



THE DIRECTOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

October 16, 1997

The Honorable Newt Gingrich
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Enclosed is a document entitled Statistical Programs of the United States Government: Fiscal Year 1998. This is a report on the funding available in the President's budget for statistical activities. It is required under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Section 3504(e)(2) of Title 44 United States Code.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "F. D. Raines".

Franklin D. Raines
Director

Enclosure

Identical Letter Sent to the President of the Senate

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Introduction

Statistical Programs of the United States Government: Fiscal Year 1998 outlines the funding proposed for Federal statistical activities in the President's budget. The budget requested an estimated \$3.1 billion for statistical work to be carried out in FY 1998. Approximately half of the funding for the statistical system provides resources for ten agencies that have statistical activities as their principal mission. The remaining funding is spread among sixty agencies that carry out statistical activities in conjunction with other missions, such as providing services or enforcing regulations.

The information in this report covers Federal agencies that have annual budgets of \$500,000 or more for statistical activities. This information was obtained from materials supplied to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) during the budget process, with the agencies providing additional details about their expenditures for reimbursable work and purchases of statistical services.

The report fulfills a responsibility of OMB under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Section 3504(e)(2) of Title 44, United States Code) to prepare an annual report on statistical program funding.

The report is available in both electronic form and a limited number of hard copies. The electronic version can be accessed on the Internet through the OMB web site: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/WH/EOP/omb/> — go to "OMB Documents"; go to "Miscellaneous Documents." Inquiries may be directed to the Chief Statistician, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, D. C. 20503.

CHAPTER 1: Budgets for Statistical Programs

This chapter provides information about agency budgets for major statistical programs for FY 1996, FY 1997, and FY 1998. It highlights the effects of Congressional action on the President's FY 1997 budget request for Federal statistical activities and changes in proposed funding for these programs for FY 1998. The chapter also includes information about statistical work performed by agencies on a reimbursable basis and about agency purchases of statistical services and products. The budget information for FY 1998 is from the President's budget as submitted to the Congress and, thus, does not reflect Congressional action.

Overview of Statistical Program Budgets

The following should be kept in mind when reviewing the information in this report:

- Not all Federal spending on statistical activities is included. The report covers agencies having direct funding for statistical activities of at least \$500,000 in FY 1996, or estimated direct funding for statistical activities of at least \$500,000 in either FY 1997 or FY 1998. Using these criteria, the report includes the budgets for statistical programs and activities for over 70 agencies.
- Funding for a statistical activity may increase or decrease as a result of the cyclical nature of a survey. Such increases or decreases should not be interpreted as changes in agency priorities, but rather as the normal consequences of the nature of the programs. Agencies also experience increases or decreases in their budgets because they conduct one-time surveys or studies in a particular fiscal year.
- Statistical activities are defined to include the following: (1) planning of statistical surveys and studies, including project design, sample design and selection, and design of questionnaires, forms, or other techniques of observation and data collection; (2) training of statisticians, interviewers, or processing personnel; (3) collection, processing, or tabulation of statistical data for publication, dissemination, research, analysis, or program management and evaluation; (4) publication or dissemination of statistical data and studies; (5) methodological testing or statistical research; (6) data analysis; (7) forecasts or projections that are published or otherwise made available for government-wide or public use; (8) statistical tabulation, dissemination, or publication of data collected by others; (9) construction of secondary data series or development of models that are an integral part of generating statistical series or forecasts; (10) management or coordination of statistical operations; and (11) statistical consulting or training.
- Major statistical programs differ in organizational structure and in the means by which they are funded. Some major statistical programs, such as labor force statistics and energy statistics, are carried out by agencies (the

Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Energy Information Administration, respectively) whose sole missions are statistical; these organizations are referred to as principal statistical agencies and appear as line items in the President's budget. In other cases, agencies have statistical programs that support their program planning and evaluation functions or that are an outgrowth of their administrative responsibilities. In these cases, the budget for statistical activities is a portion of the total appropriation for that agency. In addition, a statistical program is not always executed by the agency that sponsors it. In these instances, the work is done on a reimbursable basis by another Federal statistical agency or by a private organization under contract.

- Whether statistical work is done inside or outside the agency, the direct obligations reflect the level of statistical activities in support of the agency's mission. Table 1 presents direct program funding for FY 1996, FY 1997, and FY 1998 for major statistical programs, by department and agency.

Table 1: DIRECT FUNDING FOR MAJOR STATISTICAL PROGRAMS, FY 1996-FY 1998

(In millions of dollars)

Department	Agency	1996 Actual	1997 Estimate	1998 Estimate
AGRICULTURE	ARS.....	4.5	2.5	9.5
	ERS	53.1	53.1	54.3
	FAS	34.6	35.5	36.3
	FCS	17.3	7.5	17.1
	FS	10.1	9.9	10.1
	NASS	81.0	100.2	119.9
	NRCS	89.0	106.3	112.1
COMMERCE	BEA	40.9	41.5	47.0
	Census	297.0	359.5	676.1
	current	139.3	135.0	148.1
	periodic	157.7	214.2	528.0
	2000 census	51.4	85.9	356.0
	ESA	5.1	5.1	5.1
	ITA	3.9	3.3	3.5
	NOAA	48.5	49.1	47.0
NMFS	24.1	24.6	24.7	
DEFENSE	Corps	4.0	4.0	4.0
	DIOR	2.1	2.1	2.5
	DMDC	4.3	3.3	3.3
EDUCATION	NCES	88.1	91.8	114.0
ENERGY	EIA	73.7	69.0	62.8
	ES&H	36.5	30.5	24.5
	OER	1.0	0.2	0.0
HHS	ACF	22.5	28.3	27.8
	AHCPR	29.3	48.1	44.7
	AoA	1.2	1.3	1.2

Table 1: DIRECT FUNDING FOR MAJOR STATISTICAL PROGRAMS, FY 1996–FY 1998—Continued

(In millions of dollars)

Department	Agency	1996 Actual	1997 Estimate	1998 Estimate
	ATSDR	5.0	5.0	5.0
	CDC	164.9	176.7	185.1
	NCHS	77.5	86.0	89.0
	HCFA	13.5	12.8	12.9
	HRSA	9.6	9.5	9.9
	IHS	2.7	2.8	2.7
	NIH	278.9	292.6	304.1
	NCI	74.1	77.1	79.5
	NEI	1.0	1.1	1.1
	NHLBI	42.1	44.6	45.7
	NIA	6.9	6.9	6.9
	NIAAA	5.1	4.1	3.2
	NIAID	23.2	24.4	25.6
	NIAMSD	0.1	0.1	0.3
	NICHD	25.1	26.2	26.9
	NIDA	39.7	42.3	45.2
	NIDCD	0.6	0.5	0.5
	NIDDK	35.8	37.3	39.3
	NIDR	3.8	3.9	4.1
	NIEHS	19.4	21.5	23.2
	NIGMS	0.2	0.2	0.3
	NINDS	0.8	0.9	1.0
	OD	0.9	1.6	1.5
	OASPE	20.0	20.0	20.0
	SAMHSA	58.1	67.1	74.1
HUD	CP&D	0.1	—	—
	Housing	4.7	3.8	5.0
	OFHEO	2.6	3.3	2.5
	PD&R	22.5	22.0	23.4
	P&IH	0.8	1.1	3.7
INTERIOR	BoM	16.8	0.0	0.0
	FWS	6.9	7.1	5.5
	MMS	1.7	1.7	1.7
	NBS	2.0	2.0	0.0
	USGS	77.9	78.7	75.5
JUSTICE	BJS	24.2	25.4	25.6
	BoP	5.2	4.8	4.9
	DEA	0.8	0.8	0.8
	FBI	3.1	3.1	3.2
	INS	1.2	1.4	8.4
LABOR	BLS	343.1	360.8	379.5
	ESA	5.0	5.5	6.9
	ETA	46.2	50.8	56.8
	MSHA	1.9	2.1	2.2

Table 1: DIRECT FUNDING FOR MAJOR STATISTICAL PROGRAMS, FY 1996–FY 1998—Continued

(In millions of dollars)

Department	Agency	1996 Actual	1997 Estimate	1998 Estimate
	OASP	0.7	0.7	0.8
	OSHA	20.3	16.6	17.0
TRANSPORTATION	BTS	18.5	27.3	31.0
	FAA	3.3	4.4	3.8
	FHWA	33.8	35.3	47.0
	FRA	1.5	1.5	1.5
	FTA	2.0	2.0	2.0
	MARAD	1.5	1.6	1.7
	NHTSA	21.2	24.2	25.2
	OST	1.1	0.9	0.9
	RSPA	4.4	5.2	4.4
TREASURY	Customs	7.6	7.9	8.1
	IRS	35.1	33.3	33.6
	SOI	25.1	25.0	25.4
VETERANS AFFAIRS	.....	54.4	57.3	57.3
OTHER AGENCIES	AID	18.1	13.7	14.3
	CPSC	4.8	5.6	5.7
	EEOC	0.9	1.0	1.0
	EPA	142.5	136.5	148.2
	NASA	16.9	16.9	16.9
	NSF	56.3	57.6	58.5
	SBA	0.5	0.5	0.8
	SSA	6.7	6.9	7.1
TOTAL	.....	2,519.2	2,669.9	3,129.0
TOTAL without 2000 censuses	.....	2,467.8	2,584.0	2,773.0

Note: Figures shown in Table 1 have been provided by the agencies and are derived from "total direct program" funds (line 00.91) shown in the program and financing schedule for these agencies in the President's FY 1998 budget. The amounts for BJS and NCES include estimated salary and expenses that are not directly appropriated; the amounts for ERS, Census, EIA, P&IH, and BTS include prior year balances. Components may not add to stated totals because of rounding.

Highlights of Congressional Action on the President's FY 1997 Budget Request

The figures for FY 1997 in Table 1 reflect Congressional action on the President's budget request for funding of statistical activities. The following are highlights of the impact of these appropriation levels on the programs of the principal statistical agencies:

Bureau of the Census: The FY 1997 appropriation was \$53.9 million below the President's request. The budget reductions resulted in the elimination of all monthly retail data at the subnational level—a major source of information

provided to businesses and State and local governments about consumer spending and trends for a key activity in the economy. In addition, the 1996 Survey of State and Local Government Employment and the collection of data on State and local government employee benefits, a component of the Census of Governments, were eliminated, and the Census of Governments Directory Survey, the official listing of all organizations of government below the Federal level, was postponed. Furthermore, programs canceled as a result of FY 1996 budget constraints have not been restored. These were current economic programs, which include the monthly and annual Nonresidential Permits Surveys, the semiannual Investment Plans Survey, and the Survey of Pollution Abatement Costs and Expenditures; the quarterly Trade and Employment reports; the annual Output, Exports, and Imports reports; the Exports from Manufacturing Establishments report; and the Taxable Property Value report.

Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA): The FY 1997 appropriation was \$7.7 million below the President's request. As a result of this decrease, funds were not provided to support improvements in the economic accounts proposed under BEA's Mid-Decade Strategic Plan.

Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS): FY 1997 funding was appropriated at \$1.5 million below the President's request that included a base increase for the Census Bureau's collection of data for BJS projects and programs. The Violent Crime Trust Fund provided \$200,000 for BJS to conduct a national baseline study, as required by the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, which will collect data on the incidence of campus sexual assault victimizations from a national sample of women enrolled in post-secondary institutions in the United States.

Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS): The FY 1997 appropriation was \$11.6 million below the President's request. In the 1997 budget request, the administration sought to restore program reductions that occurred in 1996, but the restoration was not included in the appropriation. BLS took no additional programmatic reductions in 1997. The Consumer Price Index revision, which BLS initiated in 1995, remains on schedule.

Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS): The FY 1997 appropriation was \$2.3 million below the President's request. Furthermore, BTS faced unanticipated expenses related to the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) and the transfer of air and motor carrier programs to BTS. These constraints resulted in staffing shortages and delays in producing results from the 1995 American Travel Survey and the Commodity Flow Survey.

Economic Research Service (ERS): FY 1997 funding was appropriated at \$1.8 million below the President's request, which included a base increase to collect and analyze data on farm pesticide use linked to environmental conditions and economic performance. Due to lack of funding, that study was redesigned and a small sample of data on these issues is being collected using existing monies. ERS has concerns, however, about the usefulness of these data, because of the limited sample size. No other major changes resulted.

Energy Information Administration (EIA): The FY 1997 appropriation was at the level requested by the President. There were no significant changes in EIA's program as a result.

National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS): The FY 1997 appropriation was \$2.4 million below the President's request. NASS received \$17.5 for the Census of Agriculture; \$1.5 million to collect Integrated Pest Management (IPM) data and additional data on pesticides applied for all purposes on the farm; and \$.6 million to conduct a Postharvest Pesticide Survey. Funds were not provided for the requested expansion of the current Pesticide Data Program.

National Center for Education Statistics (NCES): The FY 1997 appropriation was \$0.1 million below the President's request. This level allowed NCES to continue its core activities as planned in FY 1997.

National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS): The FY 1997 appropriation was \$2.5 million below the President's request. As a result, the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES)—one of the four major NCHS data systems—had to be significantly curtailed in scope and detail, delaying plans to convert this study to a continuous monitoring survey.

FY 1998 Budget Highlights

As shown in Table 1, the FY 1998 budget submitted by the President for statistical activities covered by this report is estimated at \$3,129 million. This year's proposed budget includes, for the first time in two decades, a separate discussion of key cross-agency initiatives designed to address some of the most serious deficiencies in the nation's statistical infrastructure. In particular, these initiatives would:

- Address fundamental shortcomings in economic statistics to provide a comprehensive, integrated, and internationally comparable statistical base that measures economic growth, trade, inflation, and productivity;
- Modernize our most basic industrial classification to reflect the structural and technological changes that have occurred in the economy over the past 20 years and facilitate economic analyses that cover the entire North American Free Trade Agreement area;
- Continue to improve the timeliness and accuracy of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) to permit more rapid revision in future years, to produce alternative measures of the change in the cost of living, and to allow more timely introduction of new goods into the CPI; and
- Lead to the provision on an annual basis of more accurate and flexible nationally comparable community-based data that are used, among other things, to allocate more than \$100 billion in Federal funds each year.

The following are highlights of proposed *program changes* in the principal statistical agencies and their associated costs (in millions of dollars). Additional details about these changes are provided in Chapter 2 of this report.

Bureau of the Census: Among the current surveys and statistics, limited new funds are requested for a government-wide initiative to develop and implement the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) measures (+\$0.3 million) and for fundamental research underlying the standards for

classification of data on race and ethnicity, metropolitan areas, and occupations (+\$1.0). Net savings (-\$3.8 million) result from greater operating efficiencies and the elimination of a broad range of surveys in the current economic program—e.g., the Semi-Annual Investment Plans Survey; the Survey of Pollution Abatement Costs and Expenditures; the Monthly and Annual Nonresidential Permits Surveys; the Quarterly Trade and Employment Reports; the Annual Output, Exports, and Imports Report; the Exports and Manufacturing Establishments Report; and the Taxable Property Value Report.

Among the periodic censuses and programs, increases are requested for data collection and processing for the 1997 Economic Censuses (+\$38.7); data collection and processing for the 1997 Census of Governments (+\$0.8); planning and operational support for the Census 2000 (+\$271.9); and development efforts for the Continuous Measurement Program, including production of the first estimates of year-to-year change from the American Community Survey (+\$2.4).

