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# statistical reporter



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# *Statistical Policy Coordination Committee*

BY MYRA L. TRIPLETT

*Office of the Chief Economist, U.S. Department of Commerce*

## *Introduction*

The newly-established Statistical Policy Coordination Committee (SPCC) will for the first time since the Central Statistical Board of the 1930's provide a mechanism for bringing Cabinet level attention to major Federal statistical issues. The purpose of the Committee is to advise and assist the President with respect to the improvement, development and coordination of Federal statistics. The Committee will play a major role in reviewing, establishing and enforcing the statistical standards which are critical to developing a consistent and integrated data base for public policymaking and will take the lead role in identifying priorities for major statistical programs that need to be addressed in the budget-setting process. In addition, Committee will also make recommendations concerning studies which should be undertaken, will review the conclusions of those studies, and will make recommendations for government-wide statistical policy.

The Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards has been delegated the responsibility for establishing statistical policy. Since this Office has a relatively small staff for the wide range of policy issues which must be addressed, a major responsibility for the staff work must rest with statistical agencies throughout the executive branch.

The purpose of this article is to inform the statistical community about the interagency composition of this Committee, the mandate given to the Committee by the President and the types of policy questions which the Committee will address.

## *Establishment of the Committee*

As part of the President's Reorganization Plan No. 1, Executive Order No. 12013 dated Oc-

tober 7, 1977 transferred responsibility for certain statistical policy functions from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to the Secretary of Commerce.<sup>1</sup> Section 8 of the Executive order established the Statistical Policy Coordination Committee.

In addition to the specifics contained in the Executive order, the Office of Management and Budget and the Department of Commerce exchanged a Memorandum of Understanding which sets forth the relationship between the Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards and OMB on matters of Federal statistical policy. This Memorandum completes the transfer of the functions of the former Statistical Policy Division in OMB to the Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards in the Department of Commerce. According to the Memorandum, OMB and the Department of Commerce have agreed to certain procedures concerning Federal statistical policy issues in the following areas: budget, legislative review, program planning reviews, reports clearance, interagency statistical committee, and governmental statistical reorganization. The text of this Memorandum appears in the box on page 391.

Juanita M. Kreps, the Secretary of Commerce and Chairperson of the Committee, noted in opening the first meeting of the Committee on April 26, 1978 that the mandate from the President is a broad one for improving, coordinating, and developing statistical policy. She then shared with the Committee some of the concerns that she has heard expressed regarding Federal statistics. They include the extent to which the statistical agencies are overburdening the public with requests for statistical informa-

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<sup>1</sup>"The Establishment of the Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards," *Statistical Reporter*, October 1977.

tion; the question of confidentiality, i.e., the concern that income or other data will be misused; the general concern about adequate access to data; and the development of a Governmentwide policy for Federal and State cooperative programs in statistics.

In the organizational meeting it was noted that topics to be considered by the Committee will be determined by (1) their importance to the President and other leading policymakers for improved information in a given subject area; (2) their importance to the credibility of the Federal statistical programs; (3) the expected major impact on planning and resource use in statistical programs; (4) and the interdepartmental nature of the issue.

The Statistical Policy Coordination Committee is a cabinet-level committee. Active participation in the Committee is by designated alternates who are generally at the Assistant Secretary level. Courtenay M. Slater, Chief Economist for the Department of Commerce chairs this group of alternates. Joseph W. Duncan, Director, Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards is the Executive Secretary of the Committee.

The membership of the Committee, as provided in the Executive order, is as follows:

- (1) The Secretary of Commerce, who shall be the Chairman
- (2) The Secretary of State
- (3) The Secretary of the Treasury
- (4) The Secretary of Defense
- (5) The Attorney General
- (6) The Secretary of the Interior
- (7) The Secretary of Agriculture
- (8) The Secretary of Labor
- (9) The Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare
- (10) The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development
- (11) The Secretary of Transportation
- (12) The Secretary of Energy
- (13) The Chairman, Council of Economic Advisers
- (14) The Director of the Office of Management and Budget
- (15) The Chairman, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve

The present members, alternates and technical representatives are noted on page 393. In addition, the Secretary of Commerce invites other agencies to participate in the work of the Committee if their functions are related to the subject matter under consideration.

### *Recent Activities of the Committee*

The recent activities of the Statistical Policy Coordination Committee have been concerned with: (1) requests from the President for advice, for example, on urban data; (2) standards development, for example, the proposed criteria for establishing standard metropolitan areas, and (3) policy decisions, for example, on family budget statistics and population projections. The Committee also provides policy guidance on statistical budgets and statistical coordination.

Interagency task forces have emerged as the vehicle for undertaking work of the Committee. The task forces will address the question of what statistical, analytical, and organizational designs are necessary for sufficient coordination to deal successfully with particular issues. During its first three months of operation, the Committee established task forces in three critical areas—urban data, population projections, and family budget statistics. The recent activities of the Committee are briefly described below.

*Urban Policy.*—The President has asked Secretary Kreps “to design an improved urban data and information system” as a part of the comprehensive urban policy. This work is being accomplished through the Urban Data Task Force. This task force is chaired by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Agencies represented on this task force include the Departments of Commerce; Health, Education, and Welfare; Housing and Urban Development; Justice; Labor; Transportation; Treasury; Interior, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

The first of several activities of the task force will be a two-phase development of a set of urban indicators. The first phase will be the identification of a set of urban concerns. The second phase will be to construct the indicators themselves by identifying specific key statistics that will indicate the status and progress being made on handling urban problems. In addition



to developing urban indicators, the task force will also undertake an assessment of data needs for State and local planning and evaluation, and will consider other urban data issues and bring them before the Committee.

*Standards Development.*—An example of the Committee's role in standards development is its review of the proposed criteria for establishing standard metropolitan areas. At its June 21, 1978 meeting, the Committee discussed the proposed revision in the criteria. These proposed criteria were prepared by the Federal Committee on Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas and circulated to the Committee for comment prior to the June meeting. They have also been published for public comment in the May 1978 issue of *Statistical Reporter*<sup>2</sup> and in the *Federal Register* for June 22, 1978. A hearing has also been held on July 20, 1978 as a means of obtaining further public comment on the proposed criteria were prepared by the Federal is in preparation by the Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards and the Federal Committee.

The Federal Committee on Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas is an interagency committee which was established to advise the Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards (and its predecessors) with respect to its responsibility for designating and defining standard metropolitan statistical areas (SMSA's). The SMSA is a statistical standard which was developed for use by Federal agencies in the presentation of data on metropolitan areas. These include data on population, industry and trade, employment and payroll, and local labor market analysis. In addition, many State and local governments and private research firms have found the SMSA concept useful for marketing, advertising and research.

