Economic Data Gaps Revealed by the Pandemic Economy

Every economic crisis has unique characteristics and creates demands for innovation in the economic statistical system. The Census Bureau, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and the Bureau of Economic Analysis responded to the COVID-19 economic crisis with new statistics including higher frequency data and information about the pandemic’s impacts on households and businesses.

Nonetheless, the economic challenges that have accompanied the COVID-19 pandemic have revealed gaps in the nation’s statistics and illuminated new challenges for U.S. statistical agencies. The purpose of this session is to hear from diverse policy makers and key data users on newly identified gaps in America’s economic statistics.

The committee is invited to discuss data gaps and ideas for future advances in economic statistics to inform decision making during the economic recovery and shed light on key topics such as inclusive growth (e.g., race/ethnicity, gender, place), business survival and entrepreneurship, and the future of work (e.g., post-pandemic telework, automation, etc.).