Reorganizing Economic Statistical Agencies

DELIVERING GOVERNMENT SOLUTIONS IN THE 21ST CENTURY: REFORM PLAN AND REORGANIZATION RECOMMENDATIONS

What is the current proposal?

❖To reorganize the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Bureau of Economic Analysis, and Census Bureau under the Department of Commerce

❖The proposal outlines a planning period for this reorganization starting in FY 2019 and continuing through most of FY 2020 with implementation after Decennial peak operations in late CY 2020
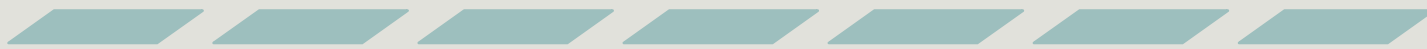
What goals will this reorganization focus on?
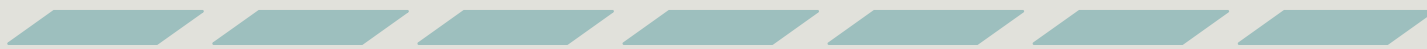
Increases in operational efficiences

Reduced respondent burden

Enhanced privacy protections

Improved data quality and availability

Three key opportunities for improvement:

❖**Reduce redundancy** by utilizing shared infrastructure – including modernized IT and human resource systems – resulting in more efficient collection, production, and dissemination of national data.

❖**Integrating survey operations**, such as survey sample designs and respondent lists, would reduce respondent burdens for businesses and the public by decreasing redundant survey questions and consolidating existing surveys.

❖**Improve data quality** by streamlining the approaches used to measure U.S. economic statistics, including capital investment, productivity, trade, and service industries. This includes heavier reliance on shared data from administrative records and third party providers and common approaches to maintaining confidentiality of the statistical data.

Questions:

❖ What should be the priority focus of the federal agency planning and implementation efforts over the next 18 months that would help realize a vision for improved economic and demographic statistical data in the near term (1-3 years) medium term (3-5 years) and long term (10 years and beyond)?

❖ If the reorganization planning were to propose a restructuring the activities of the three agencies in order to create cross-agency specialized functional units, how could that be done to maximize the benefit to the quality of economic statistics?

❖ What barriers are the most important to tackle when planning for this reorganization (i.e., legal, cultural, technical)?

❖ What concerns do you have about this reorganization proposal that you would like to see addressed in the planning process and during implementation?

❖ What on-going role would FESAC like to play as the planning process proceeds?