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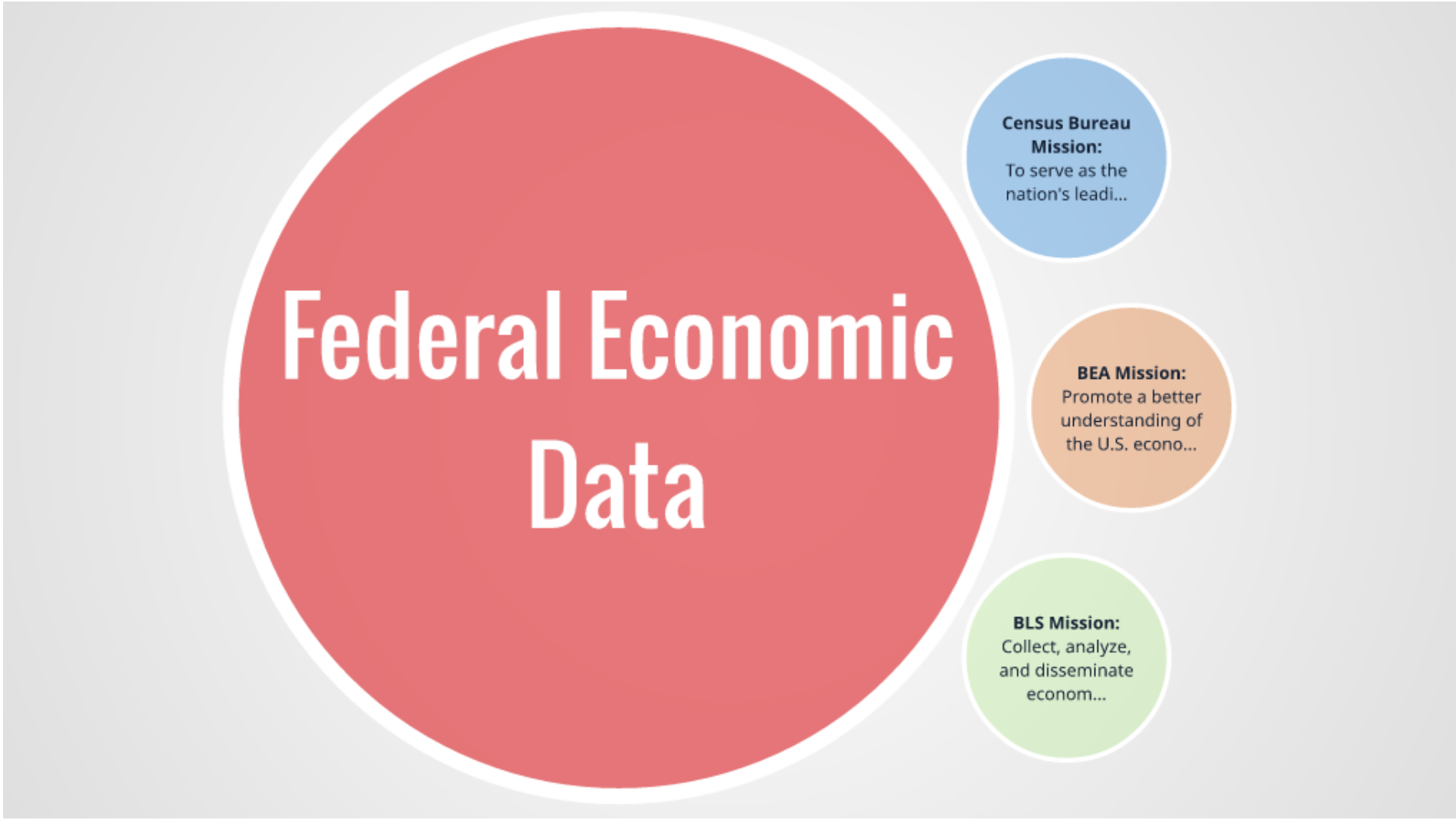
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Census Bureau Mission:
To serve as the nation's leading provider of quality data about its people and economy.

BEA Mission:
Promote a better understanding of the U.S. economy by providing the most timely, relevant, and accurate economic accounts data in an objective and cost-effective manner.

BLS Mission:
Collect, analyze, and disseminate economic information such as measuring labor market activity, working conditions, and price changes in the economy.

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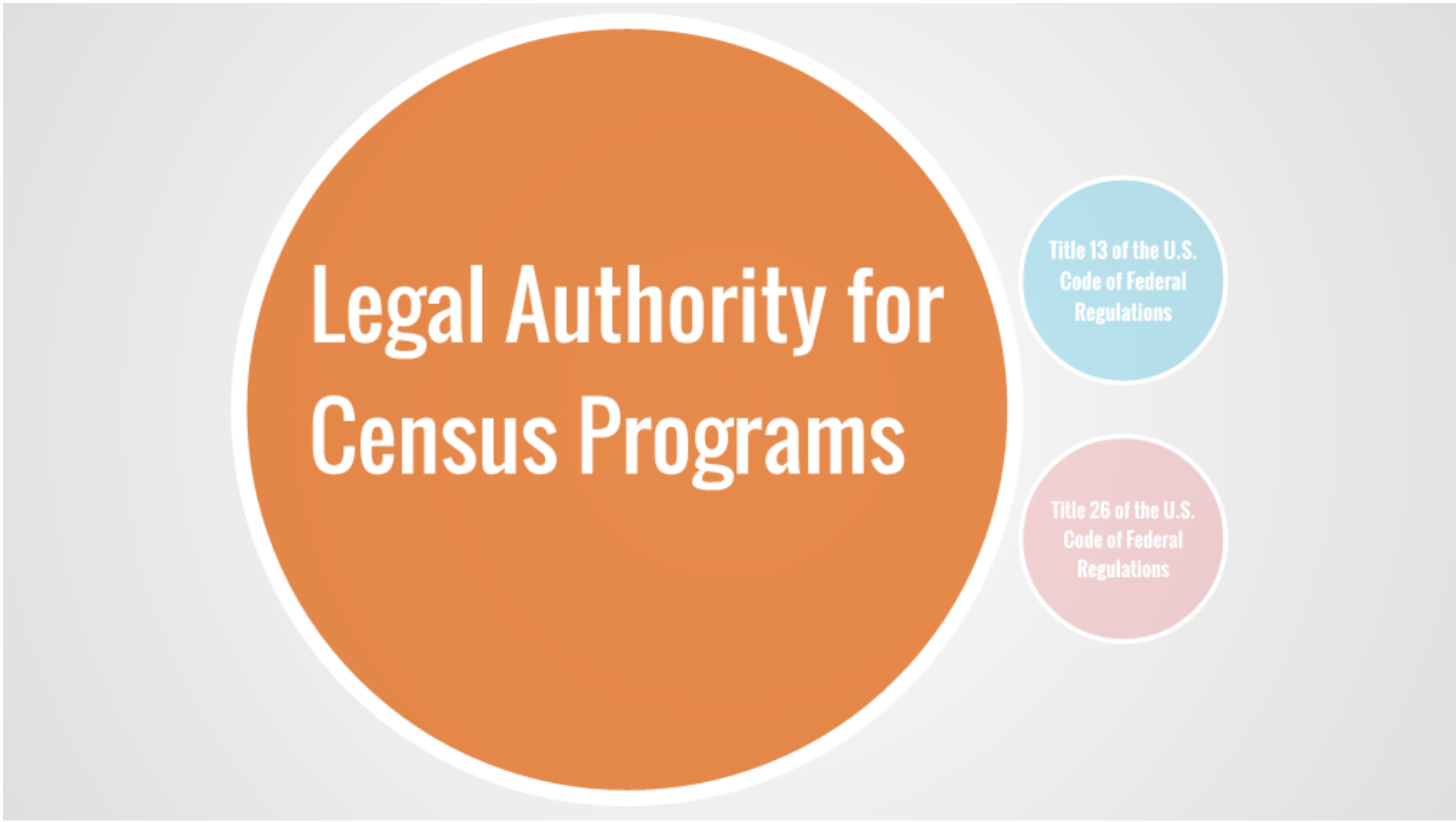
Legal Authority for Census Programs
Title 13 of the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations
Title 26 of the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations

Title 13 of the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations

Authorizes the Census Bureau to collect information to produce statistics

Protects personally identifiable information (PII) from being published

Census Bureau employess are sworn to protect confidentiality

Title 26 of the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations

Permits the IRS to share Federal Tax Returns and Return Information (FTI) on households and businesses with the Census Bureau for statistical purposes in the structuring of censuses and national economic accounts and for conducting statistical activities authorized by law

