

# 2023 Consumer Expenditure Surveys (CE) Microdata Users' Workshop, July 18-20

Individual meetings with CE staff members can be scheduled throughout the workshop. To do so, please send an email to [CE\\_WORKSHOP@bls.gov](mailto:CE_WORKSHOP@bls.gov). Be sure to describe the topic that you would like to discuss, as well as times you are available to speak with staff.

Microsoft Teams information will be provided by email to registrants.

## Tuesday, July 18, 2023

(Online access to event opens at 8:45 am)

### 9:00-10:30 a.m. Morning Meeting: Introduction to CE Data and Files

- 9:00-9:15 a.m. Welcome – *Scott Curtin*
- 9:15-9:30 a.m. Overview of the CE – *Adam Safir*
- 9:30-9:45 a.m. Introduction to CE Public Use Microdata (PUMD) – *Bryan Rigg*
- 9:45-10:00 a.m. Microdata File Structure – *Grayson Armstrong*
- 10:00-10:15 a.m. Considerations While Working with the PUMD - *Aaron Cobet*
- 10:15-10:30 a.m. Discussion/Q&A

### 10:30-10:45 a.m. Morning Break

### 10:45-12:00 p.m. Self-Directed Practical Training Session I – CE Staff

- 10:45-11:00 a.m. *Overview and Concepts: Projects 1, 2 & 3 (CE staff)\**
- 11:00-12:00 p.m. *Projects 1, 2, & 3 (Self-directed) - CE Staff available via chat*

### 12:00-1:00 p.m. Lunch Break (Staff availability may be limited)

### 1:00-2:00 p.m. Afternoon Meeting: Tools to Help You Get Started

- 1:00-1:15 p.m. CE Source Selection – *Barry Steinberg, Mathematical Statistician, Division of Price Statistical Methods, and Josh Klick, Economist, Division of Consumer Prices and Price Indexes*
- 1:15-1:30 p.m. Storytelling with FRED® Graphs: CES Data at Your Fingertips - *Diego Mendez-Carbajo,<sup>P</sup> Ph.D., Senior Economic Education Specialist, and Maria Arias, FRED Data Engineer, both of Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis*
- 1:30-1:45 p.m. Overview of LABSTAT - *Geoffrey Paulin, Ph.D.*
- 1:45-2:00 p.m. Discussion/Q&A

### 2:00-2:15 p.m. Announcements/Afternoon Break

### 2:15-4:30 p.m. Self-Directed Practical Training Session II – CE Staff

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\* For a list of topics to be covered, see page 4.

<sup>P</sup> Speaker has presented at previous workshop(s).

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- 2:15-2:45 p.m. *Overview and Concepts: Projects 4 & 5 (CE Staff)\**  
2:45-4:30 p.m. *Project 4 & 5 (Self-directed) – CE Staff available via chat*

## Wednesday, July 19, 2023 (Online access to event opens at 8:45 am)

- 9:00-10:30 a.m. Morning Meeting: Research Presentation Session I**
- 9:00-9:15 a.m. Special Session Overview- *Geoffrey Paulin, Ph.D. (Discussant/Moderator)*  
9:15-9:30 a.m. Investigating the Domestic Travel Spending Trends during 2010-2019 - *Li-Chun Lin,<sup>P</sup> Ph.D., Montclair State University, New Jersey*  
9:30-9:45 a.m. Just What Did You Do Last Summer? An exploration into local and long-distance travel behavior in the Consumer Expenditures Survey Before, During and After the COVID19 Pandemic – *Mark Stroud, Lecturer in Economics, The College of Staten Island/CUNY*  
9:45-10:00 a.m. The Great Outdoors: Household Consumption of Outdoor Recreation from 2000 to 2022 – *Jonathan Peters,<sup>P</sup> Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Urban Planning, The College of Staten Island*  
10:00-10:15 a.m. Discussant/Moderator and Panelists  
10:15-10:30 a.m. Discussion/Q&A
- 10:30-10:45 a.m. Morning Break**
- 10:45-1:00 p.m. Self-Directed Practical Training Session III – CE Staff\***
- 10:45-11:30 a.m. Weight for Me!: When and How to Use FINLWT21 and BRR- *Geoffrey Paulin, Ph.D.*  
11:30-12:00 p.m. *Overview and Concepts: Projects 6 & 7 (CE Staff) \**  
12:00-1:00 p.m. *Projects 6 & 7 (Self-directed) – CE Staff available via chat*
- 1:00-2:00 p.m. Lunch Break (Staff availability may be limited)**
- 2:00-3:00 p.m. Afternoon Meeting: Topcoding, State Weights, and Variance Estimation**
- 2:00-2:15 p.m. Balancing Respondent Confidentiality and Data User Needs – *Aaron Cobet*  
2:15-2:30 p.m. State Weights: Providing More Geographic Data – *Grayson Armstrong*  
2:30-2:45 p.m. Development of FINLWT21 and Related Variables – *Brian Nix, Mathematical Statistician, Division of Price Statistical Methods*  
2:45-3:00 p.m. Discussion/Q&A

