

# NORC DATA ENCLAVE NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2008

## DATA ENCLAVE PROVIDING ACCESS TO DATA

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The NORC data enclave is now providing access to researchers analyzing data from the Advanced Technology Program (NIST) and the USDA. We expect users of Kauffman Firm Survey data to start in March.

Since the introduction of the NORC Data Enclave last July, we have held receptions (sponsored by the Kauffman Foundation) and introductory sessions to announce the availability of both ATP and Kauffman data. At the *Academy of Management* meetings in Philadelphia, an enthusiastic group of over 30 researchers attended the inaugural reception and session. Since then, the Data Enclave has been introduced at meetings at the University of Michigan, a conference on data at the Kauffman Foundation, and at the *Allied Social Science Association* meetings.

USDA is delighted to announce that research is already starting to be presented by researchers.

Brian Briggeman presented the paper, "U.S. Farm Households Operating a Non-Farm Business: A Tobit Analysis", to the 2007 NC-1014 Conference on Agricultural and Rural Finance Markets in Transition in St. Louis, Mo., and plans to submit the paper to the Agricultural Finance Review. Barry Goodwin presented the paper, "The Incidence and Implications of Binding Farm Program Payment Limits", at ASSA and it will be published in RAE as a proceedings paper; he also gave the paper, "Safety Nets or Trampolines? Federal Crop Insurance, Disaster Assistance, and the Farm Bill" to the 2008 SAEA Meetings in Dallas, Texas, and it will be in the proceedings in JAAE. Jeff Gillespie plans to submit an abstract for presentation at the Northeastern Ag & Resource Economics Association annual meeting, with a tentative working title of "Use of Homegrown Versus Purchased Forages in U.S. Dairy Production."

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Research outcomes
- User Survey
- Announcement of Awards

## TAKE OUR USER SURVEY

We have started to develop some metrics to measure the performance of the enclave in meetings its goals. Some of those metrics are administrative in nature, but we have also decided to survey the current and potential user community to find out what is most important for them. Some of the results are have been most helpful in steering us to focus on what users want.

If you are interested in providing feedback, please take the survey:

### Enclave Satisfaction for Current Users

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=OJAGf4xkHlkm2IZ\\_2fONrPQA\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=OJAGf4xkHlkm2IZ_2fONrPQA_3d_3d)

### Interests of Potential Future Users

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=QltzGFYz7ZsOSldTefvPag\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=QltzGFYz7ZsOSldTefvPag_3d_3d)

## USDA, THE ENCLAVE, AND THE UNITED KINGDOM

ERS sent two attendees to the Joint UN-ECE/Eurostat work session on statistical data confidentiality in Manchester, UK in December, 2007. There were three purposes: first, to gain knowledge of techniques utilized by other governments' with similar data confidentiality issues, second, to gain insight as to the academic frontier of statistical data disclosure, and third to share current practices on maintaining statistical confidentiality while promoting data access

Using data and information in pursuit of these goals we are more confident, at least heuristically, in the adequacy of the the disclosure controls being utilized by ERS.

Our presentation and the subsequent dis-

cussions among researchers suggest that the use of the disclosure controlled data by ERS researchers to produce "official" statistics is an admirable goal that should perhaps be explored further. Additionally, the cutting edge of data disclosure for research purposes seems to lie in the use of remote access facilities. Remote access facilities, such as NORC, allow data producing agencies and data disclosure entities to specialize in the skill sets unique to each agency. The end result is a higher quality more accessible data product for researchers which should lead to advances in knowledge among policy-makers and the general public.



## NIST UPDATE



Changes are underway at the National Institute of Standards and Technology. The America COMPETES Act (PL 110-69, signed on Aug. 9, 2007) created a new Technology Innovation Program (TIP) at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). TIP was established "to support, promote, and accelerate innovation in the United States through high-risk, high-reward research in areas of critical national need." The Act officially ends Advanced Technology Program (ATP), although funding for the 56 new awards announced in September 2007 will continue through the life of the project (3 years for single-company projects and 5 years for joint-venture projects.) See the new website for more information about TIP: [http://www.nist.gov/public\\_affairs/tip.htm](http://www.nist.gov/public_affairs/tip.htm)

Through the Data Enclave, the data collected during the ATP program from 1993

through 2007 will continue to inform program operations as well as to broaden the community of users who study the innovation process and entrepreneurial activity. (See this website for a complete list of ATP surveys: [http://www.atp.nist.gov/eao/brs\\_surveys.htm](http://www.atp.nist.gov/eao/brs_surveys.htm).) Our initial researchers are primarily using the ATP Joint Venture Survey (<http://www.atp.nist.gov/eao/jv-companysurvey.pdf>) to understand the factors that affect collaboration and trust in the innovation process.

NIST is offering funding to encourage researchers to use these ATP data sets. We are excited to have received approximately a dozen proposals from universities across the country including University of Southern California, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Georgia State, Ohio State University, University of North Texas, Samford University, University at Albany (SUNY), and others.

