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## CONTENTS

- 77 SOCIAL INDICATORS 1976
- 85 CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS
- 85 NCES/CPB Report on School TV  
Utilization Study, 1977
- 85 NCES Reports on Enrollments in  
Institutions of Higher Education
- 86 New Report on the NCES National  
Longitudinal Study
- 87 NCES Analyses Show Rapid Increases in  
Women's Participation in  
First-Professional Degree Programs
- 87 Dollars for Health Research and  
Development, 1968-1975
- 88 Minorities and Women in Private  
Industry, 1975
- 88 Minority and Female Membership in  
Referral Unions, 1974
- 89 Four New Social Security Bulletin  
Reports
- 90 School Property Accounting
- 90 Handbook of Cyclical Indicators
- 90 Bibliography of Census Bureau  
Methodological Research
- 91 Recent UN Statistical Office Publications
- 93 SCHEDULE OF RELEASE DATES FOR  
PRINCIPAL FEDERAL ECONOMIC  
INDICATORS
- 95 PERSONNEL NOTES

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# *Social Indicators 1976*

DENIS F. JOHNSTON

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*Social Indicators 1976* is now scheduled for publication by the Government Printing Office in late December, 1977. It is the second report of its kind to be issued by the United States. It is being issued by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards and the Bureau of the Census. The general format of the report is similar to that of its predecessor, *Social Indicators 1973*. It again features the graphic presentation, in color, the summary descriptive statistics relating to the socioeconomic characteristics of the population of the United States, with limited geographic detail but with extensive disaggregation by age, sex, race, and other variables.

*Social Indicators 1976* is considerably larger than its predecessor—its coverage was expanded from 8 to 12 chapters and from 165 to 374 charts. The report totals 646 pages, as compared with 272 for *Social Indicators 1973*. The contents of each chapter are presented in three parts: text and charts, statistical tables, and technical notes. The text and charts are further subdivided into sections in accordance with the main topics covered, as follows:

## Introduction

- I. Ethnic Diversity of the Population
- II. Public Perceptions
- III. International Comparisons
- IV. Selected Maps

## I. Population

- I. Population Growth
- II. Population Distribution
- III. Public Perceptions
- IV. International Comparisons

## 2. The Family

- I. Trends in Family Size and Composition
- II. Living Arrangements
- III. Family Stability
- IV. Public Perceptions
- V. International Comparisons

## 3. Housing

- I. Housing Inventory and Facilities
- II. Trends in Housing Demand
- III. Public Perceptions
- IV. International Comparisons

## 4. Social Security and Welfare

- I. Program Developments
- II. Protection Provided
- III. Public Perceptions
- IV. International Comparisons

## 5. Health and Nutrition

- I. Mortality
- II. Disability
- III. Other Health Indicators
- IV. Nutrition
- V. Public Perceptions
- VI. International Comparisons

## 6. Public Safety

- I. Uniform Crime Reports
- II. Criminal Victimization
- III. Social Responses
- IV. Public Perceptions
- V. International Comparisons

## 7. Education and Training

- I. Enrollment and Attainment
- II. Achievement
- III. Adult Education and Training
- IV. Public Perceptions
- V. International Comparisons

## 8. Work

- I. Economic Activity and Employment
- II. Unemployment
- III. The Conditions and Quality of Work
- IV. Public Perceptions
- V. International Comparisons

## 9. Income, Wealth and Expenditures

- I. Level of Income
- II. Measures of Wealth
- III. Measures of Poverty

- IV. Measures of Expenditures
  - V. Public Perceptions
  - VI. International Comparisons
- 10. Culture, Leisure and Use of Time
  - I. Use of Time
  - II. Recreation and Leisure
  - III. Culture
  - IV. Public Perceptions
  - V. International Comparisons
- 11. Social Mobility and Participation
  - I. Social Mobility
  - II. Social Participation
  - III. Public Perceptions
  - IV. International Comparisons

*Social Indicators 1976* contains several new features. First, the introductory chapter provides selected socioeconomic data relating to a number of ethnic groups, drawn largely from the results of the past three decennial censuses of population. Also included here is a selection of maps showing the geographic distribution of similar data for the country as a whole. The introduction also provides some guidelines on the use of the report together with a brief discussion of the quality of the data presented and a listing of selected references to general works in the field of social indicators, including other national reports of this type. Second, a few "public perception" items are included in the penultimate section of each chapter. The bulk of these items were selected from the 1972 to 1976 General Social Surveys conducted by the National Opinion Research Center of the University of Chicago. Third, a selection of data relating to different countries is included in the final section of each chapter. Finally, a subject index is provided at the end of the report to facilitate location of items of related interest appearing in different chapters or sections.

The brief text that introduces each chapter serves merely to call attention to some of the highlights of the data presented; no interpretative analysis of these data has been attempted. Readers of the report are urged to consult the January 1978 issue of *The Annals* (Volume 435), entitled "America in the Seventies: Some Social Indicators." The entire issue is devoted to a number of essays based upon individual chapters of *Social Indicators 1976* or on related topics.<sup>1</sup>

### Acknowledgments

The initial planning and organization of the report benefited greatly from the advice and counsel of the Office of Management and Budget Advisory Committee on Social Indicators. The following persons served on this Committee: *Conrad Taeuber*, Georgetown University (Chair); *John H. Aiken*, Federal Statistics Users' Conference; *Daniel Bell*, Harvard University; *Albert D. Biderman*, Bureau of Social Science Research; *Angus Campbell*, University of Michigan; *David Christian*, formerly Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD); *Otis Dudley Duncan*, University of Arizona; *Jack Elinson*, Columbia University; *Abbott L. Ferriss*, Emory University; *Lloyd A. Free*, Institute for International Social Research; *Harvey A. Garn*, The Urban Institute; *David A. Goslin*, National Academy of Sciences; *Robert B. Hill*, National Urban League; *F. Thomas Juster*, University of Michigan; *Ida C. Merriam*, formerly Social Security Administration, DHEW; *Graham T. T. Molitor*, General Mills, Inc.; *Milton Moss*, National Bureau of Economic Research; *Daniel P. Moynihan*, formerly Harvard University; *Roberto Olivas*, formerly National Council of La Raza; *Robert Parke*, Social Science Research Council; *Nestor E. Terleckyj*, National Planning Association; *Daniel B. Tunstall*, formerly Statistical Policy Division, OMB; *Ralph R. Widner*, Academy for Contemporary Problems; *Willard W. Wirtz*, National Manpower Institute; and *Marvin E. Wolfgang*, University of Pennsylvania.

The bulk of the data included in the report was provided with the assistance and cooperation of the members of the Federal Interagency Committee on Social Indicators, chaired by the author. The following persons served on this Committee: *Jack Blacksin*, U.S. Department of the Treasury; *Arnold H. Diamond* and *Harold Goldblatt*, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; *Jacob J. Feldman*, *Walton J. Francis*, *Iris Garfield*, the late *Alfred M. Skolnik*

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<sup>1</sup> Dr. Conrad Taeuber is the special editor for this issue. Copies of the issue may be ordered from *The Annals* of the Academy of Political and Social Science, 3937 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104, at \$6.00 a copy (paper) or \$7.50 (cloth cover).

and *Gooloo Wunderlich*, U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare; *Max Jordan*, U.S. Department of Agriculture; *Sue Lindgren* and *Paul Zolbe*, U.S. Department of Justice; *Meyer Zitter*, U.S. Department of Commerce; *Robert L. Stein*, U.S. Department of Labor; and *C. Louis Kincannon*, Office of Management and Budget. Members of this Committee also reviewed drafts of the individual chapters for which they provided much of the data.

