



Chicago Metropolitan  
Agency for Planning

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**COG/MPO Mini Conference**  
**Employment Estimates: Methodology and**  
**Experiences**

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# About CMAP

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- Established in 2005 by the State of Illinois with support from the region's mayors.
- Central purpose is to better integrate planning for land use and transportation.
- The Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission (NIPC) and Chicago Area Transportation Study (CATS) have been consolidated within CMAP.
- New, streamlined regional agency serves seven counties that make up the third largest U.S. metropolitan region
  - Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry and Will counties
  - 279 municipalities
  - Numerous school, park, and sanitary districts, along with other agencies



# Basics

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- Estimates prepared on a 5 year cycle
- Estimates tied to Public Land Survey System
  - Transportation modeling zones based on quarter sections
- Estimates by place of work, not place of residence
- Two different estimate files prepared
  - Wage and salary employment only
  - Wage, salary including estimate of self-employed, unpaid family and domestic workers (Underground Economy)

# Data Sources

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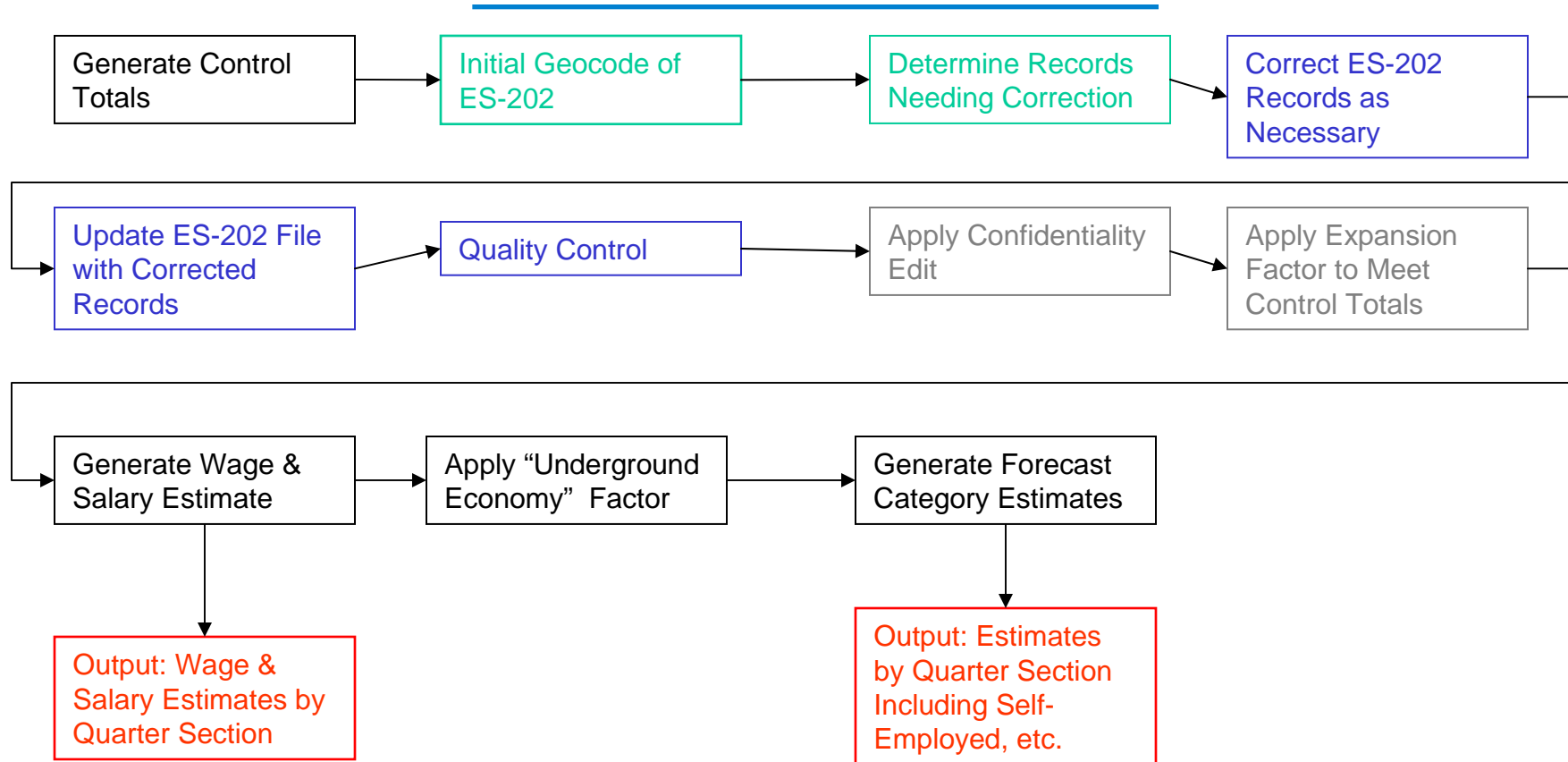
- Bureau of Labor Statistics 790 File
  - Source of control totals
- ES-202 Unemployment Insurance File
  - Determines spatial location of employers

# Data Sources

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- County Business Patterns & Census of Governments
  - Used to break up BLS790 by county for control totals
- Supplemental sources to correct ES-202
  - Illinois Manufacturer's and Services Directories
  - American Business Information
  - Web and direct employer contact

# Methodology



# Experiences

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- Inaccurate addresses
- “Misreported Multiple” employers
  - Difficulty obtaining employer data post 9-11
- SIC/NAICS and comparability between years
  - Change in definition of industry categories

# Experiences

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- The Kendall County issue
  - Addition of a 7<sup>th</sup> County to CMAP service area
  - Lack of current or legacy data
  - What back data can be obtained?
  - Need to create new geographic coverages

# Experiences

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- The O'Hare issue
  - Expansion factors causing serious overestimation of employment
  - Unlikely to have self-employed, domestic or unpaid family workers
  - Very likely that all employers have been accounted for
  - Employment totals “passed through” without expansion at the airport only

# Uses for Employment Estimates

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- Forecasting
- Data Reporting
- Partner Agencies
- CMAP's upcoming land use model
- Technical Assistance



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