

JANUARY 1978
Number 78-4



statistical reporter



statistical reporter

Prepared Monthly by the Office of Federal Statistical
Policy and Standards

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*The Demand for Regional and Local-Area Statistics: Issues Concerning the National Response**

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Introduction

In this session concerning issues related to the preparation of regional statistics, the present paper is addressed to a description of some experiences in the United States of America and to some suggestions of the author for future actions. While the specific cases discussed are related to individual developments in the United States, it is evident that many of the basic problems are also present in other political settings. Consequently, it is anticipated that the full set of papers presented at this session will provide some complementary, reinforcing perspectives concerning the demands for regional data and alternative strategies for satisfying such demands.

The paper describes some of the specific needs for regional data which have evolved in the United States, some problems with responding to these demands, and some illustrations of statistical program development at the local area level. The conclusion sets forth suggested principles for responding to regional data demands, several concepts for future consideration, and some issues which remain unresolved at this time.

Demands for Regional Data

Statisticians, economists, and program administrators in the United States have increasingly required more detailed and varied data on the status of subnational economic structures; the composition and characteristics of the population; and the nature, scope, and effects of programs designed to promote the general welfare of the Nation and its people. Statistically or administratively generated numbers have become a primary mechanism for the allocation of

resources at all levels. Subnational data are needed by researchers, by legislators, and by managers to plan, audit, and evaluate the distribution of resources.

Subnational areas for the assessment of needs and the allocation of resources may be defined in almost countless ways. In the United States, the Federal Government alone employs approximately 100 different definitions of regional areas for various administrative purposes.¹ Sixty-nine of these are aggregates of States and two are aggregates of counties. The boundaries of the remaining regions have been determined

*Note.—This paper was prepared as an invited paper for the 41st Session of the International Statistical Institute held in New Delhi, India, December 5–15, 1977. It was developed in connection with an ongoing review of Federal-State cooperative statistical programs which is part of the planning effort to develop "A Framework for Planning U.S. Federal Statistics, 1978–1989." This planning effort is being undertaken by the Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards. However, the present paper basically represents the author's personal views, not the official views of the Office concerning future policy.

Katherine Wallman's research on Federal-State programs and editorial help were particularly important in the factual considerations presented in this paper. Walt R. Simmons, who is on the staff of the U.S. Committee on National Statistics, aided in conceptual development of the issues and the principles. He is author of *Subnational Statistics and Federal-State Cooperative Systems* (September 1977), a paper sponsored by the Commi on National Statistics (available from National Research Council, 2101 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20418). Lawrence Haber developed some of the initial design ideas for the Federal Survey Consultation Service. Additional help was provided by George Hall, Richard Eisinger, and Maria Gonzalez.

¹ Joseph W. Duncan, "Regional Statistics," Conference of European Statisticians, Economic Commission for Europe (CES/348/Add 1) May 21, 1975.

on the basis of factors such as the distribution of natural resources, watersheds, the characteristics of transportation systems, and electric power line networks. Often the basic building block for economic areas in the United States has been the county, but this unit does not always determine adequately the appropriate boundary conditions. Specially defined regions, which do not relate to the political boundaries of counties, have been developed for some purposes. The result of this multiplicity of regional definitions has been continual pressure on the national statistical system to supply more detail at smaller geographic levels to provide flexibility for individual analytical and political purposes.

The demands on the statistical system have been further compounded by the recent increase in the requirements of Federal legislation for the use of statistics as a basis for allocating Federal resources in the form of personnel, capital goods, or funds. The allocations, based on specific statistics, encompass both broad revenue sharing programs and more tailored activities intended to cope with problems which have their primary locus in States or local areas. In the United States, revenue sharing and block grants, as mechanisms for the distribution of Federal resources, have been increasingly used during the present decade. This development has strongly influenced the direction of the small area statistical effort.

There are currently five major national funding programs of the U.S. Federal Government which require specific formulas for allocating Federal funds to State and local governments and which allow discretionary use of these funds by the recipient governments within broad limits and approved overall plans. These five programs are:

1. The State and Local Fiscal Assistance Act of 1972;
2. Parts of the Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as amended in 1971 and 1973;
3. The Comprehensive Employment and Training Act of 1973;
4. The Education Amendments of 1974 (Amendments to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965); and
5. The Housing and Community Development Act of 1974.