For approximately the past year and a half, the Federal Committee on SMSA's has been reviewing the current criteria so as to consider any revisions in preparation for the 1980 census of population and housing. The proposed criteria do not represent a change in the basic concept of a metropolitan area, that is, a large concentration of dense urban development with strong internal commuting ties. The proposed

criteria represent a decision on the part of the SMSA Committee to tighten up the criteria for qualifying new standard metropolitan areas and for including contiguous counties in an area. Hence, the proposed criteria make it more difficult for a small city to acquire designation as a metropolitan statistical area and more difficult for sparsely settled contiguous counties to be added to the definition of a metropolitan statistical area. The proposed criteria would have the effect of dropping about 80 contiguous counties from existing SMSA's; (2) merging certain SMSA's with contiguous SMSA's; and (3) eliminating about a half-dozen of the smallest SMSA's. Under the grandfather clause in the criteria, other SMSA's would be subject to loss of SMSA designation after one more national census. In addition, the SMSA Committee has proposed a two-category classification of SMSA's—major metropolitan statistical areas and local metropolitan statistical areas—with the breaking point of 250,000 population.

At the June 21, 1978 meeting, the Statistical Policy Coordination Committee did not question the technical superiority of the proposed criteria. The Committee was concerned about the cost-benefit of the revision in the criteria, continuity of data, and the impact on program and administrative uses of the SMSA. The Coordination Committee will discuss the proposed criteria further after the public and government comments are considered by the Federal Committee on SMSA's.

*Population Projections.*—The Population Projections Task Force is addressing the question that has been raised regarding the practice of using Federal population projections as a basis for determining how Federal funds are allocated to local and regional areas. The Task Force is chaired by the Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards. The membership consists of the Departments of Commerce; Housing and Urban Development; Transportation; the Office of Management and Budget as well as the Environmental Protection Agency.

There are several points of view on the general issue. There are those who feel that mandating the use of specific substate population projections for funding formulae places the Federal Government in the position of determining, to some extent, local growth patterns. Others point out that orderly program management dictates the use of consistent statistics

<sup>2</sup>For further discussion, see "Standard Metropolitan Statistical Classification," *Statistical Reporter*, May 1978.

for Federal funding decisions. They point out that while the use of federally generated projections may in fact influence growth, locally generated projections tend to be self-serving.

The issue of Federal population projections is not merely a philosophical one. For example, recent Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations require the use of Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) projections of water needs as a partial basis of funding under the Clean Water Act Amendments. Other agencies are also involved because they have agreed to utilize the same population projections. The implications are great since a sizeable amount of Federal funding is involved.

*Family Budget Statistics.*—The Family Budget Statistics Task Force is considering several policy aspects of this question. The task force is chaired by the Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards. The Agency membership of this task force has not been determined yet.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Family Budgets are used as measures of geographic cost-of-living differences and as normative measures of adequacy. In addition to private and business uses of the geographic indexes and labor unions use of the intermediate budget for wage negotiations, policy uses of these data, particularly at the Federal level, continue to grow. As examples, The President originally proposed in his welfare reform plan to adjust welfare payments for geographic cost-of-living differences and the Emergency Jobs Bill of 1975 employs the lower budget level as an eligibility criterion.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics is planning a major revision of its Family Budget Statistics program. This task force will make recommendations to the Statistical Policy Coordination Committee concerning a number of issues relating to this revision. The Committee is then expected to make its recommendations available to a committee of experts which is being formed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics to advise on the Family Budget program. At a later stage the SPCC task force is expected to review the work of the BLS committee of experts and make further recommendations.

Among the questions that need to be addressed are the following:

1. How should the legislative requirements

for a budget at the level of adequacy be met?

2. How many normative or descriptive budgets should be developed at the national level? How should standards for the normative budget or the income levels for the descriptive budgets be arrived at?
3. Should local area budgets be developed which reflect differences in living costs in different areas of the country or should there be one national budget? If local budgets are required, should these budgets vary from the national budget for only interarea price and climate differences or should they reflect differences in consumption patterns?
4. Assuming budgets are adjusted for geographic differences in living cost, should local area budgets be developed for individual metropolitan areas or should generalized budgets be prepared which can be used for all places falling within a given size range within a region?
5. If a normative approach to local budgets is chosen in answer to the issues raised in 4, how should the price data needed for such budgets be specified with respect to the quality of each item and the outlets in which they are to be priced?
6. Should equivalent budgets be developed for different family types? How should the equivalent budgets be developed—by specification of complete baskets or income levels for each family type or through the development of some other approach?

#### *Other Issues*

The Committee has under consideration several other substantive issues which are briefly highlighted below.

*Review of Statistical Policy Directives.*—In accordance with the transfer of functions from the Office of Management and Budget to the Department of Commerce, new Department of Commerce Statistical Policy Directives replacing OMB Circulars Nos. A-39, A-46, A-65, and A-91 were published in the *Federal Register* on May 4, 1978.<sup>3</sup> The reissuance of these circulars

<sup>3</sup>For further discussion see *Federal Register*, Vol. 43, No. 87, Thursday, May 4, 1978 pp. 19260-19273, and also the *Statistical Policy Handbook*.

as Commerce Directives did not involve any changes in substance but the Statistical Policy Coordination Committee decided to review certain directives. Directive No. 4, Prompt Compilation and Release of Statistical Information, and Directive No. 5, Standard Reference Base Period for Federal Government General Purpose Index Numbers, are under review by the Committee.

With respect to Directive No. 4, the purpose of the change would be to eliminate ambiguities rather than alter basic policy. Several problems with the Directive were pointed out. These include (1) the ambiguities of language related to the time of press releases and other matters; (2) the Directives does not deal with single-time reports; and (3) there are repetitive annual reports in the social statistics area which are not presently covered.

*Review of Interagency Committees*—In presenting the subject to the Statistical Policy Coordination Committee, it was noted that several committees have been eliminated. These are the Interagency Committee on Mortgage Credit

Statistics, and the Interagency Committee on Pension Statistics.

*Federal Agency Council*.—The Committee indicated that the 1980 Federal Agency Council should be a standing committee. This would call for an amendment to the charter so as to eliminate "1980" from its name. A question was posed regarding the roles of the Committee and lead agencies organizing and leading inter-agency committees.

