



January 10, 2020

To the New 20s!

Starting this month, we'll need a bit more specificity when we reference "the 20s." Just let that sink in. 🧐 📅 🙌

We took an extra week this month to give everyone a breather and let you celebrate your New Year holiday in peace. This tested our self-restraint since we had to keep mum on all these resources!

Coming WDQI Attractions & Updates

- **WDQI Webinar:** Save the date! Tuesday, January 28, 2020, 2:00 pm EST!
- **SLDS Grant Program:** We have it on good authority that the 2019 SLDS Program grant awards will be announced in February or March. Watch this space, your [SLDS Newsletter](#), or our friends on [Twitter](#). (Thanks #SLDS team!)
- **Speaking of grant programs, the WDQI team at DOL** has secured another round of funding to support the program! 🧐 🙌 🏆 A Round VIII will be announced – stay tuned. (And if you are in Round VI, you know what to do!)
- **The Annual WDQI Convening:** Because of the timing of SLDS awards, the Annual Convening for both SLDS and WDQI will likely occur in November this year. Details to follow as they become available. (This also makes it more likely we will organize a mini-convening at STATS-DC this summer.)
- **Annual Check-ins & Onboarding Calls:** We are making our way through calls with each individual team – all 18! It's been super! We can't wait to share what we're learning. We are also adding your team members to the distribution list as we conduct calls and would love your help. *Please forward this to data champions in your state who may not be receiving it and cc us.* We'll make sure they receive the next edition.
- **#MakingBetterWork Podcasts:** New ones! (This means you Mississippi!) Right [here](#).
- **Departures and new friends:** Fran Valentine, a member of the Indiana WDQI team and super contributor to our own WDQI community has taken her organizational skills and analysis chops to the field of human health in her new position as Director of Operations at [Regenstrief Institute](#). Clinton Flowers, longtime Workforce Data Champion and stellar human being from the State of Missouri, retired from his post at the end of last year. Tracy

Otto is MO's new WDQI Team Lead. We will miss Fran and Clinton and wish them well, and we welcome Tracy in her new role! (Tracy, let us know how we can help!)

Radar

Let us know whether you will be attending any of these convenings (or any other convenings not yet on our radar)!

- **National Skills Coalition's** Annual [Skills Summit](#), February 5-7, 2020 (Washington, DC)
- **National Association of State Workforce Agencies** (NASWA) [Winter Forum](#), February 12, 2020 (Washington, DC)
- **Data on Purpose** [Annual Summit](#) (Palo Alto, CA and online, dates TBD)
- **National Association of Workforce Boards** (NAWB) [Annual Forum](#), March 21-24, 2020 (Washington, DC)
- **Council for Community and Economic Research** ([C2ER](#)) and the Labor Market Information ([LMI](#)) Institute Annual Conference and Forum, [June 3-5, 2020](#) (Columbus, OH)
- **Association of Public Data Users** (APDU) [Annual Conference](#), July 9-10, 2020 (Arlington, VA)
- **National Center for Educational Statistics** [STATS-DC](#) Conference (Washington, DC, dates TBD)
- [Community Indicators Consortium](#) Conference, (dates, location TBD)
- [National Center for Workforce Education](#) (NCWE) Annual Conference (dates, location TBD)
- **State Higher Education Executive Officers Association** (SHEEO) [Higher Education Policy Conference](#), August 5-9, 2020, Boston, MA
- **Data for Good** [Exchange](#) (New York, NY, dates TBD)

Jobs!

Our friends at the [National Skills Coalition are \(still\) hiring!](#) These are mission-critical positions (Senior Fellow, Workforce Systems/Senior Fellow, Workforce Data Policy/State Network Manager, [SkillSPAN](#))! Let's help them out by spreading the word and encouraging the most amazing job-seekers we know to apply! This is likely your last chance to encourage someone great to apply for these positions!

Tasters

As you know, we generally let themes guide our newsletter curating. This month we were awash in amazing content. In the spirit of welcoming you back in a different way than your inboxes may have, we're sharing just a few of our subjectively determined favorites (yes, some are collections). That's it.

Welcome back 😊!

Yours in data,

Kristin Wolff (@kristinwolff) &
Maureen Sarver (@maureensarver)

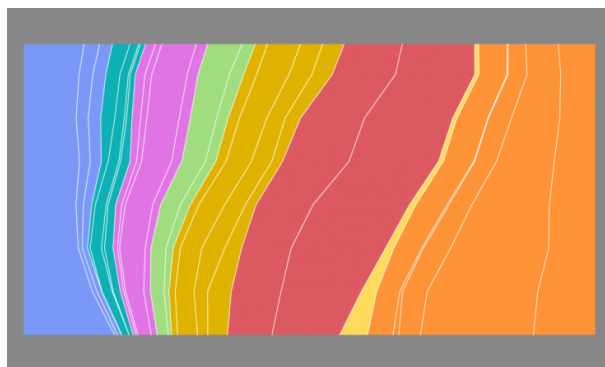
Have a Look



2019: The Year in Visual Stories and Graphics

#NYT #DataViz -> A treat for the eyes. It's not workforce data, but it just may expand what we think it's possible to do with workforce data. Who's with us?

 nytimes.com



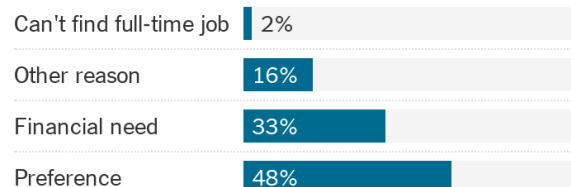
Shifts in Job Distribution

In the 1950s, almost half of all employed people were either in farming or manufacturing. As you can see, work changed a bit over the years. (And who can resist a good Sankey?)

 flowingdata.com

Why Workers Have Multiple Jobs

The reason given by respondents.



