

FFC/2020: The 23rd Federal Forecasters Conference

- Date:** Thursday, April 30, 2020
- Location:** **Bureau of Labor Statistics Conference and Training Center**
2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20212
- Check-in:** 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
- Schedule:** 9:00 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.
(Plenary and concurrent session schedule to follow)
- Abstract Submissions Due:** **March 15, 2020** to Derrick.D.Dennis@irs.gov
- Contest Entry Deadline:** **April 1, 2020** at <https://go.gwu.edu/ffcontest>
- Register Online By:** **April 20, 2020** at <https://www.ffc2020.eventbrite.com>
(Registration is free but is necessary for entry to the conference venue)

Theme: Forecasting in the Presence of Missing Data

Forecasters draw upon current and historical data to make predictions about likely future outcomes. In many instances, though, the data available to forecasters are incomplete or delayed. Missing data have consequences for the accuracy of forecasts whether researchers are aware of its presence or not. Sometimes there are lags in the collection or release of data, which can be revised in future periods. In other cases, data are permanently missing due to coverage error or nonresponse. Missing data are a growing concern for researchers and practitioners as technological changes in communication methods mean that those without a landline telephone or internet access are increasingly excluded from sample frames. Further, privacy concerns and mistrust of the government limit people's willingness to participate in surveys creating higher nonresponse rates. The 2020 Federal Forecasters Conference will consider the impact of missing data on forecasts. How does missing data affect forecasts, and what techniques can forecasters use when faced with missing data?

Presenters from a variety of agencies will share their experience in developing and using forecasts. Add your voice to the conversation! Please join our discussion of the unique role played by federal forecasts, and how forecasts are used by the government, private industry, and the public.

~ Sponsoring Agencies ~

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~ Partnering Organizations ~

**Research Program on Forecasting, The George Washington University
Society of Government Economists**

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CALL FOR PAPERS

The FFC Board invites you to present a paper at one of the afternoon concurrent sessions. Please note, papers are not restricted to the official conference theme and may cover any subject relating to forecasting or estimation. Presenters are encouraged to provide a written version of their presentation. Individual presentations of the papers will be limited to 15 to 20 minutes in length. Please send your abstract of 100 or fewer words to: Derrick.D.Dennis@irs.gov by March 15, 2020.

Presenters can provide an electronic copy of their paper and/or slides in a PDF file to Professor Tara Sinclair (tsinc@gwu.edu) to ensure their paper's inclusion on the conference website.

The FFC forecasting contest is open to everyone. For a chance to win fill out the [Google form online](#) or for a PDF form visit <https://go.gwu.edu/ffccontest>. Email Brian W. Sloboda at sloboda.brian.w@dol.gov for questions or if you are unable to access the contest links. All contest entries must be submitted by April 1, 2020. Each person may submit only one entry. All contest entries are confidential and each individual will receive confirmation of receipt of his/her submission after the deadline. The winner will be announced at the FFC/2020 Conference, Thursday, April 30, 2020.

Suggested Presentation Topics for the Afternoon Sessions

- **Scenario analysis as forecasts in policy-making**
- **Forecast evaluations**
- **Case studies: Using forecasts in policy decision making**
- **Forecast methodologies**
- **Forecast process: How can it be improved?**
- **Forecasting with limited resources**
- **Federal forecasters and their customers**
- **General topics in forecasting**