The report was prepared by the author with the assistance of *Tobia Bressler* and *Marian A. Altman* of the Bureau of the Census. This work was carried out in the Statistical Policy Division, Office of Management and Budget (now reorganized as the Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards, U.S. Department of Commerce), under the direction of *Joseph W. Duncan*, Deputy Associate Director for Statistical Policy, OMB and *George E. Hall*, Chief, Social Statistics Branch, SPD/OMB. Editorial and Graphics services were provided by the Publications Services Division, Bureau of the Census. The editing and final preparation of the report for printing was supervised by *C. Maureen Padgett* and the preparation of the graphics was supervised by *Nicholas Prestakes* with the assistance of *Robert C. Hernick*.

Many other persons, both in and out of the Federal Government, submitted additional data or offered useful suggestions. Some of these were duly incorporated, but many more were not included because of time and resource constraints. The interest of all these individuals in trying to make this a better report is gratefully acknowledged.

### *Organization of the Report*

Eleven major social areas are examined in separate chapters of the report. Within each of these, certain topics of broad social interest—social concerns—have been identified and treated in separate sections. All of these concerns relate, directly or indirectly, to the quality of our lives. In order to reveal these relationships, the concerns that have been identified in each of the broad social areas are represented by selected statistics or statistical measures—social indicators—that describe the general status of the population with respect to certain aspects of each concern. Where these indicators

are available in the form of time series of observations, they also reflect trends in the particular characteristic or condition, so that the reader can gauge the direction of major social changes or developments. Some of these time series are also extended into the future as projections of possible developments under stated assumptions.<sup>2</sup>

The bulk of the indicators shown in this report are descriptive statistics that were selected because they are believed to reflect significant aspects of the social concerns they represent. Because they are descriptive, they do not by themselves provide explanations of why or how the conditions they reflect have come about. Even less do they offer definitive guidelines as to the policies whereby current conditions might be improved. In recognizing the limitations of descriptive data, it is important also to recognize their vital role in providing a factual background against which the theories and explanations of the experts may be compared. The data presented in this report are likely to provoke contradictory interpretations and they may indeed raise more questions than they answer, but they also provide a broad perspective on the areas they cover, so that the questions raised (and the answers offered) may be better informed.

Three broad types of indicators may be distinguished in the report: indicators of system performance (e.g., per capita public expenditures on specified health or welfare programs), indicators of well-being (e.g., median income of specified population groups), and indicators of public perceptions (e.g., measures of public attitudes toward specified areas of concern). The report focuses on indicators of well-being and of public perceptions and thereby employs the same two criteria that governed the choice of indicators in *Social Indicators 1973*: (1) the indicators should measure individual or family well-being and (2) they should reflect results or outcomes rather than inputs of resources.

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<sup>2</sup> On the potential uses and limitations of social indicators in the preparation of forecasts and projections, see the author's "Social Forecasting Methods and Social Indicators," in Jib Fowles (ed.), *Handbook of Futures Research* (Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1978).

With these general comments aside, it may be useful to summarize our attempts to cope with some of the problems that are commonly encountered in preparing reports of this kind. These remarks relate to 12 problem areas.<sup>3</sup>

(1) *Conceptual Organization.*—Those who follow social indicator developments are aware of a number of attempts to develop general organizational frameworks for handling the diverse subject matter to be included in any report of this kind. The organizational structure we adopted is oriented toward broad areas of social concern as these have evolved through the ongoing efforts of the OECD Working Party on Social Indicators.<sup>4</sup> This development effort seeks to specify indicators for nine major concern areas (or goal areas): Health, Individual Development through Learning, Employment and Quality of Working Life, Time and Leisure, Personal Economic Situation, Physical Environment, Social Environment, Personal Safety and the Administration of Justice, and Social Opportunity and Participation. This report covers eight of these nine areas in varying degree; only the area of the physical environment is omitted completely.<sup>5</sup>

It is probably axiomatic that any principle of organization designed to present some comprehensive set of social indicators leads to boundary problems in handling crosscutting phenomena and to some danger of reification of categories. The chapter organization used in *Social Indicators 1976* accords reasonably well with long-established functional components of our society and enjoys the pragmatic advantage that it also corresponds substantially with a number of established agency jurisdictions within the Federal statistical system. But the objections remain: to treat education separately from work or from cultural activity and even leisure requires the arbitrary placement of data relating to such educationally significant activities as on-the-job training, reading, attendance at plays, and the like. A more important objection is the fact that this familiar compartmentalization makes it difficult to portray a sense of the flow of experience of individuals at different stages of the life cycle, stemming from their simultaneous involvement in all or most of these areas of concern. Thus our attempt to depict the well-being of individuals remains fragmented.

(2) *Analysis and Interpretation.*—The old adage that 'a good chart saves a thousand words' is certainly one of the major inspirations for the preparation of a report of this kind, but it fails to answer the two critical questions: what constitutes a good chart and how many words are still required after a thousand have been saved? Several reviewers of *Social Indicators 1973* commented critically on the inadequacy of the text. It was pointed out that the data presented were devoid of any interpretation and that necessary caveats and qualifications were either absent or buried in the Technical Notes. Our response may not fully satisfy these critics. A chart book is a chart book; the inclusion of analysis and interpretation would entail the sacrifice of considerable graphic material and would, more importantly, require changing the basic focus of the report. We are hopeful, however, that this particular weakness will be overcome by virtue of the separate publication, in January 1978, of *The Annals*, Vol. 435 as previously mentioned.

(3) *Scope and Coverage.*—Given some upper limit on the size (and cost) of any such report, an obvious trade-off problem arises with respect to adequate coverage of a given topic and the need to treat a broad range of subjects. *Social Indicators 1976*, like its predecessor report, opts for a wide range of coverage at the sacrifice of

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<sup>3</sup> The remarks which follow are based in part on the reactions of a panel of social scientists and statisticians that reviewed *Social Indicators 1973* shortly after its issuance in February 1974. Their comments are presented in Roxann A. Van Dusen (ed.), *Social Indicators, 1973: A Review Symposium* (Washington, D.C.: Social Science Research Council, Center for Coordination of Research on Social Indicators, 1974). These comments were also presented by the author at the Annual Meeting of the American Statistical Association in Boston, August 23–26, 1976.

<sup>4</sup> For details, see the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), *List of Social Concerns Common to Most OECD Countries* (Paris: OECD, 1973) and OECD, *Measuring Social Well-being: A Progress Report on the Development of Social Indicators* (Paris: OECD, 1976).

<sup>5</sup> The eleven chapters of *Social Indicators 1976* also correspond quite closely with the eleven major "sub-systems" currently identified in the United Nations Statistical Office's "System of Social and Demographic Statistics" currently identified in the United Nations Statistical Office's "System of Social and Demographic Statistics" (SSDS). This system, which was developed under the general direction of Professor Richard Stone of Cambridge University, is most fully described in UNSO, *Towards a System of Social and Demographic Statistics* (New York: United Nations, ST/ESA/STAT/SER.F/18, 1975).

depth. By accepting this decision, the problem remains of making an optimal selection of information; we can only claim that we have tried to do so.