## UPDATE FROM THE KAUFFMAN FOUNDATION

There are two paths that data can take after they are collected. One path involves the assumption, “if you collect it, they will come.” The other path assumes that collection is a first and crucial step, but that dissemination and analysis deserves as much care as the collection effort. After spending more than four years in planning, testing, and collecting the initial rounds of data from the nearly 5,000 firms that are a part of the KFS panel, the NORC Data Enclave was chosen to complement the release of the public-use data file for KFS. Everyone at Kauffman is very excited that the richer data in the Enclave will be able to researchers for more detailed analysis and that the Enclave offers an environment in which many researchers from a diverse geographic area will be able to analyze and learn about the data together. The awardees of the Kauffman research grants to use the enclave are:

**Sheryl Winston Smith, Ph.D.**

Senior Lecturer, Department of Finance, Faculty Affiliate, Medical Industry Lead-

ership Institute Carlson School of Management. University of Minnesota

“Business Dynamics and Innovative Entrepreneurship: The Role of Financing in Innovation and Performance in Entrepreneurial Firms”

**Paroma Sanyal, Ph.D (& Catherine Mann, Ph.D.)**

Assistant Professor of Economics Department of Economics & International Business School, Brandeis University, “An Investigation of Small Firm Dynamics: Understanding Entry, Survival and Performance of Small Firms”

**Ethan Lewis, Ph.D. (& Mark Doms, Ph.D.; Alicia Robb, Ph.D.)**

Dartmouth College

“Local Labor Market Endowments, New Business Characteristics, and Performance”

**William R. Forster**

Darden School of Business Administration, University of Virginia

“An Investigation of Founding Partnerships: How and Why Partnerships are Formed and Their Consequences

## UPDATE FROM NORC

Julia Lane continues in her role with the NORC Enclave, but has taken a new position at the National Science Foundation. She is replaced at NORC by her good friend and longstanding colleague, Chet Bowie.

Chet has over 36 years experience designing and conducting cross-sectional and longitudinal household, educational institution and business surveys for federal and state governments and academic institutions. He spent more than 32 years at the U.S. Census Bureau including as Division Director of the Demographic Surveys Division. In this role he was responsible for developing nationwide surveys on a reimbursable basis for federal statistical agencies. Chet was very successful at the Census Bureau, leaving a legacy of a reimbursable survey organization that operated at well over \$200 million per year. Chet makes the following comments:

Based on my many years in survey research, I recognize the tension between the increasing cost of data collection, the values of privacy/confidentiality, and data access. The federal government captures large amounts of data, stores it in large and often times complex databases, analyzes some of it, and attempts to disseminate it to outside researchers. The internet has accelerated the demand for access to government collected data. This demand places a greater requirement to protect the privacy and confidentiality of the individuals/businesses providing the data. Data disclosure/masking/perturbation techniques often distorts the results of the research. The data enclave is a practical solution to reducing this tension and providing data users secure access to restricted data.

Ewing Marion  
**KAUFFMAN**  
Foundation

“Dissemination and analysis deserve as much care as most institutions put just into collection”

Get more information at

<http://dataenclave.norc.org>

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**FEEDBACK REQUESTED**

Our new and improved website can be seen at <http://dataenclave.norc.org>. Please send us your comments, as we are looking to improve the usability of the site.

**UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS AND BACKGROUND REPORTS**

**FEBRUARY 25, 2008**

Julia Lane and Chet Bowie will present at NASS Advisory Committee meeting in Louisville, Kentucky

**FEBRUARY 29, 2008**

Tim Mulcahy and Chet Bowie will present at the National Science Foundation's conference on Data Linking

**MARCH 7, 2008**

Tim Mulcahy and Chet Bowie will present at the Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics

**MAY 22-24, 2008**

We will be on a plenary panel on Confidentiality at the Comparative Analysis of Enterprise Datasets conference in Budapest, Hungary

**MAY 27-30, 2008**

We will be presenting a paper on the NORC data enclave at the International Association for Social Science Information Service and Technology in Stanford, California

**AUGUST 5, 2008**

We will be presenting a paper on NORC data enclave training at an invited session at the Joint Statistical Meetings in Denver, Colorado

**AUGUST 8, 2008**

Together with the Kauffman Foundation, we will be hosting a

workshop on accessing business data at the Academy of Management meetings in Anaheim California

**UNECE/EUROSTAT WORK SESSION ON STATISTICAL CONFIDENTIALITY**

<http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2007.12.confidentiality.htm>

"Improving Researcher Access to USDA's Agricultural Resources Management Survey" by Charles Towe and Mitch Morehart

<http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2007/12/confidentiality/wp.23.e.pdf>

**WORKSHOP ON DATA ACCESS TO MICRO-DATA**

<http://fdz.iab.de/en/pageText.asp?PageID=126>

"Remote Access to Microdata: Challenges and Practical Approaches" by Pascal Heus, Julia Lane and Tim Mulcahy

<http://doku.iab.de/fdz/events/2007/Lane.pdf>

**TOWARDS A GLOBAL INFRASTRUCTURE FOR DATA AND METADATA**

<http://2007.xmlconference.org/public/asset/attachment/286>