

Top Issues/Opportunities Facing the Federal Statistical System in Congress

Washington Briefing, APDU Annual Conference, September 14, 2016

1. Concerns over the American Community Survey

- Ongoing threat:
 - House voted to eliminate ACS altogether in 2012 and passed provisions to make ACS voluntary in 2014 and 2015
 - House bill to make ACS voluntary in last three Congresses
 - New Chairman of House Appropriations panel for Census believes ACS should be voluntary
 - Senator Lankford (R-OK), who lead 2012 House effort to eliminate the ACS, continues to voice his concerns about the mandatory ACS in Senate
- Cautious optimism for 2016 prospects
 - House CJS bill won't be considered on House floor where ACS-undermining amendments have occurred
 - U.S. Senate under Republican Leadership has demonstrated strong support of mandatory ACS

2. Cybersecurity, FITARA, Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking, Data Synchronization... (to be discussed by Brian Harris-Kojetin)

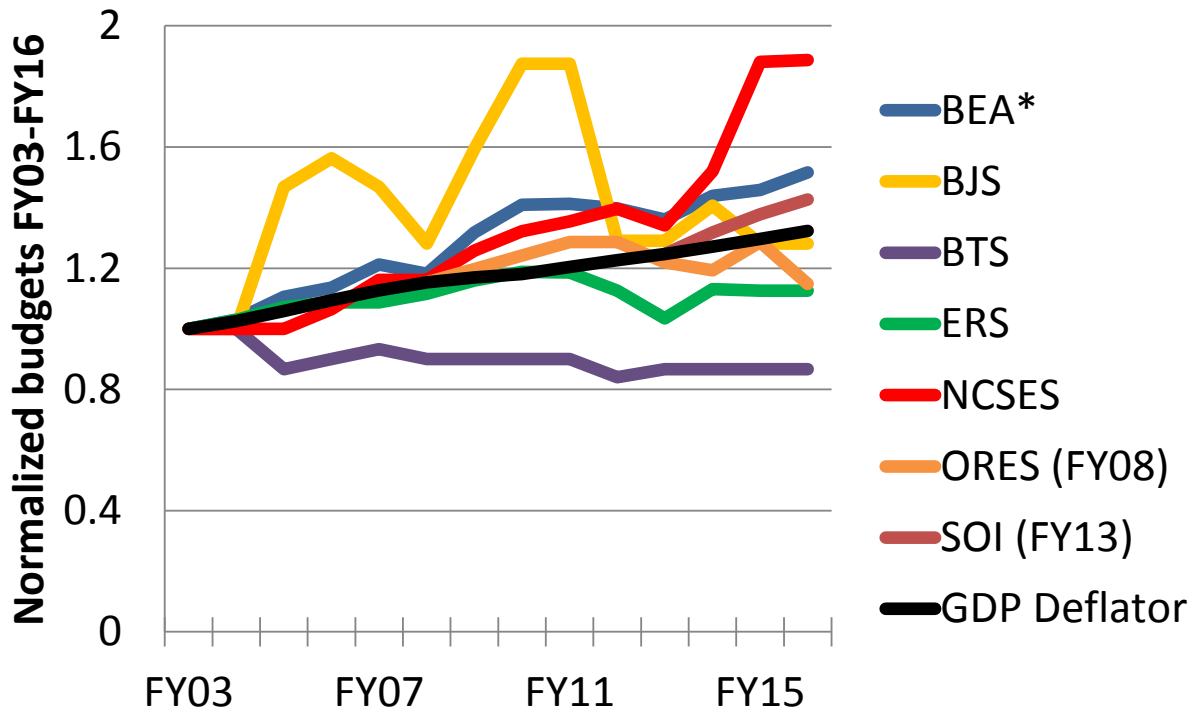
3. Autonomy/Stature Issues for National Center of Education Statistics and Bureau of Transportation Statistics

- Congress posed to approve bill that removes presidential appointment of NCES Commissioner and transfers NCES authority on publications and budget to IES
 - Original 2002 bill creating IES undermined some NCES autonomy
 - 2012 law removed Senate confirmation of NCES Commissioner
 - Stalled only due to anonymous Senate hold for reasons not related to NCES
- BTS doesn't have authority over its budget or IT. Was moved to office of the Secretary of Transportation in 2014, making such BTS autonomy/authority all the more important

4. Budget, Budget, Budget

- The House and Senate mostly flat fund most statistical agencies and only fund about half of requested increase for U.S. Census: <http://tinyurl.com/FY17FedStat>
- Taking into account inflation, many agencies seeing decreased purchasing power. See graphs on next page. For example:
 - BTS flat since 2004: 24% cut
 - BLS flat since 2010: 12% cut

Mid-Size Federal Statistical Agencies



Larger Federal Statistical Agencies