### *Conclusion*

The Statistical Policy Coordination Committee has under consideration several other topics of importance such as seasonal adjustment procedures, procedures for cataloging machine readable data files, and the implementation of recommendations from the Gross National Product Data Improvement Project. These topics will be reviewed by the Committee in the coming months. The Statistical Policy Coordination Committee will continue to report to the statistical community on these items and other matters of mutual interest.

## OFFICE OF FEDERAL STATISTICAL POLICY AND STANDARDS: HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The establishment of the Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards is the most recent in a series of efforts to coordinate Federal statistical activities:

*Interdepartmental Statistical Committee*—Established by Executive Order No. 937, September 10, 1908, it was composed of one member from each of ten agencies, designated by the President.

*Central Bureau of Planning and Statistics*—Established by the War Industries Board in 1918, it instituted measures to improve the efficiency and quality of data gathering activities, assembled statistics bearing on the war effort, prepared a catalog of government statistics, advised agencies on statistical methods, promoted adoption of standard definitions, and served as a clearing house of statistical information.

*Bureau of Efficiency*—In existence from 1916 to 1933, it was concerned with statistical coordination for only a brief period (1919–22).

*Federal Statistics Board*—Established in April 1931 to study the collection, compilation and use of statistics and to recommend economies and means for fuller utilization of statistics and statistical personnel.

*Central Statistical Board*—Established as an independent agency in 1933 to review plans for the tabulation and classification of statistics needed for purposes of the National Industrial Recovery Act and to promote the coordination and improvement of the statistical services involved. It was given a specific statutory mandate for a 5-year period by Public Law 219, July 25, 1935. Its functions and operating methods were basically similar to those now exercised by the Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards.

*Division of Statistical Standards*—Reorganization Plan I under the Reorganization Act of 1939 transferred the Central Statistical Board to the Bureau of the Budget, where it became the Division of Statistical Standards. The Federal Reports Act of 1942 broadened its scope to cover collection of information generally; made mandatory the review of questionnaires prior to issuance; and made explicit the responsibility of minimizing cost and burden on respondents; and maximizing the usefulness of statistics. In a reorganization of the Bureau in April 1952, the name of the Division was changed to Office of Statistical Standards.

*Statistical Policy Division*—Continuing earlier mandates but with broader responsibility for statistical policy, the Division was renamed the Office of Statistical Policy in 1969. A further internal reorganization of the Office of Management and Budget resulted in a name change to the Statistical Policy Division on November 15, 1971 to parallel other divisions with similar levels of responsibility.

*Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards*—Established in October 1977 by Executive Order No. 12013 which transferred certain statistical policy functions from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to the Secretary of Commerce.



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT  
OF COMMERCE AND THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET  
ON FEDERAL STATISTICAL POLICY MATTERS

In addition to the specifics of Executive Order No. 12013, the Department of Commerce and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) have agreed to the following procedures concerning Federal statistical policy issues.

1. *Budget.* The Secretary of Commerce will conduct an independent review of the statistical budgets submitted by the Executive Branch agencies. The Secretary will make recommendations to the Director of OMB based on these reviews. This will be accomplished by having the budget requests of the Bureau of the Census; the Bureau of Labor Statistics; the Economics, Statistics, and Cooperatives Service of the USDA; the Energy Information Administration of DOE; the National Center for Health Statistics; the National Center for Education Statistics; the Bureau of Economic Analysis; and any future Federal statistical agency forwarded, within three working days by the appropriate OMB Branch, to the Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards in the Department of Commerce (OFSPS) for review. Exhibits 54 of OMB Circular A-11, as received from all agencies required to submit the Exhibit, will also be forwarded to and reviewed by the OFSPS.

The OFSPS may participate in hearings held by OMB Branches and may require clarification or explanation of any budget request. The appropriate OMB Branch will notify representatives of OFSPS of such hearings. OMB will make requests for additional information on behalf of OFSPS, as required. This, of course, does not exclude OFSPS from holding meetings with the statistical agencies to discuss budget issues.

The OMB Assistant Director for Budget Review will notify OFSPS of the critical dates in the budget process, e.g., spring planning review, transmittal of policy letters, etc. OFSPS will respond to requests for recommendations on budget issues from OMB within a time frame deemed appropriate by both offices.

The OFSPS will be invited to attend any Director's Review, as appropriate, where important statistical policy issues are to be discussed.

2. *Legislative Review.* It is agreed that the Director of OMB shall seek the advice of the Secretary of Commerce on legislative proposals that involve statistical issues. This will be accomplished by having the Legislative Reference Division directly contact the OFSPS when, during their preliminary review pursuant to OMB Circular A-19, a statistical issue is identified. The OFSPS will contact the Legislative Reference Division if any such legislative proposals come to its attention from other sources.

3. *Program Planning Reviews.* The OFSPS will inform the appropriate examining units and the Regulatory Policy and Reports Management Division within OMB of any planning meetings on major statistical programs that have significant budgetary implications. The examiners and reviewers will be fully informed of any follow-up activity.

4. *Reports Clearance.* The Director of OMB will provide the Secretary of Commerce the opportunity to comment on individual reports clearance requests. To accomplish this, the OMB Clearance Office will forward a copy of each request to OFSPS. The OFSPS will be delegated responsibility for substantive review of all statistical surveys. For nonstatistical requests for clearance, the OFSPS will have ten (10) working days to determine if a significant statistical policy issue is involved. If such an issue is involved, OFSPS will directly contact the appropriate staff of the the Regulatory Policy and Reports Management Division to so indicate. This procedure is consistent with the "Guidelines for Reducing the Burden of Public Reporting to Federal Agencies" published by OMB on February 17, 1978.

Upon the request of the Regulatory Policy and Reports Management Division to the OFSPS, the Secretary of Commerce will provide the Director of OMB with technical

advice on statistical and statistical methodological aspects of requests for clearance. The OFSPS will attempt to furnish such advice within fifteen (15) working days. If this is not possible, the OFSPS will notify the appropriate staff and give an estimate of the time required to provide such advice.

5. *OMB Circulars.* Responsibility for requirements set forth in OMB Circulars A-39, A-46, A-65, and A-91, has been transferred to the Secretary of Commerce to be managed by the OFSPS.

