Application for the Robert Summers Fellowship on Economic Measurement

Conference on Research in Income and Wealth (CRIW)

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Summary of Experience and Current Research Interests in Economic Measurement

I am an Economist in the Center for Economic Studies (CES) at the U.S. Census Bureau, where my work focuses on the development, evaluation, and application of linked administrative and survey microdata for the measurement of business activity, labor market dynamics, entrepreneurship, and worker mobility. My research has centered on improving longitudinal economic measurement through the integration of administrative tax records, business registers, household surveys, and employer-employee linked data.

A major focus of my work has been the measurement of entrepreneurship and self-employment using administrative data. My recent work, *Business Owners and the Self-Employed: Thirty-Three Million (and Counting!)* (Goetz et al. 2025), develops new approaches for identifying and classifying business owners using linked administrative records and longitudinal business microdata. The project combines information from tax filings, information returns, and business databases to distinguish between different forms of self-employment and business ownership. The work also develops methods for longitudinally tracking nonemployer businesses and business owners over time, improving the measurement of business entry, persistence, and transitions across organizational forms.

My research on entrepreneurship measurement builds on earlier work using linked employer-employee data systems to study entrepreneurial activity and business formation. In *The Promise and Potential of Linked Employer-Employee Data for Entrepreneurship Research* (Goetz et al. 2016), my coauthors and I demonstrated how integrated employer-employee administrative data could support new measures of entrepreneurial entry, founder characteristics, and firm outcomes. This work highlighted the value of linked microdata systems for measuring entrepreneurial dynamics in ways not possible using traditional survey data alone.

In addition to research applications, I have contributed to major Census Bureau data infrastructure and statistical system development projects. In *Redesigning the Longitudinal Business Database* (Chow et al. 2021), I worked with coauthors to modernize and improve the construction of the Longitudinal Business Database (LBD), the Census Bureau's primary longitudinal business microdata product. The redesign incorporated updated administrative data sources and improved methods for identifying firm births, deaths, ownership transitions, and longitudinal continuity. These improvements support more accurate measurement of business dynamism, firm growth, and economic change over time.

I am also currently leading efforts to create a new Census Bureau product, the Longitudinal Business Database for Nonemployers (LBD-NE), which is intended to expand researcher access to longitudinal data on nonemployer businesses through the Federal Statistical Research Data Center system. Building on the existing Integrated Longitudinal Business Database (ILBD), this project seeks to further improve the measurement of entrepreneurial and small-business activity using administrative records. In *Recent Improvements to the Integrated Longitudinal Business Database (ILBD)* (Goetz and Kroff 2021), we developed methodological improvements for

integrating multiple administrative data sources and improving the longitudinal consistency of business identifiers and ownership measures. These efforts contribute to broader statistical goals related to coverage, linkage quality, and the measurement of emerging and nontraditional forms of business activity.

Much of my work has also focused on the development and interpretation of statistics on business dynamism. In *The Business Dynamics Statistics: Describing the Evolution of the U.S. Economy from 1978–2019* (Goetz and Stinson 2021), we documented the evolution of firm entry, exit, job creation, and job destruction using data from the Census Bureau's Business Dynamics Statistics (BDS) program. Related work in *Business Dynamics Statistics for Single-Unit Firms* (Beem et al. 2022) extended the BDS framework to improve coverage and measurement for single-establishment firms, which represent a substantial share of U.S. business activity but are often overlooked in public statistics.

Another strand of my work focuses on the integration of survey and administrative records to improve labor market and demographic measurement. In *The Potential for Using Combined Survey and Administrative Data Sources to Study Internal Labor Migration* (Goetz 2017), I examined how linked survey and administrative data can improve the measurement of geographic mobility and labor market transitions. More broadly, my work frequently involves combining restricted-access household surveys, administrative records, and longitudinal business datasets to study entrepreneurship, labor market outcomes, and economic opportunity across different populations and geographic areas.

Overall, my experience has emphasized the importance of integrated longitudinal data systems for improving economic measurement and the production of official statistics. My current research interests continue to focus on the use of linked administrative microdata to measure entrepreneurship, self-employment, labor market activity, and business dynamism. I am particularly interested in methodological questions involving longitudinal consistency, business ownership identification, administrative data integration, and the measurement of emerging forms of work. These interests closely align with the goals of the Conference on Research in Income and Wealth and the Robert Summers Fellowship program, particularly the use of integrated statistical systems and administrative microdata to advance economic measurement.

Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,

Christopher Goetz