The first of these is usually referred to as general revenue sharing, and the relevant parts of the remaining four as "block grants." The statistical inputs (e.g., for formulas to be used in allocating funds) are now requiring major effort in several U.S. Federal statistical programs.

State and Local Fiscal Assistance Act of 1972.—Under the State and Local Fiscal Assistance Act of 1972, allocation is made first to States, then to "county areas" (counties, townships, and independent cities), and then to other local government units within county areas. The allocation formula calls for personal income and income tax data for each State, and population, money income, and local tax data for about 38,500 State, county, and local units of general government. Not only is tax information now required in far greater geographic detail than previously, but new concepts in the act, such as "adjusted taxes" (which is essentially local tax effort minus local taxes for educational purposes) and new constraints such as limits on the use of intergovernmental transfers, require a great deal of additional information on local taxes, especially in terms of the number of reporting units.

Tax and income series for States and counties have been maintained for many years. What is new is:

1. These now must be determined for thousands of local jurisdictions,
2. The Act imposes special definitions and restraints, and
3. Intercensal small area per capita income and population estimates must be made.

Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968.—The Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as amended in 1971 and 1973, allocates block grant funds between:

1. A State and
2. All local jurisdictions collectively, in proportion to expenditures for law enforcement made by the State and local jurisdictions from their own revenue sources. Once the division is made among the States by the Federal Government, each State is free to make its own allocation of funds to sub-State areas.

In order to determine the amount spent on criminal justice activities from each State's own

revenues and all local units of general government collectively within the State, the Census Bureau, with Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA) support, determines such expenditures made by each State, each county, and each municipality with a 1970 population of 10,000 or more. Data for jurisdictions under 10,000 are estimated from a sample. An annual series is published which includes not only total criminal justice expenditures from each State, but also other interrelated data such as Federal expenditures, expenditures separately for various components of the systems such as police, prosecution, judiciary, and corrections, number of employees in each of these components, and other data.

Comprehensive Employment and Training Act of 1973.—Title I of the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act of 1973 (CETA) provides block grant fund allocations to States, to units of local government with populations of 100,000 or more; to any combination of units of local government which includes at least one unit with a population of 100,000 or more; and to any unit of general local government, without regard to population, which satisfies special criteria regarding labor market area, high unemployment, and capacity to carry out CETA programs. Qualifying areas are called “prime sponsors,” of which there are currently about 430. For each prime sponsor, statistical input into the allocation formula includes the number of unemployed and the number of adults in low income families.

Two additional titles of this act also call for new small area statistical programs, although they are not block grant programs. Title II allocates public service employment funds to subareas (interpreted by the Department of Labor as areas with a population of 10,000 or more) within prime sponsors which have an unemployment rate of 6½% for more than three consecutive months. The statistical input required is the rate and number of unemployed in the subarea.

Title III of the Act directs the Secretary of Labor to “develop reliable methods, including the use of selected sample surveys, to produce more statistically accurate data on unemployment, underemployment and labor demand by State, local and poverty areas.” It also directs the Secretary to “develop methods to establish and maintain more comprehensive household

budget data at different levels of living, including a level of adequacy, to reflect the differences of household living costs in regions and localities, both urban and rural.”

Education Amendments of 1974.—Title I of the Education Amendments of 1974 provides block grant fund allocations to States, school districts, and counties. Statistical inputs include:

1. The number of persons ages 5–17 in poverty,
2. The number of persons ages 5–17 in families above the poverty level which have incomes from Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) payments, and
3. The number of children living in institutions for neglected or dependent children or in publicly supported foster homes.

Another title of this act states “The Secretary of Commerce shall, in consultation with the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, expand the Current Population Survey (or make such other survey) in order to furnish current data for each State with respect to the total number of school-age children in each State to be counted” for the purposes of the act. It also states “The Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare and the Secretary of Commerce shall study the feasibility of updating the number of children (counted for the purposes of the Act) in school districts. . . .”; and that HEW shall supervise “a thorough study of the manner in which the relative measure of poverty . . . may be more accurately and currently developed. The study . . . shall be adjusted for regional, climatic, metropolitan, urban, suburban, and rural differences and for family size and head-of-household differences.”

