

BEA Expert Meeting on Exploiting Commercial Data for Official Economic Statistics

Thursday, November 19, 2015

The Board Room
The NAS Building
2101 Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, DC

AGENDA

- 9:00 Introductions – **John Abowd** (Cornell), Moderator
- 9:15 Intro/Exploiting Commercial Data for Official Economic Statistics – **Brian Moyer, David Johnson** (BEA)
- 9:30 Overview: Potential big data applications
- “Statistical and Computational Challenges in Combining Information from Multiple data Sources”
Trivellore Raghunathan (University of Michigan)
- “Predicting Initial Jobless Claims”
Simon Wilkie (Microsoft)
- 11:00 Break
- 11:15 Presentations from private sector about kinds of data that they collect or generate, and how they are or may potentially be useful in construction of economic statistics.
- “A Global Think Tank Dedicated to Delivering Data-Rich Analyses and Expert Insights for the Public Good”
Fiona Greig (JP Morgan Chase Institute)
- MasterCard (*no presentation*)
Steve Tae, Kamalesh Rao (MasterCard)
- “Google Web Searches as a Dense Survey”
Jeffrey Oldham, Chris Dibona (Google)
- “Zillow Research: Using and Creating Open Data”
Stan Humphries (Zillow Research)

“Palantir Data Foundation & Visualization”
Alex Bores (Palantir/FirstData)

Open discussion

12:30 Lunch

1:30 Applications and Issues with Using Commercial Data in Research

“Private Sector Data in Economic Research”
Jonathan Levin (Stanford, NBER)

“Naturally Occurring Data for Measuring Spending, Income, Assets, and Debt”
Matthew Shapiro (University of Michigan)

Discussants:

Katharine Abraham (Maryland/BEA Advisory Committee)
Roberto Rigobon (MIT)

2:30 Discussion topics (and leaders):

“Big Data Projects at Statistical Agencies Abroad”
Piet Daas (Statistics Netherlands)

Using new technology to examine data, aggregate billions of data points (*no presentation*)
Simon Wilkie (Microsoft)

“Statistical Thinking and Big Data Challenges”
Frauke Kreuter (Maryland), **Daniel Goroff** (Alfred P. Sloan Foundation)

Discussion of Privacy issues associated with blended government commercial data sources (*no presentation*)
Jerry Reiter (Duke)

Public, Private data collaborations (*no presentation*)
Christopher Carroll (Consumer Federal Protection Bureau)

4:00 Conclude/Next Steps (**John Abowd, David Johnson**)

4:15 Adjourn