

Executive Summary

Key Dataset Facts

Dataset Name: **RAPIDS (Registered Apprenticeship Partners Information Data System)**

Publisher: U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Apprenticeship (OA)

Website: <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/apprenticeship/about/statistics/2021>

Unit of Analysis: Worker AND Credential

Quality Metrics

Metric	Rating	Summary Explanation
Non-response	Excellent	3,043,210 individuals and 105,584 programs, which is consistent with existing estimates of the number of credentials and programs in existence with the known exclusion of certain states (cover Minnesota, Oregon, Vermont, Washington state, and the District of Columbia). No known missing cases outside of those states.
Coverage	Good	Coverage rates range from 73 to 100% for individual variables except for county, which is filled in for only about 65% of cases.
Granularity	Good	Contains detailed O*Net and NAICS codes and earnings data; however some data is lumped into poorly defined categories (e.g., educational attainment)
Consistency	N/A	We have not been able to find datasets that would lend themselves to an “apples to apples” comparison with RAPIDS.
Timeliness	Good	Data is reported to the website on a regular basis.
Integrity	Excellent	We did not identify any risks to data integrity.
Accessibility	Good	Anyone can download and work with the microdata immediately. However, the page containing the microdata file is difficult to find within dol.gov.
Interoperability	Good	Data can theoretically be matched to other sources on the name of the apprenticeship program, though no widely accepted, unique identifier for apprenticeship programs exists.
Suitability for Longitudinal Research	Excellent	The most recent edition of RAPIDS contains data on all apprentices in the United States (except MN, OR, VT, WA and DC) going back to 2000.
Overall Recommendation	Good	This is a high-quality source of information on one particular type of non-degree credential (apprenticeship).

Relevance to Use Cases

Use Case	Rating	Summary Explanation
Analyze the Overall Prevalence of NDCs	Excellent	RAPIDS gives us accurate data on the whole universe of apprentices.

Identify Which NDCs are Associated with Highest Earnings	Good	RAPIDS contains enough data on post-apprenticeship wages to tell us about how much apprentices earn while in their programs and upon completion. However, as with PIRL, data on individual earnings is limited to four quarters after program completion.
Identify Patterns of Inequality in NDC Attainment	Excellent	RAPIDS can tell us about the demographic characteristics of apprentices with enough detail to identify disparities in earnings or job quality on the basis of race, even if can't tell us why those disparities occur.
Enrichment of NTEWS Microdata	Fair	NTEWS, while containing data on whether one completed an apprenticeship, does not ask for enough details about respondents' apprenticeship programs to positively match to an apprenticeship program, or an individual apprentice, contained in RAPIDS.