6. *Interagency Committees.* The management of the interagency committees involving statistical issues is hereby transferred from OMB to OFSPS. Interagency committees include but are not limited to:

- Federal Agency Council on the 1980 Census
- Federal Committee on International Statistics
- Federal Committee on Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas
- Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology
- Federal Interagency Council on Energy Information
- Interagency Committee on Balance of Payments Statistics
- Interagency Committee on Commodity Classification
- Interagency Committee on Financial Statistics
- Interagency Committee on GNP Statistics
- Interagency Committee on Housing Statistics
- Interagency Committee on Income Distribution
- Interagency Committee on Labor Statistics
- Interagency Committee on Land Use Data

- Interagency Committee on Price Statistics
- Interagency Committee on Transportation Statistics

- Technical Committee on Industrial Classification

- Technical Committee on Occupational Classification

- Technical Committee on Standard Industrial Directory

7. *Reorganizations.* The Secretary of Commerce shall advise the Director of OMB on all matters concerning the organization or reorganization of agencies engaged in statistical programs. Such review and advice shall include, but not be limited to, major reorganization studies conducted by the President's Reorganization Project, OMB.

8. *Publications.* It is agreed that the Department of Commerce shall assume responsibility for the publication and distribution of a series of reports sponsored by the former Statistical Policy Division of OMB which are currently nearing completion. Those publications include: *The Report of the Gross National Product Data Improvement Project*, *Standard Occupational Classification Manual*, *The History of the U.S. Statistical System*, and *Social Indicators, 1976*.

9. *Statistical Reporter.* The Department of Commerce is responsible for the publication of the monthly *Statistical Reporter*.

JUANITA M. KREPS  
SECRETARY  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
AUGUST 8, 1978

JAMES T. McINTYRE, JR.  
DIRECTOR  
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AND BUDGET  
JULY 10, 1978

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# *Labstat*

## *The BLS Data Base and Information System*

BY RUDOLPH C. MENDELSSOHN

*Assistant Commissioner, Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor*

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) recently completed the first stage in building a very large data base of public statistics and an "Information System" that gives ready access to it through on-line computer terminals. The combined data base and system are called LABSTAT (for LABor STATistics).

### *Data Availability*

The data base of LABSTAT is divided into a number of separate subjects, such as the Consumer Price Index and the labor force employment and unemployment data. The amount of data in these subject files is usually measured according to the approximate number of different series—a discrete variable for which observations are available over regular time intervals, usually monthly.

For example, the number of 18- to 19-year old men in the labor force who are unemployed each month is a discrete variable, as is the monthly index measure of the wholesale price of electrical metallic tubing. Using this definition, the data base now includes about 62,000 series and, by the end of this year, will hold over 100,000 series comprising more than 10 million observations of economic events. Most series are monthly and are for the post-World War II years; some, however, go back to the first World War. All of these data are available to the public in print—where the volume is not too great—or on magnetic tape.

The principal subjects and number of time series are as follows:

Labor force ..... 30,000<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Projected for fall 1978; the current count for Labor Force is 3,250.

Nationwide data on industry employment, hours, and earnings .....	2,850
State and area industry employment, hours, and earnings .....	20,350
Industry labor turnover .....	1,250
Consumer Price Index .....	2,100
Producer Price Index .....	4,100
Industry-sector price index .....	900
Industry employment and wages covered by unemployment insurance laws .....	26,300 <sup>1</sup>
Unemployment and labor force—	
State and Area .....	24,200
Imports .....	700
Miscellaneous .....	2,000

Cross-sectional data, that is, information referring to only one time period, will also be included. The scope of cross-sectional files is less easily measured. One way might be to count the number of cells; for example, there are nearly a million in a file that shows number and percent of employees by industry and occupation for 1974.

Other BLS cross-section files include several Leontief-type input/output matrices of the U.S. economy, Occupational Wage data, Consumer Expenditures Surveys, and Occupational Safety and Health Statistics.

### *Keeping LABSTAT Data Current and Correct*

Up-to-the minute involvement in current affairs keeps LABSTAT fresh and viable through the use of systematic procedures for updating and correcting data. Over a quarter of a million



reports come to BLS each month from scientifically selected samples of factories, offices, shops, governmental agencies, and similar establishments (as well as households) throughout the country. Several hundred computer programs, forming separate computer systems for each statistical survey, shape these reports into summary (macro) data.

Data on current employment, hours and earnings, monthly statistics on the labor force, and consumer prices, for example, are poured into LABSTAT as the last step in the production process. At the same time, corrections and modifications to previously entered figures are made. Selected current data then are retrieved and formed into tables for reproduction in press releases and various Bureau periodicals and bulletins. Thus, the interaction between current production and the files of historical data in LABSTAT offers a direct connection between production and publication, without which the data base would not be properly maintained and the files of historical data would deteriorate.

The second element of LABSTAT, the information system, permits the retrieval and processing of stored time series data by using a variety of software systems which provide tabulation and statistical analysis facilities. Two retrieval methods are available. One method allows the Bureau to connect tools, such as Macro Data Language (MDL), which BLS acquired from the Federal Reserve Board, and a statistical analysis package directly to the data base. MDL is intended for use primarily at low-speed, typewriter-like terminals. It works in a conversational, interactive mode with the on-line LABSTAT data. The Macro Data Language offers the ability to retrieve and display data in simple tabular form and perform elementary statistical operations, such as moving averages and indexes.

The second LABSTAT retrieval method, known as Tailored Retrieval and Information Management (TRIM), offers the ability to retrieve a large volume of data in the batch mode and prepare it for input to systems and programs which perform complex statistical operations. Using TRIM, one is able to format data for input to a wide range of systems and programs, such as regression analysis, cross tabulation, seasonal adjustment, and comprehensive statistical operations.

LABSTAT's powerful table generating facility, Table Producing Language (TPL), is a computer system designed primarily to reduce the need for special computer programs that produce cross tabulations of micro data. However, TPL can be used to prepare a wide range of tables from LABSTAT macro data. TPL also offers the ability to calculate and display the results of simple computations, such as sums, ratios, and over-the-month changes.<sup>2</sup>

As mentioned earlier in connection with MDL, two multipurpose statistical analysis systems may also be used in conjunction with LABSTAT. These two systems—Statistical Analysis System (SAS) and Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS)—are typical of those found in universities and research environments. They are characterized by (1) a broad library of statistical operations, (2) a user-oriented language with limited or no encumbrance by computer science practices or terminology, and (3) the ability to reformat and restructure data files. Typically, the statistical programs included in these systems perform the following operations: analysis of variance, correlation and regression analysis, factor analysis, and scale analysis.

Several single-purpose statistical programs augment these analytical packages. Included among these programs are routines for seasonal adjustment of time series, regression analysis, and computer-drawn charts. In addition, users may bring their own programs to use with the system.