Bureau of Economic Analysis: Increases are requested to move ahead with BEA's strategic plan to maintain and improve national, regional, and international economic accounts through new and improved measures of outputs and prices; better measures of investment, savings, and wealth; and improved measures of international trade and finance (+\$3.0). Increases are also requested to re-engineer BEA's microcomputer network environment (+\$1.3).

Bureau of Justice Statistics: The President's FY 1998 budget request does not include any program changes, but does include a slight increase to the base from the FY 1997 appropriated level (+\$0.2).

Bureau of Labor Statistics: Increases are requested for implementation of the newly revised government-wide North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) (+\$3.5) and for development of initiatives to strengthen the statistical and methodological infrastructures supporting the Consumer Price Index (CPI) program (+\$2.1), so as to permit more accurate and timely revisions in the future. Costs and response burden savings realized from the elimination of the Occupational Compensation Survey, the Employment Cost Index, and the Employee Benefits Survey will be used to conduct the COMP2000 Program, which combines aspects of all three studies.

Bureau of Transportation Statistics: The requested budget increase (+\$6.0)—of which \$3.1 million is for the Office of Airline Information (OAI)—includes funds for the development of transportation system performance measures; tools to integrate Geographic Information Systems and transportation network models for national transportation analysis; and expansion of the BTS National Transportation Library, accessible via the BTS Internet homepage. Also included are funds for the 1997 Commodity Flow Survey, continued release of data products from the 1995 American Travel Survey, further development of a State and Metropolitan Technical Assistance Program, and completion of modernization for the OAI data processing system.

Economic Research Service: Requested increases would be used to provide statistical expertise on measurement for a government-wide effort to develop

reliable performance information, as directed by the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), (+\$0.1) and to support efforts to increase the knowledge of costs and benefits of resource-conserving practices (+\$0.3).

Energy Information Administration: The total request is lower than in FY 1997 (-\$3.1). Consumption surveys, including the Residential Energy Consumption Survey, will operate under quadrennial schedules, and there will be less analysis of coal and nuclear data and cutbacks in customized support during energy emergencies. Increases are provided to collect and analyze data on electric industry restructuring (+\$0.8) and for further development of electronic data dissemination (+\$0.1).

National Agricultural Statistics Service: Increases are requested for the peak year of the Census of Agriculture (+\$18.5) and for GPRA (+\$0.5).

National Center for Education Statistics: Increases are requested to support new or cyclical studies in the areas of early childhood, adolescence, international comparisons, post-secondary student aid, school crime, and adult literacy; and for biennial assessments of reading skills at the national level in grades 4, 8, and 12, and in grades 4 and 8 at the State level (+\$22).

National Center for Health Statistics: Increases are requested to maintain NCHS' core monitoring capabilities, implement the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) on an annual basis (+\$2.4), and undertake GPRA-related system-wide improvements in the Federal statistical system (+\$0.9). The request also reflects an administrative savings (-\$0.3). NCHS conducts a number of periodic surveys, but none is scheduled to be implemented in FY 1998.

Reimbursable Programs

Agencies whose missions are primarily or entirely statistical often perform statistical work for others on a reimbursable basis. These reimbursements come from other agencies within the same department or from other Federal agencies, State governments, and occasionally the private sector or foreign governments. Some agencies that have reimbursable programs, for example, the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (OASPE) in the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), do not necessarily perform all the work. Rather, part of the reimbursable program money is used to purchase statistical work from other Federal agencies or the private sector.

Table 2 presents a list of agencies that reported performing at least \$100,000 of statistical work on a reimbursable basis for State and local governments, the private sector, and/or other Federal agencies, ranked by the estimated size of the reimbursable program for FY 1998. As shown in the Appendix, of the estimated total of \$451 million in reimbursable work, an estimated \$351 million is performed for other Federal agencies. A large portion of the reimbursable work performed for other Federal agencies is funded through intra-departmental transfers, as discussed below.

**Table 2: ESTIMATED AGENCY REIMBURSEMENTS
FOR STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES, FY 1998**

(In millions of dollars)

Agency	Direct Funding	Reimburs- able Program	State/ Local Gov'ts	Private Sector	Other Federal Agencies
Census.....	676.1	185.4	1.0	23.7	160.7
USGS.....	75.5	105.0	56.0	2.8	46.1
AHCPR.....	44.7	45.0	0.0	0.0	45.0
NCHS.....	89.0	31.3	0.0	0.8	30.5
BLS.....	379.5	15.7	3.1	0.7	11.9
CDC (w/o NCHS).....	96.1	7.0	0.0	0.0	7.0
NASS.....	119.9	9.8	2.2	0.0	7.6
OASPE.....	20.0	7.3	0.0	0.0	7.3
NOAA.....	47.0	6.2	0.2	3.6	2.4
EIA.....	62.8	6.1	0.0	0.0	6.1
NCES.....	114.0	4.8	0.0	0.0	4.8
ERS.....	54.3	4.4	0.1	0.0	4.3
NRCS.....	112.1	4.2	2.1	0.0	2.1
ESA (DOC).....	5.1	4.0	0.0	1.9	2.1
FS.....	10.1	3.2	0.4	0.1	2.7
FAS.....	36.3	2.3	0.0	0.0	2.3
SOI.....	25.4	1.8	—	0.1	1.7
NSF.....	58.5	1.5	0.0	0.0	1.5
EPA.....	148.2	1.4	0.0	0.0	1.4
CPSC.....	5.7	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.9
NIH.....	304.1	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.8
BEA.....	47.0	0.7	0.0	0.5	0.2
BTS.....	31.0	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.7
ITA.....	3.5	0.7	0.2	0.4	0.1
BJS.....	25.6	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.4
HRSA.....	9.9	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.3
ATSDR.....	5.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.3
INS.....	8.4	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1
Total.....	2,614.8	451.3	65.3	34.6	351.3

Note: Reimbursements from the private sector also include funds received from foreign governments. Agencies receiving funds from foreign governments are: Census (\$2.6 million); NOAA (\$0.2 million); and BLS (\$0.2 million). Components may not add up to stated totals because of rounding. The symbol "—" indicates that the amount reported by the agency was less than \$50,000.

For FY 1998, the Census Bureau has the largest reimbursable program, estimated at \$185.4 million. Most of this work (\$160.7 million) entails data collections and preparation of tabulations for other Federal agencies. In particular, the Census Bureau expects to perform approximately \$47.4 million of reimbursable work for the Department of Labor, including the Current Population Survey, the Consumer Expenditure Survey, and the Point of Purchase Survey for BLS.

Examples of reimbursable work that the Census Bureau expects to perform for other Federal agencies include: the National Schools and Staffing Surveys and the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System Survey for NCES; the National Health Interview Survey, the National Hospital Discharge Survey,

and the National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey for NCHS; the American Housing Survey and the Housing Sales Survey for the Department of Housing and Urban Development; the National Crime Survey and National Prisoner Statistics Program for BJS; the Commodity Flow Survey and the American Travel Survey for the Department of Transportation; and the National Survey of College Graduates for the National Science Foundation. In addition, the Census Bureau receives funds from the Agency for International Development and from foreign governments for training and advising in statistical techniques.

The Water Resources Division in the United States Geological Survey (USGS) has the second largest reimbursable program, estimated at \$105 million. Among the Federal agencies, USGS performs the largest amount (\$56 million) of work for the States through a Federal-State Cooperative Program. This program provides for hydrologic data collection and analysis, areal water-resources appraisals, and special analytical and interpretive studies. The Water Resources Division also expects to perform almost \$46.1 million in statistical work for other Federal agencies, including hydrologic data collections and analyses for the Departments of Defense, Agriculture, Energy, State, and Transportation; other agencies in the Department of the Interior; the Environmental Protection Agency; the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and the Tennessee Valley Authority.

A large portion of the reimbursable work in HHS is done within the Department. The Agency for Health Care Policy and Research (AHCPR)—overall, the third largest reimbursable program—receives an estimated \$45.0 million. This reimbursable work is conducted through the use of grants, contracts, and interagency agreements for other agencies within HHS, and much of it is funded from transfers from the Public Health Service's One Percent Evaluation Fund. For the most part, intradepartmental transfers of funds will be used for statistical analysis of the Medical Expenditure Panel Surveys and the Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project.

Most of the reimbursable statistical work performed by NCHS (\$31.3 million)—ranked fourth among the agencies with reimbursements for statistical activities—is done for other agencies within HHS—in particular, for other parts of its parent organization, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) (\$15.3 million). The CDC does almost 71 percent of its reimbursable work for HHS agencies.

Approximately two-thirds of the reimbursable work carried out by BLS is done for other agencies in the Department of Labor. This work includes, for example, an estimated \$8.1 million that will be transferred to BLS from the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) for the Mass Layoffs Statistics Program, for surveys of training availability in companies and for displaced workers, for the National Longitudinal Wage database project, for revision of the Standard Occupational Classification system, and for providing labor statistics for Vietnam-era veterans. In addition, the Employment Standards Administration will transfer \$1.8 million to BLS to conduct studies of occupational wages in selected areas and industries.

Intradepartmental transfers also support much of the reimbursable work shown in Table 2 for Department of Agriculture (USDA) agencies. Approxi-

mately \$7.2 million of NASS' reimbursable work is done for other agencies in USDA. In particular, NASS will receive \$4.2 million from the Economic Research Service (ERS) for survey support in the areas of farm costs and returns. NASS will also be reimbursed by the USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) for providing training and technical assistance in statistics (\$1.2 million). ERS will receive approximately \$4.3 million for performing evaluation studies and analyses for other USDA agencies, including an estimated \$4.0 million which FAS will pay ERS to provide technical assistance in Eastern Europe. The Natural Resources Conservation Service will receive approximately \$2.0 million for soil survey work on Federal lands.

At EIA, about 94 percent of the \$6.1 million in reimbursable work will be performed for other energy agencies. The largest EIA reimbursable project (\$5 million) will be to collect and process data on energy consumption, steam-electric plant operation and design, greenhouse gas, and integrated end-use energy, and for mid-term energy demand modeling for the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy area.

Purchases of Statistical Services

Agencies contract for statistical services with other Federal agencies, State and local governments, or with private sector organizations. Table 3 shows the agencies with total purchases of at least \$1 million, ranked by total purchases; information on agencies with smaller estimated purchases is provided in the Appendix.

Table 3: ESTIMATED AGENCY PURCHASES OF STATISTICAL SERVICES, FY 1998

(In millions of dollars)

Agency	Direct Funding	Total Purchases	State/Local Gov'ts	Private Sector	Other Federal Agencies
BLS	379.5	145.8	83.4	10.6	51.9
NCES.....	114.0	109.4	2.4	94.3	12.7
NIH.....	304.1	73.9	6.2	55.1	12.6
NCHS.....	89.0	72.2	14.5	37.3	20.4
SAMHSA.....	74.1	71.2	25.3	45.6	0.3
NSF.....	58.5	60.0	0.0	55.7	4.2
ETA	56.8	55.8	55.7	0.1	0.0
FHWA.....	47.0	44.9	11.7	26.3	6.9
CDC (w/o NCHS).....	96.1	42.4	31.2	10.3	1.0
NASS.....	119.9	40.2	21.9	2.6	15.8
AHCPR.....	44.7	36.2	0.5	29.1	6.6
EPA.....	148.2	30.4	0.3	28.0	2.1
ACF	27.8	27.8	0.0	25.7	2.1
BJS.....	25.6	21.9	3.7	3.3	14.8
NHTSA.....	25.2	21.2	6.9	13.2	1.1
PD&R.....	23.4	23.4	0.0	3.0	20.5
ES&H.....	24.5	19.8	0.0	0.0	19.8
EIA.....	62.8	17.2	0.0	17.2	0.0

Table 3: ESTIMATED AGENCY PURCHASES OF STATISTICAL SERVICES, FY 1998—Continued

(In millions of dollars)

Agency	Direct Funding	Total Purchases	State/Local Gov'ts	Private Sector	Other Federal Agencies
FCS.....	17.1	17.1	0.0	16.9	0.1
HCFA.....	12.9	12.9	0.0	12.9	—
BTS.....	31.0	10.3	0.0	0.0	10.3
ARS.....	9.5	9.5	0.0	9.5	—
ERS.....	54.3	9.3	4.0	0.3	5.0
FAS.....	36.3	6.2	0.0	0.0	6.2
Housing.....	5.0	5.0	0.0	5.0	0.1
NOAA.....	47.0	5.0	2.0	3.0	0.0
OASPE.....	20.0	4.7	0.0	0.0	4.7
ESA.....	6.9	3.8	0.4	0.0	3.4
FAA.....	3.8	3.8	0.0	1.3	2.5
P&IH.....	3.7	3.6	0.0	3.6	0.0
OSHA.....	17.0	2.8	0.0	2.8	0.0
RSPA.....	4.4	2.4	0.0	2.4	0.0
FTA.....	2.0	2.0	0.0	2.0	0.0
CPSC.....	5.7	1.8	0.1	1.7	0.0
ATSDR.....	5.0	1.7	0.4	1.2	—
Census.....	676.1	1.7	0.0	0.0	1.7
ITA.....	3.5	1.7	0.0	0.9	0.9
BEA.....	47.0	1.6	—	0.3	1.3
FRA.....	1.5	1.5	0.0	1.0	—
USGS.....	75.5	1.4	0.0	0.6	0.8
Corps.....	4.0	1.1	0.0	0.4	0.7
EEOC.....	1.0	1.1	0.0	1.0	0.1
INS.....	8.4	1.1	0.0	0.8	0.4
IRS/SOI.....	25.4	1.0	0.0	0.6	0.4
Total.....	2,845.2	1,027.8	270.6	525.6	231.4

Note: Components may not sum to stated totals because of rounding. The symbol “—” indicates that the amount reported by the agency was less than \$50,000.

When the contract is a transfer of funds to another Federal agency, the contract is a direct program obligation in the budget of the purchasing agency and is part of the reimbursable program of the agency providing the service. Examples of these kinds of purchases of statistical services were given above in the section on reimbursable programs. The National Science Foundation (NSF) can purchase more than its direct funding for statistics allows, because it receive the difference from other Federal agencies under its reimbursable programs.

The four largest purchasers of statistical services are BLS (\$145.8 million); CDC (\$114.6 million), including NCHS (\$72.2 million); NCES (\$109.4 million); and NIH (\$73.9 million). They are followed by SAMHSA (\$71.2 million) and NSF (\$60.0 million). During FY 1998, it is estimated that Federal agencies covered by this report will purchase \$1.0 billion in statistical services. Of this total, about half of the services will be purchased from the private sector, just over

a quarter from State and local governments, and about a quarter from other Federal agencies.

The largest purchasers of statistical services from the States are BLS (\$83.4 million); ETA (\$55.7 million); CDC (\$45.7 million), including NCHS (\$14.5 million); SAMHSA (\$25.3 million) and NASS (\$21.9 million). The BLS funds support the cooperative labor force statistics program. The CDC funds reimburse the States for their participation in the collection of vital statistics and for their cooperation in the reporting of diseases. The ETA funds support the States in developing the statistical resources for the One-Stop Career Centers. The NASS funds support data collection services provided by the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture. The SAMHSA funds are provided to States to implement the minimum data standards developed by the Mental Health Statistics Improvement Program and to develop an assessment of their needs for substance abuse treatment and prevention services under the block grant program. In all cases, the cooperation of the States is essential to the production of Federal data in these areas.

