



SUPPORTING MATERIALS: C

CITIZEN SCIENCE PROJECT: Monitoring Federal Statistical Product Releases

In Fall 2025 we launched a [“Citizen Science” effort](#) to track changes in federal statistical data products. Given the breadth and complexity of these products in terms of not only subject matter, but also granularity, frequency, timeliness, and accessibility, data users are often the first to notice meaningful changes. Moreover, comprehensive monitoring is beyond the capacity of our team alone. We have therefore asked data users to sign up and volunteer to help with monitoring efforts. As of early December 2025, we have 50 volunteers.

Every three or four months, the project team will ask volunteers if they have observed any changes in the data products they follow most closely. If so, we will ask them to provide short documentation via a Google Form. The project team will review submissions and, when changes can be corroborated, will publish summaries on the project website to build a transparent, community-informed understanding of the evolving federal statistical landscape. The first query will go out in early 2026.

This effort is intended to complement ongoing monitoring conducted by other organizations by focusing specifically on the technical characteristics of federal statistical agency products rather than broader policy or operational issues. Findings from our February 2025 outreach to experienced data users through professional associations (see Supporting Materials: A) underscore the importance of this work: data users consistently emphasize the value of detailed, timely, and high-quality federal statistics for research, policy analysis, business decision-making, and community planning. Respondents also highlight how reductions in granularity, frequency, or consistency can substantially hinder their work. By mobilizing the expertise of the data-user community, this Citizen Science project aims to provide a sustainable mechanism for identifying both improvements and potential deterioration in federal data products, ensuring greater visibility and responsiveness in support of evidence-driven decision-making.