Because analytical systems and programs sometimes have their own special retrieval and transfer requirements for the arrangement of data that they will accept, the user must employ TRIM to retrieve and format data for electronic transfer to these programs and systems. However, three systems—TPL, MDL, and SAS—are bound directly to the LABSTAT data base in a way that eliminates the extra TRIM step. Users of these three systems need not concern themselves with retrieval or formatting as LABSTAT does this work for them automatically. In the long run, automatic retrieval and formatting will be extended to include most of the analytical tools serving the LABSTAT user.

<sup>2</sup>See Rudolph C. Mendelsohn, "Major Enhancements to Table Producing Language," *Statistical Reporter*, May 1978, pp. 280-282.

In addition to eliminating the formatting requirements, another proposed major enhancement will allow casual users to browse throughout the data base. Currently, the system requires an exact, coded identification for any data series to be retrieved and manipulated. This can mean a laborious search through the three-volume directory by users who do not know how the series codes are constructed, who are not closely associated with the systems that produce these data, or are not involved in their regular use.

The proposal is to provide an automated index to the attributes of the LABSTAT series to answer questions about data without the need to retrieve them and to provide English language synonyms for names and codes so that the system can accept less than exact descriptions and prompt the user for more information when the synonyms fail.

Periodically, the Bureau offers courses covering the background and use of the system. They consist of three half days of class room instruction and short practice sessions at keyboard terminals. Additional information about training opportunities is available from the Bureau's Division of Training (telephone 202-523-1028).

LABSTAT is located on computers belonging to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, Md., miles from the downtown Washington, D.C. location of BLS. Bureau staff communicates with the NIH computers through an array of remote terminals. Access to the National Institutes of Health machines is primarily for the support of NIH biomedical research and only secondarily for processing medical and

statistical data for other Federal agencies. BLS is working with the National Technical Information Service (NTIS) to give wider access to the LABSTAT data base and software by placing them on a commercial computer to cover those parts of the Federal Government not served by the NIH complex. This will have the important effect of also giving access to the non-Federal user in the general public. Consequently, in the near future, NTIS will announce availability of this service to all Federal officials and late this year or early 1979 the facility will be available to the general public. Questions regarding the timing of these announcements costs, training, and consultation services should be addressed to the Chief, Product and Program Management Division of the National Technical Information Service, U.S. Department of Commerce, Springfield, Va. 22161.

Several LABSTAT documents are available to assist users. There is a Data Contents Guide with survey-oriented chapters that describe the data, define the attributes and characteristics measured, and illustrate the coding techniques. There are several volumes of the Series Directory, listing each series by name and code as well as beginning dates and periodicity. Finally, there is a Users Guide. It describes the many programs which, together with the data base, form LABSTAT. The Users Guide also includes instructions on how to use some of these programs, such as MDL. For others, such as SAS, TPL, and the seasonal adjustment program, users are referred to the guides and instructions that are provided for the use of these tools in any environment.

## CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

### OFSPS ISSUES STATISTICAL POLICY HANDBOOK

The Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards has recently issued *Statistical Policy Handbook*. This *Handbook* provides a convenient source for Federal statistical Directives, information about interagency statistical committees, and publications of OFSPS.

The 19 Directives supersede OMB Circulars Nos. A-39, A-46, A-65, and A-91. These Directives are as follows:

- Directive No. 1. Standards for Statistical Surveys
- Directive No. 2. Standards for the Publication of Statistics
- Directive No. 3. Guidelines for the Release of Principal Federal Economic Indicators
- Directive No. 4. Prompt Compilation and Release of Statistical Information
- Directive No. 5. Standard Reference Base Period for Federal Government General-Purpose Index Numbers
- Directive No. 6. Standard Federal Administrative Regions
- Directive No. 7. Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas
- Directive No. 8. Standard Industrial Classification of Establishments
- Directive No. 9. Standard Industrial Classification of Enterprises
- Directive No. 10. Standard Occupational Classification
- Directive No. 11. Standard Data Source for Statistical Estimates of Labor Force and Unemployment
- Directive No. 12. Standard Definition of Payroll Periods for Employment Reports
- Directive No. 13. Standard Data Source of Total Population Used in Distributing Federal Benefits
- Directive No. 14. Definition of Poverty for Statistical Purposes
- Directive No. 15. Race and Ethnic Standards for Federal Statistics Administrative Reporting
- Directive No. 16. Standard Classification of Fields of Science and Engineering
- Directive No. 17. Standard Gas Pressure Base
- Directive No. 18. Providing of Statistical Information to International Organizations
- Directive No. 19. Reports of the Department of Commerce on International Transactions

The *Handbook* also contains information on the purpose, membership, and activities of the interagency statistical committees. These Committees include:

- Statistical Policy Coordination Committee
- Federal Council on Statistical Plans and Programs
- Interagency Committee on Balance of Payments Statistics
- Technical Committee on Business Conditions Digest
- Federal Council on the 1980 Census
- Commodity and Industry Classification Coordination Committee
- Industrial Directory Committee
- Occupational Classification Committee
- Technical Committee on Industrial Classification Subcommittee on Economic Statistics
- Education Data Acquisition Council
- Federal Interagency Council on Energy Information
- Task Force on Environmental Data and Monitoring
- Interagency Committee on Financial Statistics
- Interagency Committee on Foreign Investment Statistics
- Health Data Policy Committee
- Interagency Committee on Housing Statistics

Interagency Committee on Income and Wealth  
Distribution Statistics  
Federal Committee on International Statistics  
Interagency Committee on Labor Statistics  
Interagency Committee on Land Use Data  
Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology  
Federal Committee on Standard Metropolitan  
Statistical Areas  
Interagency Committee on Price Statistics  
Interagency Committee on Transportation  
Statistics

Appendix A of the *Handbook* contains the text of the laws and Executive orders pertaining to Federal Statistics. Appendix B contains brief descriptions of the publications issued by OFSPS as well as ordering information. Appendix C contains the titles and definitions of the standard metropolitan statistical areas.

A limited distribution of the *Handbook* to Federal Departments and agencies has been made. Federal agencies wishing additional copies should send a written request to Suzann Evinger, Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C. 20230.

The *Statistical Policy Handbook* is also for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, for \$2.50 a copy, Stock Number 003-005-00179-4. (SUZANN K. EVINGER, OFFICE OF FEDERAL STATISTICAL POLICY AND STANDARDS, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, telephone (202) 673-7965.)

#### STATISTICAL POLICY WORKING PAPERS AVAILABLE

*Statistical Policy Working Papers 1 and 2*, which were recently issued by the Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards, are now available for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. These working papers were featured in the April 1978 and June 1978 issues of *Statistical Reporter* respectively. The GPO ordering information is as follows:

*Statistical Policy Working Paper 1, Report on Statistics for Allocation of Funds*, GPO Stock No. 003-005-00178-6, \$2.40 a copy.