Census Bureau data products are subject to disclosure avoidance procedures

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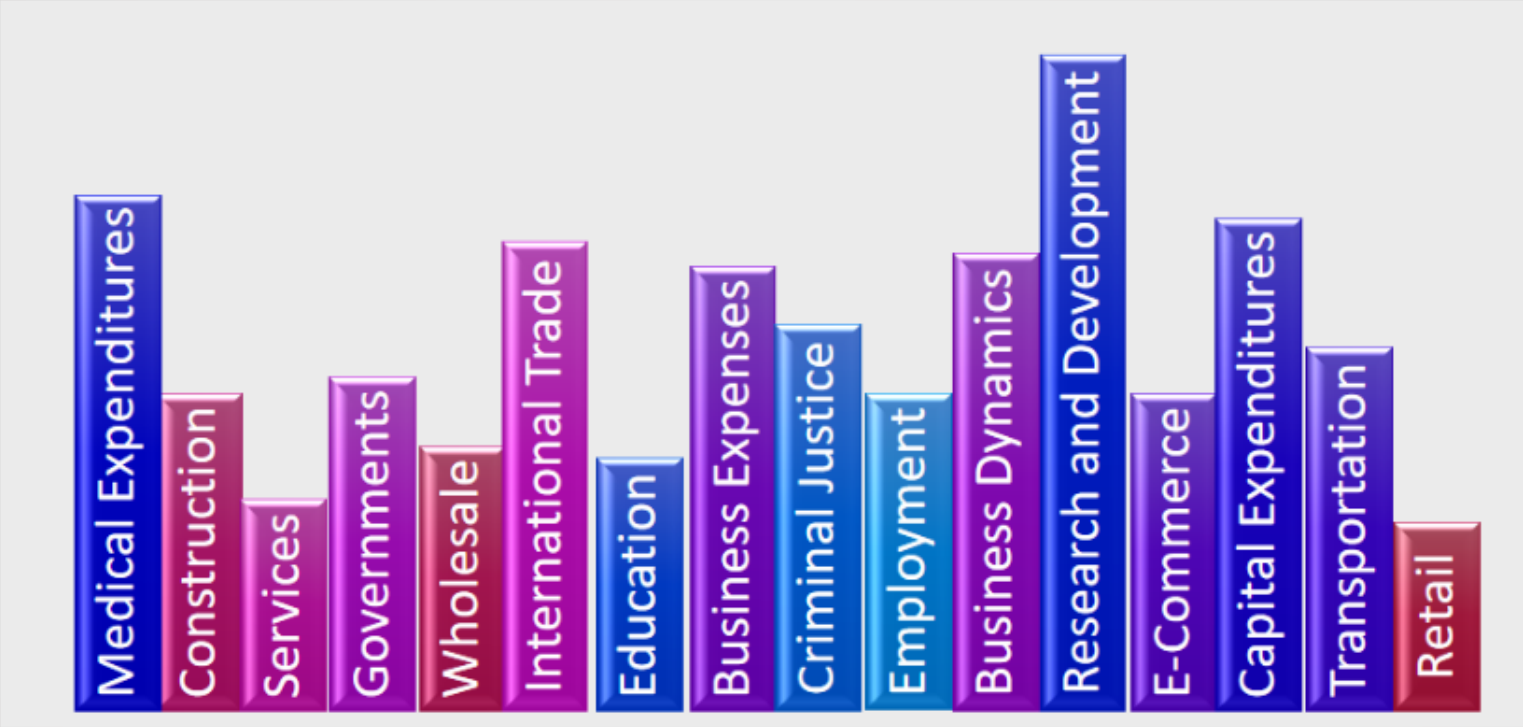


Economic Directorate Programs

Censuses

- Economic and Governments
- Years ending in 2 and 7
- Provide the most detailed portrait of the U.S. economy

Current Surveys

- Provide detailed quarterly and annual data, covering most economic sectors

Economic Indicators

- 13 surveys, providing a monthly or quarterly snapshot of how the U.S. economy and broad industries are doing

Reimbursable Surveys

- 28 programs conducted on behalf of various agencies including, the Office of Management and Budget, the Bureau of Transportation Statistics, and the National Center for Education Statistics

Economic Census

The U.S. government's official measure of American business and the economy

- Includes almost 4 million employer businesses; 25 million smaller, single-location businesses either sampled or from administrative records
- Key measure of the economy for the private sector - supports decisions and planning for businesses and informs trade associations and chambers of commerce
- Supports economic policy - government agencies, analysts and business organizations nationwide rely on it for planning and key economic reports

Economic Census Scope

Minerals

Construction

Manufactures

Wholesale

Retail

Transportation

Communications

Utilities

Finances

Insurance

Real Estate Services

Economic Census-Related Programs

- Annual Business Survey
- Business Expenses Survey
- Economic Census of Puerto Rico, Guam, Virgin Islands, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa
- Commodity Flow Survey (Partially funded by Bureau of Transportation Statistics)

Current Economic Surveys

Inter-censal Measures

- Annual Survey of Manufactures
- Annual Retail Trade
- Annual Wholesale Trade
- Annual Transportation
- Annual Services
- Annual Company Organization

Special Topics

- Business Research & Development & Innovation Survey
- Annual Capital Expenditures Survey

Principal Economic Indicators

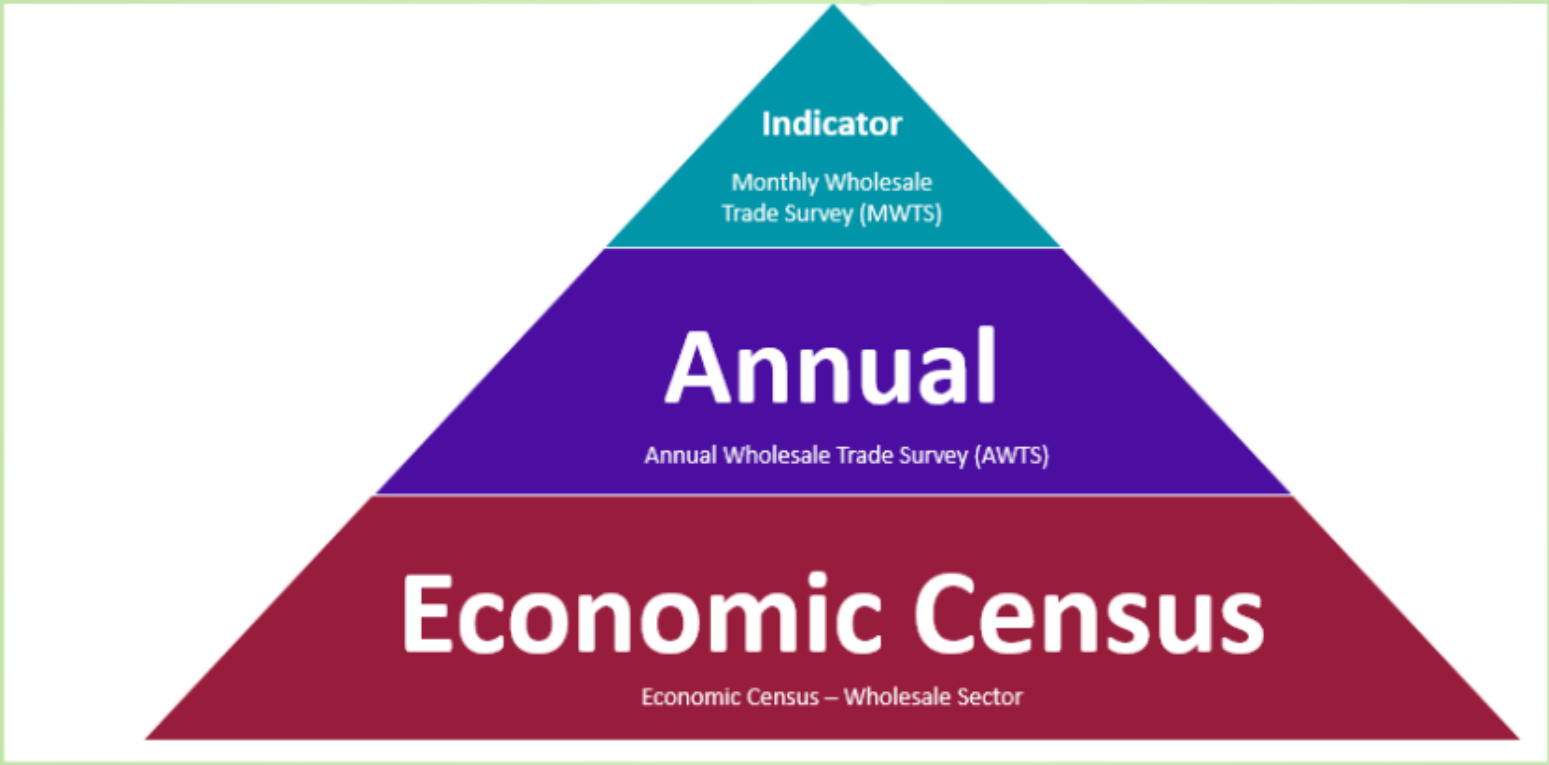
MONTHLY RELEASES

- **Advance Monthly Sales for Retail & Food Services**
- Manufacturing & Trade: Inventories and Sales
- Monthly Wholesale Trade
- Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders
  - **Advance Report on Durable Goods**
- **New Residential Construction**
- Construction Put in Place
- New Residential Sales
- **U.S. International Trade in Goods & Services**

