

2012 Report from the AEA Committee on Economic Statistics (AEASat)

Membership during 2012: Robert Feenstra, University of California, Davis, Chair; Susanto Basu, Boston College; Mark Bils, University of Rochester; Karen Dynan, The Brookings Institution; Dennis Fixler, Bureau of Economic Analysis; David S. Johnson, Census Bureau; Randall Kroszner, University of Chicago; Michael Horigan, Bureau of Labor Statistics; Jonathan A. Parker, Northwestern University.

The AEASat committee met as needed during 2012 using conference calls. In spring 2012 the major business was to select the sessions and papers for the 2013 ASSA meetings, where the AEASat committee sponsored three sessions. The three selected sessions were as follows (with complete details available in the 2013 ASSA agenda):

Session 1: Perspectives on Inequality and Mobility in the U.S., For publication in the AER, Proceedings, May 2013

Presiding: Robert Moffitt (Johns Hopkins University)

Income Inequality, Mobility and Turnover at the Top in the U.S., 1987 - 2009

Gerald Auten (U.S. Department of the Treasury)

Geoffrey Gee (U.S. Department of the Treasury)

Nicholas Turner (U.S. Department of the Treasury)

Deconstructing income and income inequality measures: A cross walk from market income to comprehensive income

Philip Armour (Cornell University)

Richard V. Burkhauser (Cornell University and the University of Melbourne)

Jeff Larrimore (U.S. Congress, Joint Committee on Taxation)

Consumption and Income Inequality in the U.S. Since the 1960s

Bruce D. Meyer (University of Chicago and NBER)

James X. Sullivan (University of Notre Dame)

Measuring the Trends in Inequality of Individuals and Families: Income and Consumption

Abstract:

Jonathan Fisher (U.S. Census Bureau)

David S. Johnson (U.S. Census Bureau)

Timothy M. Smeeding (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Discussants:

James P. Ziliak (University of Kentucky)

Robert Moffitt (Johns Hopkins University)

Session 2: Measuring Poverty in the United States: The Supplemental Poverty Measure

Presiding: David Johnson (U.S. Census Bureau)

The Supplemental Poverty Measure: Examining the Incidence and Depth of Poverty in the U.S. Taking Account of Taxes and Transfers in 2011

Kathleen Short (U.S. Census Bureau)

Maintaining Consumption Levels with In-Kind Benefits over Economic Fluctuations:

Consumption- vs. Spending-Based SPM Thresholds

Thesia I. Garner (Bureau of Labor Statistics)

Marisa Gudrais (Bureau of Labor Statistics)

Identifying the Disadvantaged: Official Poverty, Consumption Poverty, and the New Supplemental Poverty Measure

Bruce D. Meyer (University of Chicago and NBER)

James X. Sullivan (University of Notre Dame)

Estimating the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) using the Survey of Income and Program Participation

John Iceland (Pennsylvania State University)

Patricia Ruggles (Orlin Research Inc.)

Discussants:

Robert T. Michael (University of Chicago)

Hilary Hoynes (University of California-Davis)

Session 3: Measurement Issues in the National Accounts

Presiding: Robert Feenstra (University of California-Davis)

Improving U.S. GDP Measurement: A Forecast Combination Perspective

S. Boragan Aruoba (University of Maryland)

Francis X. Diebold (University of Pennsylvania)

Jeremy Nailwaik (Federal Reserve Board)

Frank Schorfheide (University of Pennsylvania)

Dongho Song (University of Pennsylvania)

Price Indexes for Clinical Trial Research: A Feasibility Study

Ernst R. Berndt (Massachusetts Institute of Technology and NBER)

Iain M. Cockburn (Boston University and NBER)

Market Power, Adjustment Costs, and Risk in Measurement of Banking Services

Kyle Hood (Bureau of Economic Analysis)

Matthew Osborne (Bureau of Economic Analysis)

Do-It-Yourself Home Improvement: Changes for Measured GDP and Long-Run Housing Values

Rachel Soloveichik (Bureau of Economic Analysis)

Discussants:

John Roberts, Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System

Marshall Reinsdorf, Bureau of Economic Analysis

Ron Borzekowski, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau

Kristopher Gerardi, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta

Other items of business during 2012 included communication between the AEASat committee and the AEA Committee on Government Relations, which requested our advice and possible endorsement on several statements.

Several members concluded their terms on the committee at the end of the year: Mark Bills (completing his first term); Dennis Fixler (completing his second term); David S. Johnson (completing his second term); Randall Kroszner (completing his first term). Recommendations for re-appointments and new appointments have been forwarded to the Executive Committee of the AEA.

Respectfully submitted by Robert Feenstra, November 20, 2012