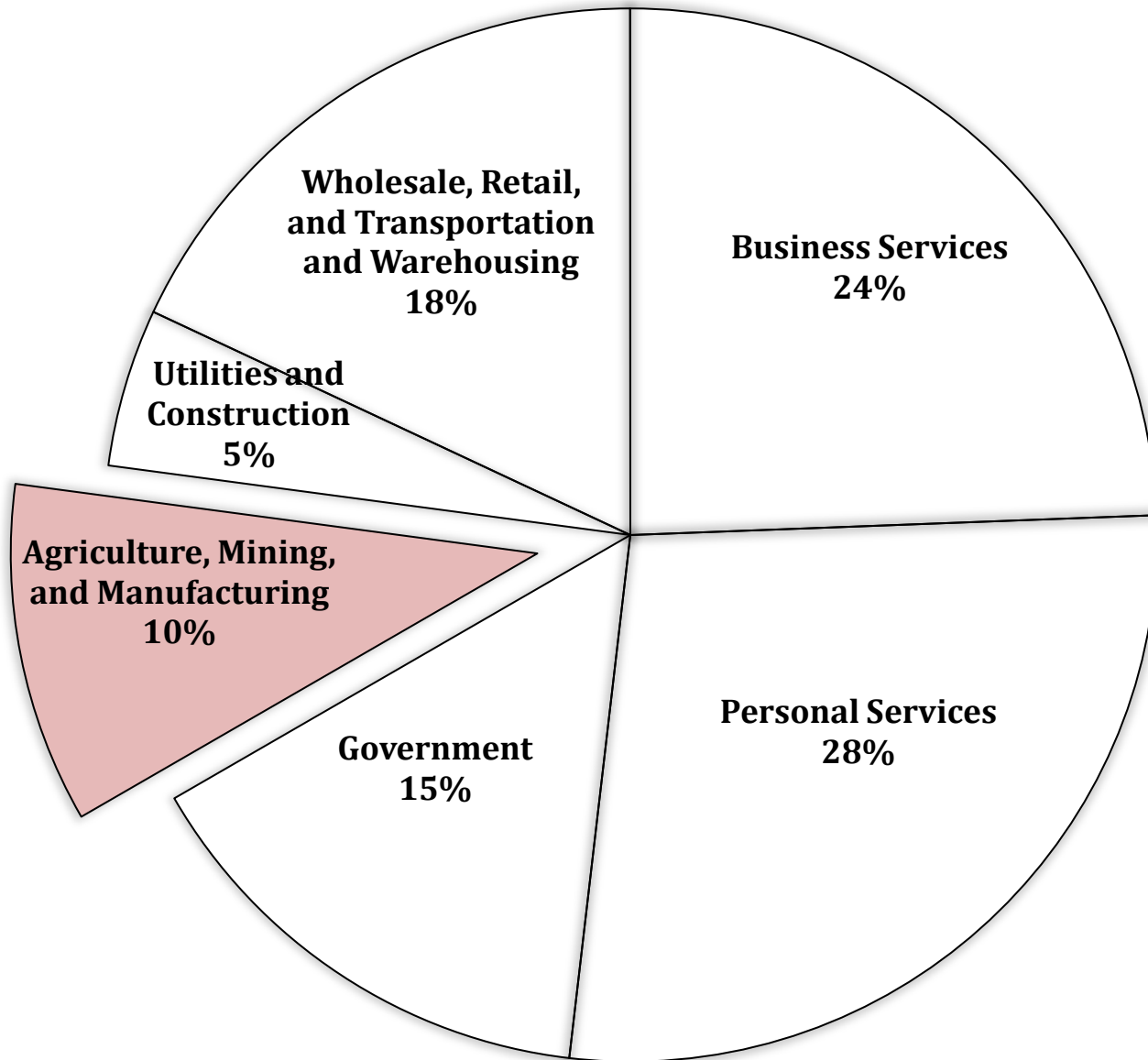


# **Data Gaps in International Trade Statistics**

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NBER

# SECTORAL COMPOSITION OF U.S. LABOR FORCE

2017



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau and U.S. Department of Agriculture

# Data Gaps in International Trade Statistics

- Feenstra *et al.* (2010) “Report on the State of Available Data for the Study of International Trade and Foreign Direct Investment,” NBER Working Paper No. 16254
- The report was prepared for the Committee on Economic Statistics of the American Economic Association.

# Report Conclusions

- Data on values of imports and exports of goods are of high quality and coverage...
- **Value data for imports and exports of services are too aggregated and valuations are questionable ...**
- **...price data for service exports and imports are almost non-existent.**
- Foreign direct investment data are of high quality...
- Data on trade in intellectual property are fragmentary.