The required input data for Title I concerning Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and the number of children in institutions and foster homes are supplied by the States and localities. The item of special relevance here is the number of school-age children in poverty. Currently, the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare is using 1970 census data; however, a special expansion of the Current Population Survey has been implemented in order to obtain reliable estimates of the number of school-age children in poverty by State and also the number of persons by State targeted in other titles of the Act, especially handicapped persons and individuals with

non-English speaking backgrounds. To obtain updated income data for more detailed geographic areas, such as by school districts or counties, by direct survey is too massive an undertaking to be feasible as an intercensal project. The Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, the U.S. Bureau of Census, and the Bureau of Economic Analysis are cooperating in a research program to develop methodologies for making estimates for small areas.

Housing and Community Development Act of 1974.—The Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 provides block grant fund allocations to:

1. Cities with a population of 50,000 or more inside Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas (SMSA's) or designated central cities of SMSA's ("metropolitan cities");
2. Counties in SMSA's which have a population of 200,000 or more, excluding the cities of 50,000 or more in the SMSA and certain other exclusions ("urban counties");
3. Units of local government in SMSA's other than metropolitan cities and urban counties; and
4. The non-SMSA parts of the each State.

The statistical inputs are total population, number of persons below the poverty level, and the number of households with 1.01 or more persons per room. "Poverty levels shall take into account, if feasible, regional or area variations in income and cost of living. . . ." There are currently estimated to be about 600 "metropolitan cities" and "urban counties."

From these five examples it is clear that Federal legislation has an extraordinary impact on the requirements for regional and small-area data in the United States.² It should be noted, however, that the legislated requirements extend beyond those for resource allocation to areas of ensuring adequate planning for human needs and equitable delivery of benefits. In the area of planning for human needs, the National Health Planning and Resources Development Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-641) provides an example. This act established approximately 250 local Health Systems Agencies and required that such agencies perform certain specified functions. Among these responsibilities is a requirement that the agencies assemble and analyze data concerning:

1. The status (and its determinants) of the health of the residents in its health service area;
2. The status of the health care delivery system in the area and the use of that system by residents of the area;
3. The effect of the area's health care delivery system has on the health of the residents of the area;
4. The number, type, and location of the area's health resources, including health services, manpower, and facilities;
5. The patterns of utilization of the area's health resources; and
6. The environmental and occupational exposure factors affecting immediate and long-term health conditions.

Although the act stipulates that the local agencies "shall to the maximum extent practicable use existing data," new and expanded statistical efforts are likely to be required at all levels of government to meet the specified data needs.

In the area of equitable delivery of benefits, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 serves as an example of legislated data requirements which impact on the U.S. Federal Statistical System by requiring detailed small-area data. As amended by P.L. 94-73 in 1975, the Voting Rights Act requires the Director of the Bureau of the Census to conduct biennial surveys, in congressional election years, of registration and voting in every State or political subdivision determined to fall under the requirements of the act. Public Law 94-73 specifies that the survey shall provide, for each State, or political subdivision selected, a count of citizens of voting age, the race or color and national origin of the individuals, and a determination of the extent to which such persons are registered to vote and have voted in the elections surveyed. Jurisdictions covered include:

1. Those where more than 5% of the citizens of voting age are members of a single language minority,
2. Those where less than 50% of the citizens of voting age voted in the Presidential election of 1972, and

² Albert Mindlin, "Recent Developments in Federal Statistical Programs for Small Areas," *Statistical Reporter*, November 1976, pp. 37-48.

3. Areas previously covered under the 1965 Act.

The Congress is expected to use these data, which were collected for the first time beginning in November 1976, to judge the effect of the Voting Rights Act and to determine the need for extension or expansion of its special provisions.

