



Time Series Innovation in Response to the Covid-19 Pandemic at BLS

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Abstract:

The US Bureau of Labor Statistics faced a number of unique challenges as the COVID-19 pandemic unfolded. BLS time series researchers responded to these challenges in a number of ways which changed the agency's seasonal adjustment methodology. We will summarize work related to seasonal adjustment processing on several surveys (including the Current Population Survey, the Local Area Unemployment Statistics program, and the weekly Unemployed Insurance series), which includes changes in related software, determining if the seasonal adjustment mode needs to be changed, and determining outlier sets to use in the face of a substantial shock to the U.S. labor market and its aftermath.

Keywords:

Signal extraction, seasonal adjustment mode, outlier selection