(4) *Quality of the Data.*—Several of the reviewers of *Social Indicators 1973* expressed strong objections to its failure to convey adequate warnings in regard to the highly variable quality of the data presented or even to provide any awareness of the nature and impact of sampling error. Here again, our response may not satisfy our critics. Our knowledge of the errors associated with data sets bears a strong positive correlation with the quality of these data. We thus encounter the dilemma that any discussion of data quality, especially in a report primarily intended for an audience of nonstatisticians, is likely to convey the unfortunate impression that our best data are weakest and our weakest data are best. Of course, nobody proposed that future social indicator reports should attempt to provide a detailed treatment of this complex problem area; such an effort would be far beyond the capacity of our meager resources in any case. It was argued that the subject should at least be mentioned, and this we do by providing a brief discussion of the types and sources of error associated with each of the principal types of data sources utilized in the report. This discussion, included in the introductory chapter, is necessarily quite general and elementary, but it does introduce the readers to this problem area.

(5) *Data Presentation.*—Most of the criticisms falling under this rubric relate to misjudgments in graphic presentation, failure to employ appropriate standardization in offering comparisons of data, and the limited use of projections and of cohort time series. We have tried to eliminate the misjudgments that were generally recognized. For example, we have made greater use of semilog scales in presenting data of different magnitudes on the same chart, and bowing to convention, we have brought our readers from the second to the first Cartesian quadrant by placing the graph labels for the Y-axis on the left side rather than the right. The most difficult issue posed by noncomparability of unstandardized summary measures remains to be resolved. The resources available for this project have not permitted any extensive reworking of the data submitted to us by the several agencies. We have of course utilized standardized

data, such as mortality rates, when they were made available, but the bulk of the summary measures we present (averages, rates, etc.) remain uncontrolled for the possible effects of changes in the distribution of their components.

More projections are included in *Social Indicators 1976* than in *Social Indicators 1973*—including projections of population, households and families, housing demand and labor force. Here also, these projections are those which have previously been developed by other agencies; none has been prepared specifically for this report. Similarly, our hopes to present a number of time series in the form of cohort progressions have been realized to a modest degree with decennial census data on marital status and Current Population Survey data on rates of economic activity.

Other serious problems remain. Descriptive indicators may invite invidious comparisons between population groups, particularly in regard to data on crime rates, family instability, and the like. Because the reasons for observed differences are seldom fully understood and, even if known, cannot possibly be explained with the necessary brevity, the presentation of such information in chart form is subject to the objection that it may lend support to distorted perceptions or unwarranted conclusions based on prejudice rather than fact. Of course, all social information is subject to the danger of misinterpretation. That danger must be weighed against the dangers arising from withholding pertinent information because it is controversial or provocative.

(6) *Descriptive versus Explanatory Indicators.*—As previously noted, the data presented in *Social Indicators 1976*, like those in *Social Indicators 1973*, are almost exclusively descriptive in character. The only complex or analytically derived measures which are included are those well-established measures, such as estimates of average life expectancy, which are conventionally employed in similar reports. The cross-tabulations which are shown are mostly two dimensional. No attempt has been made to relate different sets of data in a statistical sense or to report the findings of the more elaborate multivariate analyses of social phenomena which have been carried out. In short, to employ Richard Stone's terminology, *Social Indicators 1976* is designed to satisfy (or rather to arouse)

curiosity but not to provide understanding or prescriptions for action.<sup>6</sup>

(7) *Normative Considerations.*—To some of the pioneers in the field, the very term "social indicators" implies a normative element or focus. In fact, it has been argued that it is the normative element which distinguishes indicators from other social statistics.<sup>7</sup> Current practitioners, particularly those who regard social indicator development as an integral part of normal social science research, recognize a basic confusion in this argument: indicators, they point out, are value-neutral; the normative significance of any datum lies, as does beauty, in the eyes of the beholder. In other words, the determination that a given statistical trend or measure indicates that something has gotten better or worse is entirely a function of the valuation perspective of the observer. Granting that the producer of social indicators is engaged in a purely technical, value-neutral enterprise, governed by the norms (values?) of objectivity, the fact remains that the producer of a social indicator report cannot claim such neutrality in quite the same sense. His primary task is the judicious selection and presentation of information relating to a number of social concerns.

In practical terms, this means that judgment, reflecting some set of values, must be exercised in carrying out both the selection of data and in devising some mode of presentation. To choose a controversial example, *Social Indicators 1976* shows, in the family chapter, the rise in the divorce rate in the United States. We may presume that some observers will recognize this trend as bad while others may counter with the argument that it also reflects some good. Such assertions do not necessarily imply confusion between neutral facts and valuational interpretations; they are elliptical statements and obviously refer to the underlying phenomenon and its associated social and psychological conditions. Divorce is bad because it commonly entails family disruption, psychic strains, legal costs, and the like. It may also be good insofar as it reflects individual self-reliance, flexibility and a willingness to seek improved human relationships. Neither interpretation fully contradicts the other, but each one clearly moves us well beyond the basic measure we started with.

Which brings us, finally, to the point: the decision to show the trend in the divorce rate is not value-neutral. It is judgmental and reflects

what is presumed to be a widely shared concern with one of the basic values of our society—family stability. The likelihood that this trend will prompt divergent interpretations is an appraisal that can be made of most, if not all of the data presented in the report. As a corollary point one can argue that a basic objective of reports of this kind is to prompt reasoned discussions or consideration of the issues and problems which are apparent in the several areas of concern while seeking to raise the level of factual information on which such consideration may be based.

(8) *Disaggregation.*—One of the more penetrating comments on *Social Indicators 1973* was Natalie Ramsøy's observations concerning the almost universal and uncritical employment of age-sex-race classifications in disaggregating most of the data presented.<sup>8</sup> In brief, she argues that the explanatory significance of these vari-

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<sup>6</sup> Professor Stone's fuller statement is as follows:

"... Social indicators relate to some area of social concern and they may serve the purposes of curiosity, understanding or action. They may take the form of simple data series or they may be synthetic series obtained by applying a greater or lesser amount of processing to data series. . . . Social indicators form a subset of the data series and constructs actually or potentially available and are thus distinguished from other statistics only by their suitability and relevance for one of the purposes mentioned." *Ibid.*, p. 28.

<sup>7</sup> Both the normative and the program evaluation concerns are evident in the definitions propounded by the principal authors of two of the more influential efforts in the field. First Raymond Bauer's statement:

"This volume as a whole is devoted to the topic of social indicators—statistics, statistical series, and all other forms of evidence—that enable us to assess where we stand and are going with respect to our values and goals, and to evaluate specific programs and determine their impact." Raymond A. Bauer (ed.), *Social Indicators* (Cambridge, Mass.: The M.I.T. Press, 1966), p. 1.

Second, Mancur Olson's statement:

"A social indicator, as the term is used here, may be defined to be a statistic of direct normative interest which facilitates concise, comprehensive and balanced judgments about the condition of major aspects of a society. It is in all cases a direct measure of welfare and is subject to the interpretation that, if it changes in the 'right' direction, while other things remain equal, things have gotten better, or people are 'better off.' Thus statistics on the number of doctors or policemen could not be social indicators, whereas figures on health or crime rates could be." U.S. Dept. of Health, Education, and Welfare, *Toward a Social Report* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1969), p. 97.

