

Measuring Economic Impact for Cooperatives

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Motivation

- No systematic reporting on cooperative business activity
- Balkanized research programs on cooperatives in economics (LMF vs. ag. coops)
- Little or no exposure to cooperatives in core business and law curricula on business organizations

Needs:

- Measurement of the scope and scale of cooperative business activity across all sectors.
- Identification, and measurement, of the unique roles played by cooperatives in the economy.

Project Stages, Potential Hurdles and Progress I

- Mapping the Cooperative Universe: Who makes the list?
 - Criteria to identify cooperatives
 - State Statutes (eg. childcare, healthcare, Delaware)
 - Taxation
 - Working Criteria
 1. Patron Control: "Organizations must have majority representation by patrons on their board".
 2. Quantifiable Measure of Use
 - Population Discovery Tools
 1. Secretaries of State Listings
 2. Broadlook
 3. Umbrella Organizations
 4. Trade Associations
 5. Collaborative Efforts

Project Stages, Potential Hurdles and Progress II

- Collecting Key Economic Data (Assets, revenue, wages, patronage refund, taxes, number of employees and members):
 - Data availability
 - Survey
 - Design (Childcare, healthcare, worker, grocery, housing, other retail)
 - Response rates (eg. childcare)
 1. Sampling
 2. Web-based, email, phone and mail
- Economic Analysis
 - IMPLAN
 - Limitations: not coop. specific
 - Deeper Impacts and Discussion Papers
 - Second round of surveys
 - Data on organizational structure/governance
 - Member satisfaction
 - Fostering Collaboration

USDA Co-op Classification	Types of Coops	# Firms to Date	Data Sources	Survey	Analysis
Commercial Sales and Marketing Cooperatives					
Farm supply and marketing	Consumer/Purchasing/Marketing/Producer	3086	USDA	N/A	Done
Grocery	Consumer/Purchasing	100	CCMA/	Underway	Awaiting Data
Other Consumer Goods	Consumer/Purchasing	300	SOS/Broadlook	Underway	Awaiting Data
Business-to-business	Producer	200	SOS/NCBA	TBD	Awaiting Data
Social and Public Services Cooperatives					
Housing	Consumer	1523	HUD/NAHC/SOS/Regional Organizations	Underway	Awaiting Data
Health Care	Consumer/Worker/Purchasing	1800	FHSC, PHL, NCHN, NLABDC	Underway	Awaiting Data
Childcare	Consumer	1000	PCFL, DHS, DHS, WCCD	Underway	Awaiting Data
Transportation	Consumer	...	Broadlook/SOS	Underway	Awaiting Data
Education	Consumer	underway	Broadlook/SOS	TBD	...
Financial Services Cooperatives					
Credit Unions	Consumer	8,800	NCUA	N/A	Done
Farm Credit System	Consumer	102	FCA	N/A	Done
Mutual Insurance	Consumer	...	Broadlook	underway	...
Utilities					
Electric	Consumer	850	NRCA	N/A	Done
Telephones	Consumer	258	NTCA	TBD	
Water and Waste	Consumer	...	SOS/EPA/Broadlook	TBD	Awaiting Data
Biofuels	Consumer/Producer	52	Web searches	N/A	TBD

Time Line

1. Oct. - Nov. 2007
 Survey sectors: Grocery cooperatives, Healthcare, Childcare, Worker and pretest of Housing cooperatives.
 Populating lists: Mutual Insurance, Water and Sewage, Education and Transportation.
2. Dec. -Jan. 2007
 Survey Sectors: Housing, Retail, Rural Telephones, Education, Transportation, and Purchasing.
3. Jan - March 2007
 Data entry and reminder emails.
4. April -May 2007
 Determining Economic Impacts
5. May - September 2007
 Discussion Papers
 Report on final results of economic impact.
 REIC II

Future Directions

- Discussion papers
- Cross sectional survey with more detailed data:
 - Income statement and balance sheets
 - Internal human resource practices
 - Governance practices
 - Redemption policies
 - Member survey
- Funded research from discussion papers
- Work with Census Bureau and Bureau of Labor Statistics regarding longitudinal business surveys