QUARTERLY RELEASES

- Quarterly Financial Report
  - Retail Trade
  - Manufacturing, Mining, Wholesale Trade, and Selected Services Industries
- Housing Vacancies & Homeownership
- Quarterly Services

How Econ Census & Current Surveys are Related



Census of Governments

The U.S. government's official five-year measure of the public sector of the U.S. economy

- Provides comprehensive data about the organization, employment, and finances of the public sector
- Covers about 90,000 state and local governments
- Used by federal counterparts in measuring the nation's fiscal health, developing programs, and making policy decisions
- Used by state and local governments in developing programs and budgets and assessing financial conditions
- Used by academics and researchers to perform comparative analysis

Reimbursable Surveys

NCES
National Center for Education Statistics

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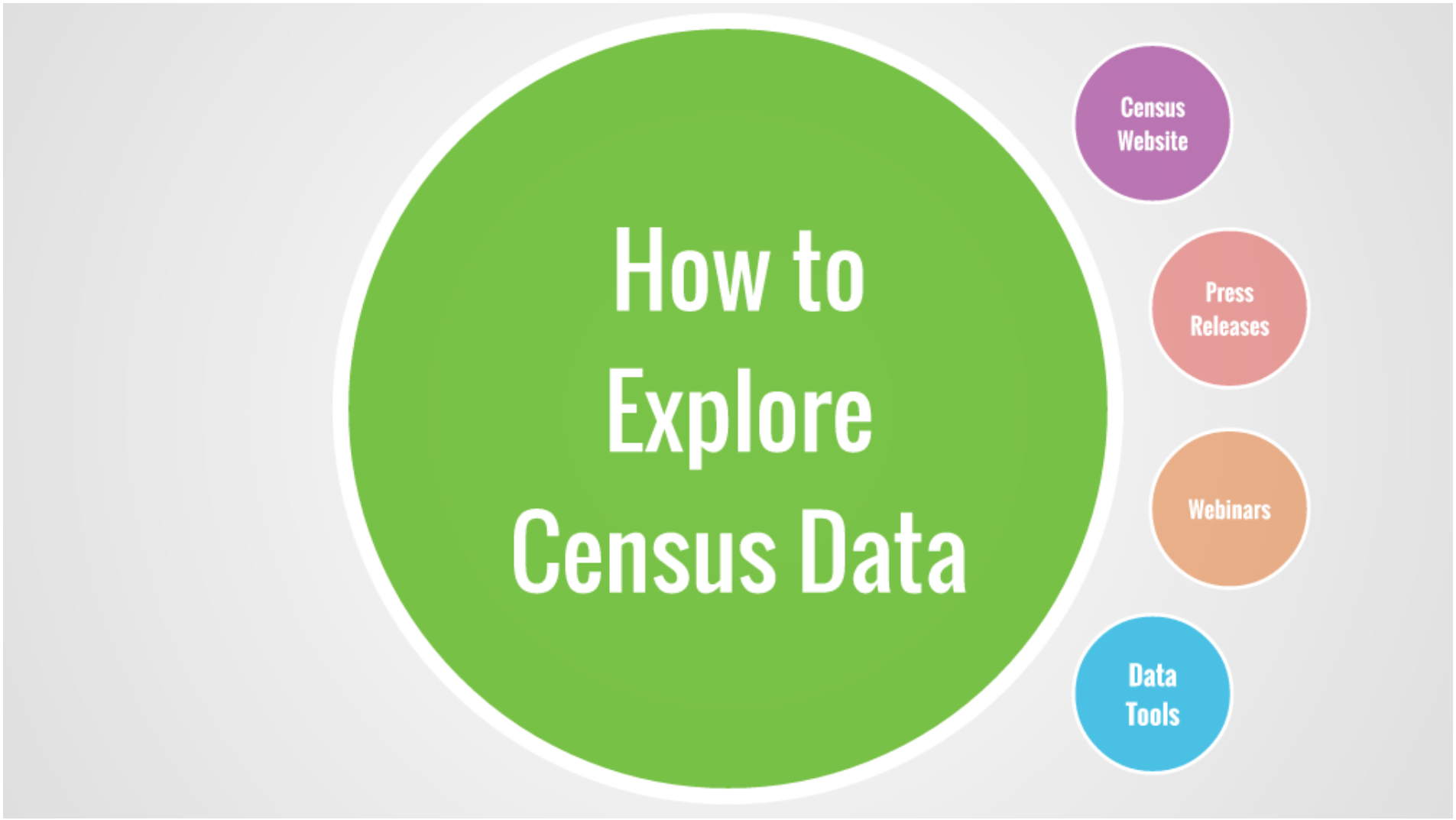
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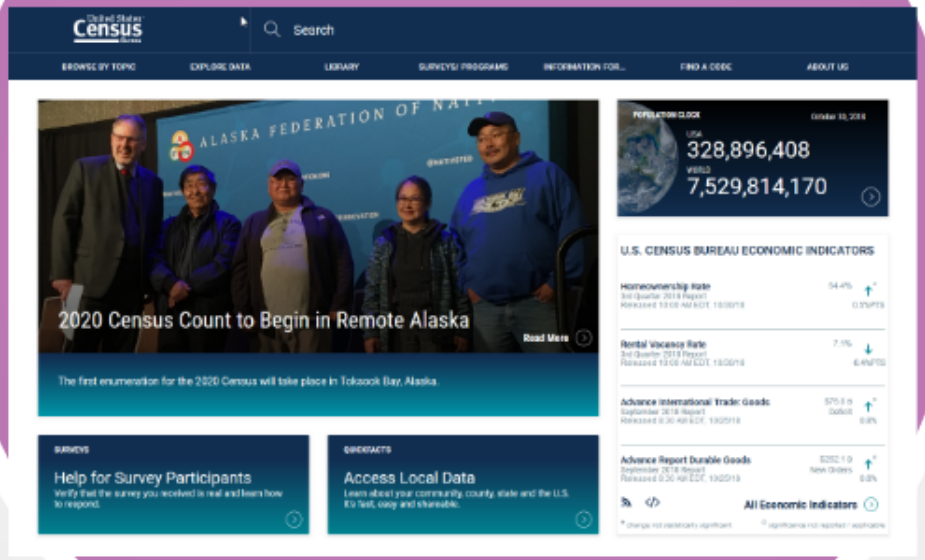


Press Releases

FOR RELEASE AT 8:30 AM EDT, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2018

MONTHLY ADVANCE ECONOMIC INDICATORS REPORT, SEPTEMBER 2018

Release Number: CB18-164

October 25, 2018 — The U.S. Census Bureau announced the following international trade, wholesale inventories, and retail inventories advance statistics for September 2018:

	ADVANCE INTERNATIONAL TRADE: GOODS DEFICIT		ADVANCE WHOLESALE INVENTORIES		ADVANCE RETAIL INVENTORIES	
SEPTEMBER 2018	$76.0 Billion	+0.8%*	$644.1 Billion	+0.3%	$642.1 Billion	+0.1%*
AUGUST 2018	$75.5 Billion		$642.0 Billion (R)		$641.7 Billion (R)	

Next release: November 26, 2018.

* The 90 percent confidence interval includes zero. There is insufficient evidence to conclude that the actual change is different from zero.
* Statistical significance is not applicable or not measurable.
Data adjusted for seasonality but not price changes.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Advance Economic Indicators Report, October 25, 2018.

Advance International Trade in Goods

The international trade deficit was $76.0 billion in September, up $0.6 billion from $75.5 billion in August. Exports of goods for September were $141.0 billion, $2.5 billion more than August exports. Imports of goods for September were $217.0 billion, $3.1 billion more than August imports.

Advance Wholesale Inventories

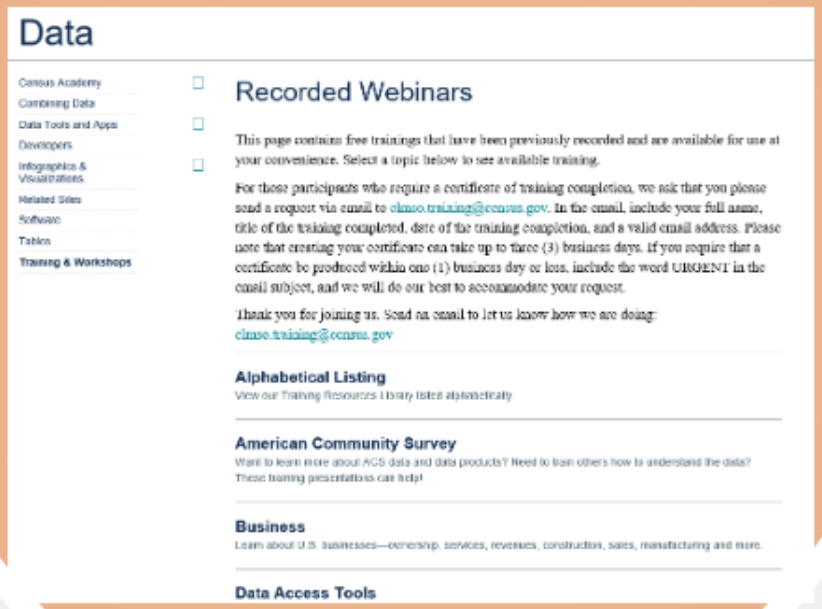
Wholesale inventories for September, adjusted for seasonal variations but not for price changes, were estimated at an end-of-month level of $644.1 billion, up 0.3 percent (±0.2 percent) from August 2018, and were up 5.1 percent (±3.9 percent) from September 2017. The July 2018 to August 2018 percentage change was revised from up 1.0 percent (±0.2 percent) to up 0.9 percent (±0.2 percent).