<sup>8</sup> In Van Dusen (ed.), *op. cit.*, pp. 46f.



ables varies widely among different social phenomena and may in fact be largely irrelevant with respect to some of them. By showing such disaggregations uniformly, we are, in effect, encouraging the notion that these variables are uniformly relevant while at the same time failing to disclose (or masking) other relationships which may be more significant. We have tried to introduce other breakdowns when they were available to us and we share the view that disaggregations by socioeconomic status, life cycle stages, occupation, and education should be included more extensively than they have been up to now. However, age, sex, and racial differences should still be included with respect to most of the socioeconomic data shown in a report of this kind. As Otis Dudley Duncan has pointed out, normative considerations dictate such disaggregations because of the need to describe the relative status of these groups, quite apart from the explanatory significance of these background characteristics. While this argument does not invalidate Ramsøy's objections, it does indicate why such disaggregations will continue to be widely employed in reports of this kind.

A different problem has to do with space limitations. *Social Indicators 1976* sometimes displays the top row of a table of data (measures relating to the total population through time) on one chart and the right-hand column (measures relating to subgroups for the latest period of observation) on a second chart. This was done in *Social Indicators 1973* as well and is perhaps the best compromise between showing all the detail available in a table and showing only total values.

(9) *Perceptual or Subjective Indicators.*—Our original intent was to organize the data in each chapter according to a scheme proposed by Wolfgang Zapf, whereby three basic types of social indicators are recognized: indicators of system performance (primarily institutional resource inputs and programmatic output measures); indicators of well-being (objective measures of effects or outcomes); and indicators of satisfaction (data reflecting popular perceptions or feelings about aspects of their condition or situation, prospects, etc.).<sup>9</sup> This plan could not be employed uniformly in all chapters. The underlying concept remains valid as a delineation of the types of indicators which are called for in providing a basis for a comprehensive assessment of well-being in the broadest sense.

Given that objective, the provision of objective measures of different aspects of well-being is clearly necessary and clearly insufficient. The need to supplement such data with subjective measures is supported by W.I. Thomas's dictum that it is not the objective situation that serves to explain human action, but how that situation is perceived by the actor. Of course, Thomas was concerned with research objectives; he sought to deepen our understanding of the determinants of human behavior. If subjective measures are called for in such a case, they are just as essential in program evaluation, where public perceptions and reactions are bound to affect program outcomes, and in public assessments of the condition of the society, where changing values and aspirations often presage important social changes. Hence the decision to include such data in every chapter, despite their commonly acknowledged limitations and difficulties of interpretation, reflects the conviction that data on public perceptions constitute an essential component of social indicators.<sup>10</sup>

(10) *Distributive versus Collective Well-Being.*—As stated previously, the choice of indicators was based upon two main criteria, the first of which was that the indicators should measure the well-being of individuals (or families) rather than that of institutional entities. Given this intended focus, *Social Indicators 1973* was faulted for omitting data on family status and on social welfare—two omissions which have been remedied to some extent in *Social Indicators 1976*. A more profound issue was raised in this regard: can we accept the implicit assumption that societal well-being is merely the sum of the well-being of its individual members? This form of psychological reductionism does not sit well with many social scientists, especially when we

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<sup>9</sup> In Van Dusen (ed.), *op. cit.*, p.26.

<sup>10</sup> On this issue, the following comment by John Tukey is apposite:

"... It is often much worse to have a good measurement of the wrong thing—especially when, as is so often the case, the wrong thing will IN FACT be used as an indicator of the right thing—than to have poor measurements of the right thing."

John W. Tukey, "Methodology, and the Statistician's Responsibility for Both Accuracy and Relevance." Presented at the General Methodology Lecture at the 135th. Annual Meeting of the American Statistical Association in Atlanta, Georgia, August 1975. Reprinted in the *Statistical Reporter*, No. 76-13 (July 1976) pp. 253-262.

consider the need, in all societies, to restrict individual behavior in many ways in order to optimize the well-being of society as a whole. There is therefore an arguable need to include information on the performance characteristics (not to say well-being) of major functional sectors of society, expressed in terms of both inputs and outputs. *Social Indicators 1976* has made a modest start in this direction, but at the risk of losing a distinctive focus on individual well-being.

(11) *Input versus Output*.—The second criterion for the selection of social indicators, as expressed in the introduction to *Social Indicators 1973*, was that the measures selected should reflect outputs or results rather than inputs. If the preceding argument has merit, the omission of input measures impairs the effectiveness of the report as a tool for public assessment of the condition of the society. Furthermore, the application of the distinction between input and output in noneconomic areas gives rise to serious problems. What is educational achievement (i.e., learning) an output of? What about an individual's health status? Even the familiar statistic relating to years of school completed is clearly an output of the educational system and an input to the labor force and to other sectors of the society.

Such questions are quickly resolved once agreed-upon subsystem boundaries have been established; the distinction is a function of one's perspective and research objectives. But that is the point at issue: the imposition of such a perspective, which is essential to developing a systems-analytic conceptualization of society, exceeds the limited aims of *Social Indicators 1976*. By adopting a looser framework, we hope to offer the readers of the report greater degrees of freedom in approaching its contents from a variety of perspectives.

(12) *The Quality of Life*.—If one of the ultimate objectives of the social indicators movement is to enhance our ability to assess the quality of our lives, one of the sobering insights acquired in preparing a national social indicators report is an awareness of the multidimensionality of this elusive quality. The effort to develop a single composite index of the quality of life retains its supporters, despite Bertram Gross's earlier warning of the philistinism implicit in the imposition of a single metric to such vital components as health status, marital happiness,

feelings of efficacy, job satisfaction, adequate housing and, of course, income security. But if the objective of devising a single index of life quality seems far-fetched, the aim of providing, in a single report, a selection of descriptive information to assist readers in developing a more adequate assessment on the basis of their own values and priorities is not invalidated.

### Conclusion

It is our hope that, on balance, the second social indicators report is a distinct improvement over its predecessor. If that claim turns out to be warranted, those who prepared the first report will merit a large share of the credit, since they greatly facilitated the preparation of the second. It must also be admitted that some of the changes and additions may, upon review, be assessed as retrogressive rather than progressive. It is clear that no great leap forward has been achieved. Such advances as have been made have instead been by way of what O.D. Duncan might term pragmatic incrementalism.

Another difficulty remains in preparing reports of this kind—continuing uncertainty as to its actual users and usage, as distinct from those which were envisioned originally. We know that the report, like its predecessor, will provide a large number of government officials and their staffs with summary information on a variety of topics relating to the country as a whole and presented in a uniform manner. It will, we hope, serve a similar purpose for those microdecisionmakers among the general public who wish to acquire a similar macroperspective. We also know that graphic presentations of this kind are found useful in providing a "quick fix" on a given topic under circumstances which preclude detailed investigation. Most decisionmakers, both public and private, are busy generalists, not busy specialists. For them, convenient summary data may often be an important corrective to hunches and intuition. We have also learned, in a spotty manner, that librarians find these reports to be extremely useful in guiding students toward a few general insights on the subjects covered. This may not be cheerful news to those who envision reports of this kind as powerful vehicles for influencing major policy decisions, but the teachers among us may be gratified.

Finally, we can assert that the report is not intended to serve the research needs of statisticians, social scientists and similar experts, except insofar as they, too, may perceive a need for a handy summary of descriptive data, particularly in areas with which they are not deeply familiar. We can also repeat, that most of the charts in the report raise more questions than they answer, prompt a variety of conflicting interpretations and promote a strong demand for additional information—characteristics shared

with other forms of research reporting. It is hoped that future efforts in preparing social indicator reports may benefit from an awareness of both the strengths and limitations of the present report.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> For some suggestions concerning possible lines of development in this general area, see "Social Indicators and Social Accounts: A Developmental Strategy," *Statistical Reporter* (May 1977), pp. 346-357.

## CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

### NCES/CPB REPORT ON SCHOOL TV UTILIZATION STUDY, 1977

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) have completed a jointly sponsored *School TV Utilization Study*, 1977. Comprehensive data have been collected on the availability and use of instructional television (ITV) in elementary and secondary schools.

Marie D. Eldridge, Administrator, NCES, and Henry Loomis, President, CPB, announced at a news briefing that many classroom teachers have and are using ITV and that an estimated 15 million elementary and secondary school students regularly received instruction from some 727,000 teachers who used television as a teaching tool during the 1976-77 school year. Other major findings include:

- 53% of the teachers indicated ITV shows great possibilities for stimulating creativity
- 77% recommended the development of more ITV programming
- 52% of the teachers disagreed with the statement, "children watch enough television at home; they don't need to watch more in school"
- Nearly three-fourths of the teachers indicated that ITV could be effectively used for new materials, approaches, experience, etc.—a general broadening of exposure
- Most teachers see ITV equally useful for students at all levels of academic ability

These, and many other findings, are available from the *School TV Utilization Study*. The survey samples for the study consisted of 858 public school districts (enrolling 300 or more students), 1,700 public elementary/secondary schools, and 3400 public elementary and secondary teachers. In addition 75 Catholic dioceses, 150 elementary schools and 300 teachers from the dioceses were sampled. The response rates for each group were: 96.4% for superintendents, 89.1% for principals, and 85.2% for teachers.

Detailed analyses and reports from the study will be prepared jointly by NCES and CPB. Advance reports will become available during January/February 1978. (RONALD J. PEDONE, NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE, telephone (202) 472-5900, or PETER J. DIRR, CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING, telephone (202) 293-6160, ext. 341.)

### NCES REPORTS ON ENROLLMENTS IN INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

In Fall of 1976 the National Center for Education Statistics, for the first time, expanded its Higher Education General Information Survey (HEGIS) Fall Enrollment Survey to collect the data needed by the HEW Office of Civil Rights (OCR). This eliminated the need for a separate OCR Fall Enrollment and Compliance Report, and reduced the response burden on institutions of higher education. While the OCR supplement increased the complexity of the survey,

NCES was still able to provide timely information to users by producing early estimates based on a sample of the responses in November of the survey year.

The survey showed total enrollments for all institutions of higher education dropping 1.5% from 1975 to 1976. This is the first reported decrease in enrollment in the Nation's colleges and universities since 1951 when enrollments decreased 7.8% below those of the preceding year. In addition to the number of students enrolled in each institution, by sex, level of enrollment, type and control of institution, data also were gathered on race and ethnicity of students, by major field of study.

A copy of the computer tape containing all the data of the 1976 Fall Enrollment Survey may be purchased from NCES for \$94.00 per reel on 9-track 1600 BPI, or for \$120.00 per reel on 9-track 800 BPI.

The data were also incorporated into the EDSTAT online educational information access operated by NCES.

A summary report on the results of the survey may be obtained from the Survey Director, Andrew Pepin, University of College Surveys and Studies Branch, NCES. A final printed report is in preparation. (O. JEAN BRANDES, NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE, telephone (202) 472-5026.)

### **NEW REPORTS ON THE NCES NATIONAL LONGITUDINAL STUDY**

The National Center for Education Statistics has released five analytical reports which were developed from data obtained in the National Longitudinal study (NLS). This study, previously described in the June 1977 *Statistical Reporter*, periodically contacts a national sample of young adults who graduated from high school in 1972 to determine some of the long-range effects of educational experiences on postsecondary attainment and career development.

Single copies of the following reports are available free of charge from the Longitudinal Studies Branch, DMES, NCES, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Washington, D.C. 20202. Multiple copies may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. These reports are briefly described below.

*Fulfillment of Short-Term Educational Plans and Continuance in Education* (NCES 77-255) describes the plans and activities of the NLS sample members in the first 18 months after high school graduation, focusing primarily on achievement of postsecondary educational goals.

*Withdrawal from Institutions of Higher Education* (NCES 77-264) estimates the rates of withdrawal from 2- and 4-year colleges among members of the National Longitudinal Study in the first 2 years after high school graduation. The socioeconomic status, high school program, high school grades, educational aspirations of students, and availability of financial aid were found to have significant influence on retention in higher education.

*Transfer Students Among Institutions of Higher Education* (NCES 77-250) gives a description of the extent of transfers and differences in transfer rates among various types of institutions. Differences in student characteristics between those who transfer and those who do not are examined.

*Distribution and Packaging of Student Financial Aid* (NCES 77-252) describes the recipients of Federal and non-Federal aid according to the type of postsecondary institution attended, and background characteristics of the students.

*Group Profiles on Self-Esteem, Locus of Control, and Life Goals* (NCES 77-260) describes the differences among subgroups in self-esteem, locus of control, and interest in work, community, and family are for the senior year of high school, and for 18 months after high school graduation.

In addition to the above, three methodological reports are available, providing technical analysis of the sample design used in the study, and a summary of data collection and file development activities. These are briefly described below.

*Sample Design Efficiency Study: Effects of Stratification, Clustering, and Unequal Weighting on the Variance of NLS Studies* (NCES 77-258) discusses variance component estimates which were computed for 357 statistics, and used to calculate estimated design effects for 11 subpopulations defined by race, sex, and father's education.

*First Followup Survey Design, Instrument Preparation, Data Collection and File Development*

*Statistical Reporter*

(NCES 77-262) presents a brief description of the collection and assembling of data for computer processing, and of the compilation of the resultant data file.

*Sample Design Efficiency Study: Optimal Two-Stage Sample Design* (NCES 77-257) discusses variance components estimated from change variables from the base year to first followup survey, and cost parameters estimated for an NLS cohort of six surveys which were used to determine an optimal cluster size based on criteria of maximum mean efficiency and minimum standard deviation of efficiencies for a given total cost.

The data collection is now complete for the third followup survey in this series. A tape with questionnaire data from all four surveys will be available from NCES in early 1978. For further information on the availability of data tapes, write to the Longitudinal Studies Branch, DMES, NCES, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Washington, D.C. 20202. (O. JEAN BRANDES, NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE, telephone (202) 472-5026.)

#### **NCES ANALYSES SHOW RAPID INCREASES IN WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN FIRST-PROFESSIONAL DEGREE PROGRAMS**

Analyses conducted by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) show that during the last 7 years the participation of women in first-professional degree programs has increased dramatically. Between 1969-70 and 1975-76 the proportion of women among total enrollment in selected programs has risen:

- in medicine from 9.0 to 20.5%
- in dentistry from 1.4 to 9.7%;
- in veterinary medicine from 8.8 to 23.5%
- in law from 7.0 to 23.3%.

Two recent NCES publications provide extensive information on four fields of study: Medicine (M.D.), dentistry (D.M.D. and D.D.S.), veterinary medicine (D.V.M.), and law (J.D. and LL.B.). In the first of these publications, data are reported for the survey years 1969-70 through 1974-75. (Each survey year extends from July of one calendar year through June 30 of the next.) The primary sources of data were publications of the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) using data collected in the Higher Education General Information Survey

(HEGIS) and of the professional associations in each of the fields. For each field, the data analyzed include: first-year enrollment, total enrollment, and number of degrees awarded. Counts by sex of applicants and of persons accepted are presented for those fields for which data were available from the respective professional associations.

