

## **Executive Summary**

Researchers at the University of Texas at Austin's Center for the Study of Human Resources began actively using employment and earnings data drawn from Unemployment Insurance (UI) wage and other records to address both policy research and evaluation questions for Texas in the mid-1980s. They found that such data, while having certain disadvantages, offered compelling advantages which allowed them to address policy research issues in ways which were not feasible otherwise.

This paper briefly examines the advantages and disadvantages of linked employer-employee administrative data drawn from UI wage and other records, based in part on experience with using them for state policy research. It then offers several illustrative uses to which Center researchers have put these data to inform Texas policymakers. It concludes with a series of observations and thoughts on future directions for using these data.