The Appendix to this report presents estimates (rounded to the nearest \$100,000) of direct funding, reimbursements, and purchases for FY 1998, as reported by each of the agencies covered in this report. Based on that information, the agencies reported that they expect to purchase an estimated \$527 million in statistical services from the private sector during FY 1998. Of that total, approximately \$327.4 million (or 62 percent) in purchases from the private sector are made by the following seven agencies: NCES (\$94.3 million), NSF (\$55.7 million), NIH (\$55.1 million), CDC and NCHS (\$47.6 million total), SAMHSA (\$45.6 million), and AHCPR (\$29.1 million). The private sector provides a variety of services, such as survey design, data collection and processing, analysis, program evaluation, preparation of reports, data dissemination, computer services, and methodological research and development.

CHAPTER 2: Programs and Program Changes

This chapter presents brief descriptions of the statistical activities of the agencies covered in this report. The chapter highlights program changes for Federal statistical activities for FY 1998 as proposed in the President's budget. Hence, the focus is not on base program activities that continue to be supported by budget requests, but rather on new activities, improvements, or reductions in the existing base programs or any other important changes that affect an agency's statistical program.

For purposes of this discussion, the statistical programs are divided into the following categories: Health and Safety Statistics; Social and Demographic Statistics; Statistics on Natural Resources, Energy, and the Environment; and Economic Statistics.

Health and Safety Statistics

Health

The principal agency that produces general-purpose health data is the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). NCHS is responsible for the collection, analysis, and dissemination of statistics on the nature and extent of the health, illness, and disability of the U.S. population; the impact of illness and disability on the economy; the effects of environmental, social, and other health hazards; the use of health care services; health resources; family formation, growth, and dissolution; and vital events (i.e., births and deaths). CDC also provides data on morbidity, infectious and chronic diseases, occupational diseases and injuries, vaccine efficacy, and safety studies.

The statistical activities of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) support the design and implementation of epidemiological studies, clinical trials, biomedical research, and laboratory investigations conducted by the various institutes. NIH also supports data collections on health and health-related topics by Federal agencies, industry, State and local governments, and private nonprofit organizations.

The Agency for Health Care Policy and Research (AHCPR) produces and disseminates scientific and policy-relevant information about the cost, quality, access, and medical effectiveness of health care. AHCPR is responsible for the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey, a very detailed survey which has been conducted once every ten years to produce national estimates for a variety of measures related to health status, health insurance coverage, health care use, and expenditures and sources of payment for health services.

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) conducts public health assessments, health studies, and health surveillance for those exposed to hazardous materials, and maintains exposure and disease registries

for long-term follow-up or specific scientific studies. ATSDR analyzes the statistical significance of disease, biomarkers, and other health outcomes in the presence of environmental contamination, to establish possible relationships between exposure and health.

The Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) collects administrative data associated with its oversight of the Medicare and Medicaid programs and also studies the quality of care delivered by those programs.

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) collects data about general health services, the health professions workforce, and resource issues relating to access, equity, quality, and cost of care. HRSA also maintains the Scientific Registry for Organ Transplants.

The Indian Health Service (IHS) collects social and economic statistics on all American Indians and Alaska Natives, as well as patient care and morbidity information for those who use IHS services.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) provides information on health problems related to the use and abuse of drugs and alcohol, substance abuse treatment, and the mental health condition of the population and administers and evaluates Federal block grants to the States.

The Department of Energy's Office of Environment, Safety, and Health (ES&H) conducts epidemiological studies of the health effects of exposure to radiation and other hazardous substances.

Major program changes and new activities in health statistics planned for FY 1998 are as follows:

- The budget request for NCHS includes funds to maintain NCHS' core monitoring capabilities; implement fully the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES)—which measures health conditions and risks by collecting information from direct physical examinations, biochemical measures, interviews, and nutritional analyses—and convert it to a continuous monitoring survey, beginning in 1998; and undertake Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) related system-wide improvements in the Federal statistical system.
- The budget request for NIH includes funds to investigate cancer patterns in the population and determine genetic risk factors; monitor cancer burden on the U.S. population; develop and analyze a Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results database, for use in tracking cancer treatments, costs, and disease status; study age-related cataracts and maculopathy; provide greater support for biometry and risk estimation research in the area of environmental health; analyze long-term results from the Established Populations for Epidemiologic Studies of the Elderly; improve the validity of self-reported drug use on surveys; support studies of skin problems using NHANES IV; and explore the incidence and prevalence of HIV infection among drug abusers and the subsequent effectiveness of outreach and counseling programs. The National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases request has been adjusted downward, due to an extensive drop in extramural funding since 1988.
- The budget request for AHCPR includes funds for the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey, which produces annual national estimates for a variety of

measures related to health status, health insurance coverage, health care use, and expenditures and sources of payments for health services.

- The budget request for IHS includes funds to improve the reporting of race for American Indians, as found on death certificates. In order to estimate the annual number of American Indian deaths that are misreported by State Vital Statistics Offices, IHS will match an extract of the IHS patient registration file to the NCHS' National Death Index and compare coverage and race. IHS also plans to develop user-friendly databases and provide training and technical assistance for tribal contractors, in order to make better use of IHS data in managing its health care delivery system.
- The budget request for SAMHSA includes funds to initiate the third cycle of the Center for Mental Health Services' State Mental Health Profiling System, with a focus on developing performance measures that can be compared across States; award substance abuse prevention needs assessment contracts to 19 States; begin pilot work on developing and implementing performance measurement standards for State-to-State comparisons of substance abuse prevention efforts (11 States are participating); and provide for 14 two-year contracts to selected States to develop systems for monitoring outcomes of substance abuse treatment programs and services. SAMHSA funds are used to provide technical assistance and block grants to States, and differences in the FY 1997 and FY 1998 budgets are largely due to the cumulative effects of changes in contractual funding cycles.
- The budget request for ES&H includes funds to develop relational software and analytical protocols for use in analyzing data on health and safety issues of workers, collected by the newly-established Center for Statistics and Analysis. Such a capability would enhance ES&H's ability to identify high risk workers through early detection of occupational health problems—a key factor for providing adequate worker protection procedures for environmental restoration and cleanup efforts.

Safety

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) collects and reports data on the occurrence of work-related injuries and illnesses.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) maintains overall responsibility for the national injury and illness record-keeping system, based upon employer records, which is used to determine the cases that are included in the annual BLS Occupational Safety and Health Survey. OSHA provides guidance to both the public and private sectors, sets standards, develops regulations, and evaluates programs on injury and illness data.

The Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) collects and analyzes current information on employment and production and accidents, injuries, and illnesses in the mining industry, including mine, victim, and equipment characteristics, as well as causal information. The data, updated daily, provide current accident, injury, and illness information to MSHA's inspectorate enforcement personnel, engineering staff, and education and training staff.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) conducts data collection, analysis, and dissemination activities on consumer product-related hazards and potential hazards. As part of its statistical programs, CPSC maintains the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS), which provides

national consumer product-related injury statistics based on the reporting of a sample of hospital emergency rooms.

Major program changes and new activities in safety statistics planned for FY 1998 are as follows:

- While the budget request for OSHA does not request additional funds for its data initiative, OSHA will use base funds to identify high risk workplaces and specific problems occurring in those workplaces, so as to produce site-specific occupational injury, illness, and exposure data for focusing its program activities.
- CPSC is not planning any major changes in statistical activities in FY 1998, although some funds will be set aside for updating the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS). The focus of that effort will be to improve the sample of hospitals that participate in the program. CPSC will also continue its practice of collecting specialized NEISS data on a reimbursable basis.

Social and Demographic Statistics

Periodic Demographic Statistics

The principal source of periodic demographic data is the Bureau of the Census. Major programs include the decennial census, the Continuous Measurement (CM) program which is currently under development, and the intercensal estimates program.

Census 2000: FY 1998 is a pivotal year in the decennial census cycle. Activities will shift from testing and refining to the initial steps toward conducting the 2000 census.

Continuous Measurement (CM): This Census Bureau program is being developed to provide nationally comparable community-based data on an annual basis. The program includes the design and implementation of the American Community Survey (ACS), as well as the production of small area estimates by combining the ACS data with data from administrative records.

Intercensal Demographic Estimates: This program at the Census Bureau develops updated population estimates in years between decennial censuses for States, counties, metropolitan areas, and urban places, for various uses in funding and planning, such as distribution of Federal funds and planning of local transportation and health care services.

Major program changes and new activities in periodic demographic statistics planned for FY 1998 are as follows:

- The budget request for the 2000 decennial census includes funds to conduct a full-scale dress rehearsal of the census; to award support contracts for automation, telecommunications, and census outreach and marketing; to open the regional census centers to support city-style address list development activities, to be wholly completed in FY 1998; to complete approximately 25 percent of the non city-style address listing work; to set up the infrastructure required to support the Census 2000 data collection activities; to develop and implement statistical methodologies; to develop systems to

support data dissemination; to plan for Census 2000 in Puerto Rico and the other Island Territories; and to develop census experiments and related research needed to design the 2010 decennial census.

- FY 1998 funds will provide for continued development and testing of the Continuous Measurement program, to ensure that the full-scale program can be benchmarked against the 2000 decennial census, thus allowing elimination of the census “long form” questionnaire in the 2010 census. The budget request for the CM program provides funds to collect and process a small national sample and nine specific sites; produce 1997 estimates for the eight sites from the data collected in 1996 and 1997; and estimate changes from 1996 to 1997 for the first four sites introduced in the American Community Survey program in 1996.
- The budget request for the Intercensal Demographic Estimates program includes funds to continue evaluating and improving statistical methodology and to produce population estimates and migration data for Federal agency use, as required.

Current Demographic Statistics

The Census Bureau’s current demographic statistics program provides information on the number, geographic distribution, and social and economic characteristics of the population including official estimates of income and poverty, information on health insurance coverage, and data about families targeted by Federal programs. The programs also support tests of new approaches and concepts for demographic surveys.

The Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) in the Department of Defense (DOD) has responsibility for collecting and integrating manpower and personnel data to support department-wide studies, analysis, research, and reporting requirements.

The Directorate for Information Operations and Reports (DIOR) in the Office of the Secretary of Defense has responsibility for collecting data on active duty military personnel casualties, civilian manpower, and worldwide active duty military and civilian personnel employment, and for producing workforce strength and distribution statistics for DOD, the Congress, and other Federal government agencies.

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) collects information for the evaluation of its programs for children and youth, such as Headstart, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, child support enforcement, adoption assistance, foster care, child care, and child abuse programs.

The Administration on Aging (AoA) conducts statistical activities in support of the research, analysis, and evaluation of programs to meet the needs of an aging population.

The Food and Consumer Service (FCS) conducts surveys, program evaluations, and studies to evaluate the Food Stamp, Child Nutrition, and other food assistance programs which it administers.

The Agricultural Research Service (ARS) monitors and assesses food consumption and related behavior of the U.S. population and provides

information for food and nutrition-related programs and public policy decisions.

The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (OASPE) funds studies on policy issues related to programs in the Department of Health and Human Services.

The Social Security Administration (SSA) collects, tabulates, and publishes data on the Old-Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance (OASDI) and the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) programs and their beneficiary populations. SSA also performs actuarial and demographic research to assess the impact of program changes or alternatives.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) statistical programs provide data on the volume, characteristics, financing, price, and suitability of housing in the United States.

The statistical programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) focus on providing estimates of the veteran population, including socioeconomic data; patient use of VA health care; information on the medical care provided to veterans in VA medical centers, nursing homes, domiciliaries, and outpatient clinics; and medical research.

The Agency for International Development (AID) collects and analyzes data to assist developing countries in planning and evaluating population programs and programs for socioeconomic development.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) collects data from public and private employers and union and labor organizations about the composition of their workforces by sex and by racial and ethnic categories. These data are used to carry out EEOC's enforcement activities under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The National Science Foundation's (NSF) Division of Science Resources Studies sponsors surveys that measure the number and demographic characteristics of domestic and international individuals trained as, or working as, scientists and engineers. NSF also provides funding in support of biological sciences research databases and social science research and studies, such as the Panel Study of Income Dynamics, the General Social Survey, and the National Election Studies, as well as surveys and data collection methodologies to assess the state of U.S. education and the impact of NSF programming for science and mathematics education.

The Office of Energy Research (OER), which is scheduled to be abolished in FY 1998, contains the former Office of Science, Education, and Technology Information (OSETI), the unit responsible for providing information on degree attainment in science and engineering and for forecasting the availability of trained persons in the fields of science necessary for research and development in the energy area.

Major program changes and new activities in current demographic statistics planned for FY 1998 are as follows:

- The Census Bureau request includes an increase in funds to conduct fundamental research underlying the standards for classification of data on

race and ethnicity, metropolitan areas, and occupations. Methodological research to explore random digit dialing, computer-assisted interviewing, and various data capture methods using state-of-the-art technology—including optical imaging and artificial intelligence—to reduce costs and improve data quality will continue. The Survey of Income and Program Participation will add a fourth year to its panel data, in order to provide more complete information on how long people receive benefits from Federal and State transfer programs.

- The Census Bureau's FY 1998 population estimates and projections program will produce monthly population estimates for the United States by age, race, sex, and ethnicity, to provide calibration for Federal household surveys, including the Current Population Survey. Also, in FY 1998 the Survey of Program Dynamics will collect its second year of data to study welfare dependency for the years 1996-2001.
- The FY 1998 budget includes funding to expand availability of DIOR-managed data collections via the DIOR Web site in order to include historical data as well as current statistical information. The budget request also provides for a planned upgrade to DIOR's main computer system.
- While funding for several ACF programs was eliminated due to Welfare Reform, studies for a new program—Temporary Assistance for Needy Families—will continue to collect some of the same data.
- At AoA, major emphasis will be placed on developing a National Aging Program Information System and on providing links to other statistical information on aging.
- The budget request for FCS includes funds to restore some research and evaluation activities on food and nutrition assistance programs that were cut due to the sharply reduced FY 1997 appropriation. Restoring the investment in these research programs is critical to studying recent changes in welfare policy—including, for example, responding to a Congressional mandate to study the effects of welfare reform on the Child and Adult Care Food Program.
- HUD's budget includes increased costs of housing surveys, in general, and funding for a survey of residents of the Chicago Housing Authority to measure resident satisfaction.
- In response to GPRA, in FY 1998 AID activities will focus on measuring the impact of its programs, developing less costly performance monitoring systems to supplement data obtained from population-based surveys. Due to declining budgets there will be a general reduction in the level of statistical activity including fewer surveys. .
- A revision in the State and Local Government Information Report (EEO-4) in FY 1997 resulted in a 50 percent reduction in the number of EEOC reports submitted by State and local governments, thus reducing expenditures and reporting burden correspondingly.
- Energy's OER is being phased out; it is scheduled to have no funding for FY 1998, following a very limited appropriation for FY 1997. As a result, the collection of data that provide employment trend information for scientists and engineers will be discontinued.

Crime and Justice Statistics

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) collects, analyzes, publishes, and disseminates statistical information on crime, criminal offenders, victims of crime, and the operations of justice systems at all levels of government and internationally. It also provides technical and financial support to State governments for development of criminal justice statistics and information systems on crime and justice.