Advance Retail Inventories

Retail inventories for September, adjusted for seasonal variations but not for price changes, were estimated at an end-of-month level of $642.1 billion, up 0.1 percent (±0.2 percent)* from August 2018,

Webinars

www.census.gov/data/training-workshops/recorded-webinars.html



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Training & Workshops

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This page contains free trainings that have been previously recorded and are available for use at your convenience. Select a topic below to see available training.

For those participants who require a certificate of training completion, we ask that you please send a request via email to cimso.training@census.gov. In the email, include your full name, title of the training completed, date of the training completion, and a valid email address. Please note that creating your certificate can take up to three (3) business days. If you require that a certificate be produced within one (1) business day or less, include the word URGENT in the email subject, and we will do our best to accommodate your request.

Thank you for joining us. Send an email to let us know how we are doing: cimso.training@census.gov

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American Community Survey
Want to learn more about ACS data and data products? Need to train others how to understand the data? These training presentations can help!

Business
Learn about U.S. businesses—ownership, services, revenues, construction, sales, manufacturing and more.

Data Access Tools

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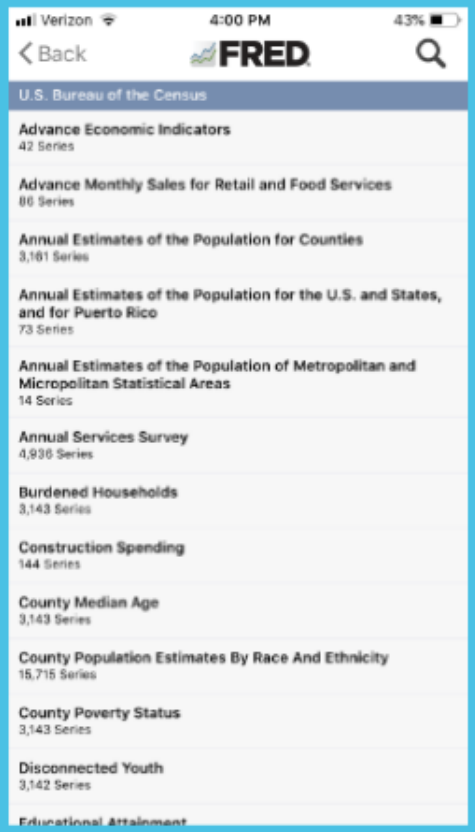
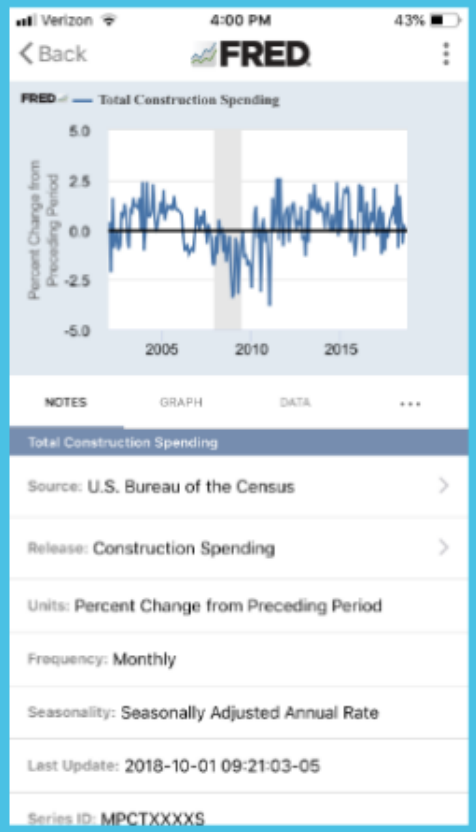




Time Series/Trend Charts

www.census.gov/econ/currentdata

TIME SERIES / TREND CHARTS

Please follow the numbers in order.

1 Select the report/survey from which you wish to retrieve data:
Advance Monthly Sales for Retail and Food Services

2 Select a date range:
Start: 1992 End: 2018

3 Select one or more industries or Categories (hold the "Ctrl" key to select multiple items):

- 44X72: Retail Trade and Food Services
- 44Y72: Retail Trade and Food Services, ex Auto
- 44Z72: Retail Trade and Food Services, ex Gas
- 44W72: Retail Trade and Food Services, ex Auto and Gas
- 4400: Retail Trade
- 441: Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers
- 4411,4412: Auto and Other Motor Vehicles
- 442: Furniture and Home Furnishings Stores
- 443: Electronics and Appliance Stores
- 444: Building Mat. and Garden Equip. and Supplies Dealers
- 445: Food and Beverage Stores
- 4451: Grocery Stores
- 446: Health and Personal Care Stores
- 447: Gasoline Stations
- 448: Clothing and Clothing Access. Stores
- 451: Sporting Goods, Hobby, Musical Instrument, and Book Stores
- 452: General Merchandise Stores
- 4521: Department Stores
- 453: Miscellaneous Store Retailers
- 454: Nonstore Retailers
- 722: Food Services and Drinking Places

4 Select one item :
Sales - Monthly

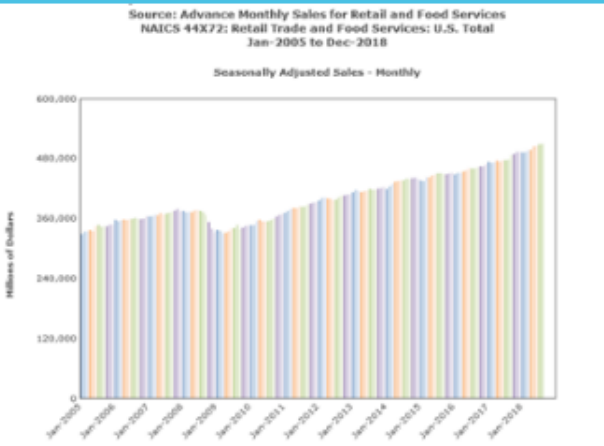
5 Select Geographical Level:
U.S. Total

Select as available:
☑ Seasonally Adjusted
☑ Not Seasonally Adjusted
☐ Show Estimates of Sampling Variability

GET DATA

Download all data for this report/survey

Save this search

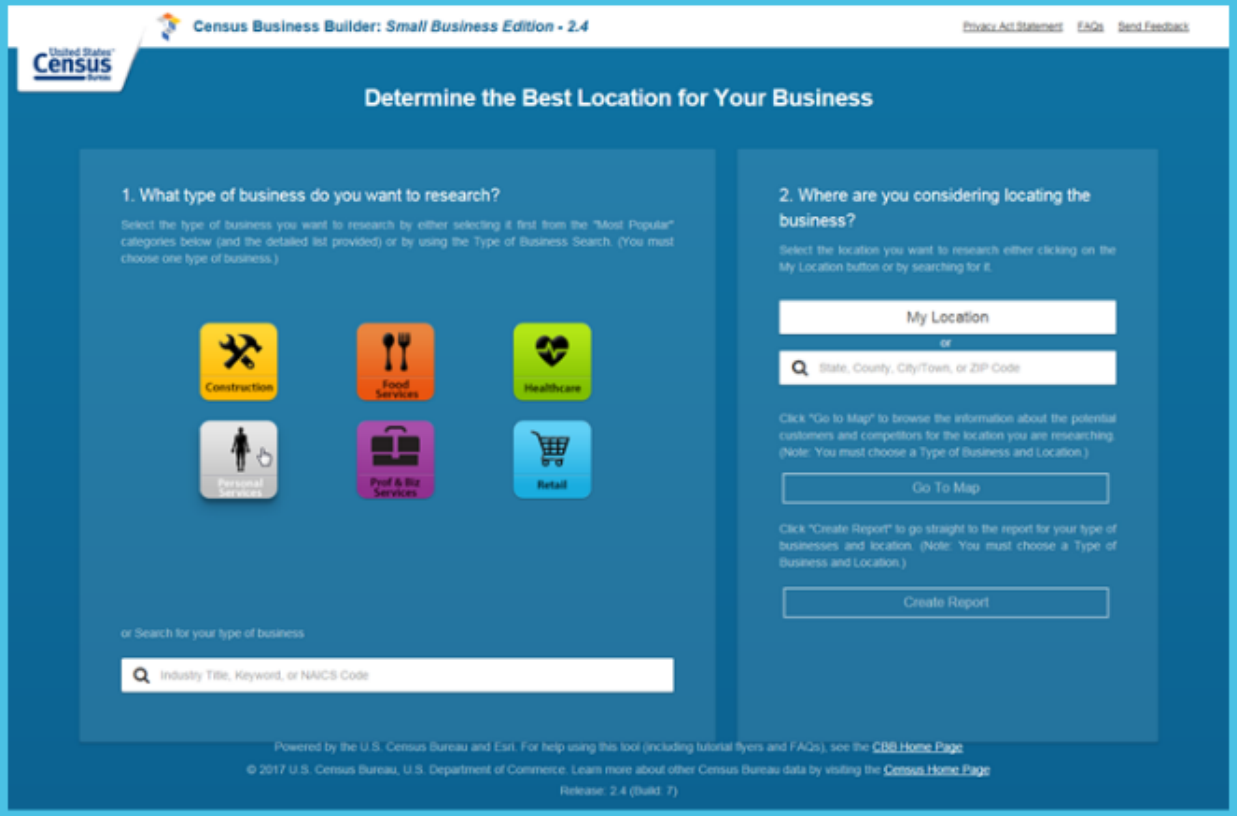


Source: Advance Monthly Sales for Retail and Food Services (Definitions)
44X72: Retail Trade and Food Services: U.S. Total — Seasonally Adjusted Sales - Monthly [Millions of Dollars]
TXT XLS-V XLS-H Bar Chart Line Chart