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**3:00-3:15 p.m.**                    **Announcements/Afternoon Break**

**3:15-5:00 p.m.**                    **Self-Directed Practical Training Session IV – CE Staff**

    3:15-3:45 p.m.                    *Introduction to Imputed Income Data - Geoffrey Paulin, Ph.D.*

    3:45-5:00 p.m.                    *Project 8 & 9 (Self-directed) – CE Staff available via chat\**

## **Thursday, July 20, 2023**

**(Online access to event opens at 8:45 am)**

**9:00-9:45 a.m.**                    **Morning Meeting: MLR and CPI Session**

    9:00-9:15 a.m.                    *Submitting a Monthly Labor Review Article – Jonas Trostle, Economist, Monthly Labor Review*

    9:15-9:30 a.m.                    *How the Consumer Price Index Program Uses CE Data in Cost Weight Estimation - Chris Miller, Economist, Division of Consumer Prices and Price Indexes*

    9:30-9:45 a.m.                    *Discussion/Q&A*

**9:45-10:30 a.m.**                    **Research Presentation Session II:**

    9:45-9:50 a.m.                    *Introduction to Special Session - Geoffrey Paulin, Ph.D. (Discussant)*

    9:50-10:05 a.m.                    *How responsive is domestic labor outsourcing to an income shock? Evidence from the Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend - Elena Maria Pojman,<sup>A</sup> Ph.D. Student (Sociology and Demography), Pennsylvania State University*

    10:05-10:20 a.m.                    *Examining the Role of Consumer Preferences on U.S. Individuals' Trade Policy Views - Lin Shi,<sup>F,A</sup> Ph.D. Candidate (Economics), American University*

    10:20-10:30 a.m.                    *Discussion/Q&A*

**10:30-10:45 a.m.**                    **Morning Break**

**10:45-12:00 p.m.**                    **COVID-19 Data: Self-Directed Practical Training Session V – CE Staff**

    10:45-11:15 a.m.                    *Introduction to COVID-19 Data: Examples of Research Possibilities Using Variables Specially Collected During the Pandemic – CE Staff<sup>\*</sup>*

    11:15-12:00 p.m.                    *Project 10 (Self-directed) on COVID-19 variables – CE Staff available via chat<sup>\*</sup>*

**12:00-1:00 p.m.**                    **Lunch Break (Staff availability may be limited)**

**1:00-2:15 p.m.**                    **Research Presentation Session III:**

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<sup>A</sup> Speaker has attended at least one previous workshop.

<sup>F</sup> First-time CE microdata user.

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1:00-1:05 p.m.	Introduction of Panel Session - <i>Geoffrey Paulin, Ph.D. (Moderator)</i>
1:05-1:20 p.m.	Using Food Stamp Identifiers in the CE Diary Survey: Opportunities and Challenges - <i>Lisa Boily,<sup>P</sup> BLS Northeast Information Office</i>
1:20-1:35 p.m.	The Relationship Between Luxury Consumption and Savings Behavior of the Middle Class - <i>Christina Lynn, Ph.D. (Author); presented by Geoffrey Paulin, Ph.D.</i>
1:35-1:50 p.m.	TBD: New User's Perspective on CE data- <i>Van Dinh,<sup>F</sup> Ph.D. Student (Personal Financial Planning), Texas Tech University</i>
1:50-2:00 p.m.	Discussion among Moderator and Panelists
2:00-2:15 p.m.	Discussion/Q&A
<b>2:15-2:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Afternoon Break</b>
<b>2:30-3:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Sneak Peek: Coming Events</b>
2:30-2:45 p.m.	Sneak Peek: CE Now and into the Future – <i>Scott Curtin</i>
2:45-3:00 p.m.	Investigating the Imputation of Assets and Liabilities in the CE Interview Survey - <i>Geoffrey Paulin, Ph.D.</i>
3:00-3:15 p.m.	How Grouping CUs by Outlays Can Enhance Our Understanding of Economic Wellbeing – <i>Jake Schild and Aaron Cobet</i>
3:15-3:30 p.m.	Discussion/Q&A
<b>3:30-4:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Attendee Feedback Session</b> – <i>Tywanquilla Walker, Research Statistician, Office of Survey Methods Research</i>
<b>4:00-4:45 p.m.</b>	<b>Concluding Activities</b> Closing announcements, including information on the 2024 workshop Self-directed practical training Meet with an expert (as scheduled)

