

Dennis Fixler to receive 2023 Julius Shiskin Award



Dennis Fixler, Chief Economist of the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), has been selected to receive the 2023 Julius Shiskin Memorial Award for Economic Statistics. The award recognizes unusually original and important contributions in the development of economic statistics or in the use of statistics in interpreting the economy. Dr. Fixler is recognized for his development of innovative methods for measuring prices and values of the services of financial intermediaries, his development of innovative methods for measuring the output of property-casualty insurers, and his leadership in the implementation of these methods in the national accounts. He is also recognized for his work at the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) on expanding the coverage of the producer price index to include prices of financial intermediation services, and his leadership of the development of income inequality statistics showing how personal income from the national accounts is distributed across households and whether the benefits of economic growth are shared across the income distribution.

Dr. Fixler is the 53rd recipient of the Shiskin Award; he will be honored at events hosted by the three sponsors of the award: the Washington Statistical Society, the National Association for Business Economics, and the Business and Economics Section of the American Statistical Association. Dr. Fixler began his career in federal statistics at the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), where he served as Chief of the Division of Price and Index Number Research and developed a framework for measuring the price and value of the services of financial intermediaries grounded in the theory of the user-cost of money. This framework enabled BLS to expand the producer price index's coverage of services and guided the improved treatment of financial intermediation services in BEA's national accounts.

After arriving at BEA in 2001, Dr. Fixler helped to lead the implementation of the improved measure of financial intermediation services in the national accounts. He also took up the challenge of improving the way the national accounts measured the services of property-casualty insurers, as major disasters caused implausible swings in the existing measure. The approach he developed produces reliable estimates of insurance services regardless of the circumstances, and its superior accuracy led to its adoption internationally. Dr. Fixler is responsible for all the dimensions of ensuring the quality of BEA's statistics, including source data, methods, and data dissemination. He has supervised and performed high-impact research that resulted in important analytical insights and measurement improvements, including the development of indicators of how personal income from national accounts is distributed, and is the author or co-author of economic research articles on measurement of prices, financial services, insurance services, R&D, productivity, inequality, and the reliability of GDP estimates. As a longstanding member of the UN Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting, he has contributed to the development of the international statistical standards on environmental-economic accounts. Dr. Fixler received his Ph.D. in economics from Purdue University in 1978.