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Research and Methodology Group

International Directorate

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Summary of Expertise on Economic Measurement and Current Research Interests

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I have worked as an economist in the International Directorate of the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) since 2001. During this period, I have been involved in many aspects of the compilation of the official economic statistics of the Unites States. I have highlighted several important areas of my expertise in the sections below.

The Survey of New Foreign Direct Investment in the United States

I played a significant role in the relaunch of the BEA's Survey of New Foreign Direct Investment in the United States in 2013. The Survey offers a unique look at the expenditures and activities of multinational enterprises who acquire, establish, or expand a U.S. business. I contributed to the design of the survey and was responsible for reviewing initial survey responses, contacting respondents, and designing tests for errors. After the first survey responses had been collected I prepared press releases and *Survey of Current Business* articles explaining and highlighting the data. An example article is at this link:

Survey of Current Business

Since the establishment of the new foreign direct investment survey, I have proposed and implemented improvements to the estimation procedures for employment by U.S. state among the newly acquired U.S. businesses.

Improvements to the Measurement of Trade in Travel Services

I was a key member of the group within BEA who worked to improve the official estimates of expenditures by U.S. residents who travel abroad and nonresidents who travel to the United States. We investigated a variety of methodological and data issues and developed the current methodology which uses surveys of travelers to estimate expenditure by traveler and reports from other U.S. government agencies to track the number of travelers and combine these to estimate total expenditures. I received a Commerce Department Bronze medal for this work.

Research on the Location Choice of Multinational Enterprises in the United States

Using data on transactions from BEA's Survey of New Foreign Direct Investment in the United States, I conducted original research on the location choice decisions made by foreign multinationals established greenfield plants in the United States. Rather than focus on U.S. states as the unit of observations, as has been traditionally done in these studies, I used metropolitan statistical areas (MSA), which are better approximations of labor markets than states. In addition to examining traditional economic variables such as wages and industrial agglomeration, I examined the role that connectivity via transportation and other linkages plays in the location choice process. The article was published in the BEA working paper series and the peer-reviewed *Thunderbird International Business Review*. Below please find a link to the Google Scholar page for this article.

Google Scholar

I am currently researching the impact of acquisitions by foreign direct investors in the United States on wages and employment by metropolitan statistical area.

Reliability of the International Accounts

I recently completed a study examined the revisions to the U.S. International Transactions Accounts and International Investment Position. I found that early estimates of key measures of trade and investment present a clear and consistent picture of the statistics. This study was published in the Survey of Current Business

Reliability of the International Accounts

Activities of Multinational Enterprises in the United States

I am also quite knowledgeable about BEA's official statistics on the activities of foreign direct investors in the United States. These statistics measure the contribution of foreign-owned enterprises to the U.S. economy via employment, compensation, and value added. An example of a Survey of Current Business article is available at the link below.

Survey of Current Business

Other Notable Areas of Expertise

In addition to the items outlined above which are directly related to economic measurement, I was involved in the creation and am still active in the maintenance of BEA's interactive system for data on international direct investment, available at the link below:

Bea.gov