Notes to the Excel Table

For the original request, sole proprietorships are the closest approximation for which data are available on a regular basis. A small proportion of sole proprietorships are start-ups; the large majority are not. Most sole proprietorships are small businesses but many small businesses are not sole proprietorships.

With those limitations in mind, we obtained a file that contains the number of sole proprietors for each Texas county, for each year from 1970 through 2017. This large file of 12,900 rows also has data about sole proprietors’ incomes and total employment. (Because the income data are adjusted for inflation to 2018, they are more difficult to interpret, and in some cases, show a county’s sole proprietors’ income to be negative.)

From the original large file, we have extracted data for each county for 2000, 2010, and 2017. This data are provided in the smaller excel file, with 10 tabs:

Number of sole proprietors in 2017 for each Texas county, with counties in alphabetical order;

Number in sole proprietors in 2017 for each Texas county, with counties arrayed from the largest number to the smallest number;

Percent change in number of sole proprietors from 2000 to 2017 for each Texas county, with counties in alphabetical order;

Percent change in number of sole proprietors from 2000 to 2017 for each Texas county, with counties arrayed from the largest increase to largest decrease;

Percent of total employment in 2017 that is comprised of sole proprietors, with Texas counties in alphabetical order;

Percent of total employment in 2017 that is comprised of sole proprietors, with counties arrayed from the largest proportion of sole proprietors to the smallest proportion;

The change between 2010 and 2017 in the proportion of sole proprietors as a percentage of total employment, with counties in alphabetical order;

The change between 2010 and 2017 in the proportion of sole proprietors as a percentage of total employment, with counties arrayed from the largest positive change to the smallest change;

The change between 2000 and 2017 in the proportion of sole proprietors as a percentage of total employment, with counties in alphabetical order; and

The change between 2000 and 2017 in the proportion of sole proprietors as a percentage of total employment, with counties arrayed from the largest positive change to the smallest change.

If other years of employment data, or if sole proprietors’ income data are desired, we can provide that information.

James Jarrett, Bureau of Business Research, IC² Institute, jj@ic2.utexas.edu