Future Direction of the Regional Accounts

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Advisory Committee Meeting
May 13, 2022
Overview – Regional Directorate

Where we were before:

State Statistics
- Gross Domestic Product (GDP)
- Personal Income (PI)
- Employment

County & Metro Area
- Personal Income (PI)
- Employment
Overview – Regional Directorate

State Statistics

- Gross Domestic Product (GDP)
- Personal Income (PI)
- Employment
- Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE)
- Regional Price Parities (RPPs)
- Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account (ORSA)
- Arts and Cultural Production Satellite Account

County & Metro Area

- Gross Domestic Product
- Personal Income (PI)
- Employment
- Regional Price Parities (RPPs) – metro area only

U.S. Territories

- Gross Domestic Product
Stakeholders

- **Media**
  - *Report on economic activity*

- **Businesses, trade associations, and labor organizations**

- **Academic Researchers**
  - *Applied economic research*

- **Federal Government**
  - *Policy*
  - *Distribute funds to states*

- **State / Local Governments**
  - *Policy*
  - *Distribute funds to localities*
  - *Set limits on government revenues or spending*
Federal Funding Allocated with BEA Regional Statistics

$547.9 Billion of FY2020 Federal Health and Wellness Funding Allocated with BEA Regional Statistics
(Data shown in millions of dollars)
20 States Use BEA Personal Income Data to Set Tax or Spending Limits

Source: State Tax and Expenditure Limits -- National Conference of State Legislatures 2020. State Constitutions or Statutes.
Goals – Regional Directorate

• Overall goal: Bring regional statistics together

• Four principal areas of focus:
  - Improve existing statistics
  - New statistical products
  - Research activities
  - Other activities

• Challenges
  - Data, Data, and Data
Improve Existing Statistics

• **Integrated release** of quarterly statistics of GDP and Personal Income by state, September 2022
  o Greater industry detail (NAICS 3-digit detail)

• **Improve timeliness** of GDP statistics for U.S. territories, TBD
  o Establish data access agreements with all of the U.S. territories

• **Migration of all production procedures** to Python programming language, 2024-2025
New Statistical Products

• **Quarterly PCE by state** statistics

• **Expenditure measures of GDP** for state statistics
  - State private fixed investment (includes residential and nonresidential buildings, equipment, and software), (FY2023 budget)
  - Government consumption and gross investment by state

• **Research and development (R&D) satellite account** state statistics
Quarterly PCE by State

State Quarterly PCE
Percent Change: 2020Q3 to 2020Q4

U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

FOR ILLUSTRATION ONLY

- Value Added
- Employment
- Compensation
Research Activities

• **Updating** concepts, **improving** methodology, and **identifying** new source data for existing regional statistics

• **Expanding** or filling in statistics already measured at the regional level
  - Improving frequency (e.g., quarterly statistics)
  - Sub-state geographical boundaries (e.g., county statistics)

• **Developing concepts** for statistics not published at the regional level
  - Subnational measures of existing national-level statistics
  - Satellite accounts
Research Activities

• State income distributions and income inequality statistics, *FY2023 budget*
  o Working paper forthcoming

• Synthetic data, differential privacy, and privacy protection
  o SOI data / proprietors’ income statistics – Urban Institute

• Geography of consumption - Consumption Zones

• State gross output/state Supply Use Tables
State income distributions and income inequality statistics

- Based on the “personal income” concept
- Experimental results include:
  - Inequality statistics such as Gini coefficients and income quintiles
  - Distributional information such as median income and income percentiles for states and the District of Columbia
  - Regional Price Parity adjusted statistics too
- Data sources: Current Population Survey, adjusted/augmented with data from the Internal Revenue Service, the American Community Survey, and other sources
Other Activities

• Data science and alternative data sources
  o Applications for QCEW microdata (firm-level data)
  o Alternative data sources from payroll processors, credit card intermediaries, and budgeting service providers
    ▪ Partnering with Opportunity Insights, the Census Bureau, and the Bureau of Labor Statistics
  o Alternative methods such as machine learning, nowcasting, and hierarchical modeling
Feedback and Discussion

• Regional Directorate’s focus

  - Improve existing statistics
  - New statistical products
  - Research activities
  - Other activities

• Potential improvements or new regional statistics
  - Quarterly PCE by State Statistics
  - R&D by state Statistics
  - Any additional regional statistics to consider (State / County)

• Regional research priorities
  - Income Distribution
  - Consumption Zones
  - State Supply Use Tables
  - Additional regional research to consider