The Bureau of Prisons (BOP) prepares projections of the prison population and conducts studies on such topics as recidivism, inmate programs, inmate misconduct, inmate classification, staff behavior in the workplace, and institutional social climate.

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) produces data on Federal drug law enforcement.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Uniform Crime Reporting program collects data concerning the incidence of criminal acts as reported by 16,000 law enforcement agencies, nationwide.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) produces and analyzes data on immigrants, refugees, temporary visitors (nonimmigrant), naturalizations, and apprehension and removal of illegal aliens.

Major program changes and new activities in crime and justice statistics planned for FY 1998 are as follows:

- The budget request for BJS includes funds for the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), 1998 Census of Jails, National Corrections Reporting Program, National Prisoner Statistics, National Judicial Reporting Program, Annual Jail Survey, and the 1997 Survey of State and Federal Correctional Facilities.
- BOP will no longer receive funds from the National Institute on Drug Abuse for support of drug treatment program evaluation; the evaluation work, however, will be continued using BOP monies.
- The FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting program recently relocated to West Virginia. It is unclear how this move will affect current budget estimates for statistical activities.
- To comply with increased demand for data—due to general interest, government re-invention efforts, and legislation, including the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996—the FY 1998 INS budget requests funds to establish a Center for Immigration Statistics. The Center would collect and produce data on such issues as the resident unauthorized alien population, legal permanent resident population, persons eligible for naturalization, overstays of nonimmigrants, and cohort naturalization information. The FY 1998 plans also call for a substantial increase in statistical and computer services that will be provided by the private sector to develop a management information system.

Education Statistics

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) in the Department of Education collects, analyzes, and publishes statistics on education in the United States; conducts studies on international comparisons of education statistics; and provides leadership in developing and promoting the use of standardized terminology and definitions for the collection of those statistics.

The National Science Foundation's (NSF) Division of Science Resources Studies collects, publishes, and analyzes statistics on the nation's science and engineering higher educational system and the persons participating in it. The Division measures science and engineering enrollments and degrees and develops information on other aspects of higher education through the use of outside data. The Directorate for Education and Human Resources supports international assessments of student knowledge and curriculum, as well as contextual studies and indicators that monitor progress under NSF educational programs.

Major program changes and new activities in education statistics planned for FY 1998 are as follows:

- The NCES budget request includes increases to support a birth cohort for the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study (ECLS); a fall first grade data collection for the kindergarten cohort of the ECLS; districts' and States' testing and analysis of student use of the Third International Mathematics and Science Study instruments; maintenance of the National Post-Secondary Student Aid Study on a four-year cycle; a new longitudinal study of adolescents as they progress through high school and beyond; a school crime supplement to the National Crime Victimization Study; and development of the National Assessment of Adult Literacy, to be conducted in 2002.
- The budget request for the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)—a Congressionally mandated, nationally representative assessment that determines and reports the status and trends in educational achievement—also includes funds for NCES to conduct biennial assessments of reading skills, at the national level, in grades 4, 8, and 12, and at the State level, in grades 4 and 8. Increases will support materials and training for the States to interpret the NAEP results and to assist large school districts using the NAEP as a reading assessment in intervening years, when the NAEP is not conducted.
- NSF funding requests include further data development on graduate education; participation in cross-cutting program initiatives in the areas of Knowledge and Distributed Intelligence and Human Capital; assessment of the impact of NSF education activities; and data collection and analysis of the Third International Mathematics and Science Survey.

Transportation Statistics

The Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) compiles, analyzes, and makes accessible information on the nation's transportation systems; collects information on intermodal transportation and other areas, as needed; and enhances the quality and effectiveness of DOT's statistical programs through research, development of guidelines, and promotion of improvements in data acquisition and use.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) collects data on aviation safety.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) collects, analyzes, and disseminates data on the nation's highway system, financing, travel, fuel consumption, vehicle registrations, drivers licenses, and personal travel characteristics.

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) collects and disseminates data on the nation's railroad system, including traffic, safety and accident reports—e.g., intermodal safety data for the Geographic Information System, grade crossings, and inspections.

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) collects and disseminates public mass transportation financial and operating data that are used to apportion Urbanized Area Formula funds to cities and towns.

The Maritime Administration (MARAD) collects and maintains data on foreign and domestic trade, vessel characteristics and itineraries, port facilities, shipbuilding and repair, ship values, financial reports and vessels' operating expenses, shipping activities, and maritime employment and publishes an annual Intermodal Equipment Inventory.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) collects information on motor vehicle-related accidents and fatalities and highway safety. In addition, NHTSA's pilot Crash Outcome Data Evaluation System (CODES) links police crash reports with medical treatment data for seven States.

The Office of the Secretary of Transportation (OST) collects, analyzes, and publishes data in support of the Department's programs and transportation policy decision-making.

The Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA) collects data to monitor transportation of hazardous materials.

Major program changes and new activities in transportation statistics planned for FY 1998 are as follows:

- The budget request for BTS includes funds for the Office of Airline Information (OAI) to develop transportation system performance measures; to integrate Geographic Information Systems and transportation network models for national transportation analysis; and to expand electronic dissemination of data through the National Transportation Library's Internet site. Other initiatives include completion of data collection for the 1997 Commodity Flow Survey, continued release of data from the 1995 American Travel Survey, further development of a State and Metropolitan Technical Assistance Program, and modernization of the last phase of the OAI data processing system.
- The FY 1998 budget increase provides funds for the Long-Term Pavement Performance program, through which FHWA collects data on numerous pavement sections nationwide, recording climate, loading, design, materials, construction, maintenance, and environment. The data will be collected and analyzed until 2007.

- The NHTSA budget request includes funds to investigate fatal and nonfatal crashes involving airbags, expand linkage and analysis of CODES data, and conduct a biennial survey of safety belts and child safety seat use beginning in FY 1998.
- The RSPA budget request includes funds to upgrade the Hazardous Materials Information System, to establish a Compliance Monitoring program for hazardous materials transported by highway shippers and carriers, to initiate follow-on studies on risk analysis, and to improve electronic reporting within the industry.

Statistics on Natural Resources, Energy, and the Environment

Environment

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) monitors the quality of the air; the quality of drinking, surface and ground water; ecosystem status; and the introduction of toxic or hazardous substances into the environment. It conducts research and studies to provide baseline data and to evaluate and support environmental monitoring systems.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) gathers worldwide environmental data about the ocean, earth, air, space, and sun and their interactions to describe and predict the state of the physical environment. NOAA also maintains a national environmental database, in which the agency's data are combined with selected environmental information collected by other agencies in support of their respective missions.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) collects remote-sensed data to support climate research and to describe and measure the energy and environmental phenomena that may contribute to climate variation and change.

The United States Geological Survey (USGS), through its Water Resources Division, collects and maintains data on the quality, availability and use of the nation's water, including streamflow data for hydropower plants, groundwater subsistence, erosion, backwater and flooding, water contamination and sedimentation.

Major program changes and new activities in environmental statistics planned for FY 1998 are as follows:

- The EPA budget request includes funding to prepare for the second Drinking Water Needs Survey in 1999.
- The USGS budget request includes funds for the development of a national Hydrogeologic Framework Database, to store digital/spatial data on the nation's groundwater resources.

Energy and Minerals

The Energy Information Administration (EIA) collects and disseminates data on energy reserves, production, consumption, distribution, prices, technology, and related international, economic, and financial matters. Coverage of EIA's

programs includes data on coal, petroleum, natural gas, and electric and nuclear energy.

The Minerals Management Service (MMS) collects data on off-shore and Federal and American Indian oil, gas, and minerals, as part of its responsibility for management of both the Outer Continental Shelf Lands and the Royalty Management Programs. The MMS is responsible for resource evaluation and classification, lease management activities, and the collection of revenues from minerals leasing.

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) collects information on nonfuel minerals and materials, including mineral resources, production, demand, use, recycling, and trade; maintains the Mineral Resource Data System, which contains information on the location and geologic occurrence of mines and mineral deposits; recently established a National Geochemical Database, for hydrogeochemical and stream sediment analyses, based on the National Uranium Resource Evaluation; maintains computer-based information systems of oil and gas resources—an areal data file on size of oil and gas pools and fields, year of discovery, and rate of production and a point-source data file on individual wells; and operates the National Coal Resources Data System, which provides information on location, distribution, quality, chemical content, and availability of coal.

Major program changes and new activities in energy and mineral statistics for FY 1998 are as follows:

- The FY 1998 budget request reflects a shift to quadrennial schedules for EIA's consumption surveys—including the Residential Energy Consumption Survey—and includes funding for additional data collection and analysis on electricity industry restructuring.
- The Bureau of Mines (BOM) was abolished in FY 1996, and the USGS budget request incorporates program changes resulting from projects transferred from BOM. These include collecting and analyzing worldwide mineral supply and demand information; tracking mineral trade issues; disseminating new products, including the *Minerals Yearbook*; and providing technical assistance and support with regard to these programs.

Soil, Forest, Fish, Wildlife, and Public Lands

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) conducts soil surveys and maintains and updates a national soils database containing physical land facts; administers Water Supply and Snow Surveys for making water supply forecasts to manage seasonal use of water for irrigation, flood control, fish and wildlife, recreation, power generation, municipal and industrial water supply, and water quality management; and conducts a national resources inventory, providing data on the status and condition of natural resources on non-Federal lands.

The Forest Service (FS) conducts renewable resource inventories of forest lands and collects statistics on forest products. These data are used to identify trends in the extent, condition, ownership, and quantity and quality of timber and other forest resources.

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) is now responsible for statistical activities of the National Biological Survey (NBS). The USGS' Biological Resources Division collects and analyzes data on birds and fish to determine trends in environmental contamination, track species and habitats, and study migratory game and nongame birds. Data from NBS' annual breeding bird survey are used to identify species whose populations are declining and which may eventually become candidates for listing under the Endangered Species Act.

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in NOAA focuses on domestic commercial and recreational fisheries, fishery management monitoring, and stock assessments of the health of living marine resources. NMFS is responsible for such data as the volume and value of commercial fish and shellfish landings; the catch by recreational fishermen; employment of people and craft in the fisheries; number of recreational fishermen; production of manufactured fishery products; and fishery prices.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) conducts annual surveys to monitor the fish and migratory bird populations, to track diseases of cultured and wild fish, to track the changing status of waterfowl and gamebird populations, and to evaluate harvests by fishermen and hunters.

Major program changes and new activities in statistics concerning soil, forest, fish, wildlife, and public lands planned for FY 1998 are as follows:

- The budget request for NRCS includes funds to speed up development of computerized databases of soil survey data using digitized mapping techniques; analyze national Resource Inventory data; conduct special inventories on soil quality and grazing land health; provide an annual water forecast, based on snow and water supply surveys; and implement the Fair Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 and develop performance measurement studies of program effectiveness in response to GPRA.
- The FY 1998 budget request will have minimal impact on the FS' Forest Inventory, but rising operating costs, combined with inadequate budgetary compensation, continue to erode the inventory cycle.
- The National Biological Survey was abolished in FY 1997 and the USGS budget request reflects incorporation of statistical programs from the NBS—e.g., due to realignment and reorganization, the USGS' Breeding Bird Survey and Migratory Bird Banding effort are now under the Monitoring Program, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center.
- The FY 1998 budget increase for the FWS will cover the added costs associated with expanding participation in the Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program to five new States and extending the harvest surveys to include non-waterfowl migratory bird species, as well as waterfowl. It also reflects a redistribution of funds to cover increased salary costs for the Waterfowl Survey obligations.

Economic Statistics

Periodic Economic Statistics

The principal source of periodic economic statistics is the Bureau of the Census. The Census Bureau conducts several periodic censuses every five years, covering the years ending in 2 and 7. The Economic Censuses include censuses of manufacturing, mineral industries, construction industries, retail and wholesale trade, service industries, and transportation and other businesses. They also provide statistics on businesses owned by minorities and women and companies operating at multiple locations. The Census of Governments collects State and local data on public finance; public employment; and governmental organization, powers, and activities.

Major program changes and new activities in periodic economic statistics planned for FY 1998 are as follows:

- FY 1998 is the data collection and processing year for the 1997 Economic Censuses, and is, thus, the most important and resource-intensive year in the cycle. In addition to the normal survey and follow-up activities, in FY 1998 data processing will include assigning classification codes using both the old Standard Industrial Classification System (SIC) and the new North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) and providing geographic location codes for each establishment. The budget request includes additional funds to cover this significant increase in workload, as well as the dynamic structure and increasing complexity of large companies, the growing difficulty in maintaining acceptable response rates, and the rising demands to improve timeliness and usefulness of the censuses' results.
- FY 1998 is also the data collection and processing year for the 1997 Census of Governments. The budget request includes funds for collection and processing of data on more than 91,000 independent governmental units and hundreds of thousands of subordinate authorities and agencies, including information on State and local government employment and payrolls; organizational structure; and finances, as well as legislative research into local government structure. The budget request also reflects the fact that, in FY 1997, the Tax and Property Values portion of the census was discontinued.
- Because the FY 1997 budget transferred authority and funding for the Census of Agriculture from the Census Bureau to the National Agricultural Statistics Service, the Bureau's budget request no longer includes that program.

Current Economic Statistics

The current economic statistics program of the Census Bureau provides information on retail and wholesale trade and selected service industries; construction activity, such as housing permits and starts, the value of new construction, residential alterations and repairs, and quarterly price indices for new, single-family houses; quantity and value of industrial output—e.g., manufacturing activities; shipments, inventories and orders; and capital expenditure information; foreign trade—including imports, exports, and trade monitoring; and State and local government activities. The Census Bureau also

maintains an up-to-date Standard Statistical Establishment List, for statistical frames and production of aggregate data on County Business Patterns.

The Economics and Statistics Administration (ESA) in the Department of Commerce provides Congressionally-mandated studies, such as the annual assessment of foreign direct investment in the United States. ESA disseminates current economic statistics through an electronic system known as *STAT-USA*.

The statistical activities of the International Trade Administration (ITA) in the Department of Commerce involve data on imports, exports, production, prices, foreign direct investment in the United States, and other economic data to analyze domestic and foreign market situations. In FY 1996, some of the functions of the U.S. Travel and Tourism Administration (USTTA) were transferred to the Office of Research in Tourism Industries in ITA, which now tracks data on international travel to and from the United States for many private sector firms.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) in the Department of Defense collects and publishes statistical data on waterborne commerce and vessel operations on waterways, ports, and harbors of the United States, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The Directorate for Information Operations and Reports (DIOR) in the Office of the Secretary of Defense collects Department of Defense (DOD) contract information in support of national economic indicators and the Small Business Competitiveness Demonstration Program. DIOR also produces statistics on DOD purchases from educational and nonprofit institutions and State and local governments.

The U.S. Customs Service collects and verifies tariff and trade data, which are tabulated, analyzed, and disseminated by the Census Bureau.

The Small Business Administration (SBA) maintains a small business database and conducts economic and statistical research into matters affecting small businesses.

The National Science Foundation's (NSF) Division of Science Resources Studies collects, publishes, and analyzes data on the size and status of U.S. research and development enterprises. Four annual surveys provide information on research and development funded and performed by government, industry, and universities.