*Statistical Policy Working Paper 2, Report on Statistical Disclosure and Disclosure-Avoidance Techniques*, GPO Stock No. 003-005-00177-8, \$2.40 a copy.

(SUZANN K. EVINGER, OFFICE OF FEDERAL STATISTICAL POLICY AND STANDARDS, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, telephone (202) 673-7965.)

#### FRB CONSUMER CREDIT SURVEY EXTENDED

The Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System has approved the extension of its monthly survey of consumer credit at commercial banks. At the same time the Board approved a number of changes in the report (F.R. 571—Commercial Bank Report of Consumer Credit) designed to reduce substantially the reporting burden on banks while retaining the major aspects of the analytical usefulness of the information gathered.

The revisions were in large part necessitated by the fact that distinctions among certain types of consumer credit are becoming blurred by changing market practices. The revisions will include elimination of reporting of the number of loans made by the reporting banks for automobile and mobile homes and data for new and used automobiles loans, plus consolidation of check credit and credit card figures. The reporting panel of banks will be reduced to 298 from 567.

The title of the report, as revised, will be "Commercial Bank Report of Consumer Instalment Credit," reflecting elimination of the only item in the report before revision that did not involve instalment credit. The number of the report will change from F.R. 571 to F.R. 2571. The new form will be used first for the October report. (JAMES A. PFLUEGER, DIVISION OF RESEARCH AND STATISTICS, FEDERAL RESERVE BOARD, telephone (202) 452-2458.)

#### HIRED FARM WORKING FORCE, 1976

The 1976 Hired Farm Working Force Survey, conducted by the Bureau of the Census in December 1976, and reported and analysed in this report, indicates that 2.8 million persons 14 years of age and over did hired farmwork sometime during the year. The workers were predominately young (60% under 25 years) and male (75%). The majority (75%) were White, 11% were Hispanic, and 14% were Blacks and Others. The median education of workers 25 years and older was 10.1 years. Annual earnings in 1976 of all hired farmworkers averaged \$2,860; \$1,651 was earned for an average 86 days of hired farmwork; the remainder came

from nonfarm employment. Approximately 213,000 persons (8% of the work force) were migrants in 1976.

Copies of *The Hired Farm Working Force of 1976*, Agricultural Economic Report No. 405, may be obtained from Leslie Whitener Smith or Gene Rowe. (LESLIE WHITENER SMITH, telephone (202) 447-8911 or GENE ROWE, telephone (202) 447-8076, ECONOMICS, STATISTICS, AND COOPERATIVES SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.)

#### 1976 ESTIMATES OF ELDERLY POPULATION BY COUNTY

The National Clearinghouse on Aging is making available for general release estimates of the population 60 years old and over and 65 years old and over for each county in the United States as of July 1, 1976. The estimates are presented in a series of tables, one for each State. The tables also show the 1970 census counts for these age groups and the amount and rate of change between 1970 and 1976. The tables are contained in a report entitled *The Elderly Population: Estimates by County, 1976*.

In addition to estimates for each State and county, subtotals are shown for approximately 600 Planning and Service Areas (PSA's). With minor exceptions, PSA's consist of single counties or groups of counties and cover the entire Nation. These PSA's were designated by State offices on aging and are intended to serve as target areas for a national network of area agencies on aging, whose function is the development of a system of comprehensive coordinated services for the older population.

Two additional tables were also prepared. One is a summary table providing similar data for the United States and each Federal region, State, and PSA. Subtotals for the metropolitan and nonmetropolitan populations of the United States and each State are shown. The second is an analytical table that provides similar data for aggregates of PSA's classified by (1) size of total population and (2) percent of total population residing in metropolitan counties.

Free copies of the report, *The Elderly Population: Estimates by County, 1976*, DHEW Publication No. (OHDS) 78-20248, may be obtained by writing to: National Clearinghouse on Aging, Administration on Aging, Washington, DC

20201. (DONALD G. FOWLES, ADMINISTRATION ON AGING, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE, telephone (202) 245-0768.)

#### EFFECTS OF DISABILITY ON EARNINGS

In a recently published staff paper, *The Effects of Disability on Lifetime Earnings*, the Social Security Administration explores the extent of loss in earnings capacity due to disability. The author uses a life-cycle model of human capital to determine earnings. Net accumulation or depreciation of human capital is measured for the formal schooling, predisability experience, and postdisability experience stages of the life cycle of white male workers. Results show lower potential earnings for the sample of disabled workers as well as lower returns to schooling and predisability experience. Only vocational training as a form of human capital investment decidedly favors the disabled, especially those disabled workers who have not finished high school.

Single copies of *The Effects of Disability on Lifetime Earnings* (Staff Paper No. 30, HEW Publication No. (SSA) 78-11850) are available from the Publications Staff, Office of Research and Statistics, Social Security Administration, 1875 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009, telephone (202) 673-5209. (ROBERT E. ROBINSON, SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE, telephone (202) 673-5209.)

#### SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFICIARIES RESIDING ABROAD

The Office of Research and Statistics, Social Security Administration has recently released a report that highlights changes in the foreign beneficiary population during recent years. The report *Social Security Beneficiaries Residing Abroad 1976* contains data on the number of beneficiaries, amount of benefits, citizenship status, country of birth of the beneficiary, and several other characteristics.

Single copies of *Social Security Beneficiaries Residing Abroad 1976* (HEW Publication No. (SSA) 78-11946) are available from the Publications Staff, Office of Research and Statistics, Social Security Administration, Room 1120, Universal North Building, 1875 Connecticut Ave., NW., Washington, D.C. 20009. (ROBERT E. ROBINSON, SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION,



#### INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX RETURNS FOR 1975

The Internal Revenue Service has released *Statistics of Income—1975, Individual Income Tax Returns*. The statistics in the report are based on a sample selected from the 82.2 million returns filed by taxpayers during calendar year 1976.

Statistics are presented on sources of taxpayers' income, exemptions, deductions, taxable income, and income tax liability classified by size of taxpayers' adjusted gross income (AGI). Data by income size are also classified by marital status of taxpayers, taxable and nontaxable returns, taxpayers age 65 or over, and by State.

As required under section 2123 of the Tax Reform Act of 1976, the new publication provides data on returns with AGI of \$200,000 or more classified by size of AGI, and by three new income concepts as defined in the 1976 Act. In addition, the report contains 1975 data for the earned income, personal exemption, and purchase of new principal residence credits, and the deduction for individual retirement accounts.

