Cases

Use Case	Rating	Summary Explanation
Analyze the Overall Prevalence of NDCs	Good	While this dataset tells us nothing about who holds credentials, it can tell us a lot about who is requesting credentials – which may be a suitable proxy in some situations for credential prevalence.
Identify Which NDCs are Associated with Highest Earnings	Good	Some but not all job postings have information about the potential salary (or range of salaries) that candidates may be considered for.
Identify Patterns of Inequality in NDC Attainment	Poor	Since the unfilled job posting is the unit of analysis, we do not know whether the jobs listed are going to members of particular demographic groups.
Enrichment of NTEWS Microdata	Good	There are applications in terms of defining the universe of credentials being requested by employers, the value employers are associating with particular credentials, and the availability of jobs in particular occupations and locations, all of which can be paired at various levels of aggregation with NTEWS microdata.