"Even after a long economic expansion, America is still the land of the side hustle."

An excellent summary of what we know (and what we don't) about workers not employed in single full-time jobs. (Especially for all of you trying to figure out how to bound, count, and otherwise quantify the gig economy.)

 nytimes.com

Have A Think

The 2010s featured a lot of great social science. Here are @DylanMatt's 12 favorite studies.

We had a few of these queued up when we saw Dylan's list. He's curated top-notch research from economists, political scientists, sociologists, and philosophers (including [Raj Chetty](#) and [Virginia Eubanks](#) whose work we've featured before). We thank him! The [multistate evaluation paper](#) (Orr, et al) provides a window into the 'knowing-doing gap' and explains a bit about why scaling proven interventions can be so challenging. Many of the programs referenced will be familiar to you.



The EvoLLLution's 2019 Year in Review

EvoLLLution is one of our go-to sources for #MakingBetterWork, so you may have seen some of the pieces in the 2019 Review. *Lifelong Learning for the 100-Year Life* was one of our faves. (You'll have to register to access but it's quick and free.)



What Works in Career and Technical Education

This brief, the result of a collaboration between MDRC and [Results for America](#), identifies the major categories of career and technical education within the nation's secondary and postsecondary education systems and describes the existing research on the effectiveness of key programs.



You'll Have to Google This One.

This paper by Maggie Reeves and Robert McMillan won the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA) 2019 Data Science Curriculum for Public Service competition. Entitled "[Secure Shouldn't Mean Secret: A Call for Public Policy Schools to Share, Support, and Teach Data Stewardship.](#)" it's protected by Cloudflare though, so we weren't able to link to it in the usual way. Here is the [press release](#).



Have a Surprise (!)

Workers Trust AI More Than Human Managers

We read that headline more than once. And then we read the article. We trust you will, too.



Three Theories for Why You Have No Time (or Why Robots Have Not Yet Stolen Your Job)

Better technology means higher expectations, and higher expectations create more work. We're not sure how we feel about this one, but we appreciate [Derek Thompson](#) looking into the topic since we didn't have time.

 [theatlantic.com](#)

Some Jobs Are Better – or Worse – for Workers' Wellbeing

The headline may not be a surprise, strictly speaking, but the study offers an uncommon look at jobs and the labor market – one we thought you might find valuable as the issue of job quality gains the attention of policy makers in many (your?) states.

 [news.gallup.com](#)

The #FutureofWork and the Lessons of Duct Tape: The Press Room from Deloitte Insights (Podcast)

Tanya Ott takes on the meaning of work and the surprising parallels between duct tape and digital technology. (T-shirt courtesy of Kristin via [Spreadshirt](#))

 [deloitteuniversitypre...](#)

Have a Listen

Our Very Own #WDQI #MakingBetterWork Podcast Now Has Ten Episodes!

If you haven't subscribed, pull out your mobile device and do it now!

[iTunes](#) * [Stitcher](#) * [GooglePlay](#)

Search for **Making Better Work** on Google Play (a quirk of the platform).

Again, we hope these new communication channels will bring your work further into the public domain so that kindred spirits in different parts of the public data ecosystem can find each other. It's a big job but somebody's got to do it. Why not us?

Information Wants to Be Shared

This is the 12th edition of *#MakingBetterWork*, the perpetual beta newsletter of the longitudinal workforce data community.

We'd love your continued help in making it great (and your generosity of spirit when we don't quite get there). Our interviews and conversations with you over the past two months, together with our observations and encounters with the field, will guide our editorial choices in 2020. So far, the 2019 list below is holding pretty well. But we're open, so let us know.

- **Impact** (Products, legislation, key policy decisions, and more – what difference is WDQI making in your state, community?)
- **Governance** (In the words of one of our subject matter experts, "It's everything.")
- **Ecosystem** (How do we better align public data efforts and work with nonprofit, foundation, university, and other partners more effectively to address critical workforce and education issues? How do we do this consistently, ethically, and responsibly?)
- **Themes that run through WDQI events and activities:**
 - Federal legislative mandates (WIOA – and evaluation, HEA, Perkins, etc.)
 - Non-degree credentials – such as certificates and industry-recognized credentials (increasingly called "credentials of value" and the main focus of our May newsletter)
 - Future of Work – using data to help policymakers, institutional leaders, and the rest of us navigate it

In case you've received this from a friend or colleague and don't know how to find us, we've provided our contact information below.

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Know someone who needs this newsletter? Forward it or send them here.