Also shown in the report is information on the computation of income tax, including income averaging and minimum, maximum, and alternative tax, as well as tax payments, overpayments, and balance due.

This 237-page IRS Publication 79 may be purchased for \$4.50 from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. (JACK BLACKSIN, INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY, telephone (202) 376-0155.)

#### INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX RETURNS FOR 1976

The Internal Revenue Service has released the *Preliminary Report, Statistics of Income—1976, Individual Income Tax Returns*. The new report is based on a sample drawn from the 84 million individual income tax returns filed for tax year 1976.

Statistics are presented on sources of income, deductions, exemptions, and income tax by size of taxpayer's adjusted gross income (AGI) for the Nation. Totals are included for each State. In addition, the report shows preliminary data on such new items on the 1976 returns as the child care and general tax credits, and the more

liberal "credit for the elderly," which replaced the retirement income credit.

While the publication includes some statistics on high-income returns with AGI of \$200,000 or more, a detailed analysis of high-income returns, including reasons for nontaxability, is contained in a report to be issued later this year by the Treasury's Office of Tax Analysis.

Copies of the new 35-page IRS Publication 198 may be purchased for \$1.40 from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. (JACK BLACKSIN, INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY, telephone (202) 376-0155.)

#### BUSINESS INCOME TAX RETURNS, 1975

The Internal Revenue Service has recently released the complete report, *Statistics of Income—1975, Business Income Tax Returns* with accounting periods ended July 1975 through June 1976. The report presents financial data from the returns of sole proprietorships and partnerships. Data are classified by industry and size of business receipts. State data for both sole proprietorships and partnerships are shown.

Special topics in the report include sole proprietors classified by size of adjusted gross income and also by size of business net income. In addition, selected income and expense items are shown for farm proprietorships. In the partnership area, special topics covered include year of organization, balance sheet data, and partnership payments to retirement plans for employees or partners.

Copies of the 358-page report may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, for \$5.50 a copy. (JOHN DiPAOLO, STATISTICS DIVISION, INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE, telephone (202) 376-0151.)

#### 1977 BUSINESS STATISTICS

The twenty-first in a series of biennial volumes of *Business Statistics* has been released by the Bureau of Economic Analysis of the Department of Commerce.

*Business Statistics 1977* provides historical data for the 2500 series appearing in the *Survey of Current Business*, the monthly journal of the Bureau of Economic Analysis. In addition to data on the national income and product ac-

counts, the volume covers plant and equipment expenditures, U.S. international transactions, business sales, inventories and orders, prices, employment and unemployment, construction, banking and finance, foreign trade, transportation, commodities, and industries. It includes explanatory notes which define terms, give sources of data, and describe methods of compilation.

*Business Statistics 1977* (376 pages) is available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, for \$6.25 a copy Stock No. 003-010-00059-7. (LEO V. BARRY, JR., BUREAU OF ECONOMIC ANALYSIS, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, telephone (202) 523-0769.)

#### RECENT NSF REPORTS

The National Science Foundation has recently released the following reports which are briefly described below.

*Reviews of Data on Science Resources*, No. 32, "Employment Patterns of Recent Entrants Into Science and Engineering" (NSF 78-310). This report presents the results of an examination of baccalaureate- and master's-degree recipients in science and engineering from the 1974 and 1975 graduating classes. These data have been analyzed with respect to postgraduate student status, entrance into the labor force, and success in gaining employment in 1976. Selected employment characteristics are shown by field of science and sex.

Copies of the report are available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 for \$0.80 per copy, Stock Number 038-000-00380-1.

*Detailed Statistical Tables* have also been issued for *Expenditures for Scientific Activities at Universities and Colleges, Fiscal Year 1977* (NSF 78-311) and *Federal Funds for Research and Development, Fiscal Years 1977, 1978, and 1979, Volume XXVII* (NSF 78-312). Copies of these tables are available gratis upon request from the Division of Science Resources Studies, National Science Foundation, 1800 G Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20550. (CHARLES E. FALK, DIVISION OF SCIENCE RESOURCES STUDIES, NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION, 202-634-4622.)

#### NEW ASA FELLOWS—1978

The following Federal Government statisticians were among the 18 named as "Fellows of the American Statistical Association" in a ceremony on August 15, 1978 at the Association's annual meeting held this year in San Diego, California.

ALLAN H. YOUNG, Deputy Director, Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce; for major contributions to improvements in the U.S. national income and product accounts, particularly in the application of economic and statistical theory to improving the reliability and analytical usefulness of the estimates in the accounts.

DUDLEY E. YOUNG, Assistant Commissioner, Bureau of Labor Statistics; for creative and effective management of the local area unemployment statistics program for States, areas and small geo-political units used in the allocation of \$17 billion in Federal funds, and for outstanding contributions to the development of the Federal/State cooperative statistical system over several decades.

#### WORLD ENERGY SUPPLIES, 1972-1976

The United Nations Statistical Office has recently released *World Energy Supplies, 1972-1976*. This is the twenty-first in an annual internationally comparable series on energy, summarizing world energy trends. It presents preliminary data on the production of primary fossil fuels (hard coal, lignite and brown coal, peat for fuel, crude petroleum, natural gas liquids and natural gas) for 1977, as well as a table on the production and trade of fuelwood and charcoal. It updates and enlarges upon the statistical series shown in previous volumes on a consistent and internally comparable time series, which is drawn from a computer-processed data file. The study covers the principal elements of production, import, export, bunkers, stock change and apparent consumption of solid fuels, petroleum and its secondary energy and non-energy refined products, gases (both natural and manufactured) and electricity (differentiated by thermal, hydro, geothermal and nuclear) for 192 countries and areas. Separate data on end-of-year capacity figures for industrial and public electric generating plants and crude petroleum refineries, as well as production of enriched uranium, are also shown.

In addition, four tables in matrix form present international trade flows in hard coal, crude petroleum, natural gas and electricity between principal exporting and importing countries and regions. This publication is a useful reference for economic energy forecasting.

Copies of *World Energy Supplies, 1972-1976*

(Statistical Papers, Series J, No. 21, xxviii + 233 pp., UN Sales No. E.78.XVII.7, \$14.00) may be purchased from the Sales Section, United Nations, New York, New York 10017. Government agencies should request the discount to which they are entitled, as it is not automatically given.

## PERSONNEL NOTES

### BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

*Division of Research and Statistics:* ALFRED NORMAN, Professor of economics at the University of Texas, has joined

the Board's staff for one year as a visiting professor in the Special Studies Section. THOMAS BRADY, formerly an official with the Bank of Canada, has joined the Board's staff as an economist in the Banking Section.