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# 2023 Consumer Expenditure Surveys (CE) Microdata Users' Workshop, July 18-20

## Self-directed Practical Training Sessions (Tentative Schedule):

The practical training projects at this workshop will be covered sequentially. Depending on the progress of each session, topics may start in one session and be carried over to later sessions. Tentatively, the topics to be covered each day are as follows:

### Tuesday, July 18, 2023

- Project 1:** Generating annualized sample means (unweighted) by family type using the Interview **FMLI** files.
- Introduction to summary income variables
  - Develop a baseline understanding of the sample data
  - Using data only from participants in all four interviews compared to treating quarters independently
- Project 2:** Generating annualized sample means (unweighted) by number of children in the CU using the Interview **FMLI** and **MEMI** files.
- Explore how we can use data from multiple sources to determine interesting cross tabs
- Project 3:** Generating annualized sample means (unweighted) for tuition, test, book, and other education expenditures by number of children in the CU using the Interview **FMLI**, **MEMI**, and **MTBI** files.
- Introduction to stub files
  - Introduction to expenditure summary variables (PQ/CQ)
- Project 4:** Generating annualized sample means (unweighted) for a specific Diary survey item (school supplies -unspecified) to be integrated with Interview survey data, creating a total education expenditure.
- Review of source selection
- Project 5:** Generating statistics (unweighted) for non-expenditure characteristics (school type) of education using the Interview survey **EDA** and **FMLI** files.
- Using the EDA file to find more specific information about whether the expense was for someone inside or outside the CU

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## Wednesday, July 19, 2023

**Project 6:** Generating a weighted average annual collection year education expenditure and standard error by the number of children in a CU, using the Interview survey files.

- Using the weights
- Comparisons of population versus sample means

**Project 7:** Generating a weighted calendar year education expenditures by the number of children in a CU using the Interview survey files.

- MO\_SCOPE → How to adjust the weights to represent the “months in scope” of the interview

**Project 8:** [User's Guide to Income Imputation in the CE](#) (Part 1)

Calculating valid descriptive statistics (unweighted) for multiply imputed income:

- Mean
- Standard error

**Project 9:** [User's Guide to Income Imputation in the CE](#) (Part 2)

Regression analysis (unweighted) to find the relationship between food-at-home expenditures and income:

- Compute the parameter estimates and their standard errors for the intercept and income in a simple linear regression.

## Thursday, July 20, 2023

**Project 10:** Introduction to CE Data and Analyses Related to COVID-19

- Compute (unweighted) percent reporting receipt of economic stimulus payments (REBTUSED) in 2020Q2;
- Compute average amount (unweighted) of payment received, for recipients only;
- Compute and compare outlays on total entertainment before (2020Q1) and after (2020Q2) the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic for all consumer units (EIP recipients or not);
- For 2020Q2 only, compute and compare outlays on total entertainment:
  - Those who did or did not receive an EIP
  - By use of EIP, according to values of REBTUSED (i.e., those who used the payment mostly for spending, saving, or paying off debt)

# 2023 Consumer Expenditure Surveys (CE) Microdata Users' Workshop, July 18-20

## **CE Microdata Users' Workshop Staff**

The following CE staff members will lead or facilitate exercises during at least one practical training session. Several will be available at each session to assist you with your projects.

*Brooke Bahner*  
*Aaron Cobet*  
*Tom Johnson*  
*Geoffrey Paulin*  
*Bryan Rigg*

The following CE staff members will also be available to assist with administrative or other matters.

*Grayson Armstrong (Session Producer)*  
*Noell Koehlinger (Workshop Planner)*  
*Shane Meyers (Session Producer)*  
  
*Scott Curtin (Workshop Planners' Reporting Manager)*