The Compliance Research Division technical staff of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is involved in statistical activities to design and develop workload selection systems for tax compliance activities, studies for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of operational programs, and IRS-wide projections of workload. The National Office Research and Analysis/District Office Research and Analysis technical staffs are involved in statistical activities to sample internal and external multi-year data on both nationwide and local levels and conduct related data analysis to improve administration of tax laws. These offices are under the IRS' Chief Compliance Officer.

Major program changes and new activities in current economic statistics planned for FY 1998 are as follows:

- Since 1996, the Census Bureau has dropped Current Economic Statistics programs marginally-related to its mission—the Semi-Annual Investment Plans Survey, the Survey of Pollution Abatement Costs and Expenditures, the monthly and annual Nonresidential Permits Surveys, the quarterly Trade and Employment reports, the annual Output, Exports and Imports report, the Exports and Manufacturing Establishment report, and the Taxable Property Value report—thus reducing the overall increase in the request for Current Surveys and Statistics. The FY 1998 budget request includes funds to:
 - Improve Gross Domestic Product (GDP) source data on service industries, including tax-exempt firms, by expanding the amount of detailed income and expenditure data available for selected industries.
 - Broaden the Transportation Annual Survey, to obtain information on all transportation industries, to reflect technological improvements in the industry and to compensate for detailed information formerly collected as part of the Federal regulatory process.
 - Expand the Annual Survey of Communication Services to reflect the rapid change and growth the industry is experiencing, by collecting statistical information lost as a result of deregulation.
 - Continue implementation of the North American Industry Classification System, begun in FY 1997. During the transition Census will assign both SIC and NAICS codes to economic establishments. Since administrative records sources used to develop the Standard Statistical Establishment List will not begin NAICS implementation until 1998 or 1999, the Census Bureau will supplement this effort with direct data collection until the conversion from SIC to NAICS is complete.
 - The Census Bureau will also implement the Automated Export System (AES) nationwide for vessel shipments and complete development for the air and overland segments. The AES provides a fully-automated environment to collect information on export facilitation and compliance, obtain required trade statistics, and provide customer service.
- ITA continues to experience the impact of absorbing programs on travel and tourism, due to the closure of USTTA. The FY 1998 budget requests funds to deal with data availability and accuracy problems, decreased timeliness, and a subsequent drop-off in sales to data users. Furthermore, due to budget constraints, ITA found it necessary to eliminate the Consumer Behavior Studies program, which collected data on pleasure travel to the United States, and the Canadian In-Flight Survey, which obtained information on air travelers from Canada. Both of these programs provided important data for industry market analysis and planning.
- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' budget request includes funds to implement a performance measurement system to evaluate information obtained from an automated collection of data on foreign vessel movement. The project will yield more complete and timely data. While the request reflects the fact that this program change will reduce costs for data entry at Census, other Census costs will increase, necessitating further adjustments in the Corps' budget.

- The budget request for DIOR includes funds for computer modernization and an increased presence of DIOR data on the World Wide Web, providing both current and historical data for DIOR customers.
- The SBA budget includes support for updating the SBA/Census Firm Database, providing more current and historical data on a firm-size basis, and continuing studies of “business angels” and small firm credit needs, adding new companies and investors to the Electronic Angel Capital Network.
- The NSF budget request includes funds to sponsor a new survey to measure innovative activities of U.S. firms, the innovation process, and factors that affect it.

National Accounts

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) has primary responsibility for the preparation, development, and interpretation of the national income and product accounts. BEA programs include the Gross Domestic Product (GDP); the wealth accounts, which show the business and other components of national wealth; the input-output accounts, which trace the interrelationships among industrial markets; personal income and related economic series by geographic area; and the U.S. balance of payments accounts and associated foreign investment accounts.

Major program changes and new activities in the national accounts planned for FY 1998 are as follows:

- In the past year BEA discontinued several programs, such as long-term economic projections by region, estimates of pollution abatement and control expenditures, and annual collection of detailed establishment-level data on foreign direct investment. Those savings helped reduce needed increases in the FY 1998 budget to implement program changes in three key areas to provide:
 - New and improved measures of output and prices, by developing quality adjustments for “high-tech” products and new methods of measuring difficult-to-measure services; by working with Census and BLS to develop improved source data for key national accounts measures of income and products; by implementing the new North American Industry Classification System; by developing estimates that separate nonprofit institutions from households in the economic accounts; and by updating the accounts to provide a more comprehensive picture of government;
 - Better estimates of investment, savings, and wealth, by developing a comprehensive accounting for computer software; by developing estimates of government inventories and inventory investment; and by improving the integration of real financial accounts; and
 - Improved measures of international transactions, by expanding the coverage of international trade and services and by capturing more and better information on transactions in securities and new financial instruments, such as derivatives.
- BEA’s budget request also includes funds to complete its computer modernization effort which began in 1996.

Statistics of Income

The Statistics of Income (SOI) Division in the Internal Revenue Service provides annual income, financial, and tax data, based for the most part on individual and corporate tax returns and on returns filed by most tax-exempt organizations. SOI also provides periodic data based on other returns, such as those filed by estates, for estimating wealth of the living top wealth holders, as well as on various other tax and information returns and schedules, for producing such estimates as U.S. investments abroad, foreign investments in the United States, and gains or losses from sales of capital assets.

Major program changes and new activities in statistics of income planned for FY 1998 are as follows:

- SOI has experienced a flat budget over the past three years, resulting in minor reductions to the individual study sample and possible cycling of certain individual tax return schedules.
- Electronic dissemination through the SOI Electronic Bulletin Board and the IRS Internet homepage is being expanded to help offset increased printing and mailing costs.

Labor Statistics

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) produces statistics on employment and unemployment; consumer expenditures; prices and living conditions; wages and employee benefits; industrial relations activities; productivity and technological changes in U.S. industries; projections of economic growth, the labor force, and employment by industry and occupation; and occupational injuries and illnesses.

The statistical activities of the Employment Standards Administration (ESA) support surveys of occupational wages in selected industries, to determine prevailing wage rates and fringe benefits for service occupations in Federal procurement activity.

The statistical activities of the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) support the collection and dissemination of local, State, and national occupational, wage, and other labor market information for administration of employment and training programs, as well as production of Unemployment Insurance (UI) information, for administration of UI programs.

The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy (OASP) conducts the annual National Agricultural Workers Survey (NAWS) that provides data on wage and migration history, type of crops worked, unemployment, benefits, housing, health care, and use of public programs. NAWS data are used in the formula to calculate resource allocations for the Adult Farm Worker Training Program.

Major program changes and new activities in labor statistics planned for FY 1998 are as follows:

- BLS will release the revised Consumer Price Index (CPI), based on the new market basket, with data for January 1998; finalize revisions of the housing sample, for release with data for January 1999; and complete revisions of the CPI in 2000. The FY 1998 budget includes statistical and methodological

changes to the CPI infrastructures to improve the measurement methods, timeliness, and quality of the estimates.

- The BLS request also provides support for implementation of NAICS and for the development of a new program, COMP2000, to re-engineer occupational employment statistics collections previously carried out in three separate surveys.
- The FY 1998 budget for ESA includes funds to develop more timely and accurate measures of prevailing wage rates based on BLS' new Occupational Employment Survey and the COMP2000 survey.
- The budget request for ETA includes funds for continued improvements to State and local collections of occupation, wage, and other labor market information; and further development of the Labor Department's "One-Stop Career Center System," which provides a standard means for disseminating information on employment and training programs to the States. During FY 1998, America's Training Network, which joins information from America's Job Bank and America's Talent Bank, will also provide more complete and timely information on training opportunities across the nation; and the Occupation Information Network (O*NET) will replace the old Dictionary of Occupational Titles.

Agriculture Statistics

The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) collects, summarizes, analyzes, and publishes agricultural production and marketing data on a wide range of items, including number of farms and land in farms; acreage, yield, production, and stocks of grains, hay, oilseeds, cotton, potatoes, tobacco, fruits, selected vegetables, floriculture, and selected specialty crops; inventories and production of hogs, cattle, sheep and wool, goats and mohair, mink, catfish, trout, poultry, eggs, and dairy products; prices received by farmers for products, prices paid for commodities and services, and related indexes; cold storage supplies; agricultural chemical use; and related areas of the agricultural economy. Estimates for approximately 120 crops and 45 livestock items are published in over 400 reports each year.

In FY 1997, funding for the Census of Agriculture was transferred from the Bureau of the Census to NASS to consolidate general-purpose agricultural statistics activities. The Census of Agriculture is conducted every five years to collect information on the number of farms; land use; production expenses; value of land, buildings, and farm products; farm size; characteristics of farm operators; market value of agricultural production sold; acreage of major crops; inventory of livestock and poultry; and farm irrigation practices.

The statistical work of the Economic Research Service (ERS) includes research, situation and outlook analysis, and development of economic and statistical indicators in four areas—commercial agriculture, food and consumer economics, natural resources and environment, and rural economy.

The Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) maintains a worldwide agricultural market intelligence and commodity reporting service to provide U.S. farmers and traders with information on world agricultural production and trade, so as to adjust to changes in world demand for U.S. agricultural products. Reporting includes data on foreign government policies, analysis of supply

and demand conditions, commercial trade relationships, and market opportunities. In addition to survey data, crop condition activity relies heavily on computer-aided analysis of satellite, meteorological, agricultural, and related data. The FAS program serves as the analytical foundation for USDA's export programs and is an important factor in trade policy efforts.

Major program changes and new activities in agricultural statistics planned for FY 1998 are as follows:

- The budget request for NASS provides increases for:
 - A GPRA initiative to provide statistical support to Federal agencies across government in the development of meaningful measures and indicators and to promote the use of measures that can be compared across agencies; and
 - The fourth year of the six-year cycle for the Census of Agriculture, during which the major data collection takes place and the majority of funds are needed to conduct the census.
- The budget request for ERS includes funds to provide statistical expertise for GPRA measurement, in conjunction with NASS, as well as funds to improve survey design and improve and expand survey methods, in order to increase knowledge about the costs and benefits of resource-conserving practices and environmental consequences.

CHAPTER 3: Long-Range Plans

This chapter describes selected ongoing and new interagency initiatives to improve the performance of Federal statistical programs.

Interagency Council on Statistical Policy

In 1995, the Congress provided in the Paperwork Reduction Act reauthorization (44 U.S.C. 3504(e)(8)) an explicit legislative base for OMB's Council of Statistical Agency Heads. Known as the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy (ICSP), this group enables OMB to obtain more direct participation from the agencies in planning and coordinating Federal statistical activities. The members of this Council currently include the heads of the principal statistical agencies, plus the heads of the statistical units in the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Science Foundation, the Internal Revenue Service, and the Social Security Administration. Because the members of the Council have management responsibility for statistical programs in their respective agencies, their advice and cooperation is essential for effective implementation of OMB statistical policy decisions and for planning improvements in Federal statistical programs.

The Council is a vehicle for coordinating statistical work, particularly when activities and issues overlap and/or cut across agencies; for exchanging information about agency programs and activities; and for providing advice and counsel to OMB on statistical matters. During 1997, agenda topics included developing an administrative order on confidentiality and legislation to permit sharing of data for statistical purposes; improving access to the products of the Federal statistical system through the establishment of One-Stop Shopping for data users; redefining the industrial classification system to establish standard industry codes for use throughout North America; examining the impact of possible changes in standards for data on race and ethnicity used for Federal administrative and statistical purposes; exploring methodological and technological changes for the Year 2000 decennial census; and facilitating personnel movement and training opportunities for employees of the Federal statistical system.

Long-range plans for the ICSP include continuing and expanding collaborative efforts to improve the effectiveness of the Federal statistical system. The focus of these activities will be on areas of broad common interest. Among the initiatives that have cross-agency themes are the following:

- Addressing significant statistical issues for improving measurement of income and poverty, including the availability of data to implement new definitions.
- Organizing efforts to meet emerging welfare and health data needs, through the design of new questions or rethinking of existing surveys and the development of collaborative arrangements with the States.

- Strengthening data on national and personal income by filling gaps in existing data sources.
- Developing plans for better coordination and integration of data on employer-provided health benefits and other forms of nonwage compensation.
- Improving availability and use of education data by applying consistent definitions, thus permitting better integration of data from different sources.
- Managing implementation of the new North American Industry Classification System, so as to provide a bridge between the old and new coding structures.
- Increasing access to Federal statistics through One-Stop Shopping on the World Wide Web.
- Developing partnerships to facilitate the use of electronic data interchange in Federal statistical systems.

Successful implementation of these initiatives will depend on passage of the Statistical Confidentiality Act; adequate funding support for these efforts, particularly in the case of multi-year activities; recognition of the interagency collaborative nature of these initiatives when developing budgets for Federal statistical agencies; and careful consideration of burden reduction efforts to ensure that these activities are not adversely impacted.

Statistical Confidentiality and Data Sharing

The Congress has recognized that a confidential relationship between statistical agencies and their respondents is essential for effective statistical programs. However, the specific statutory formulas devised to implement this principle in different agencies have created difficult barriers to effective working relationships among these agencies. The development of mechanisms to establish a uniform confidentiality policy that substantially eliminates the risks associated with sharing confidential data will permit significant improvements in data used for both public and private decisions, without the current duplication of effort and without compromising public confidence in the integrity and security of the information reported to the Federal government.

Initiatives of the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Statistical Policy Office to enhance public confidence in the stewardship of sensitive data in Federal statistical programs and to permit limited sharing of confidential data for exclusively statistical purposes received a substantial impetus in the 1995 reauthorization of the Paperwork Reduction Act. The Act strongly endorses the principles embodied in statistical confidentiality pledges and charges OMB to promote sharing of data for statistical purposes within a strong confidentiality framework.

On January 29, 1996, OMB published a notice in the *Federal Register* (61 FR 2876-2879) seeking public comment on a proposed Order that would clarify, and make consistent, government policy protecting the privacy and confidentiality interests of individuals or organizations who provide data for

any Federal statistical program. Public comments submitted in response to the notice widely supported the principle of functional separation and suggested several refinements to make the Order more effective. After a thorough review of all issues and inquiries raised by the public and government agencies, the Federal Statistical Confidentiality Order was promulgated in the June 27, 1997, issue of the *Federal Register* (62 FR 35044-35050). This final Order assures respondents who supply statistical information that their responses will be held in confidence and will not be used against them in any government action. It also gives additional weight and stature to policies that statistical agencies have pursued for decades and includes procedures to resolve a number of ambiguities in existing law.

A much longer-term statutory initiative also reached a significant milestone when a draft bill, entitled the "Statistical Confidentiality Act," was transmitted to the Congress in April 1996. The bill follows principles consistent with the Federal Statistical Confidentiality Order, but also addresses statutory changes needed to provide uniform confidentiality protection across a set of eight principal statistical agencies. These changes would permit the eight agencies to manage information in many important respects as if they were a single statistical agency. "The Statistical Confidentiality Act" (H.R. 3924) was introduced, on a bipartisan basis, on July 31, 1996, but work to enact the legislation was not completed in the 104th Congress.

A companion legislative proposal would make complementary changes to the "Statistical Use" section of the Internal Revenue Code. These changes would represent the first major revision of these policies in 20 years and would reduce the amount of sensitive tax information that will change hands to support statistical programs, while substantially increasing the effectiveness of that support. This objective would be achieved by carefully defining statistical needs and taking advantage of the efficiencies that can be achieved by modern sampling methods.