To this point, the discussion in this paper has focused on the small-area data requirements imposed on the U.S. Statistical System by Federal legislation. These needs are obviously multiplied when nonfederally imposed interests are considered. For example, local-area price and cost indices, and urban-rural planning data are needed to perform both regional and national socioeconomic analyses. The extent to which these non-Federal requirements should be met by Federal statistical programs will be discussed later in this paper.

Problems with Responding to the Demands for Regional Data

The demands for regional data, which have been outlined above, present the government statistician with difficult challenges. The fundamental impact of recent legislation and of the growing focus on local area problems has been to bring about significant increases in the detail available in governmental statistics. While it may be effectively argued that there is good reason to produce the small-area data which are increasingly demanded from the U.S. Federal Statistical System, it is clear that such production does not occur without significant costs, in terms of both dollar expenditure and burden on the data suppliers.

When policy concerns deal with national problems, the statistician can design relatively efficient samples to provide estimates of aggregate patterns. National samples, which until the present decade have served in large part as the basis for Federal planning and resource allocation, are both efficient and relatively inexpensive.

When the focus of national concern shifts to the problems of discrete local areas, the costs and manpower required to produce the requisite State or sub-State estimates accelerate rapidly. The Current Population Survey, which has been used as a frequent source of data for

Federal resource allocation, serves as a key example of the increased costs which must be incurred to meet new requirements for data specific to smaller geographic areas. To move from national estimates of unemployment to State-level estimates, the Current Population Survey sample was augmented so that national estimates were left intact, but individual State information from an augmented sample could be accumulated over a 12-month period to yield annual State-level estimates.

In 1975, the Current Population Survey was expanded from about 55,000 designated addresses to about 68,000, yielding about 58,000 eligible households. The expansion was mainly in rural States and was intended to permit reasonably reliable average yearly unemployment estimates for every State. It will also produce satisfactory estimates for the 30 largest SMSA's.

A second expansion by about 11,000 designated addresses, or 9,500 eligible households, will occur in 1977 to produce unemployment annual averages for 1978 for all States, the 30 largest SMSA's, and sub-State areas outside these SMSA's in the 18 largest States which contain the largest SMSA's. The permanent Current Population Survey by then will contain about 67,500 eligible households.

Expansion of the sample size from 55,000 to 67,500 resulted in a 20% increase in the cost of the Current Population Survey. To meet the requirements of the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act, State-level data are required on a monthly basis. An expansion to provide the more timely data would more than double the costs of the survey, while additional refinement to produce estimates for metropolitan areas would even further accelerate costs.

The same pattern of substantial increases in costs for the production of small-area data prevails in other areas of Federal concern. In the preceding section, the data assembly and analysis requirements imposed by the Federal legislation on the local Health Systems Agencies were discussed. National estimates of health conditions and health services utilization are currently obtained through the Health Interview Survey which involves a 1-hour interview in 40,000 households at a cost of \$4.5 million annually. In this interview, questions are asked relating to utilization of medical and dental services, existence of chronic and acute medical

conditions, disabilities, use of medicines and medical devices, occurrences of injuries, and other health-related information.

For a large number of statistics, the Health Interview Survey yields both national estimates and estimates for four regional areas at a sufficient level of statistical precision. However, for incidence rates of rare conditions, as well as numerous other statistics, regional estimates (and in a few cases, even national estimates) cannot be provided at an acceptable level of precision.

Expanding the survey with the objective of obtaining State estimates for all 50 States in the United States would require formulating decisions as to which statistics are needed for which geographic levels, since it would be prohibitively costly to design a survey to provide suitably precise estimates for all 50 States for all statistics now obtained. Without such decisions to limit the data or without a basic sample redesign, as many as 500,000 households might have to be sampled at a cost as high as 10 to 15 times the present amount in order to extend the national estimates to the State level of geographic detail. Even designing a survey which would provide only the "most important" statistics for all 50 States would involve a significant increase in sample size at a cost of perhaps three to six times the present cost.