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2005	328,696	333,026	333,581	336,583	334,522	343,998	346,576	343,307	343,956	344,097	347,325	347,405
2006	357,331	354,706	355,665	357,423	356,704	357,879	359,006	360,691	358,961	358,462	359,266	363,730
2007	363,616	364,006	367,158	366,187	370,934	368,154	369,614	371,358	372,869	375,289	378,660	374,298
2008	375,236	371,833	372,745	372,572	376,006	376,455	375,038	372,284	366,729	352,950	339,350	332,091
2009	336,929	335,576	329,747	331,352	334,256	339,883	340,517	346,668	338,507	341,654	344,375	346,072
2010	346,174	346,795	354,607	357,268	354,018	354,127	354,587	356,718	359,298	363,515	367,351	369,260
2011	371,744	375,056	378,449	380,789	380,302	383,199	382,792	383,929	387,714	389,936	391,587	391,854
2012	395,366	400,162	401,799	399,923	399,347	396,145	397,474	402,153	405,376	405,896	407,636	408,606
2013	412,271	416,574	414,091	412,353	414,215	415,691	418,505	417,542	417,422	419,541	420,732	422,962
2014	418,788	424,443	428,973	433,678	434,400	435,682	436,286	439,735	438,784	440,265	441,132	436,575
2015	435,857	434,296	441,665	442,078	446,226	447,270	450,256	450,167	448,739	448,090	449,452	451,078

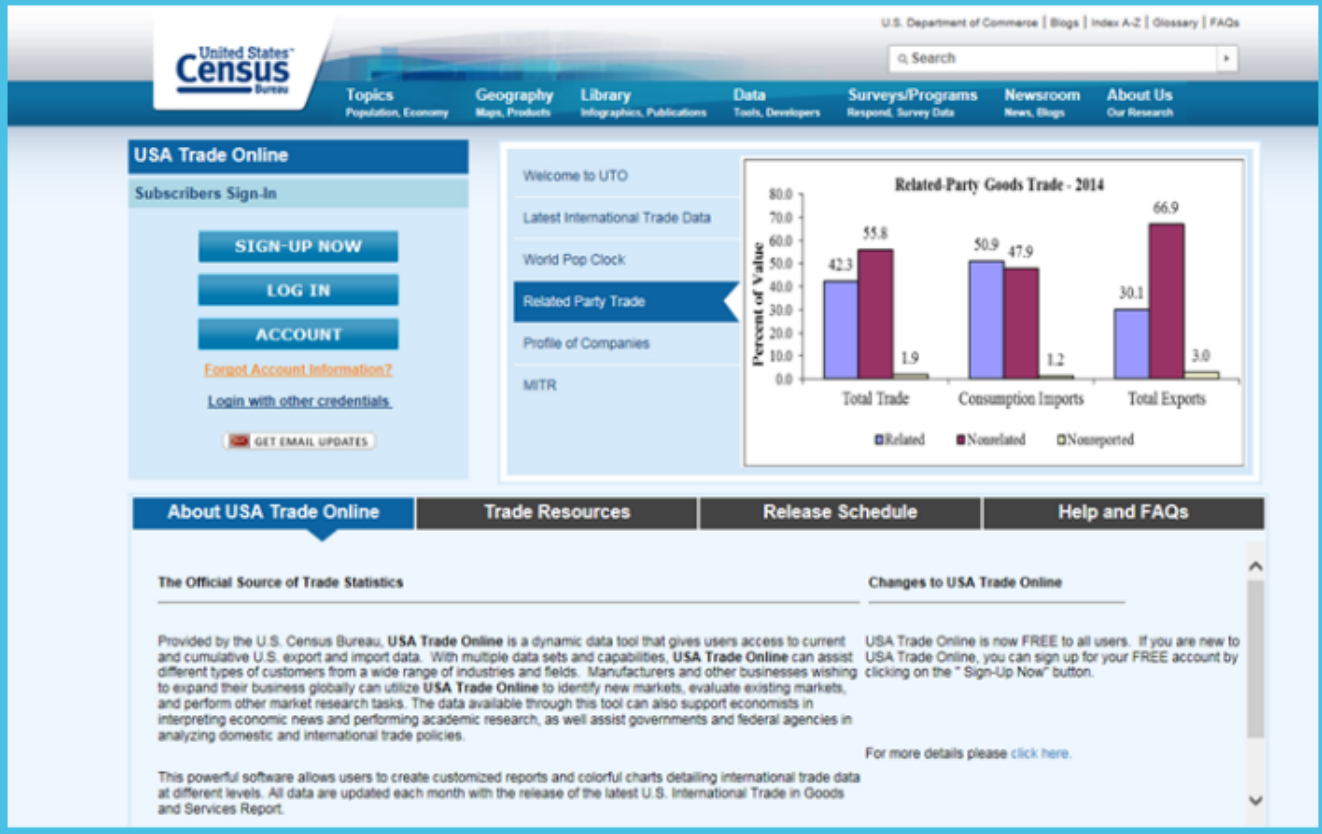
Census Business Builder

cbb.census.gov/sbe



USA Trade Online

usatrade.census.gov



Industry Statistics Portal

census.gov/econ/isp

Application Programming Interface (API)

census.gov/developers

Developers

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Economic Indicators (Time Series: various years - present)

APRIL 01, 2013

The Economic Indicator Time Series Database is now available via the API.

The U.S. Census Bureau's economic indicator surveys provide monthly and quarterly data that are timely, reliable, and offer comprehensive measures of the U.S. economy. These surveys produce a variety of statistics covering construction, housing, international trade, retail trade, wholesale trade, services and manufacturing. The survey data provide measures of economic activity that allow analysis of economic performance and inform business investment and policy decisions. Other data included, which are not considered principal economic indicators, are the Quarterly Summary of State & Local Taxes, Quarterly Survey of Public Pensions, and the Manufactured Homes Survey.

For information on the reliability and use of the data, including important notes on estimation and sampling variance, seasonal adjustment, measures of sampling variability, and other information pertinent to the economic indicators, visit the individual programs' webpages linked from the Economic Briefing Room.

You May Be Interested In

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Monthly International Trade Datasets (January 2013 – present)

The Monthly International Trade Datasets provide the most comprehensive current month and cumulative year-to-date export and import statistics using multiple commodity classification systems. The Monthly International Trade Datasets currently have statistics from January 2013 to present. Previously released trade data are revised annually with the publication of April statistics.

Exports

Monthly U.S. Exports by Harmonized System (HS) Code
api.census.gov/data/timeseries/intltrade/exports/hs

Monthly U.S. Exports by North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Code
api.census.gov/data/timeseries/intltrade/exports/naics

Monthly U.S. Exports by End-use Code
api.census.gov/data/timeseries/intltrade/exports/enduse

