



Since 2002, Argentina's Ministry of Labor, Employment, and Social Security has managed the Employment and Business Dynamics Observatory, a statistical information system on labor market dynamics that was created by linking different administrative records and adapting them for this purpose. The initiative seeks to satisfy the emerging demand for dynamic, permanent, and real-time information from interconnected systemic sources.



Innovation

The Observatory has introduced a number of innovations, among them: (i) the incorporation of administrative records developed by other institutions; (ii) national coverage, including all registered wage-earners in the private sector as well as all corporate employers, which allows a high degree of disaggregation of sectoral, provincial, and local data; (iii) the creation of a versatile system of flexible design that responds to specific management demands; and, (iv) a design that allows for the development of source triangulation methodologies.

Usefulness of the Data



The creation of indicators on employment dynamics and structure, and on the corporate population has resulted in a statistical information system that is adequate, consistent, and proven.

The coherence between the Observatory and policy making entities is reflected in the fact that the subjects addressed, the definitions used to create indicators, the level of sectoral and regional disaggregation, and the opportunity for data dissemination, among

other things, are in line with public policy needs.

Input from the Observatory has been useful, for example, in the design and monitoring of the Labor Ministry's wage policies (2003-2007) and for tracking labor legislation.



Lessons Learned

A medium-term implementation strategy for gathering and classifying data was essential for developing the Observatory. Also essential are permanent redesign capabilities that allow the Observatory to continually adapt to changing fiscal administration processes.

The interaction between the generation of primary data and the development of studies based on this information validates the information and makes it possible to develop incremental problem-solving methodologies. Finally, dissemination of the microdata and the clear definition of dissemination policies is crucial for the success of the Observatory.