In addition to the loss of efficiency and the rapid acceleration of both dollar outlays and manpower required, development of statistics for regional levels adds to the reporting burden on the total public. The reporting burden grows first because the volume of collection for the expanded sample increases. Of potentially more serious concern, however, is the fact that while national surveys affect only a small proportion of the total population, city-level surveys rapidly increase the probability that individual respondents will be approached for participation in two or more surveys. This deeply intensifies the public perception of excessive government inquiry into the affairs of individual households and poses the potential risk of creating a sharp increase in refusal rates with consequent deterioration in the reliability of sample surveys and the resultant need to expand analysis of nonresponse bias.

Some Principles

The development of regional data can be approached through two fundamentally different strategies. The strategy discussed above focuses on expanding national surveys through sample augmentation to obtain more detailed regional data. Alternatively, one can build national estimates by starting collection at local areas and aggregating samples and censuses from local areas in order to obtain national statistics. For example, birth and death records are maintained at the local (county) level in the United States. Over the past 35 years, a Federal-State cooperative program has been developed through which the National Center for Health Statistics obtains from many States computer tapes summarizing the State and local-area records.

This latter strategy, of course, presents a number of quality control issues to the Federal statistician. It is essential to make certain that common definitions and classification systems are used to provide a means for quality checks given the widely varying capabilities of administrative data systems, especially at the local level, and to ensure timely input since delays from a small number of local areas could result in delaying national aggregations. Consequently, care must be taken in designing programs which build from administrative or statistical collection efforts at the local level.

The choice of the fundamental strategy to be used in addressing local and regional data needs within the context of a national statistical system requires clear policy direction concerning the appropriate Federal-State relationship.³ The character of that relation has been evolving in recent years in the United States, especially with the concept of revenue sharing block grants and other shared responsibilities between Federal and State Governments. It is clear that President Carter's Administration has a special sensitivity to problems at the State level since many policymakers, including the President himself, have direct experience at the State and local

³ Joseph W. Duncan and Katherine K. Wallman, "Regional Statistics and Federal-State Cooperation," *Federal Data for University Research*, Association for University Business and Economic Research, Idaho University, 1975, pp. 1-21.

levels. While the overall national policy for the coming decade has not yet been defined, it is possible to identify several principles that should be considered within the context of the overall national objective. It is not the purpose of this paper to define that objective, but rather to set forth some implications for statistical organizations and statistical activities which will flow from specific definitions of that national responsibility.

The principles to be considered are:

1. Whenever Federal legislation or administrative regulations *require* complete data specific to individual subnational areas, the Federal Government usually should either provide such data or assist in their production, either through financing or technical assistance.
2. The distinction between (a) data that are used only for statistical or research purposes and (b) administrative data that may be used as the basis for granting benefits or assessing sanctions to individual persons should be clear. (In collection for statistical purposes, the promise of confidentiality should be made and observed.)
3. The advantages of standard definitions, classifications, and concepts are crucial; these should be implemented under Federal-State cooperative agreements.
4. For Federal policy analysis, data for a class of small areas should be acceptable in lieu of data for a specific small area and should be specified in terms of statistical reliability.
5. For regulatory or compliance activities, the collection of full-count information should be minimized. (They may be needed for specific purposes such as certification or accreditation.) Rather, benchmark statistical surveys should be used to identify target areas, and detailed compliance followups should focus on "target" areas or areas with high degrees of complaints. (All units would be subject to the risk of inspection, but only a small percentage would be inspected within any short time interval.)

Discussion of the Principles

A few brief comments will help clarify the intent and impact of these basic principles.

Federal Support for Data Collection.—This principle is central to future directions in the development of regional data. It stresses the Federal responsibility for following through on the demands it places on States and local areas. It follows from this principle that a careful review of existing requirements would be made and that in those cases where requirements should be maintained, a procedure should be established for developing the data. It should be further emphasized that the Federal Government must take appropriate steps to assure data quality and equity by preparing common concepts, classifications, and definitions (Principle 3). In program implementation, a consistent collection of local-area data should be used as a building block, and the procedures should involve appropriate quality-control procedures.

