A statement on Data Synchronization from the members of the Federal Economic Statistics Advisory Committee (FESAC)

December 12, 2014 (Adopted) June 11, 2021 (Reaffirmed)

The Federal Economics Statistics Advisory Committee (FESAC) recommends that legal and practical barriers to synchronizing business data among the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and the Bureau of the Census be removed. Removing barriers to synchronizing business data will improve the measurement of key national indicators on the health of the American economy such as output, productivity, earnings, job growth and inflation as well as improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the agencies. Accordingly, measures should be taken to enable the sharing of Federal Tax Information among these statistical agencies. The legislation required to enable data synchronization should be acted on immediately. Such legislation should encompass BEA and BLS, in addition to Census, in order to promote maximal quality improvements and efficiency gains. Additionally, the statistical agencies should work under the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act (CIPSEA) to achieve the full benefits of data synchronization that is permitted under current law. All improvements in data synchronization must be achieved in a manner that is consistent with maintaining the confidentiality and integrity of the data.

Agreed to unanimously by the FESAC members present at the December 12, 2014, meeting:

Matthew Shapiro, Chairperson University of Michigan
Barry P. Bosworth Brookings Institution
Don A. Dillman Washington State University
John C. Haltiwanger University of Maryland
Colm O’Muircheartaigh University of Chicago
Richard D. Rippe Economic Consultant
Kirk M. Wolter National Opinion Research Center (NORC)

Reaffirmed unanimously by the FESAC members present at the June 11, 2021 meeting:

Matthew Shapiro, Chairperson University of Michigan
Joseph Altonji Yale University and the NBER
Pat Bajari Amazon and University of Washington
Kerwin Charles Yale School of Management
Martin Fleming IBM
Erica Groshen Cornell University and Upjohn Institute for Employment Research
Robert Groves Georgetown University
John Haltiwanger University of Maryland-College Park
Maurine Haver Haver Analytics
Emi Nakamura University of California, Berkeley, and the NBER
Colm O’Muircheartaigh University of Chicago
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