

## ***Economic Development by the Numbers***

*A source for data and statistical information to assist in promoting your community, county and state*

*June / July 2013*

### **Feature: Federal Budget Cuts Affecting Statistical Data Sources**

The across-the-board budget cuts ordered for federal government agencies known as sequestration is having an affect on the amount and types of data that will be available to the public in the near future. Agencies are attempting to maintain statistics required by law as well as those that are essential or mission-critical elements for their programs. They are also trying to lessen the impact to those who rely on them for consistent data. Nevertheless, some reports are being suspended or eliminated and some of the programs are experiencing reductions. Several of these changes affect data sources we have shared with you in past newsletters so we thought you'd want to know about them.

Featured Web Sites: [www.bea.gov](http://www.bea.gov), [www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov), [www.eia.gov](http://www.eia.gov) and [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov)



U.S. Department of Commerce

**Bureau of Economic Analysis**

#### **REGIONAL INPUT/OUTPUT MODELING SYSTEM (RIMS)**

Just a few months ago, we shared a newsletter with you that described how to use the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) Regional Input/Output Modeling System (RIMS). As you may recall, RIMS II is used to estimate the economic impact of a change in economic activity such as the addition of a new business or an event such as Hurricane Katrina. Well as luck would have it, BEA is now eliminating RIMS II due to budget cuts.

RIMS II multipliers for 2011 will not be released in September; however, multipliers for 2010 may still be ordered through September 30, 2013. Customers who've already placed orders are encouraged to download multipliers before this date.

#### **LOCAL AREA PERSONAL INCOME STATISTICS (LAPI)**

Detailed statistics currently updated annually within the BEA Local Area Personal Income Statistics Program (LAPI) will also be eliminated. LAPI is the sole source for county and metropolitan area personal income statistics which have been building blocks for other regional statistics.

#### **FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT (FDI) ANALYTICAL PRODUCTS**

BEA will no longer provide analysis related to operations of multinational companies and will eliminate publications that provide insight into offshoring, the impact of multinational companies on the economy and the impact of global value chains.

The following items will be eliminated from LAPI:

- Local area employment by industry
- Production of data for "BEA Economic Areas"
- Detailed statistics related to transfer payments
- Detail on farm income and expenses
- Detail on compensation and earnings



United States Department of Agriculture

**National Agricultural Statistics Service**

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Services (NASS) has decided to suspend a number of surveys and reports for the remainder of their fiscal year. Among the items to be suspended are the July Cattle Report, Potato Stocks Reports, all Hops and Hops Stocks Estimates, Milk Production Reports including production, distribution and income. It follows then that the Economic Research Service of USDA will not be able to release several commodity newsletters and data products without information from NASS (see next page).



Economic Research Service

United States Department of Agriculture

The USDA Economic Research Service (ERS) plans to focus on the areas they consider most important for decision makers and on topics for which they have particular strengths. Some commodity products and data newsletters will no longer be released because they relied on data from other services like the NASS. These commodities are dairy, aquaculture, vegetables and pulses, rice, cattle and fruit and tree nuts.

The entire list of changes they anticipate taking place through September of 2013 can be found at <http://www.ers.usda.gov/about-ers/fy13-budget-and-related-ers-actions.aspx>. In some cases data updates were suspended because the data is available elsewhere. A partial list of these data sets is below.

- County– level data sets (“county look-up tables) - Updates will be phased out. Most of the data is available through the ERS Atlas of Rural and Small-Town America currently at <http://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/atlas-of-rural-and-small-town-america.aspx>.
- Fertilizer imports/exports—Underlying information is available from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Foreign Trade Division currently at <http://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/index.html>.
- Agricultural productivity in the U.S. - state level statistics are suspended. They will continue providing national statistics currently at <http://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/agricultural-productivity-in-the-us.aspx#28270>.

U.S. Department of Commerce



The Census Bureau has had to make cuts to staff and the over \$30 million in contracts they'd planned for the second half of the fiscal year. Some of the impacts of reduced Census Bureau funding are listed below.

**Economic Programs:** Reductions to 2012 Economic Census staffing may cause up to a six-month delay in the delivery of over 1,600 Economic Census products, which ultimately support the accuracy of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

The Survey of Business Owners (SBO) is the only source of information on women, minority, and veteran-owned businesses and small business entrepreneurial activity. In order to initiate data collection this fiscal year, the Census Bureau is reprogramming \$2.25 million from the 2010 Census to the Economic Census. Unfortunately, the loss of this funding from the 2010 census will delay, or possibly cancel, the release of the 2010 Census Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) file.

**2020 Decennial Census Programs:** Planning for a Decennial Census is a decade-long process. Budget issues threaten the ability to deliver the preliminary design options for the 2020 Census as scheduled and have delayed field tests.

**American Community Survey (ACS):** Budget cuts are affecting the ACS's ability to serve as a test bed for the 2020 Census and will likely delay instrument research, testing and content.

**Demographic Programs:** Cuts to these programs prevent the implementation of new supplemental poverty measures. These cuts will also delay data releases for the Survey of Income and Program Participation.



Independent Statistics & Analysis

U.S. Energy Information  
Administration

The Energy Information Administration (EIA) has suspended the publication of their *Annual Energy Review (AER)* as well as a companion publication known as *Energy Perspectives* in 2013 (for 2012 data). To meet the needs of its customers, EIA has decided to expand the *Monthly Energy Review (MER)* and incorporate annual data as far back as 1949 for data series from approximately 70 tables. This will combine the historical data of the AER with the most up-to-date data from the MER. The June 2013 issue of the MER can be located at <http://www.eia.gov/totalenergy/data/monthly/>.

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