This report, entitled *Women's Participation in First-Professional Degree Programs in Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Medicine, and Law, 1969-70 through 1974-75* is available from the U.S. Government Printing Office, stock No. 017-080-1631-1, price \$0.60.

A brief supplementary report adds HEGIS data for 1975-76 to the basic tables of the earlier report. The supplementary report is available, without charge, from NCES. (MARJORIE O. CHANDLER, NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE, telephone (202) 472-5753.)

#### **DOLLARS FOR HEALTH RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, 1968-1975**

The National Institutes of Health has recently published a report, "Dollars for Health Research and Development, 1968-1975," as an update of past NIH "Dollars for Medical Research" publications. Summary information on national health R&D support is presented for the period 1960-1975, since the series for State government, foundation, and voluntary health agency support have been revised back to 1960. Data are shown in terms of funding and performing sectors, in current and constant dollars, and in the context of GNP, health expenditures, and total R&D.

Federal obligations for health R&D are analyzed for the FY 1968-1975 period in terms of funding agency and performance sector, by grants versus contracts, and for FY 1975 only, by field of science for research. Also included is a separate section on Federal health R&D obligations to academic institutions and to medical schools, showing concentration ratios, geographic distribution, and individual listings of the highest recipients for selected years.

Referenced only as needed for analytical purposes, but available upon request from the Division of Resources Analysis, Office of Program Planning and Evaluation, NIH, are funding and performing sector estimates back to 1947.

Copies of the report "Dollars for Health Research and Development, 1968-1975," *Resources for Health R&D*, Report No. 23, June 1977, DHEW Publication No. (NIH) 77-1185 (63 pages) may be purchased from the National Technical Information Service, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Virginia 22161. (LEONORE WAGNER, NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE, telephone (301) 496-9291.)

### MINORITIES AND WOMEN IN PRIVATE INDUSTRY, 1975

A recent report prepared by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) shows the occupational utilization of minorities and women in private industry throughout the United States. The study, based on data collected in the Commission's tenth annual survey of private employers, covers almost 30 million persons working for 35,000 employers.

Entitled *Minorities and Women in Private Industry, 1975: an Analysis of EEO-1 Employment*, the report is based on data collected in the annual survey of private employers (with 100 or more persons) and of selected government contractors. The reporting group included 4.9 million minorities and 11 million women. Blacks were 10.7%; Hispanics, 4.3%; Asian Americans, 0.9%; and American Indians, 0.3% of the private sector employees.

The analysis includes discussions of specific industrial employment patterns, employment opportunities for blacks, Hispanics, and women in headquarters offices and employment patterns of these groups by size of establishment.

The study shows that:

- Women and minority males were not fairly represented in proportion to their participation in the labor force in the official/managerial positions in private industry; white men held 82% of the jobs in this category although they comprised only 53% of the workers.
- Generally, women were underrepresented in those industries where earnings were above average, but had high rates of participation where earnings were below average.
- Black and Hispanic workers had poorer representation as headquarters employees

than they did as employees of all EEO-1 reporting units.

- Blacks generally were employed in increasingly large numbers as the size of the establishment increased, while participation for women was considerably lower in the larger reporting units. Employment opportunities for women were particularly poor in transportation and utilities, where sex-stereotyping appears to have restricted their employment opportunities.

In addition, the Commission has prepared a statistical report, *Equal Employment Opportunity Report, 1975: Job Patterns for Minorities and Women in Private Industry*, a two-volume document which is also based on the 1975 EEO-1 survey. The report contains detailed statistical tables with data by race, ethnic group and sex for each of the nine occupational categories. National information is provided individually for 140 industries. Data are provided by major industry division for each state (excluding Hawaii) and the District of Columbia, as well as for all Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas (SMSA) with populations of at least one million. Less detailed data are provided for the smaller SMSA's.

Both reports may be ordered from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. *Minorities and Women In Private Industry, 1975: an Analysis of EEO-1 Employment*, stock number 052-015-00040-5, is available at \$2.00. Volume 1 (national and State data) of the *Equal Employment Opportunity Report, 1975: Job Patterns for Minorities and Women in Private Industry*, stock number 052-015-00031-6, cost \$8.25. Volume 2 (SMSA data), with the same stock number cost \$7.50.

A limited number of single copies of both reports is available from the Publications Unit, U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, 3401 E Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20506. (MELVIN HUMPHREY, EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION, telephone (202) 634-6485.)

### MINORITY AND FEMALE MEMBERSHIP IN REFERRAL UNIONS, 1974

There was marked improvement in minority membership patterns in the Nation's referral unions between 1970 and 1974, but minorities continued to be concentrated in low paid trades

and were below parity in the best paid trades. The increase in female membership was not enough to change the traditional patterns of exclusion of women according to a report prepared by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

The report, *Minority and Female Membership in Referral Unions, 1974*, is based on data from reports (Local Union Reports EEO-3) filed by 2,907 local unions which operate hiring halls or, under similar arrangements, refer persons for employment. Of the over 2 million referral union members reported, 23.1% were minorities and 11.6% were women.

Both minority and female membership rose faster than the general rise in union membership between 1970 and 1974. Total membership in a group of matched locals increased by over 85,000, or 5%, while minority membership rose by 17% and women increased by 18%. Since in 1970 women were only 9% of the members in these matched locals, their seemingly impressive membership growth gave them only a 10.1% share of membership in 1974.

Despite membership growth, minorities and women have not overcome the results of the discrimination which locked them into generally lower paid trades and excluded them from certain unions. According to this report:

- Minorities were more prevalent in non-building (35%) than in the generally better paying building (16%) trade unions.
- Less than 1% of the building trade union members and 29% of nonbuilding trade union members were women.
- Over two-thirds of all referral unions have no women members. Female membership was highest in unions which have organized relatively low-paid occupations and industries, such as service employees, hotel and restaurant employees, ladies garment workers.
- There were no black members in about one of every five locals in the building trades and one of every ten locals in other trades. Hispanic members, who overall matched or exceeded their 4.3% incidence in the civilian labor force, were nevertheless below parity in over half of all reporting locals, particularly those of the more highly-skilled trades.

—Apprenticeship data from the construction industry offer small hope for improvement in the level of female membership; a meager 0.2% of the apprentices were women. Minorities were 18.5 of all construction apprentices in 1974.

In addition to analysis of national membership patterns, the report provides data on the race/ethnic group/sex makeup of union membership by State and evaluates the likelihood of future improvements in minority and female membership status.

*Minority and Female Membership in Referral Unions, 1974* can be ordered from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 for \$2.50 per copy. The stock number is 052-015-00048-1. A limited number of single copies are available without cost from the Publication Unit, U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, 2401 E Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20506. (MELVIN HUMPHREY, EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION, telephone (202) 634-6485.)

#### FOUR NEW SOCIAL SECURITY BULLETIN REPORTS

The Office of Research and Statistics in the Social Security Administration has announced the availability of four new *Social Security Bulletin* reports which are briefly described below.

*Lifetime Covered Earnings and Quarters of Coverage of Retired and Disabled Workers, 1972* (*Social Security Bulletin*, October 1977) presents information on the lifetime covered earnings of retired-worker and disabled-worker beneficiaries under the Old-Age, Survivors, Disability, and Health Insurance program, the year of their first earnings credits, their quarters of coverage, and the relationship of these factors to 1972 benefit levels. The data, based on the 1-percent Continuous Work History Sample of the Social Security Administration, are shown separately by age, sex, and race of worker.