# SCHEDULE OF RELEASE DATES FOR PRINCIPAL FEDERAL ECONOMIC INDICATORS

*October 1978*

Release dates scheduled by agencies responsible for the principal economic indicators of the Federal Government are given below. *These are target dates* that will be met in the majority of cases. *Occasionally agencies may be able to release data a day or so earlier or may be forced by unavoidable compilation problems to release a report one or more days later.*

month covering release dates for the following month. The indicators are identified by the title of the releases in which they are included; the source agency; the release identification number where applicable; and the *Business Conditions Digest* series numbers for all BCD series included, shown in parentheses. Release date information for additional series can be found in publications of the sponsoring agencies.

A similar schedule will be shown here each

(Any inquiries about these series should be directed to the issuing agency.)

<i>Date</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Data For</i>
October 2	Construction Expenditures (Press release), Census, C-30 (69) .....	August
3	Open Market Money Rates and Bond Prices, FRB, G.13 .....	September
4	Condition Report of Large Commercial Banks, Federal Reserve Board (FRB), H.4.2 (72, 112) .....	Week Ending September 27
5	Money Stock Measures, FRB, H.6 (85, 102, 107, 108) .....	Week Ending September 27
5	Factors Affecting Bank Reserves and Condition Statement of Federal Reserve Banks, FRB, H.4.1 (93, 94) .....	Week Ending October 4
5	Producer Price Indexes (Press release), Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) (330-334) ...	September
5	Consumer Credit, FRB, G.19 (66, 113) .....	August
6	The Employment Situation (Press release), BLS (1, 3, 21, 37, 40-44, 91, 340, 442, 444-448, 451-452) .....	September
10	Manufacturers' Export Sales and Orders, Census, M4-A .....	September
10	Advance Monthly Retail Sales (Press Release), Census (54) .....	September
11	Crop Production, Agriculture .....	October 1



<i>Date</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Data For</i>
October 11	Monthly Wholesale Trade (Press release), Census, BW .....	August
11	Condition Report of Large Commercial Banks, FRB, H.4.2 (72, 112) .....	Week Ending October 4
12	Money Stock Measures, FRB, H.6 (85, 102, 107, 108) .....	Week Ending October 4
12	Factors Affecting Bank Reserves and Condition Statement of Federal Reserve Banks (FRB), H.4.1 (93, 94) .....	Week Ending October 11
12	Supply Demand Estimates, Agriculture .....	Current Marketing Season
16	Food Assistance Program Results, Agriculture .....	August
16	Industrial Production and Related Data, FRB, G.12.3 (47, 73-76) .....	September
16	Manufacturing and Trade: Inventories and Sales, BEA (31, 56, 71) .....	August
17	Yields on FHA Insured New Home 30-Year Mortgages, HUD (118) .....	October 1
18	Personal Income, BEA (223) .....	September
18	Housing Starts (Press release), Census, C-20 (28, 29) .....	September
18	Cattle on Feed, Agriculture .....	3 Q '78
18	Output, Capacity, and Capacity Utilization FRB, G.3 (82, 84) .....	September
18	Condition Report of Large Commercial Banks, FRB, H.4.2 (72, 112) .....	Week Ending October 11
19	Money Stock Measures, FRB, H.6 (85, 102, 107, 108) .....	Week Ending October 11
19	Factors Affecting Bank Reserves and Condition Statement of Federal Reserve Banks, FRB, H.4.1 .....	Week Ending October 18
20	Gross National Product (Preliminary), BEA (200, 205, 210) .....	3 Q '78
23	Grain Stock Report, Agriculture .....	October 1
24	Supply Demand Estimates, Agriculture .....	Current Marketing Season
24	Advance Report on Durable Goods, Manufacturers Shipments and Orders (Press release), Census, M3-1, (6, 24, 25, 96, 548) .....	September
25	Average Yields of Long-Term Bonds, Treasury Bulletin (115, 116) .....	August
25	Condition Report of Large Commercial Banks, FRB, H.4.2 (72, 112) .....	Week Ending October 18
26	Money Stock Measures, FRB, H.6 (85, 102, 107, 108) .....	Week Ending October 18

<i>Date</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Data For</i>
October 26	Factors Affecting Bank Reserves and Condition Statement of Federal Reserve Banks, FRB, H.4.1 (93, 94) .....	Week Ending October 25
26	Consumer Price Index (Press release), BLS (320-322) .....	September
26	Real Earnings (Press release), BLS (341) .....	September
27	Housing Vacancies (Press release), Census, H-111 .....	3 Q '78
27	Export and Import Merchandise Trade, Census, FT-900 (602, 612) .....	September
30	Labor Turnover in Manufacturing (Press release), BLS (2, 3, 4) .....	September
30	Merchandise Trade, Balance of Payments Basis (BEA) (618, 620) .....	3 Q '78
30	Work Stoppages (Press release), BLS .....	September
31	Composite Indexes of Leading, Coincident, and Lagging Indicators (Press release), BEA .....	September
31	Agricultural Prices, Agriculture .....	Mid-October

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Price: 85 cents (single copy). Subscription Price: \$9.70 domestic postpaid; \$3.30 additional foreign mailing.

# NEW OCCUPATIONAL INFORMATION TOOLS

## Standard Occupational Classification Manual 1977

The first issue of the *Standard Occupational Classification Manual (SOC)*, has been published by the Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards. This standard provides a statistical classification system for occupations that should make statistics compiled by different agencies much more comparable, as the Standard Industrial Classification does for industries. The 360-page Manual was developed to fill the need for a standard classification to be used in Federal and other programs in which occupa-

tional data were collected.

The SOC, with over 600 occupational groups, is not expected to meet all the needs of all agencies but rather it is intended to be used as the framework which all surveys should use to provide comparability at some level with other occupational statistics.

The SOC can be related to *Dictionary of Occupational Titles*, which was developed primarily for job placement and job analysis. (See below.)

## Dictionary of Occupational Titles, Fourth Edition

The 1977 edition of the *Dictionary of Occupational Titles (DOT)* which contains information on approximately 20,000 occupations found in the U.S. economy, has just been published by the Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. This is the fourth edition since it was first issued in 1939. Other editions were published in 1949 and 1965.

The DOT is used for classifying job applications and job orders, making referrals, assessing

worker transferability into related jobs, or relocating workers displaced by technological change. The changes in the new edition are aimed at providing a broader base for those uses.

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