Monthly U.S. Exports by Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) Code
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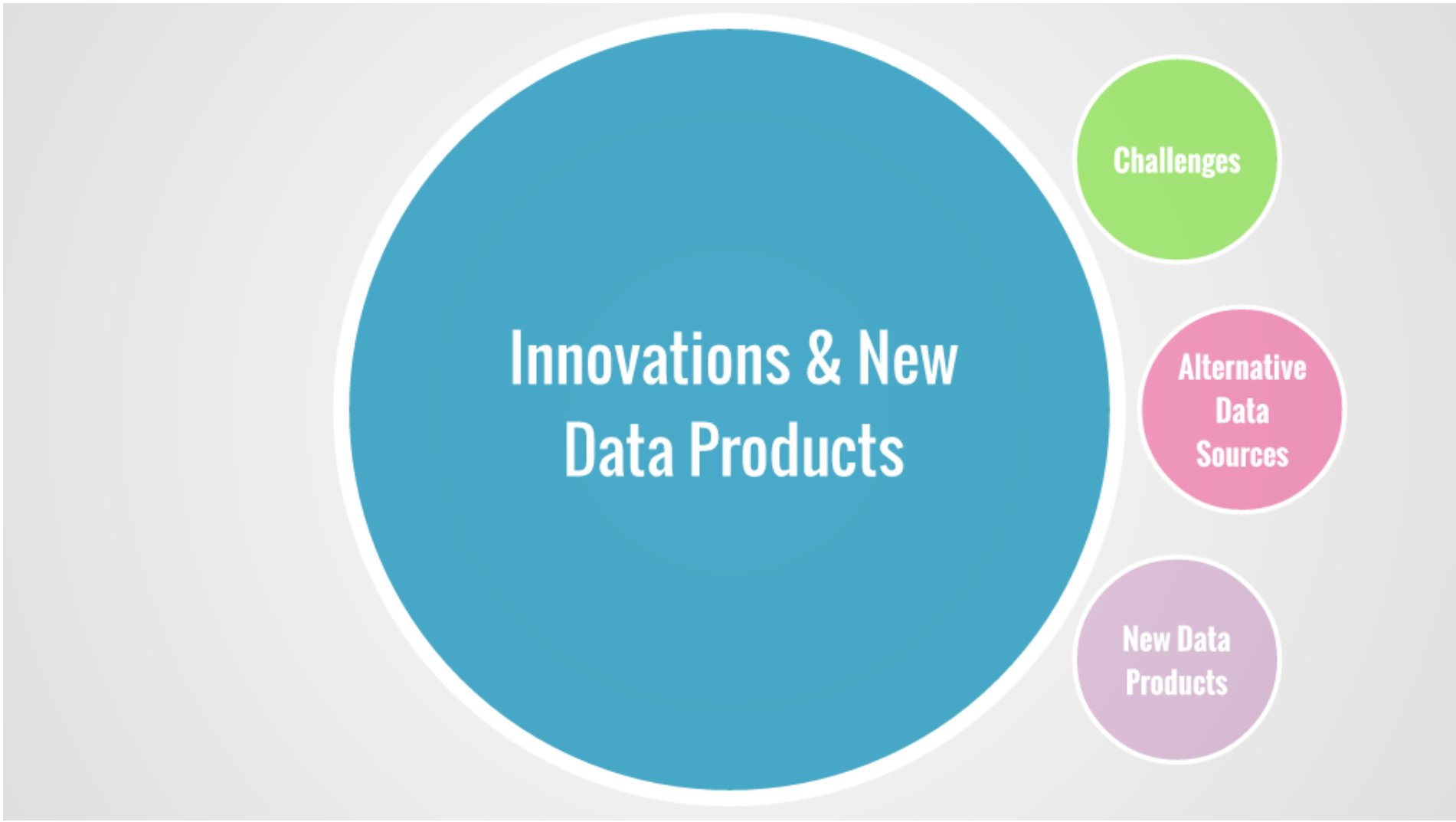
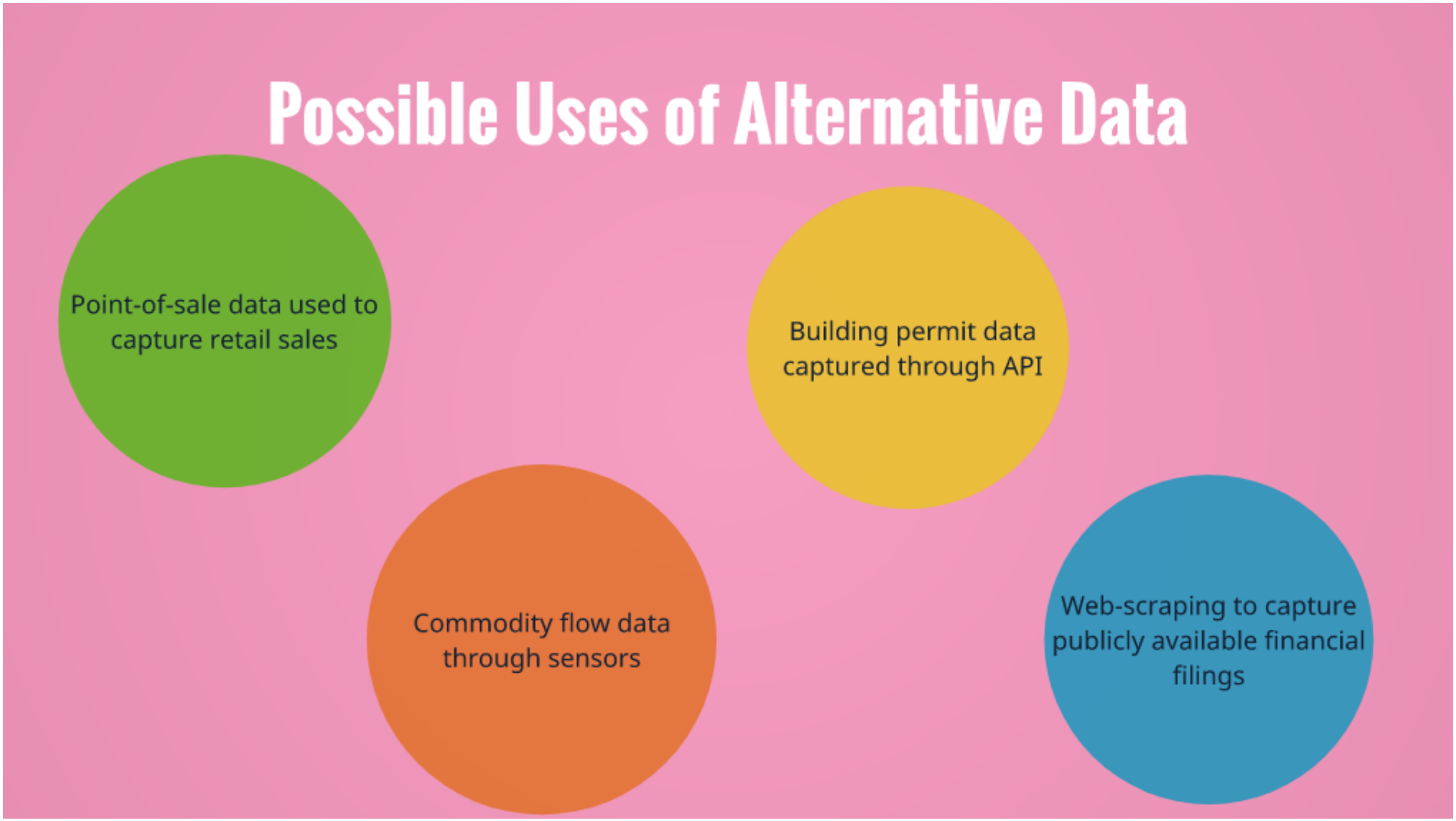

Innovations & New Data Products
Challenges
Alternative Data Sources
New Data Products

Challenges Facing Economic Directorate

- Data user demands for more timely and more detailed data
- Decline in respondent cooperation
- Changing economic landscape
- Increasing costs of traditional survey data collection


Possible Uses of Alternative Data
Point-of-sale data used to capture retail sales
Building permit data captured through API
Commodity flow data through sensors
Web-scraping to capture publicly available financial filings