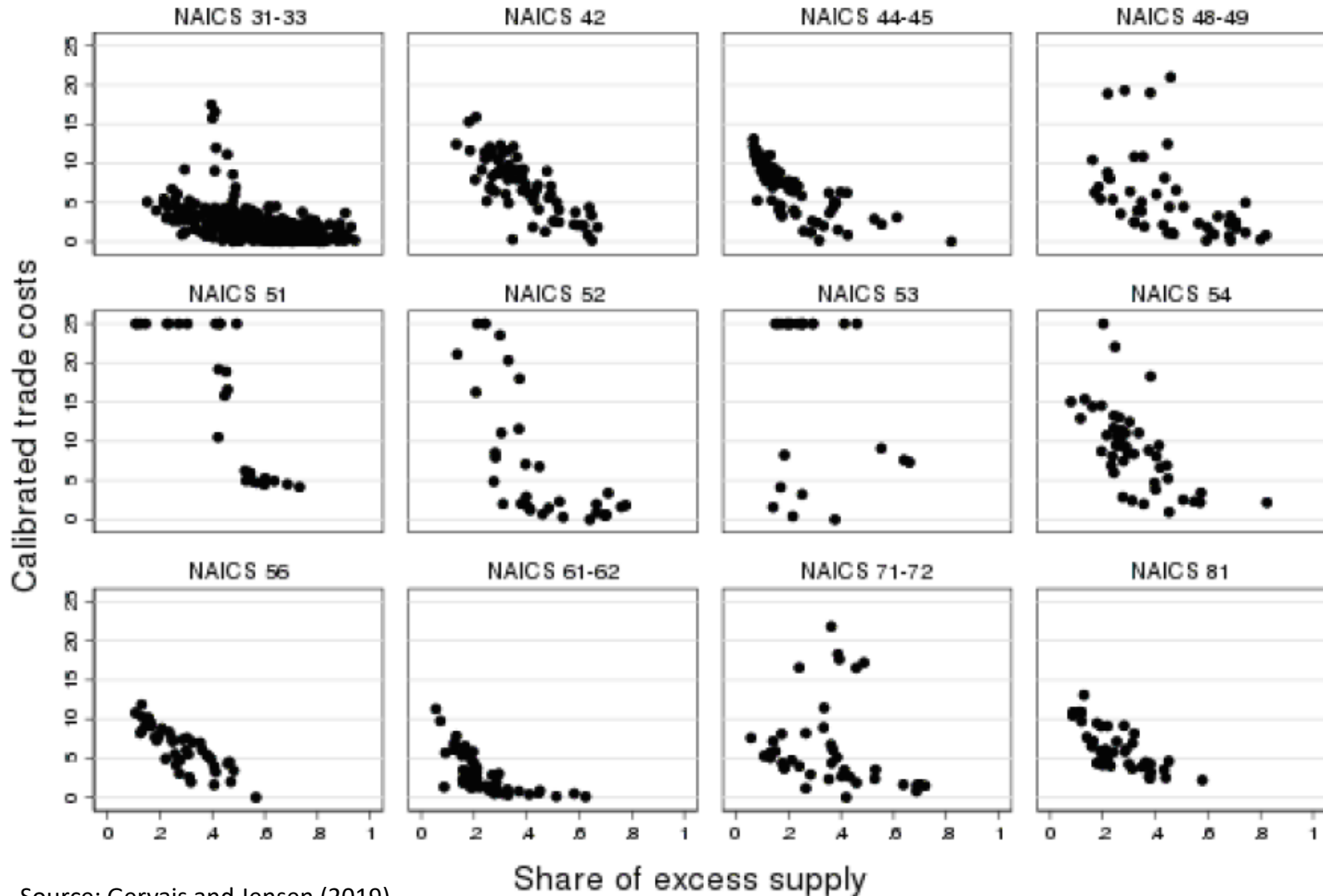
# Trade Data Collection

- Merchandise trade (administrative systems)
  - Imports: Customs forms required at port of entry
  - Exports: Shippers Export Declarations
  
- Services trade (surveys)
  - Imports: BEA surveys
  - Exports: BEA and Census Bureau (EC and SAS) surveys

# Services Trade Data Gaps

- Industry/type of service detail

# Variation in Trade Costs



Source: Gervais and Jensen (2019)

# Services Trade Data Gaps

- Industry/type of service detail
- Coverage
- Geography



# Key Opportunity

- Census Bureau could add questions about service imports and exports in a consistent way across the whole economy