

FESAC STATEMENT ON DATA SYNCHRONIZATION

December 12, 2014

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.