

23rd SYMPOSIUM ON SPACE POLICY, REGULATIONS AND ECONOMICS (E3)
The Space Economy in Figures (3)

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METHODOLOGICAL ISSUES AND HURDLES WITH SPACE ECONOMIC DATA

Abstract

Almost a decade has passed since the US DoC organised a thorough review of space economic data sources and issues. A number of sensible recommendations have been formulated then, with a view of improving the knowledge of actors and decision makers in the sector by promoting improved statistics and data sets relevant to space activities. How has the situation improved? With the systematic review of the major publicly available data sources for space economic activity assessment and quantitative analysis, the author will provide a critical assessment of the current situation. The author will also plea for the establishment of a consistent approach to space economics metrology by making practical proposals for the establishment of commonly agreed definitions and methodological tools. The author will focus on three main aspects of metrology for space economics: Space budgets: availability and critical review of main data sets currently available (identification of methodological difficulties) Space markets: definitions (and lack of) , data availability and critical review of main publications Space industry statistics: sales and employment facts, issues with methodologies, and lack of critical data.

The main data sources reviewed will include: data suppliers , such as official sources (US Census bureau, space agencies annual reports, etc.) professional organisations (SJAC, Eurosace, AIAA) consultancies (Euroconsult, Futron, ...) and data aggregators (OECD, The Space Foundation).