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its work on health care, there is a front-end investment that is required, but such investment will produce significant gains to the statistical system in the future.

Shirin Ahmed

It is a pleasure to be here and to talk about the National Income and Product Accounts from the perspective of the economic programs area at the US Census Bureau.

With respect to the national accounts, our primary role is to provide useful and relevant source data that allows the BEA to accomplish its their mission. We work very closely with the BEA staff to continually improve what we are doing. My remarks cover our work in providing information to fill data gaps, creating new opportunities with data sharing, and strategically aligning priorities across agencies.

Filling Data Gaps

In terms of filling data gaps, our key area of focus has been providing more data about the services sectors of the US economy.

We received funding in mid-2010 to expand the industry coverage of both the Quarterly Services Survey (QSS) and the Service Annual Survey (SAS) with the goal of providing complete coverage of receipts across all of the services sectors of the US economy, which are estimated to be 55 percent of GDP. Previously, only the Economic Census provided this kind of coverage every five years. At the time, the QSS was only covering 17 percent of the services sector and the SAS was covering about 30 percent.

The funding allowed QSS to expand over a two-year period, starting with new quarterly statistics on ambulatory health-care services and social assistance, and then adding in other industries covering transportation, warehousing, finance, and so on, with the expansion fully implemented by March 2011. This timing coincided with the release in January 2011 of the full set of services industries for SAS for the 2008 survey year. At this point, the industry expansion allowed the Census Bureau to produce complete coverage of consumer spending for the BEA annually.

To provide complete coverage quarterly for consumer spending, plans are underway to add the accommodations sector to the QSS with the collection of data this fall as part of the business surveys redesign. Every five years, after an Economic Census, the business surveys undergo a major sample revision process that gives the Census Bureau an opportunity to fill new

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data needs. Other initiatives as part of the business sample revision process include new QSS revenue detail for the financial industry—giving BEA quarterly estimates of items such as interest income, noninterest income, commission fees, and so forth. In the SAS, the new sample will collect and publish additional product-level detail for the newly expanded services industries. The new product data will be published by January 2013.¹

Similarly, the expansion of services industries extended to another economic indicator, the Quarterly Financial Report (QFR). The QFR data are a primary source for current estimates of corporate profits, taxes, and dividends for the gross domestic income accounts. In the first quarter of 2010, we provided to the BEA new estimates covering the information and the professional and technical services sectors. We are now getting ready to further expand to include the following four service sectors: health care and social assistance, real estate and rental and leasing (except lessors of nonfinancial intangible assets), administrative and support and waste management and remediation services, and accommodation and food services. We will begin collecting the additional data from about 1,400 corporations with assets of \$50 million or more in October 2012. We will provide the data to BEA on a trial basis. Publication of the data will begin in March 2014 with the release of data for the fourth quarter of 2013. With this expansion, the QFR will cover 35 percent of the services sectors, and will provide detailed financial data for the largest services sectors of GDP.

Later this fall, we will field our 2012 Economic Census. The BEA and Census Bureau staffs have spent about two years working on content and review of questionnaires for the 2012 Economic Census. Because of its comprehensive nature, new inquiries are added about the sources of revenue for intellectual property and about activities for contract manufacturing services performed domestically and at locations outside the United States.

New for the 2012 Economic Census will be data products devoted to enterprise statistics that reflect both these new inquiries as well as the repurposing of existing business register and Economic Census data that shows the specialization and diversification of US businesses. Prototype tables using 2007 Economic Census data were released last month. With the new enterprise statistics, we also developed the Enterprise Classification System (see <http://www.census.gov/econ/esp/>).

Lastly, as part of the 2012 Economic Census of Island Areas, we have added critical content about capital expenditures necessary to fill gaps in BEA's preparation of GDP for the island areas.

Data Sharing

Let me turn now to data sharing. Earlier this year, the BLS and the Census Bureau signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to share multiunit

1. Preliminary unpublished tabulations are being provided to BEA staff this summer.

data, which is also referred to as data for multilocation establishments. This data is typically free from the IRS, or Title 26 data, which has been one of our challenges with data sharing among the BEA, BLS, and Census Bureau agencies.

This is the first time the Census Bureau will be sharing business micro-data with the BLS. Since the early 1990s the Census Bureau has received industry classification codes from BLS for new business births, which has improved our business register. The sharing of these new data will provide many advantages to both agencies to improve and to make more consistent their business registers, and corresponding statistical products. This will benefit the BEA, which has the challenging work of integrating data from both agencies in the production of the national accounts. Additionally in this world of global activity, we are working on an MOU with BEA to receive their data about multinational enterprises to improve the overall coverage of the business register at the US Census Bureau. Currently our business register covers enterprise activities within the United States.

Statistical Priorities and Infrastructure Improvements

Finally, let me make a couple of comments about statistical priorities and infrastructure improvements. Over the years, the BEA and Census Bureau have worked closely together and, as we look to the future, we see the need to strategize more given the current budget climate and the need to continue to improve our respective programs to keep pace with the changing economy. Senior staffs at both agencies started meeting this year to understand strategic priorities and to meet high-level operational needs for both agencies. From these meetings, we have cross-agency teams reviewing seasonal adjustment practices and another group evaluating ways to meet new content/data needs on more of a flow basis rather than at revision or census periods. Lastly, we created a team to bring together the Census Bureau, the BEA, and the Producer Price Index Program at the BLS to reach agreement on an approach for collecting and reporting data for industry product outputs that are more consistent, comparable, and usable for the BEA, BLS, and Census Bureau. Thank you.

John W. Ruser

It is a pleasure for me to describe some of the initiatives of the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) related to the themes of this conference. I would like to start by talking about some of the important ongoing work to improve and redesign the Consumer Expenditure Surveys (CE). As you know, the CE

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