



Commodity Flow Survey

U.S. Department of Transportation
Bureau of Transportation Statistics

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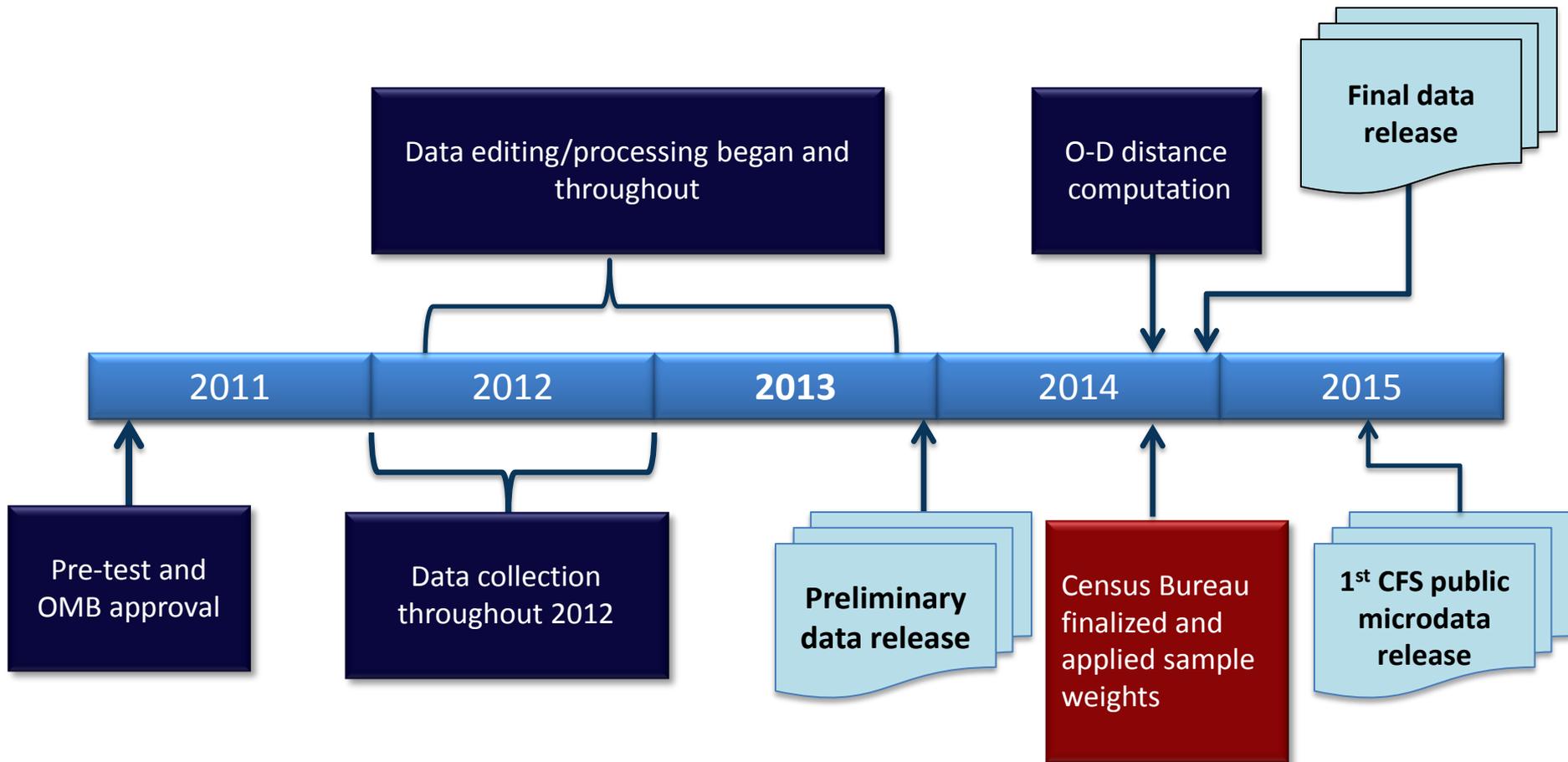
Commodity Flow Survey (CFS)

- Conducted every five years as a component of the quinquennial Economic Census at years ending 2 or 7.
- Sample is drawn from the Census Bureau's Business Register and, as such, all collected data are bound by the confidentiality protections guaranteed.
- 2012 CFS surveyed approximately 100,000 establishments in the manufacturing, mining, wholesale, and select retail industries

Commodity Flow Survey (cont'd)

- Establishments reported data **once each quarter during CY 2012**
- Shipment information reported included:
 - name,
 - origin and destination of the commodity being shipped,
 - weight, value, and mode of transport,
 - Other variables (e.g., whether the commodity was a hazardous material, was the shipment temperature-controlled)
- Approximately 5 million shipment records were collected in the 2012 survey resulting in 4.55 million 'usable' shipments of sufficient quality
- The first CFS public use microdata consisting over 4.5 million shipment records was released in 2015.

2012 Commodity Flow Survey Activities



CFS beyond 2017

- Data collection through hybrid approaches, using administrative records (both private and public), Big data, and probability sampling survey
- Collaboration is crucial to determine the feasibility and to develop framework for statistical inferences.