In 1997 both of these bills have been re-transmitted to the Congress, with indications of bipartisan support in both houses. OMB is working with both House and Senate staff members to attain introduction and successful action on these bills.

In addition to these legislative approaches to cooperative efforts involving statistical confidentiality, in 1997 an interagency working group on confidentiality and disclosure limitation was established under the auspices of OMB's Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology. The working group discusses common technical issues involving privacy, confidentiality, and disclosure avoidance. The group is currently working on developing a set of generic guidelines for disclosure review which could be adapted for use by other statistical agencies.

One-Stop Shopping for Federal Statistical Data

It is difficult for the general public, and even frequent data users such as social science researchers, to know about and to access the full range of statistical information produced by the decentralized Federal statistical system. Individual statistical agencies have, for the most part, made tremendous

progress in developing easy access to their data and databases through the Internet, and in particular, the World Wide Web (WWW). Data users accessing information electronically from one Federal agency may even find out about related statistics available from another agency, thanks to cross-agency links that some agencies are providing. However, a coordinated interagency approach has been needed to provide easy access to the full range of Federal statistics.

To begin to address this need, the Federal Statistics Briefing Rooms were launched (www.whitehouse.gov/dfsbr) in the spring of 1996. The Briefing Rooms provide the general public easy access to high profile economic and social indicators and to the agencies that provide these indicators.

On May 22, 1997, building on the Briefing Rooms' foundation, the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy released *FedStats*, a new interagency web site (www.fedstats.gov), to permit easy access via an initial point of entry to the wide array of Federal statistics available to the public. *FedStats* provides a centralized set of links to the WWW sites that individual agencies have developed for disseminating Federal statistics. *FedStats*' primary objective is to help users find the information they need without having to know and understand in advance how the decentralized Federal statistical system is organized or which agency or agencies may produce the data they are seeking. Furthermore, *FedStats* should not raise concerns about the confidentiality of personal information, since no data on individuals can be accessed through the new site; the statistics are summaries and have no names or addresses attached to them.

FedStats has been very well received by both the media and the public. It has been highlighted by such media as *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, the Associated Press wire service, *Federal Computer Week*, *ABCNews.com*, *USA TODAY Online*, and *Yahoo*. For the future, the ICSP's Task Force on One-Stop Shopping for Federal Statistics plans to continue improving *FedStats*, based on the suggestions and comments received on the site, and intends to expand its coverage of Federal statistical sources.

2000 Decennial Census Planning

Efforts to reengineer the 2000 decennial census have been driven by two major concerns about which there is general agreement within the broader statistical community: first, that traditional counting methods—which are expensive and have been only marginally effective in recent censuses—have limited potential to improve further the process for a complete enumeration of the United States' population; and second, that the cost of conducting decennial censuses has increased dramatically in the past few decades. Finding new ways to deal effectively with both concerns has been the motivating force in reengineering the 2000 decennial census. OMB is working with the Department of Commerce to evaluate the results of research and testing and to identify new methodologies that will reduce both the differentials in coverage and the cost of conducting the census.

The FY 1998 budget proposes funding to support activities that are critical to achieving the new plan for Census 2000. The Census Bureau will deploy the

full range of activities in the 2000 Census Dress Rehearsal, as well as finalize the format and content of the questionnaires and report the specific wording of each question to the Congress in April 1998. The Census Bureau will open, set up, and staff temporary field offices, called regional census centers and census field offices, to support the address listing work. FY 1998 plans call for completing the urban portion of the address list development work and about 25 percent of the address listing work that must be done in areas without city-style addresses. The Census Bureau will also continue the process of acquiring computer hardware and developing the computer software needed to support its technological objectives, including the Data Access and Dissemination System (DADS).

The Census Bureau has recently redesigned its Master Address File (MAF) program and its partnerships with State, local, and tribal governments. In areas where census questionnaires are delivered by mail, the Census Bureau now proposes to conduct a dependent block canvass operation (based on the MAF) in the winter and spring of 1999. It also proposes to contract with the United States Postal Service to conduct a check in the winter of 2000 to ensure that newly constructed (inhabited) residences are not excluded from the MAF. The proposed program to update the MAF by adding addresses from locally provided files will be discontinued as a result of findings from tests of this method. Instead, the Census Bureau will invite local governments to review the MAF in March 1998, approximately ten months earlier than initially planned. This will enable local governments to have significantly more time to conduct their reviews. It will also enable them to review different versions of the MAF over time as their resources permit. OMB plans to solicit comment on an appeals process to resolve address disputes between the Census Bureau and participating governments, as required by Public Law 103-430, in the fall of 1997.

Through partnerships with local, State, tribal, and private sector organizations, the Census Bureau will be working with organizations, community groups, businesses, and others to heighten awareness of the 2000 census and its benefits to their communities, in order to encourage greater participation. Furthermore, the Census Bureau will work with the governments of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Pacific Areas to develop systems and materials to implement the 2000 census in those areas.

American Community Survey

At the present time, comparable local area data on the size and characteristics of the U.S. population are available only once every 10 years. While national level data for certain population characteristics are available on an annual basis, most detailed data for States and localities are provided by the decennial census long form. The American Community Survey (ACS) would provide demographic and housing data annually for geographic areas with populations greater than 65,000 and would provide annually updated averages, based on the accumulation of data over a period of years, for rural areas, census tracts, and block groups. The official counts of the population will continue to come from the decennial census and the intercensal estimates program.

In FY 1996, the Census Bureau conducted a test of the ACS in four sites. The 1996 ACS test used three modes of data collection—mail, computer-assisted telephone interviews, and computer-assisted personal interviews. During FY 1997, four more sites were added and 1996 data were released. In FY 1998, plans are to add one site composed of two additional counties that is in the Census Dress Rehearsal and to implement procedures for conducting the ACS for special populations, such as those in prisons, hospitals, and nursing homes. In FY 1999, the Census Bureau plans a comparison program in about 40 sites and up to about 20 phase-in sites to begin measurement of differences between results from the ACS and the 2000 census. The plan is to follow this with a large national comparison sample in 2000 and the full ACS implementation in all counties starting in 2003.

Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics

In 1994, the Chief Statistician at OMB and the leaders of six agencies created the Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics. The forum, which now has participants from across government as well as partners in private research organizations, fosters coordination, collaboration, and integration of collection and reporting of Federal data on child and family issues and conditions. The forum was formally established by Executive Order No. 13045 in April 1997. Its members work to:

- Develop priorities for collecting enhanced data on children and youth;
- Improve the reporting and dissemination of information on the status of children to the policy community and the general public; and
- Produce more complete data on children at the State and local levels.

In July 1997, as required by the Executive Order, the forum released its first annual report, *America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being*. This report presents the most important indicators of the well-being of the nation's children, based on data currently available. The indicators were chosen through a careful examination of available data drawn from national surveys and vital records. Indicators were chosen that are: easy to understand by broad audiences; objectively based on substantial research connecting them to child well-being and based on reliable data; balanced so that no single area of children's lives dominates the report; measured regularly so that they can be updated to show trends over time; and representative of large segments of the population rather than one particular group. The report also presents a challenge to Federal statistical agencies by describing data gaps—needed indicators for which data are either not available or are not of sufficiently high quality.

During the coming year, the forum will review the relationship between the Federal statistical system and State and local consumers of data and will make recommendations for changes in the collection and dissemination of data that are representative below the national level. The forum also will continue to define key issues in the collection of data on fathers and will produce a guide to the major gaps in data collection on issues of importance to children and families. In addition, the forum will publish a set of issue briefs on key areas

of concern that cross the domains of individual statistical agencies, such as early adolescence.

Improving and Integrating Health Surveys

Unprecedented changes in health care and welfare are making investments in information a key priority within the Department of Health and Human Services. There is significant demand, as well as new opportunities, for using new approaches to monitoring, assessing, and evaluating key public health, health policy, and welfare policy changes. To address these needs, HHS is continuing to implement a long-range effort to develop more rational, systematic data collection strategies; fill critical data gaps in key areas, such as health expenditures and outcomes; enhance analytic utility of HHS surveys, through linkages and common core questionnaires; and increase efficiency by integrating survey samples.

HHS began implementation of this Survey Integration Plan in 1995, with the integration of the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) and the Medical Expenditures Panel Survey (MEPS). Several milestones were reached in 1997: the NHIS was fully automated and redesigned, with a new core questionnaire being administered via computer-assisted personal interviewing; all components of the MEPS were implemented, including the Household Survey, the MEPS Medical Provider Survey, the MEPS Insurance Component, and the National Nursing Home Expenditure Survey; and policy-relevant data were released on an accelerated timetable from these two important components of HHS' monitoring system.

In 1998 and future years, efforts will be directed toward further integration of HHS survey components; developing new approaches to measuring the supply side of the health care system; and completing other elements of the HHS plan. Specific activities are as follows:

- The National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey will be fielded in 1998. NHANES IV will obtain data from detailed physical examinations, lab tests, and other clinical observations, allowing HHS to support multiple, collaborative research efforts and to measure the results of our nation's investment in health care and services. Unlike previous examination surveys that have been conducted on a periodic basis, NHANES is being converted to a continuous monitoring mode.
- HHS also is moving to address needs for comparable monitoring data at the State and local level. Pilot testing is being undertaken for the State and Local Area Integrated Telephone Survey (SLAITS). The key features of this effort include an integration of the telephone survey mechanism used for the National Immunization Survey with the questionnaire content of the redesigned National Health Interview Survey and other ongoing national surveys. SLAITS is being developed as a flexible mechanism that can obtain high quality data to meet the needs of HHS and of States in order to track and monitor current and emerging health and welfare-related issues.
- As part of the Secretary's Initiative to Improve Health Care Quality, a national monitoring system must be in place to provide the data to evaluate the nation's quality of care. The Department's Survey Integration Plan

provides a framework to identify existing data sources that currently serve as health care quality indicators and to implement new data acquisition efforts to obtain essential information not currently available.

Economic Statistics Initiative

The Economic Statistics Initiative seeks to improve the quality of statistics in rapidly changing areas of the economy where accurate information is most needed. Implementation of the initiative will result in a fundamental reorientation of the Federal statistical system to support better informed national debate on the economic challenges facing the United States.

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) began this effort in 1994 by reviewing the performance of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and other national economic accounts data. This was followed in 1995 with the formulation of BEA's Mid-Decade Strategic Plan for maintaining and improving its national, regional, and international accounts. The plan emphasizes updated measures of output and prices; more comprehensive and accurate measures of investment, savings, and wealth; and improved coverage of international trade and finance.

To move forward on the most urgent priorities in the face of budget stringencies, BEA reallocated resources from existing programs. In FY 1995, BEA transferred the production of the Leading Economic Indicators to a private organization, the Conference Board. In FY 1996, BEA moved to scale back its work in the areas of foreign direct investment, pollution abatement and control expenditures, and regional projections. As resources were freed up, they were used to help fund the first steps in implementing BEA's plan, which in FY 1997 included:

- Extending the improvements made to GDP and prices in FY 1995 and FY 1996 to its GDP-by-industry, gross State product, and international estimates; and working with other statistical agencies to complete development of the new North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), which will provide an updated picture of the organization and structure of the economy, particularly in the areas of services and new and emerging high-technology industries, and will greatly improve the consistency of economic statistics across North America.
- Extending improvements made to investment and depreciation data in FY 1996 such as improved measures of depreciation and the treatment of government purchases of equipment and structures as investment to gross State product and GDP-by-industry estimates.
- Incorporating into the balance of payments accounts the results of the new annual international financial services surveys; the benchmark survey of foreign portfolio investments (conducted jointly by Treasury and the Federal Reserve System); and the benchmark survey of selected services, which added new services to its coverage; and incorporating estimates of international flows of U.S. currency into the accounts.

In subsequent years, activities that would build upon this work include:

- *New and Improved Measures of Output and Prices.*—Initiatives in this area would include further extending quality adjustments of output and prices to additional “high-tech” products and difficult-to-measure services; working with Census and BLS to develop improved source data for key national accounts measures of income and product; revising the structure and methodologies of the accounts to reflect the changes introduced by NAICS; providing a clearer picture of consumer spending by developing preliminary estimates that separate nonprofit institutions from households; and completing work already begun on updating the accounts, to provide a more comprehensive picture of government.
- *Better Measures of Investment, Savings, and Wealth.*—Initiatives in this area would include expanding and updating the coverage of investment by developing a comprehensive accounting for software, including the development of a quality-adjusted price index and estimates of software developed in-house (not purchased); developing measures of government inventories and inventory investments at both the Federal and the State and local levels; providing better integration of real and financial accounts; and extending studies of prices for used assets to improve measures of depreciation and capital stock.
- *Improved Measures of International Trade and Finance.*—Initiatives in this area would include improving the data coverage of international trade in services, by incorporating data on “affiliated” services by type from BEA’s revised surveys of U.S. direct investment abroad and revising the surveys of foreign direct investment in the United States to collect similar data; developing a pilot quarterly survey for the most important services covered by the existing annual survey of nonfinancial services; working with Treasury and the Federal Reserve System to improve the capture of information on portfolio investments in the United States and abroad and to strengthen the existing system for collecting the data by expanding coverage and improving compliance; participating in the first internationally coordinated benchmark survey of portfolio investments abroad; working with Treasury and the Federal Reserve System to develop measures of new financial instruments, such as derivatives, that cut across both the direct and indirect channels of investment; developing new survey methods for measuring international travel expenditures; and incorporating estimates of the full value of computer software in the trade accounts.

Revision and Improvements to the Consumer Price Index

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is the principal source of information concerning trends in consumer prices and inflation in the United States. The measure is used extensively for economic analysis and policy formulation in both the public and private sectors, to determine contract costs among individuals and organizations, to set wages in many union agreements, and to index government payments and receipts.

In order to maintain the relevance of the CPI, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) undertakes a comprehensive updating of the index approximately every 10 years. The revision provides opportunities to reflect changes in the geographic distribution of the population and in consumers’ buying habits, to incorporate improvements in technology and index methodology, and to

redesign survey questionnaires and computer systems to make the index a more accurate and reliable reflection of economic conditions. Many improvements in methodology, however, are incorporated as soon as they are validated. An updated CPI, based upon the 1990 distribution of the U.S. urban population and the 1993-1995 pattern of consumer expenditures, will be introduced in January 1998. The revised CPI will include a revised item classification structure; updated household expenditure patterns, based on the 1993-1995 Consumer Expenditure Survey (CES); and a new area design, with 36 new areas along with 51 areas currently included in the CPI. The BLS budget for FY 1998 requests funding for work on the revision scheduled for completion in 2000.

Early in the summer of 1997, BLS began the listing and screening of housing units, in order to select representative samples of rental units in each of the 87 areas that constitute the revised CPI area design. This labor-intensive activity will continue through 1998. Beginning in April 1998, BLS will start pricing the rental units identified in the listing and screening activity. The price movement of this new housing sample will be captured in the CPI beginning with the January 1999 CPI, published in February 1999. Unlike previous revisions to the CPI housing sample, both the listing and screening and subsequent pricing will utilize computer-assisted data collection (CADC) techniques. The use of this technology reduces the labor intensity of these activities.