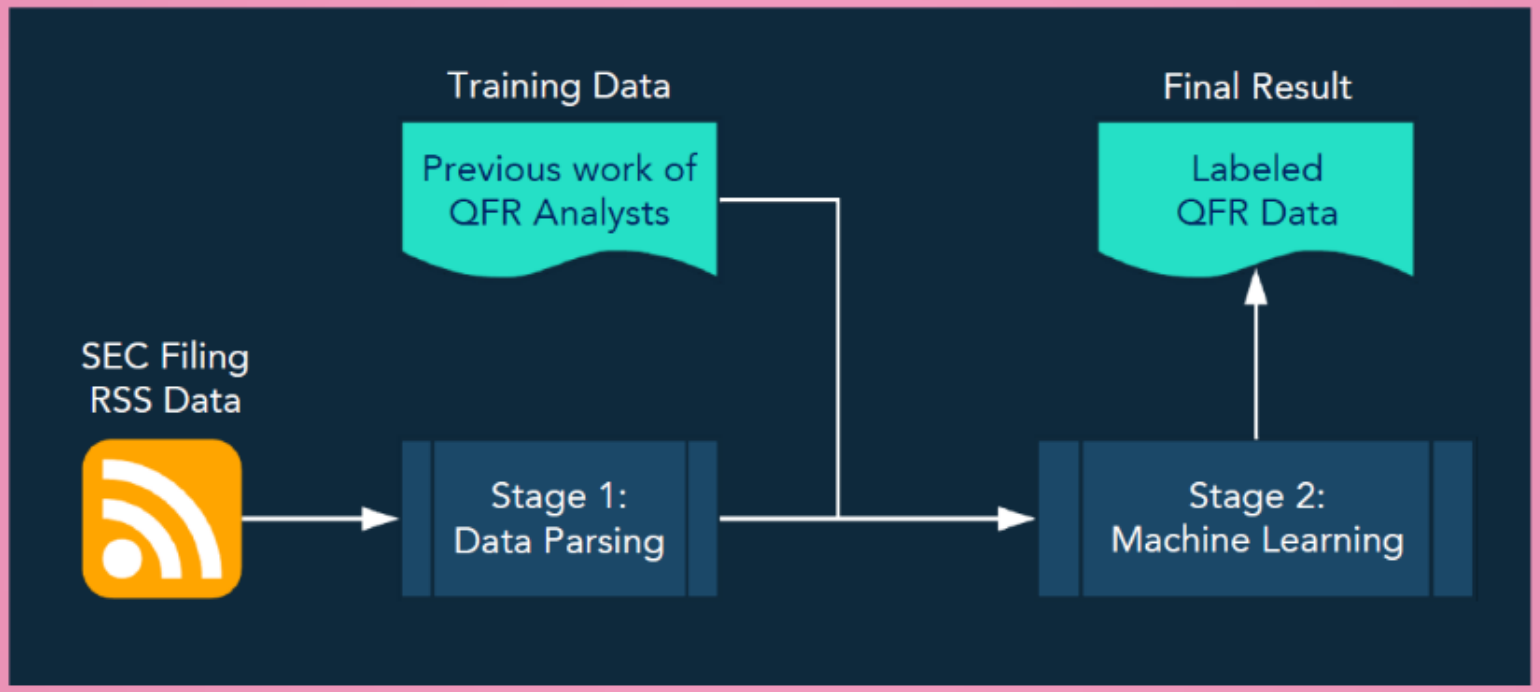
Retail Point-of-Sale Data

- Captures point-of-sale data from over 1,300 retailers representing 300,000 stores and e-commerce platforms worldwide
- The NPD product catalog was mapped to the North American Product Classification system (NAPCS) in the summer of 2018

- Monthly data deliveries will be used for the Advance Monthly Retail Trade Survey to help with nonresponse and response burden

- 2017 NPD store-level and product-level data will be tabulated and compared against 2017 Economic Census data to assist with nonresponse where reasonable

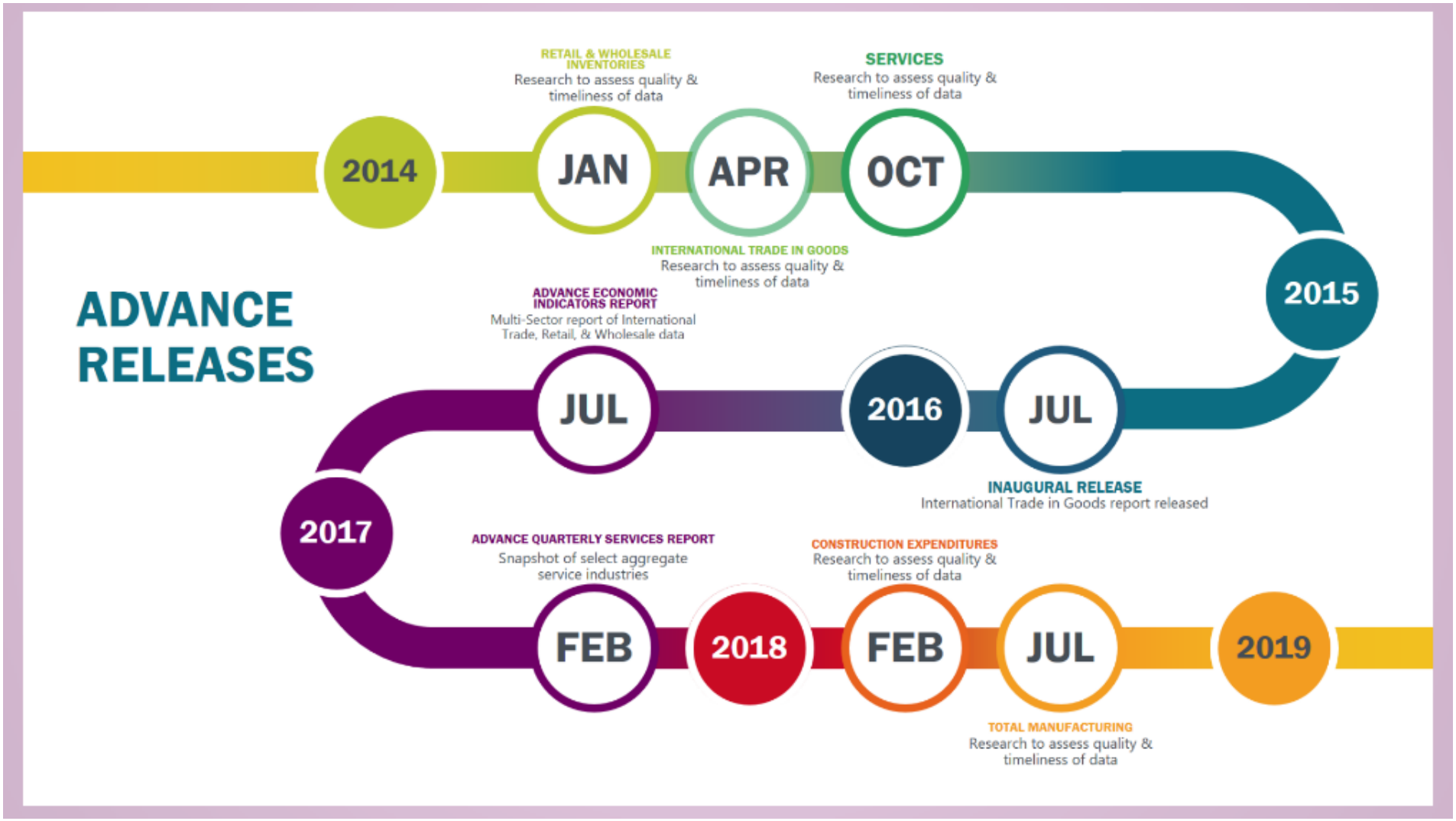
Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC) Pipeline



Construction Data Improvements

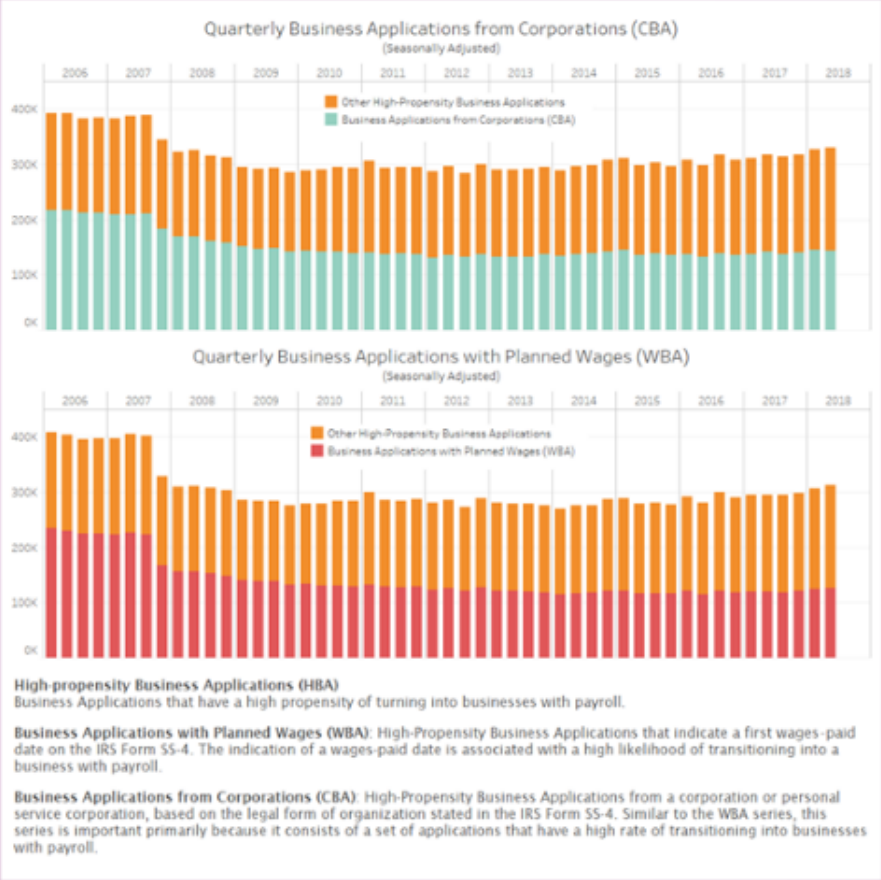
Use 3rd party building permit data to reduce data collection costs for construction surveys

Form a partnership with private stakeholders, including the Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies, to investigate innovative methods to develop better construction spending estimates on improvements and repairs to existing structures