*Aid to Families With Dependent Children: An Overview, October 1977* (*Social Security Bulletin*, October 1977) outlines the national structure and variations in the program for aid to families with dependent children (AFDC) and describes how this cash assistance program operates to provide income for more than 11.2 million

needy recipients in 3.6 million families, including almost 8 million children.

*Federal Civil-Service Annuity and Social Security, December 1975* (*Social Security Bulletin*, November 1977) examines personal and work-related characteristics of a sample of the nearly 1 million Federal civil-service retirees who were receiving annuities based on their own wage records as of December 31, 1975. Employment patterns and subsequent annuities in civil-service careers have been related to corresponding experience in jobs covered under the old-age, survivors, disability, and health insurance program. With some exceptions, the review uncovered patterns similar to those found in a study of 1967 annuitants.

*Employee-Benefit Plans, 1975* (*Social Security Bulletin*, November 1977) discusses coverage, contributions, and benefits under employment-benefit plans. Despite the national decline in the number of employed workers in 1975, the number of workers covered under most types of employee-benefit plans increased slightly over the number in 1974. Contributions and benefit payments underwent the greatest change. Review of the private pension plans shows that an increasing number were terminated in 1975, but the reason has not been determined: contributions to these retirement plans showed one of the largest annual increases ever.

Reprints of the articles are available from the Publications Staff, Office of Research and Statistics, Social Security Administration, Room 1120, Universal North Building, 1875 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009, telephone (202) 673-5209. The *Social Security Bulletin* is available by subscription, at \$14 a year through the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. (ROBERT E. ROBINSON, SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE, telephone (202) 673-5576.)

### SCHOOL PROPERTY ACCOUNTING

A recent publication of the National Center for Education Statistics is a revision of the *School Property Manual* originally published in 1959. The primary purpose is to achieve uniformity in terminology, definitions, and units of measure relating to school property. Property includes

land, buildings, spaces within buildings (classrooms), and equipment. Terms are classified and defined. Included are index, glossary, bibliography, and sections on units of measure, supplies/equipment, capitalization of fixed assets, and depreciation.

Copies of the 131-page handbook may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 20402, for \$2.75, stock number 017-080-01808-0. (IVAN N. SEIBERT, NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE, telephone (202) 245-8744.)

### HANDBOOK OF CYCLICAL INDICATORS

The Bureau of Economic Analysis has published a comprehensive volume explaining the composite indexes of economic indicators, including descriptions, method of construction, historical data, and evaluation of these indexes.

The volume, entitled *Handbook of Cyclical Indicators*, also contains indicators of performance and average timing at peaks and troughs for all major cyclical indicators, and descriptions, measures of variability, and data from 1945 to 1975 for all series that appear in *Business Conditions Digest*, a monthly publication of the Bureau of Economic Analysis. Subscribers to the *Business Conditions Digest* will receive a Handbook automatically.

*Handbook of Cyclical Indicators* is available from Superintendent of Documents, United States Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, for \$40.00 a copy. The stock number is 003-010-00056-2. (FELIX TAMM, BUREAU OF ECONOMIC ANALYSIS, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, telephone (202) 523-0535.)

### BIBLIOGRAPHY OF CENSUS BUREAU METHODOLOGICAL RESEARCH

The Bureau of the Census has recently released *Census Bureau Methodological Research, 1976*. This is an annual publication which lists published and unpublished papers, memorandums, and reports on methodological research. The listed papers and publications describe research in process and give research results when advanced sufficiently enough to be available.

Copies of *Census Bureau Methodological Research, 1976: An Annotated List of Papers and Re-*

*Statistical Reporter*



ports (16 pp., 50 cents) may be purchased from Subscriber Services (Publications), Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C. 20233. Single copies for official use are available upon request to the Statistical Research Division, Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C. 20233. (DEANE H. HARRIS, BUREAU OF THE CENSUS, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, telephone (301) 763-5460.)

### RECENT UN STATISTICAL OFFICE PUBLICATIONS

Recent publications of the Statistical Office of the United Nations include (1) *Provisional Guidelines on Statistics of the Distribution of Income, Consumption and Accumulation of Households*; (2) *Organization and Conduct of Distributive-Trade Surveys*; (3) *The Feasibility of Welfare-Oriented Measures to Supplement the National Accounts and Balances: A Technical Report*; and (4) *Provisional International Guidelines on the National and Sectoral Balance-Sheet and Reconciliation Accounts of the System of National Accounts*.

Copies 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. In ordering, please use the sales numbers and prices which are shown as part of each description below.

(1) *Provisional Guidelines on Statistics of the Distribution of Income, Consumption and Accumulation of Households* (Statistical Papers, Series M, No. 61, 97 pp., UN Sales No. E.77.XVII.11, \$7.00).—An item on income distribution statistics was first on the agenda of the United Nations Statistical Commission in 1966. Subsequently, a system of distribution statistics was developed which covered income, consumption and accumulation and was tied in with both the United Nations System of National Accounts (SNA) and the System of Balances of the National Economy (MPS). The Commission adopted the full system in 1972, but, at the same time, stressed the need for a simplified version of the system for the use of the developing countries. The Commission considered a draft of the simplified system in 1974 and adopted it with a number of reservations.

After careful consideration, the United Nations Statistical Office decided that it would be desirable to combine the full and the simplified versions of the guidelines and present them in a

single publication. The present publication thus presents guidelines that may be useful for countries at different stages of statistical development. An attempt has been made to take account of the particular problems of developing countries by noting modifications which these countries may find it convenient to make, by setting out priorities and by indicating where developing countries may find the recommendations either less useful or beyond their statistical capabilities.

The publication consists of the following chapters: I. The purposes, character and scope of income distribution and related statistics; II. Structure of the distribution statistics in relation to the national accounts and balances; III. Definition and classification of the statistical units; IV. Definition and classification of incomes; V. Definition and classification of consumption; VI. Definition and classification of investment and its financing; VII. Tables on distribution statistics. Annex I contains about 30 tables on distribution statistics and annex II is a discussion of the sources and methods of estimating the data on the distribution of income, consumption and accumulation of the household sector.

(2) *Organization and Conduct of Distributive-Trade Surveys* (Studies in Methods, Series F, No. 19., 165 pp., UN Sales No. E.77.XVII.3., \$10.00).—In 1974, the United Nations Statistical Commission adopted international recommendations on statistics of the distributive trades and services and requested that a manual on the organization and conduct of surveys be issued as a methodological supplement to the recommendations. The present publication is such a manual and is intended as a practical guide to the planning and management of censuses and surveys of distributive trades and services, with particular attention to the problems faced by countries at an early stage of statistical development. In view of the similarities between industrial and distributive-trade inquiries, the manual incorporates a discussion of some methods and procedures that are also applicable to industrial surveys.

The publication is organized according to the sequence in which operations should be planned for an inquiry. The chapters are as follows: I. Preliminary steps and major considerations; II. Needs and uses of distributive-trade statis-

tics; III. General planning and organization; IV. Management and budget; V. Scope, coverage and classification; VI. Questionnaires and other data-collection forms; VII. Data collection; VIII. Data processing; IX. Tabulation, review and correction; X. Publication. Annex I contains a detailed discussion of practical sampling techniques in distributive-trade inquiries, and annex II is a brief bibliography of pertinent United Nations publications.

