Panel Discussion

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Challenges

- Willingness of business respondents to provide timely and complete information.
- Overall budgets to --
  - maintain and keep up with the ever-changing business world via company updates
  - invest in register improvements.
- Creating a culture that supports the integrity and recognition of business register information as the authoritative source.
Recent Changes

- Reorganization of the Economic Programs Directorate, Census Bureau
- Aligns staffs for statistical methods, classification methods, accounting practices and business register operations.
- Facilitates these goals:
  - Achieve consistency and application of statistical methods (for example, sampling) across programs
  - Integrate current surveys reporting structures and key survey information into the business register
  - Integrate accounting concepts with administrative/statistical information and units within the business register (for exampleing, rethinking and broadening the definition of the “establishment” to reflect cost centers)
Planned Improvements

- Committee on National Statistics (CNSTAT) will evaluate and recommend improvements to frame and sampling methods for ongoing surveys (FY 15-16)
- Establish *Account Manager Program* to include ongoing surveys (FY 15)
  - Coordinate contact and outreach with large companies
  - Consolidate reporting where feasible
- Determine work effort through pilot projects for Data Harmonization (FY 15)
  - Look across unit collections for ongoing surveys
  - Look across key variables for ongoing surveys
- Conduct technical evaluation of business register (FY 15)
Outcomes for a Re-engineered Business Register

- FY 2016 Form Team to Reengineer Register
- Develop Program Plan with the recommendations from CNSTAT, harmonization projects, technical evaluation
- Expected Outcomes of Reengineering:
  - Integrated surveys and harmonized units and identification within the business register. The BR is the common frame for all surveys.
  - More consistent and ongoing updates to BR especially for large companies using all available internal information.
  - Broader use of more administrative data.
  - Seamless integration with enterprise-wide (Census Bureau) systems for content, and tracking and controlling workloads.
  - More harmonized data products for economic programs, easier integration of outputs among programs, coherent processes.