ADVANCE RELEASES
2014
JAN
RETAIL & WHOLESALE INVENTORIES
Research to assess quality & timeliness of data
APR
INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN GOODS
Research to assess quality & timeliness of data
OCT
SERVICES
Research to assess quality & timeliness of data
2015
JUL
ADVANCE ECONOMIC INDICATORS REPORT
Multi-Sector report of International Trade, Retail, & Wholesale data
2016
JUL
INAUGURAL RELEASE
International Trade in Goods report released
2017
FEB
ADVANCE QUARTERLY SERVICES REPORT
Snapshot of select aggregate service industries
2018
FEB
CONSTRUCTION EXPENDITURES
Research to assess quality & timeliness of data
JUL
TOTAL MANUFACTURING
Research to assess quality & timeliness of data
2019

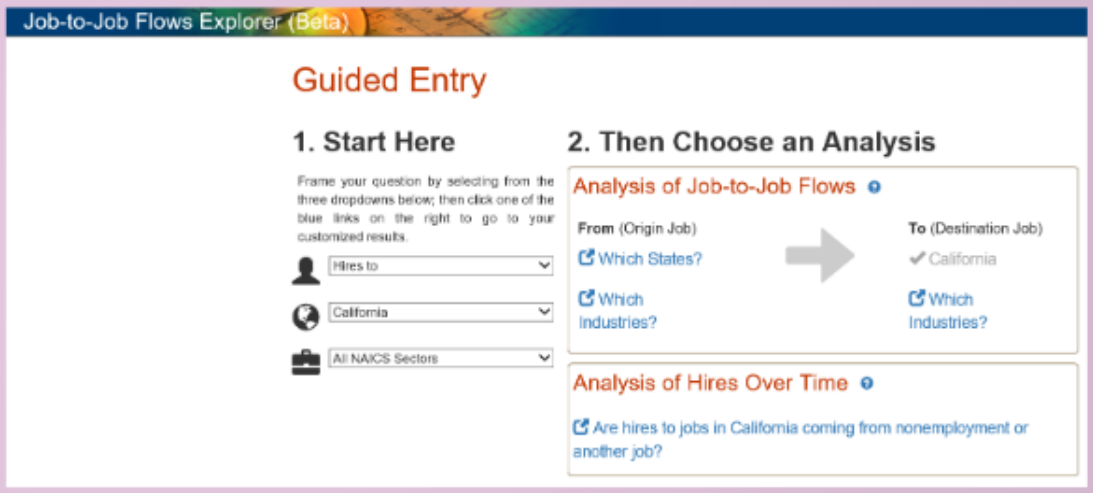
Business Formation Statistics

- Measures the number of new business applications and formations using data from IRS Employer Identification Number applications
- Agile approach to moving Business Formation Statistics from research mode to production
- Working with the Office of Management and Budget to formally designate Business Formation Statistics as a Principal Federal Economic Indicator



Job-to-Job Flows

- New set of statistics on worker reallocation in the United States constructed from the Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics data
- Initial release includes national data on hires & separations associated with job change from hires and separations to nonemployment
- Future releases will tabulate the origin and destination job characteristics of workers changing jobs



Quarterly Workforce Indicators

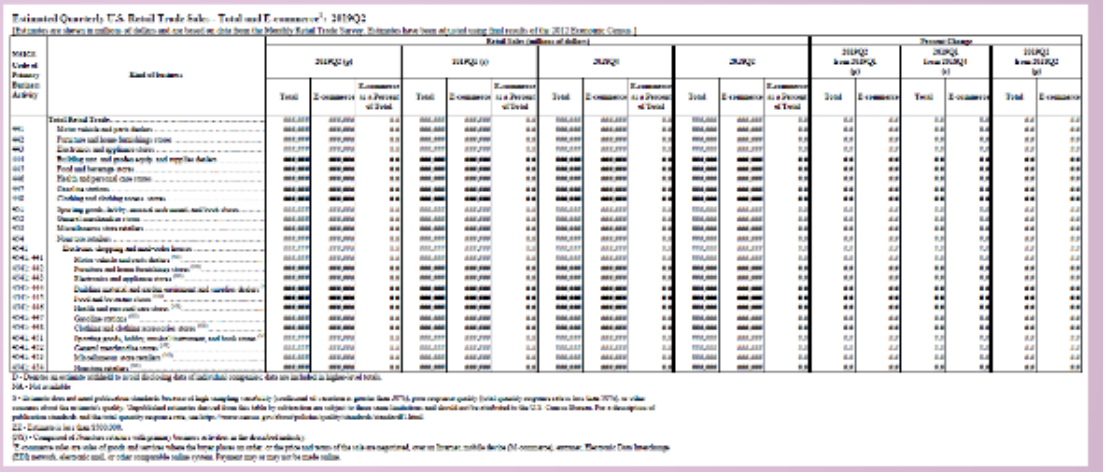
- A set of economic indicators including employment, job creation, earnings, and other measures of employment flows
- Reported based on detailed firm characteristics and worker demographics information
- Tabulated to national, state, metropolitan/ micropolitan areas, county, and Workforce Investment Board areas.

Improving Quarterly E-Commerce Data Product

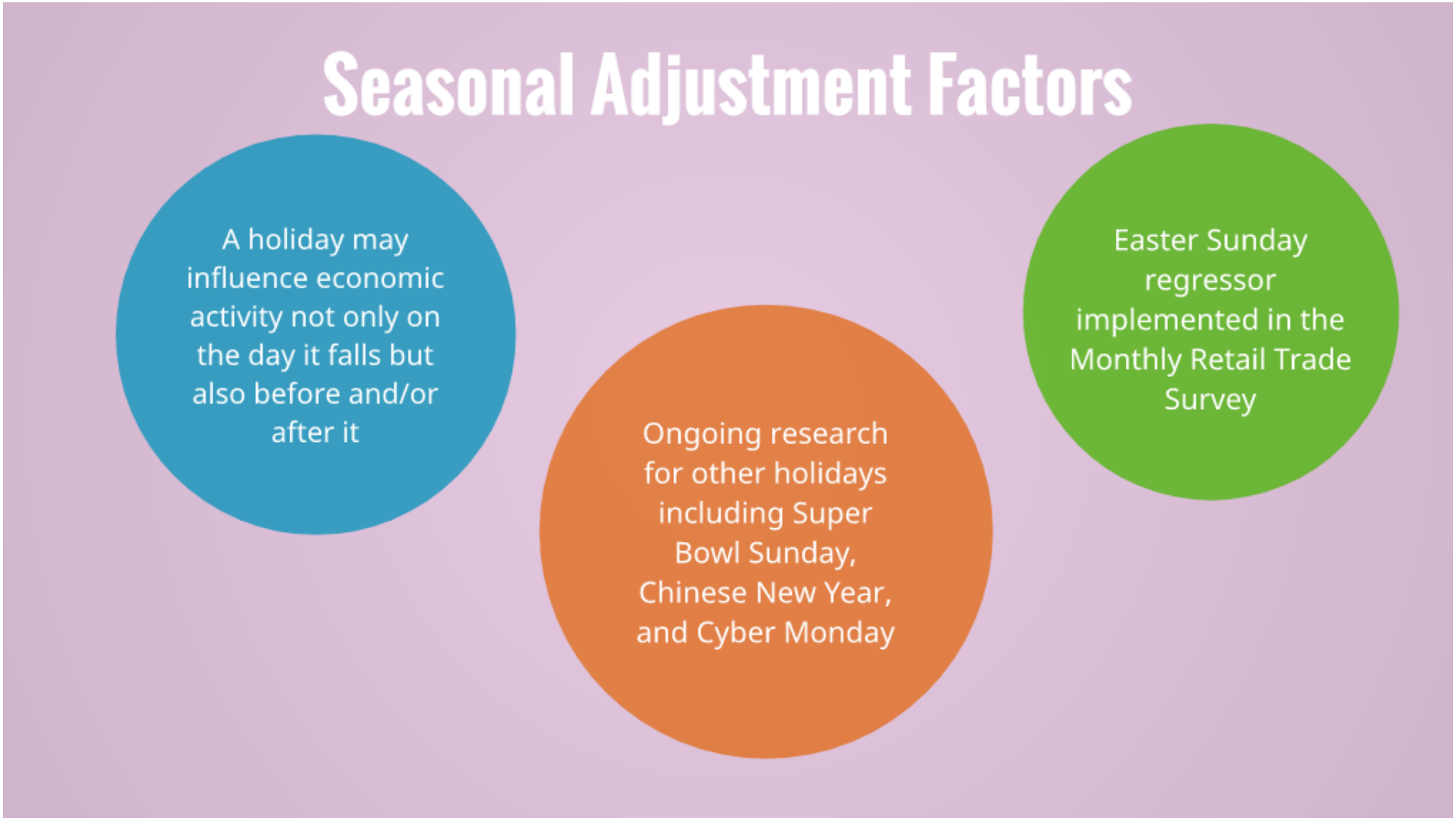
A clear need was presented by external stakeholders for more detail on e-commerce. Short and long-term efforts were undertaken.

- **Short Term:** Developed a quarterly e-commerce data product with more detailed e-commerce breakouts to complement the annual survey's publication

- **Long Term:** Update to the e-commerce definition and determine the path forward for measure e-commerce accurately. We have met with trade associations to discuss what e-commerce means for their stakeholders and the best way to measure it.



Seasonal Adjustment Factors



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