During 1998, BLS will continue to improve its CADC pricing system for the new housing sample and will begin development of a system for the CPI commodities and services pricing survey. During 1998, BLS plans to begin several activities designed to improve the timeliness and accuracy of the CPI. Specifically, BLS will expand the CES sample size by approximately 50 percent and increase efficiencies in the expenditure weight updating system, in order to reduce the time required for updating the CPI market basket. These enhancements will also facilitate the research, development, and potential publication of new "superlative" measures, or indices that reflect the ability of consumers to substitute among goods and services. Finally, BLS will increase the amount of information collected on the prices and characteristics of certain goods and services. With these data, BLS can improve the treatment of quality changes and of new goods entering the market place.

Redesign and Integration of Compensation Survey Programs

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) currently produces a variety of measures of compensation. An initiative is currently underway to integrate the wage and benefit measures into one comprehensive statistical program providing a diverse set of measures of employee compensation. The resulting program, known as COMP2000, will replace the three existing BLS programs that provide data on employer expenditures for wages, salaries, and benefits, as well as details of employer-provided benefits, and establishment practices. These are the Occupational Compensation Survey Program (OCSP), the Employment Cost Index (ECI), and the Employee Benefits Survey (EBS).

These existing programs were developed at different times to meet different purposes. They have many overlapping data elements that result in duplication of data collection and processing. COMP2000 is geared to eliminate duplication, develop more efficient collection and processing techniques, and improve the quality of published data. Planning for COMP2000 began in 1994, and testing of data collection began in 1996. The initial testing was limited to wage data; full implementation of the entire survey will be completed by 2001.

By melding together the data produced by the three current surveys (OCSP, ECI, and EBS), the new program will improve data for policy makers and researchers, while continuing to provide the high-quality data required by the President's Pay Agent for administering the Federal Employees Pay Comparability Act. New data available from the integrated program include estimates of wages for skill levels covering broad groups of related occupations and data directly linking benefit plan costs with detailed plan provisions. The integrated program's single sample also will produce both time series indices and cost levels for industry and occupational groups, thereby increasing the analytical potential of the data. These series include: improved measures of trends; better integration of benefit costs and plan provisions; data for narrow occupations; and broad regional and occupational coverage.

The sample design for this integrated program will be a cluster design with a sample rotational pattern that is geographic within industry group, rather than the current, solely industry-based pattern. New samples will be introduced annually across every industry in every covered area, mitigating the "catch up" effect of the industry rotation pattern present in the current Employer Cost for Employee Compensation series. This new design fully integrates the "birth sample" that covers new businesses appended to the current design.

The redesign and integration project also includes an evaluation of alternative index formulas and statistical procedures that make use of the most current data available from BLS Current Employment and Occupational Employment Surveys, among other sources, to reflect better current trends in the composition of the labor services employed by the civilian economy, and to provide improved estimates of the accuracy of these series.

Improving and Integrating Agricultural Surveys

The National Agricultural Statistics Service's (NASS) strategic planning effort, begun in 1994, provides for a complete review of NASS' estimating and survey programs. This thorough review is designed to make maximum use of emerging technology and to increase data accuracy and usefulness by keeping up with a rapidly changing agricultural sector. NASS is working to provide annual statistics on production, inventory, and value at the State level for commodities comprising over 99 percent of the cash receipts from the sale of agricultural commodities, and annual data for an enlarged list of specialty commodities in areas such as the equine and horticultural industries. This broadened annual estimating and survey program will strengthen NASS'

ability to respond to special needs as agriculture becomes more complex and diverse.

The FY 1997 Agricultural Appropriation Act transferred funding of the Census of Agriculture to the Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service. Authorizing legislation is currently pending that would officially transfer the authority to conduct the Census of Agriculture from the Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce, to USDA. The authorizing bill will make it possible for USDA to utilize fully the 45 NASS field offices serving all 50 States to process the 1997 Census of Agriculture. This will result in the release of the agriculture census data six months ahead of the original Bureau of the Census schedule. The NASS field offices will also bring the accountability for the Census of Agriculture closer to the users and providers of the data.

Reducing Reporting Burden on Business

In 1996, the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Census Bureau signed a Memorandum of Understanding regarding Joint Electronic Data Transmissions to the two agencies. This agreement allows Census and BLS to prepare, initiate, and maintain joint electronic data interchange (EDI) reporting arrangements. These arrangements would permit interested businesses to transmit consolidated statistical information electronically for use by both agencies and, thereby, satisfy multiple statistical reporting requirements. The joint EDI reporting program will reduce business reporting burden, by limiting information requests and report preparations; reduce agency processing costs, by providing data in carefully specified electronic formats; and improve published statistics, by obtaining more timely, complete, and consistent information about major U.S. businesses.

In FY 1998 the Census Bureau and BLS will continue development of joint EDI reporting. The two agencies are promoting this reporting option with large multi-unit establishments for reporting to Census' annual Company Organization Survey and BLS' quarterly Multiple Worksite Report.

North American Industry Classification System

On April 9, 1997, OMB published a *Federal Register* notice (62 FR 17288-17478) with its final decisions for the adoption of the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) for the United States. NAICS is a system for classifying establishments by type of economic activity. Its purposes are to facilitate the collection, tabulation, presentation, and analysis of data relating to establishments and to promote uniformity and comparability in the presentation of statistical data describing the economy. NAICS replaces the 1987 Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) and will be used by Federal statistical agencies that collect or publish data by industry. It is also expected to be widely used by State agencies, trade associations, businesses, and other organizations.

The NAICS initiative represents an international effort—by the Instituto Nacional de Estadística, Geografía e Informática (INEGI) of Mexico; Statistics

Canada; and the United States, through the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Economic Classification Policy Committee—to make the industrial statistics produced in the three countries comparable. NAICS is the first industry classification system developed in accordance with a single principle of aggregation, i.e., under the production-oriented concept, units that use similar production processes should be grouped together in the classification. The fresh view of establishment data that this restructuring will provide should engender insights into the increasingly interrelated evolution of the economies of Canada, Mexico, and the United States. NAICS also reflects, in a much more explicit way, the enormous changes in technology and in the growth and diversification of services that have marked recent decades. Industry statistics compiled using NAICS will also be comparable with statistics compiled according to the latest revision of the United Nations' International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC, Revision 3) for some 60 high-level industry groupings.

NAICS will provide a consistent framework for the collection, tabulation, presentation, and analysis of industrial statistics used by government policy analysts, by academics and researchers, by the business community, and by the public. Because of differing national economic and institutional structures, as well as limited resources and time for constructing the new classification, the NAICS structure has not been made entirely comparable at the individual industry level across all three countries. For some sectors and subsectors, the statistical agencies of the three countries have agreed to harmonize NAICS based on sectoral boundaries, rather than on a detailed industry structure. Those sectors or subsectors are: utilities; construction; wholesale trade; retail trade; finance and insurance; real estate; waste management and remediation services; other services that include personal and laundry services, and religious, grant making, civic, and professional and similar organizations; and public administration. To ensure comparability between Canada and the United States, the two countries have agreed on an industry structure and hierarchy for each sector listed above except for construction, wholesale trade, and public administration. In some cases within these sectors, the United States will provide for additional industries at the national level to reflect important industries in the United States that will not be shown separately in Canada. To distinguish the three countries' versions of NAICS, they are called NAICS Canada, NAICS Mexico (SCIAN Mexico, in Spanish), and NAICS United States.

NAICS is scheduled to go into effect in 1997 in Canada and the United States, and in 1998 in Mexico. All Federal statistical data published for reference years beginning on or after January 1, 1997, will be published using the new NAICS United States codes. Among the first data to be available on a NAICS United States basis will be those from the 1997 Economic Censuses, to be published in early 1999. For most programs, data will be introduced over several years. Data series may not always be revised for years before the respective program's implementation of NAICS United States; instead, bridges will be developed to permit comparisons of pre- and post-NAICS data.

INEGI, OMB, and Statistics Canada have put in place a process for ensuring that the implementation of NAICS is comparable across all three countries. Regularly scheduled meetings among the three countries will ensure that there

is a smooth transition to NAICS. In addition, the three countries plan to review and update NAICS continuously to ensure that new activities are promptly recognized and to extend NAICS to the 5-digit industry level in those sectors where agreement is now at only the sector, subsector, or industry group level.

Standard Occupational Classification System

In 1994, OMB chartered the Standard Occupational Classification Revision Policy Committee (SOCRPC) to take a fresh look at the concepts, methodologies, procedures, and uses of occupational classifications for statistical purposes. The SOCRPC is charged with revising and modernizing the SOC and integrating the structure of the SOC and the Dictionary of Occupational Titles in time to incorporate the new SOC classifications in the 2000 decennial census. The revision is intended to produce a pragmatic occupational classification system that will support economic analysis, strengthen the ties between education and work force data, unify Federal agency occupational classification usage, and foster international comparability.

All Federal agencies that collect occupational data will use the new system; similarly, all State and local government agencies are strongly encouraged to use this national system to promote a common language for categorizing occupations in the world of work. The new SOC system will replace the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) occupational classification system, currently used by the Bureau of Labor Statistics for gathering occupational information. It will also replace the Bureau of the Census' 1990 occupational classification system and will be used for the 2000 census. In addition, the new SOC will serve as the framework for information being gathered through the Department of Labor's Occupational Information Network (O*NET), which is in the process of replacing the *Dictionary of Occupational Titles*.

OMB has published a series of notices in the *Federal Register*, beginning in February 1995, announcing the SOC revision process and requesting public comment on the uses of occupational data, the purpose and scope of occupational classification, the principles underlying the current SOC, conceptual options for the new SOC, and the SOCRPC process. During FY 1996, the SOCRPC established six work groups to review proposals and make recommendations to it for revision of the SOC. The work groups are organized by occupational cluster and include: Agriculture, Construction, Extractive, and Transportation Occupations; Managerial and Administrative Occupations; Mechanical and Production Occupations; Military Occupations; Natural Science, Law, Health, Education, and Arts Occupations; and Sales and Services Occupations. Based on feedback from past and upcoming public notices and from the working groups, SOCRPC will formulate final recommendations for the 1997 SOC revisions. OMB expects to make its final decisions for the 1997 SOC revision and publish them in the *Federal Register* before the end of 1997.

During the coming year, the SOCRPC will prepare the 1997 *Standard Occupational Classification Manual* for publication. Committee members will also complete definitions, assign associated titles, and develop cross lists to existing systems.

Metropolitan Area Definitions

OMB has issued definitions of metropolitan areas for use in collecting and publishing Federal statistics since 1950. The standards for defining metropolitan areas have been reviewed and modified several times since then, but the underlying concepts have remained essentially the same over the decades.

At the request of OMB, the Census Bureau has initiated a thorough review of the concepts and methods underlying the definitions of metropolitan and alternative statistical areas. Earlier this decade, studies conducted at four universities sketched out and evaluated in preliminary fashion alternative approaches to establishing metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas. The reports from these studies were published in a Census Bureau working paper, which became the centerpiece of discussion at an open conference held in November 1995 that was attended by representatives from Federal, State, and local government agencies and the private sector. The major issues addressed in the research papers and/or at the conference included: whether the Federal government should define metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas; the geographic units to be used in defining areas; the criteria to be used to aggregate the units in defining statistical areas; whether there should be hierarchies or multiple sets of areas in the classification system; the kinds of entities that would receive official recognition in a new system; whether a system should reflect statistical rules only or allow a role for local opinion; frequency of updating; and territorial coverage.

Efforts during the coming year will include extensive research and testing of alternative approaches to defining metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas, as well as preparations for a solicitation of public comment on proposed options via the *Federal Register* toward the end of 1998. Evaluation of comments received and drafting of standards will lead to a solicitation of public comment on the draft standards in mid-1999. OMB will publish final standards before the 2000 census.

Classification of Data on Race and Ethnicity

OMB's Statistical Policy Directive No. 15, *Race and Ethnic Standards for Federal Statistics and Administrative Reporting*, provides standard classifications for record keeping, collection, and presentation of data on race and ethnicity. The classifications, adopted in 1977, have come under increasing criticism by respondents and data users who feel that the classifications are becoming less useful in reflecting the nation's diversity.

In response, OMB announced plans for a comprehensive review of the standards that would include public comment on the current categories and research and testing to assess the possible effects of suggested changes on the quality and usefulness of the resulting data. In a June 1994 *Federal Register* notice (59 FR 29831-29835), OMB invited public comment on the adequacy of the current categories and on suggestions that had been made over the years for changing the standards; as part of this public comment process, OMB held four public hearings. OMB summarized the comments it received in a second *Federal Register* notice (60 FR 44674-44693). This notice also proposed

principles to be used in reaching a final decision on standards for the classification of data on race and ethnicity and provided information about the research agenda for various issues.

To coordinate participation of over 30 Federal agencies that use or produce data on race and ethnicity, OMB established an Interagency Committee for the Review of Racial and Ethnic Standards. A Research Working Group of the Interagency Committee identified several issues requiring research and testing, including options for reporting multiple races; combining the race and Hispanic origin classifications; a combined race, Hispanic origin, and ancestry question; and new or renamed classifications. Several Federal agencies conducted research on these issues.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) sponsored the first major test, a Supplement on Race and Ethnicity, conducted in conjunction with the May 1995 Current Population Survey (CPS), which was sent to approximately 60,000 households. The Supplement tested the effect of having a multiracial category among the list of races, whether race and Hispanic origin should be asked as separate questions or in a single question, and the terminology respondents preferred to use in identifying their racial and ethnic groups. The complete report of this test, *Testing Methods of Collecting Racial and Ethnic Information: Results of the Current Population Survey Supplement on Race and Ethnicity*, was issued in June 1996.

The other two major tests, the National Content Survey (NCS) and the Race and Ethnic Targeted Test (RAETT), were conducted by the Bureau of the Census in 1996 as part of the decennial census research program.

- The questions on race and ethnicity in the March 1996 National Content Survey, which was sent to about 94,000 households, were designed to evaluate the effects of adding a “multiracial or biracial” category, the effects of having the Hispanic origin question before or after the race question, and alternative terminologies. The results of this test were published by the Census Bureau in a December 1996 report, *Findings on Questions on Race and Hispanic Origin Tested in the 1996 National Content Survey*.
- The 1996 Race and Ethnic Targeted Test was mailed to about 112,000 households in areas that have, relative to the nation as a whole, high concentrations of six specific racial or ethnic groups: White ethnic (whether European, Canadian, or American), Black, American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian, Pacific Islander, and Hispanic origin. The RAETT tested the effects of a “multiracial or biracial” category, as well as “mark one or more” and “mark all that apply” approaches to reporting more than one race; a combined question on race, Hispanic origin, and ancestry; alternative sequencing of the race and Hispanic origin questions; a combined category for American Indians and Alaska Natives with a write-in line for tribe; a Native Hawaiian category; and several alternative terminologies. The Census Bureau released the results of this test in a May 1997 report, *Results of the 1996 Race and Ethnic Targeted Test*.

In addition to these three major tests, the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) and the Office for Civil Rights in the Department of Education conducted a survey to ascertain how schools currently collect, maintain, and report data on students’ race and ethnicity, and on associated State mandates or requirements. NCES published the results in a March 1996

report, *Racial and Ethnic Classifications Used by Public Schools*. The research agenda also included studies conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health to evaluate the procedures used and the quality of the information in administrative records on race and ethnicity.