Federal legislative and administrative requirements have increasingly called for the production of data specific to subnational areas for program planning, resource allocation, and evaluation. Almost without exception, however, the Congress and the responsible Federal agencies have failed to allocate resources to the subnational jurisdictions for collection and analyses of the required information. Although it may be argued that benefit recipients should be willing to pay the cost of producing data required to obtain Federal resources, there is a growing trend among States and localities to refuse Federal assistance designed to address critical social problems when administrative costs (such as those for data collection) are excessive, and the burden of producing the data required for program application, accountability, and evaluation appears to outweigh the benefits which will accrue to the recipient agency from obtaining Federal assistance. Further, some States and local areas may not have the technical resources to carry out the required tasks. Therefore, appropriate allocation of responsibility among the various governmental levels for the production of federally required statistics must include provision of financial or technical assistance to the subnational areas when they are held responsible for data production.

Statistical versus Administrative Data.—Often administrative records are summarized into aggregates which are presented as descriptive statistics. In many areas the variation in administrative procedures and judgments, as well as

coverage of programs, means that the descriptive statistics are uneven in terms of what they represent. They do, of course, describe what is happening in the program in specific localities, but they may not prove statistically reliable estimates when aggregated.

It is essential to distinguish such administratively based statistics from scientifically collected statistics. This is important for the quality differences already noted (although quality differences can be minimized if tight control procedures are used), but it is also essential in terms of relations with the programs or institutions which provide the data. A clear distinction must be drawn between data that affect the rights, benefits, and privileges of the individual and those data which are collected for purely statistical purposes. In the latter case, the confidentiality of the data must be assured as a basic factor in assuring respondent cooperation.

Standard Definitions.—Presently many Federal-State cooperative statistical programs rely upon data collected at the local level with differing concepts or coverage. For example, State laws vary concerning the coverage of unemployment compensation or definitions of full-time student enrollment. Effective design of a Federal-State cooperative program must include procedures for standardization across these differences. In cases where State or local requirements cannot be made consistent with Federal standards at the point of initial recordkeeping, provision must be made to build crosswalks in the analytical process so that national estimates and interstate comparisons can be made reliably. For subnational data to be useful, it is essential that statistics be comparable from place to place and that quality be uniform.

The use of standard classifications will normally be the desired course. This does not totally foreclose deviation from the standard when need clearly dictates, but the burden of proof concerning need for the deviation should rest with the proposer of a nonstandard classification.

Small-Area Data for Policy Analysis.—For many purposes data for a class of small areas, where class is defined in socioeconomic terms, are acceptable in lieu of data for a specific small area. Special attention should be given to the fact that such classes may have greater validity for program analysis than would be true for limited

samples from small areas. Measurement error tends for many reasons to increase as the size of the area decreases. Thus, the statistics directly collected for a single small area may be highly inaccurate while the average statistics for a class of such areas may be more accurate. Viewed from another perspective, the use of data for a class of small areas in lieu of data on a specific small area makes it possible to obtain subnational estimates at significantly lower increased cost and burden on respondents, thus reducing key concerns noted earlier in the discussion of problems in meeting the rising demand for small-area data.

Attempted complete enumeration may continue to be necessary to produce small-area data for some purposes. Such enumeration may come from tabulation of existing administrative records or, in some instances, from a new census or inventory. When summary information is needed rather than data for case action with respect to individual persons or establishments, it will usually be true that the objective can be served in a more cost-effective manner through a scientific sampling plan.

Regulatory or Compliance Data.—In the United States there has been an increasing tendency on the part of Federal agencies to use statistical inquiries as the basis for assessing the compliance of States, localities, and institutions with regulatory requirements. This tendency has been further aggravated by the practice of requiring every unit under the purview of a Federal agency to provide statistical evidence of its activities which may be used to uncover possible individual cases of noncompliance with the law. The net result of this trend has been the diversion of disproportionate resources of the compliance agencies to data collection, considerable expenditure of resources by respondents, and relatively little action directed to the timely resolution of investigations based upon complaints and other sources of projected noncompliance.

Statistical surveys, based upon samples, should be used to ascertain trends and target problems for investigation and positive action. Where possible, the extensive administrative records maintained by units subject to regulatory requirements should be used in lieu of new surveys designed specifically for Federal enforcement action. More detailed statistical data should be required only of those units which have been identified through statistical screen-

ing or some other mechanism (such as records of complaints) as possible violators of the Federal statutes. In this way reporting burden will be reduced while use of limited investigatory resources can be devoted to problem solving.

