



# FESAC

Federal Economic Statistics  
Advisory Committee

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*Bureau of Economic Analysis • Bureau of Labor Statistics • Census Bureau*

## **Planning for a Comprehensive Consumption Measure Using Consumer Expenditure Data**

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) is in the early stages of developing a measure of household-level consumption. The Consumer Expenditure Surveys (CE) measure spending. Spending and consumption differ because of home production, in-kind benefits, prolonged use of durable goods, and the like. The new measure will use new accounting methods and administrative data, the CE, and other household surveys (such as the Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement and the American Time Use Survey) to produce a comprehensive consumption measure. It should assist data users studying poverty, inequality, and overall economic well-being at the household level. A consumption measure more directly reflects consumers' actual levels of living, as opposed to income measures that reflect what could potentially be used to purchase goods and services to meet their needs. It will complement existing statistics, such as those on healthcare access, food security, health status, and educational attainment.

In this session, BLS staff present options recommended to resolve some conceptual issues and seek feedback from FESAC members.