The results of this multi-year review effort were transmitted in the Interagency Committee's report and recommendations to OMB and were made available for public comment in an OMB *Federal Register* notice (62 FR 36873-36946) published on July 9, 1997. OMB is scheduled to announce its decision on the Interagency Committee's recommendations in October 1997, so that any changes that may be adopted can be incorporated into the questions on race and ethnicity that will be used for the 2000 census dress rehearsal, to be conducted in spring 1998.

Definition of Poverty

In the spring of 1995, the National Academy of Sciences' (NAS) National Research Council released its panel report on the measurement of income and poverty, *Measuring Poverty: A New Approach*. The report recommends that the official U.S. poverty thresholds be changed to comprise a budget for the three basic categories of food, clothing, shelter (including utilities), and a small additional amount to allow for other needs, such as household supplies, personal care, and nonwork-related transportation.

Before considering any potential policy issues inherent in the definition of poverty, there are significant statistical issues that need to be addressed. These include the availability and reliability of the data required to implement the NAS recommendations; the decision to change the primary vehicle for poverty data collection from the March supplement of the Current Population Survey to the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP); the relatively small sample size of the Consumer Expenditure Survey, which limits its applicability to the buying habits of persons in poverty; and the scope of data development work needed to implement the NAS recommendations for making geographic adjustments, refining cost-of-housing indices, and measuring medical expenditures.

In light of such issues, OMB's Statistical Policy Office has formed a working group under the auspices of the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy to undertake a thorough review of available options for revising the definition of poverty. Plans for the working group include identifying research currently underway on the issues raised in the NAS report, as well as issues still needing attention. Using the research findings, the working group will coordinate closely with the Census Bureau to develop additional experimental poverty series that incorporate relevant NAS recommendations. These alternative series would be issued to allow analysts to examine their utility and see how they behave prior to the development of recommendations by OMB.

Appendix

DIRECT FUNDING, REIMBURSABLE PROGRAMS, AND PURCHASES, FY 1998 (In millions of dollars)

Department/Agency	Sources of Funding				Purchases		
	Direct Funding	State/ Local Gov'ts	Private Sector	Other Federal Agencies	State/ Local Gov'ts	Private Sector	Other Federal Agencies
AGRICULTURE:							
ARS.....	9.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	9.5	—
ERS.....	54.3	0.1	0.0	4.3	4.0	0.3	5.0
FAS.....	36.3	0.0	0.0	2.3	0.0	0.0	6.2
FCS.....	17.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.9	0.1
FS.....	10.1	0.4	0.1	2.7	0.0	0.0	0.0
NASS.....	119.9	2.2	0.0	7.6	21.9	2.6	15.8
NRCS.....	112.1	2.1	0.0	2.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
COMMERCE:							
BEA.....	47.0	0.0	0.5	0.2	—	0.3	1.3
Census.....	676.1	1.0	23.7	160.7	0.0	0.0	1.7
ESA.....	5.1	0.0	1.9	2.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
ITA.....	3.5	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.9	0.9
NOAA.....	47.0	0.2	3.6	2.4	2.0	3.0	0.0
DEFENSE:							
CORPS.....	4.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.7
DIOR.....	2.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
DMDC.....	3.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
EDUCATION:							
NCES.....	114.0	0.0	0.0	4.8	2.4	94.3	12.7
ENERGY:							
EIA.....	62.8	0.0	0.0	6.1	0.0	17.2	0.0
ES&H.....	24.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	19.8
OER.....	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
HHS:							
ACF.....	27.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	25.7	2.1
AHCPR.....	44.7	0.0	0.0	45.0	0.5	29.1	6.6
AoA.....	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
ATSDR.....	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.4	1.2	0.0
CDC (w/o NCHS)..	96.1	0.0	0.0	7.0	31.2	10.3	1.0
HCFA.....	12.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	12.9	—
HRSR.....	9.9	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.1
IHS.....	2.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	—
NCHS.....	89.0	0.0	0.8	30.5	14.5	37.3	20.4
NIH.....	304.1	0.0	0.0	0.8	6.2	55.1	12.6
OASPE.....	20.0	0.0	0.0	7.3	0.0	0.0	4.7
SAMHSA.....	74.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	25.3	45.6	0.3
HUD:							
CP&D.....	—	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	—
Housing.....	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.0	0.1
OFHEO.....	2.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
PD&R.....	23.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.0	20.5

**DIRECT FUNDING, REIMBURSABLE PROGRAMS, AND
PURCHASES, FY 1998—Continued**

(In millions of dollars)

Department/Agency	Sources of Funding				Purchases		
	Direct Funding	State/Local Gov'ts	Private Sector	Other Federal Agencies	State/Local Gov'ts	Private Sector	Other Federal Agencies
P&IH.....	3.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.6	0.0
INTERIOR:							
FWS.....	5.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.4
MMS.....	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
USGS.....	75.5	56.0	2.8	46.1	0.0	0.6	0.8
JUSTICE:							
BJS.....	25.6	0.0	0.0	0.4	3.7	3.3	14.8
BoP.....	4.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
DEA.....	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
FBI.....	3.2	—	0.0	—	0.0	0.0	0.0
INS.....	8.4	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.8	0.4
LABOR:							
BLS.....	379.5	3.1	0.7	11.9	83.4	10.6	51.9
ESA.....	6.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	3.4
ETA.....	56.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	55.7	0.1	0.0
MSHA.....	2.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
OASP.....	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.0
OSHA.....	17.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.8	0.0
TRANSPORTATION:							
BTS.....	31.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.0	10.3
FAA.....	3.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.3	2.5
FHWA.....	47.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.7	26.3	6.9
FRA.....	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	—
FTA.....	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	0.0
MARAD.....	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.2
NHTSA.....	25.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.9	13.2	1.1
OST.....	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
RSPA.....	4.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.4	0.0
TREASURY:							
Customs.....	8.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
IRS.....	33.6	0.0	0.1	1.7	0.0	0.6	0.4
SOI.....	25.4	—	0.1	1.7	0.0	0.6	0.4
VETERANS AFFAIRS.....	57.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
OTHER AGENCIES:							
AID.....	14.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CPSC.....	5.7	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.1	1.7	0.0
EEOC.....	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.1
EPA.....	148.2	0.0	0.0	1.4	0.3	28.0	2.1
NASA.....	16.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
NSF.....	58.5	0.0	0.0	1.5	0.0	55.7	4.2
SBA.....	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.6
SSA.....	7.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL.....	3,129.0	65.3	34.6	351.3	271.0	527.0	232.9

Note: Components may not sum to totals because of rounding. The symbol “—” indicates that the amount reported by the agency was less than \$50,000.

Glossary of Department and Agency

Abbreviations

ACF	Administration for Children and Families (HHS)
AHCPR	Agency for Health Care Policy and Research (HHS)
AID	Agency for International Development
AoA	Administration on Aging (HHS)
ARS	Agricultural Research Service (Agriculture)
ATSDR	Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry (HHS)
BEA	Bureau of Economic Analysis (Commerce)
BJS	Bureau of Justice Statistics (Justice)
BLS	Bureau of Labor Statistics (Labor)
BOP	Bureau of Prisons (Justice)
BTS	Bureau of Transportation Statistics (Transportation)
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (HHS)
Census	Bureau of the Census (Commerce)
Corps	Army Corps of Engineers (Defense)
CP&D	Community Planning and Development (HUD)
CPSC	Consumer Product Safety Commission
Customs	United States Customs Service (Treasury)
DEA	Drug Enforcement Administration (Justice)
DIOR	Directorate for Information Operations and Reports (Defense)
DMDC	Defense Manpower Data Center (Defense)
DOC	Department of Commerce
DOD	Department of Defense
DOE	Department of Energy
DOL	Department of Labor
DOT	Department of Transportation
EEOC	Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
EIA	Energy Information Administration (Energy)
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ERS	Economic Research Service (Agriculture)
ESA/DOC	Economics and Statistics Administration (Commerce)
ESA/DOL	Employment Standards Administration (Labor)
ES&H	Environment, Safety and Health (Energy)
ETA	Employment and Training Administration (Labor)
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration (Transportation)

FAS	Foreign Agricultural Service (Agriculture)
FBI	Federal Bureau of Investigation (Justice)
FCS	Food and Consumer Service (Agriculture)
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration (Transportation)
FRA	Federal Railroad Administration (Transportation)
FS	Forest Service (Agriculture)
FTA	Federal Transit Administration (Transportation)
FWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service (Interior)
HCFA	Health Care Financing Administration (HHS)
HHS	Department of Health and Human Services
Housing	Office of the Assistant Secretary for Housing (HUD)
HRSA	Health Resources and Services Administration (HHS)
HUD	Department of Housing and Urban Development
IHS	Indian Health Service (HHS)
INS	Immigration and Naturalization Service (Justice)
IRS	Internal Revenue Service (Treasury)
ITA	International Trade Administration (Commerce)
MARAD	Maritime Administration (Transportation)
MMS	Minerals Management Service (Interior)
MSHA	Mine Safety and Health Administration (Labor)
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NASS	National Agricultural Statistics Service (Agriculture)
NCES	National Center for Education Statistics (Education)
NCHS	National Center for Health Statistics (HHS)
NCI	National Cancer Institute (HHS)
NEI	National Eye Institute (HHS)
NHLBI	National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (HHS)
NHTSA	National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (Transportation)
NIA	National Institute on Aging (HHS)
NIAAA	National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (HHS)
NIAID	National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease (HHS)
NIAMSD	National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Disease
NICHD	National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (HHS)
NIDA	National Institute on Drug Abuse (HHS)
NIDCD	National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (HHS)
NIDDK	National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (HHS)
NIDR	National Institute of Dental Research (HHS)

NIEHS	National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (HHS)
NIGMS	National Institute of General Medical Sciences (HHS)
NIH	National Institutes of Health (HHS)
NINDS	National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (HHS)
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service (Commerce)
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (Commerce)
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service (Agriculture)
NSF	National Science Foundation
OASP	Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy (Labor)
OASPE	Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (HHS)
OD	Office of the Director, NIH (HHS)
OFHEO	Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight (HUD)
OMB	Office of Management and Budget (Executive Office of the President)
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration (Labor)
OST	Office of the Secretary of Transportation (Transportation)
PD&R	Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research (HUD)
P&IH	Office of Public and Indian Housing (HUD)
RSPA	Research and Special Programs Administration (Transportation)
SAMHSA	Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (HHS)
SBA	Small Business Administration
SOI	Statistics of Income Division (Treasury)
SSA	Social Security Administration (HHS)
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USGS	United States Geological Survey (Interior)
VA	Department of Veterans Affairs

Selected Federal Statistical World Wide Web Sites

(As of July 1997)

Executive Office of the President (EOP)

OMB—Office of Management and Budget

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/WH/EOP/omb/>

Federal Statistics Briefing Rooms

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/WH/html/briefroom.html>

Interagency Council on Statistical Policy

FedStats

<http://www.fedstats.gov>

(For the Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology, go to “Policy;” go to “Statistical Policy Working Papers”)

Department of Agriculture (USDA)

<http://www.usda.gov/>

(Go to “What’s New”)

ERS—Economic Research Service

<http://www.econ.ag.gov/>

NASS—National Agricultural Statistics Service

<http://www.usda.gov/nass/>

Department of Commerce (DOC)

<http://www.doc.gov/> or <http://www.stat-usa.gov/>

BEA—Bureau of Economic Analysis

<http://www.bea.doc.gov/>

Bureau of the Census

<http://www.census.gov/>

NOAA—National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

<http://www.noaa.gov/>

Department of Defense

DMDC—Defense Manpower Data Center

<http://www.dtic.mil/defenselink/>

(Go to “Search;” go to “Browse;” go to “Automated Information Systems”)

Department of Education

NCES—National Center for Education Statistics

<http://www.ed.gov/NCES/>

(Go to “Data and Surveys”)

Department of Energy

EIA—Energy Information Administration

<http://www.eia.doe.gov/>

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

OASPE—Office of the Secretary

<http://www.os.dhhs.gov/>

(Go to “HHS Agencies;” go to “Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation”)

ACF—Administration for Children and Families

<http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/>

AHCPR—Agency for Health Care Policy and Research

<http://www.ahcpr.gov/>

(Go to “Data and Methods”)

ATSDR—Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry

<http://atsdr1.atsdr.cdc.gov:8080/atsdrhome.html>

AoA—Administration on Aging

<http://www.aoa.dhhs.gov/>

(Go to “National Aging Information Center”)

CDC—Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

<http://www.cdc.gov/>

(Go to “Data and Statistics”)

HCFA—Health Care Financing Administration

<http://www.hcfa.gov/>
(Go to “Stats & Data”)

HRSA—Health Resources and Services Administration

<http://www.hrsa.dhhs.gov/>
(Go to “Overview and Programs”)

IHS—Indian Health Service

<http://www.ihs.gov/>
(Go to “Communications and Publications”)

NCHS—National Center for Health Statistics

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchswww/nchshome.htm>

NIH—National Institutes of Health

<http://www.nih.gov/>
(Go to “Health Information” or “Scientific Resources”)

SAMHSA—Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

<http://www.samhsa.gov/>
(Go to “Statistical Information on Drug Abuse and Mental Health”)

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

<http://www.hud.gov/>
(Go to “Site Map;” go to “HUD Research”)

Department of the Interior

USGS—United States Geological Survey

<http://www.usgs.gov/>

Department of Justice

<http://www.usdoj.gov/>
(Go to “Topical Index;” go to “Statistics”)

BJS—Bureau of Justice Statistics

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/>

BoP—Bureau of Prisons

<http://www.bop.gov/>

FBI—Federal Bureau of Investigation

<http://www.fbi.gov/>

(Go to “FBI Uniform Crime Reports”)

Department of Labor (DOL)

<http://www.dol.gov>

(Go to “Labor-Related Data”)

BLS—Bureau of Labor Statistics

<http://www.bls.gov/>

ETA—Employment and Training Administration

<http://www.doleta.gov/>

(Go to “Other ETA Related Sites”)

MSHA—Mine Safety and Health Administration

<http://www.msha.gov/>

OSHA—Occupational Safety and Health Administration

<http://www.osha.gov/>

(Go to “Statistics & Data”)

Department of Transportation (DOT)

BTS—Bureau of Transportation Statistics

<http://www.bts.gov/>

(Go to “Databases” or “Products and Services”)

FAA—Federal Aviation Administration

<http://www.faa.gov/>

(Go to “Research and Acquisitions;” go to “Aviation Research”)

Department of the Treasury

IRS—Internal Revenue Service

<http://www.irs.ustreas.gov/>

SOI—Statistics of Income

http://www.irs.ustreas.gov/tax_stats/index.html

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

<http://www.va.gov/>

(Go to “Data”)

Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)

<http://www.cpsc.gov/>

(Go to "About Us;" go to "CPSC's Clearinghouse") or (Go to "Library;" go to "Data Relevant to Consumer Product Safety")

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

<http://www.epa.gov/>

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

<http://www.nasa.gov/>

(Go to "Mission to Planet Earth;" go to "Access to Data")

National Science Foundation (NSF)

<http://www.nsf.gov/>

(Go to "Social, Behavioral Sciences;" go to "Science Resources Studies")

Small Business Administration (SBA)

<http://www.sba.gov/>

(Go to "Great Business Hot-Links")

Social Security Administration (SSA)

<http://www.ssa.gov/>

(Go to "Research and Statistics")