(3) *The Feasibility of Welfare-Oriented Measures to Supplement the National Accounts and Balances: A Technical Report* (Studies in Methods, Series F, No. 22, 71 pp., UN Sales No. E.77.XVII.12, \$4.50).—This publication had its origins in the growing interest in measuring the levels of living or well-being of populations and in the widespread consensus that monetary measures of output and income fail to capture important dimensions of welfare. The United Nations Committee for Development Planning some years ago had been concerned at the concentration of attention on monetary measures of output and had requested the United Nations Statistical Commission to consider supplementary measures. In 1976, the Commission considered a paper on the subject, prepared by Christopher T. Saunders acting as consultant to the United Nations, and found it to be an excellent survey of the problems arising and the work done to date in devising welfare measures to supplement the national accounts and balances. The paper has now been published, with a preface summarizing the Commission's views. The publication has chapters on aspects of the household economy, intermediate and final expenditures of general government, measures of environmental conditions and pollution, measurement of assets and approaches to international comparisons.

(4) *Provisional International Guidelines on the National Sectoral Balance-Sheet and Reconciliation*

*Accounts of the System of National Accounts.*—(Statistical Papers, Series M, No. 60., 117 pp., UN Sales No. E.77.XVII.10, \$6.00).—When the United Nations Statistical Commission adopted the System of National Accounts (SNA), it requested that detailed international guidelines for balance-sheet accounts and analyses of the links between them and the transaction accounts should be prepared. The present publication contains such detailed guidelines within the framework of SNA. They relate to the balance-sheet and reconciliation accounts of industrial units only; they do not deal with statistics of the stocks of tangible assets which establishment-type units use in producing goods and services.

Chapter I discusses the uses to which data on balance-sheet and reconciliation accounts of institutional sectors may be put. Chapter II deals with the relationship of the proposed guidelines to the transactions accounts of the SNA. Chapter III defines national wealth and explains the concept of the independent net worth of corporations. The definition of the statistical units recommended for the balance-sheet accounts and their classification into institutional sectors are discussed in chapter IV. Chapter V proposes schemes of classification for assets and liabilities. The conceptual and practical problems of valuation of assets and liabilities and the entries in the reconciliation accounts, which concern the differences between the capital finance transactions during a period of account and the changes in the balance-sheet figures between the beginning and the end of the period are discussed in chapters VI and VII. The standard accounts and supporting tables on balance sheets and reconciliations which should be added to the transactions accounts of SNA are shown in chapter VIII. Chapter IX contains a brief discussion of the statistical sources and practical problems of the compiling balance-sheet and reconciliation data.

# SCHEDULE OF RELEASE DATES FOR PRINCIPAL FEDERAL ECONOMIC INDICATORS

*January 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.)

Date	Subject	Data for
January 3	Construction Expenditures (Press release), Census, C-30 (69) .....	November
3	Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders, Census, M3-1 (65) .....	December
4	Condition Report of Large Commercial Banks, Federal Reserve Board (FRB), H.4.2 (72, 112) .....	Week Ending December 28
5	Factors Affecting Bank Reserves and Condition Statement of Federal Reserve Banks, FRB, H.3.1 (93, 94) .....	Week Ending January 4
5	Money Stock Measures, FRB, H.6 (85, 102, 107, 108) .....	Week Ending December 28
5	Manufacturers' Export Sales and Orders, Census, M4-A .....	November
6	Open Market Money Rates and Bond Prices, FRB, G.13 .....	December
6	The Employment Situation (Press release), Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) (1, 21, 37, 40-44, 91, 340, 442, 444-448, 451-453) .....	December
9	Consumer Credit, FRB, G.19 (66, 113) .....	November
10	Advance Monthly Retail Sales (Press Release), Census (54) .....	December
11	Monthly Wholesale Trade (Press release), Census, BW .....	November

Date	Subject	Data for
January 11	Condition Report of Large Commercial Banks, FRB, H.4.2 (72, 112) .....	Week Ending January 4
12	Money Stock Measures, FRB, H.6 (85 102, 107, 108) .....	Week Ending January 4
12	Factors Affecting Bank Reserves and Condition Statement of Federal Reserve Banks FRB, H.4.1 (93, 94) .....	Week Ending January 11
12	Wholesale Price Index (Press release), BLS (330-334) .....	December
16	Food Assistance Programs Results (Agriculture) ...	November
16	Manufacturing and Trade: Inventories and Sales, Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), (31, 56, 71) .....	November
16	Industrial Production and Related Data, FRB, G.12.3 (47, 73-76) .....	December
17	Yields on FHA Insured New Home 30-Year Mortgages, HUD (118) .....	January 1
18	Housing Starts (Press release), Census, C-20 (28, 19) .....	December
18	Personal Income, Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) (223) .....	December
18	Output, Capacity, and Capacity Utilization, FRB, G.3 (82, 84) .....	December
18	Condition Report of Large Commercial Banks, FRB, H.4.2 (72, 112) .....	Week Ending January 11
19	Money Stock Measures, FRB, H.6 (85, 102, 107, 108) .....	Week Ending January 11
19	Factors Affecting Bank Reserves and Condition Statement of Federal Reserve Banks, FRB, H.4.1 (93, 94) .....	Week Ending January 18
19	Gross National Product (Preliminary), BEA (200, 205, 210) .....	4 Q' 77
20	Consumer Price Index (Press release), BLS (320-322) .....	December
20	Real Earnings (Press release), BLS (341) .....	December
23	Advance Report on Durable Goods, Manufacturers' Shipments and Orders (Press release), Census, M3-1, (6, 24, 25, 96, 548) .....	December
25	Average Yields of Long-Term Bonds, Treasury Bulletin (115, 116) .....	November
25	Condition Report of Large Commercial Banks, FRB, H.4.2 (72, 112) .....	Week Ending January 18
26	Money Stock Measures, FRB, H.6 (85, 102, 107, 108) .....	Week Ending January 18

Date	Subject	Data for
January 26	Factors Affecting Bank Reserves and Condition Statement of Federal Reserve Banks, FRB, H.4.1 (93, 94) .....	Week Ending January 25
26	Housing Vacancies (Press release), Census, H-111 .....	4 Q '77
26	Export and Import Merchandise Trade, Census, FT-900 (602, 612) .....	December
26	Work Stoppages (Press release), BLS ....	December and 1977
26	Productivity and Costs in Private, Nonfarm Business, and Manufacturing Sectors (Press release), BLS .....	4 Q '77
27	Major Collective Bargaining Settlements (Press release), BLS (348, 349) .....	4 Q '77 and 1977
30	Merchandise Trade Balance, Balance of Payments Basis, BEA (536, 537) .....	4 Q '77
31	Labor Turnover in Manufacturing (Press release), BLS (2, 3, 4) .....	December
31	Composite Indexes of Leading, Coincident, and Lagging Indicators (Press release), BEA .....	November-December
31	Defense Indicators, BEA .....	December
31	Agricultural Prices, Agriculture .....	Mid-January

## PERSONNEL NOTES

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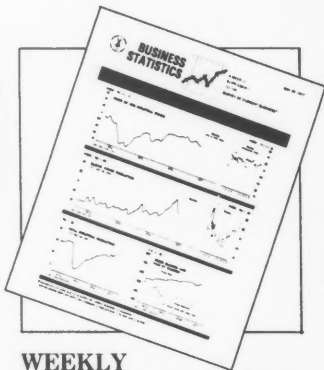
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