Innovative Approaches

The principles above were outlined in order to be helpful in defining Federal (or central statistical office) responsibilities. However, in view of the rapidly growing demands for statistics relating to State and local areas, it will be necessary to develop some alternative strategies for the development of statistics in the full level of geographic detail desired by local decision-makers. For example, in the United States we are encouraging efforts to develop synthetic estimates for small-area data. Some recent work has been completed on the use of the one percent sample from the 1970 census for making alternative synthetic estimates of unemployment and for analyzing the relative error associated with such estimates.⁴

Another approach is the development of a new and stronger institutional relationship between State governments and the Federal Government for the purpose of developing statistical programs. In this area, the Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards has set forth some ideas relating to the development of central statistical coordinating units in State governments.⁵ The purpose of these coordinating units would be to undertake development of standards for State statistical procedures, to encourage collaboration among State agencies in the use and development of State statistics and in using Federal statistics, and to provide a focal point for contact between the State and Federal statistical policymakers. No decision has been made to implement this approach, but it is under active consideration.

A third approach, *which is not yet under active consideration*, would be to develop a "Federal Survey Consultation Service" which would take existing Federal statistical and social research technology and package certain "household survey products" in a form suitable for use by State and local agencies and organizations. This would require a mechanism for dissemination, coordination, and monitoring of data collection procedures and could include standards and procedures for certification mechanism could be

used to qualify studies or data as acceptable for grant applications and for other Federal program and planning support requirements.

Although the development and implementation of such a Federal Survey Consultation Service would require staffing and funding, the Federal investment would be a small fraction of the resources required for direct provision of data to meet the demands for local-area statistics. The development of such a program would also contribute greatly to capacity building in State and local government statistical planning and operations.

Since this concept is not being formally considered, it is worthwhile in the context of this paper to consider in more detail the functions of such a service in the hope that refinement of the concept may lead to active consideration of the proposal. Five functions could be considered. They are:

1. Technology development and packaging;
2. Dissemination, liaison, and consultation;
3. Interstate and interagency coordination;
4. Monitoring; and
5. Certification.

Technology Development.—Survey design, sampling schemes, schedules and questionnaires, training manuals and field work guides, weighting and population inflation factors, edit specifications, data processing procedures, tabulation plans and specifications, and publication guidelines would be included under technical development of survey programs. At the onset, the survey package would consist of the materials prepared for the Federal population and household surveys, documented and organized in a format accessible to the participating local organizations. Adaptations in the sampling design and tabulation plans for local-area needs could either be prepared as generalized guidelines, as specific study elements (through the consultation and liaison process), or as part

⁴ Maria Elena Gonzalez and Christine Hoza, "Small Area Estimation," which has been submitted to the *Journal of the American Statistical Association*.

⁵ U.S. Office of Management and Budget, Statistical Policy Division, "Federal-State Cooperative Systems of Data Collection," *Statistical Reporter*, November 1976, pp. 57-66.

of departmental programs of technical assistance. As needs arise, new survey development primarily for State-local interests could be considered, depending on staff availability, reimbursement feasibility, and Federal agency interests.

Dissemination, Liaison, and Consultation Services.—An organizational mechanism would need to be developed to identify and inform the organizations with interests in newly developed and ongoing Federal surveys of their availability for local adaptation and implementation. This activity could provide a contact point for:

1. Continuing liaison with State and local representatives on survey applications and limitations and
2. Consultation on the methodology for adapting federally designed surveys to local needs, interests, and capabilities.

This function could also become the focal point for training programs for State and local statisticians and social researchers to assist in developing the necessary capabilities for implementing these surveys at the local level. Another major function in this area would be close coordination and collaboration with the sponsoring departments or Federal agencies.

Interstate and Interagency Coordination.—State-local interests and needs may cut across substantive areas in different ways than Federal interests. A mechanism would be needed to bring together elements from different State agency statistical activities to meet these needs, as they relate to Federal programs or activities, and to package them as a consolidated survey plan.

Statistical needs in some areas should also apply equally across all or a number of States. The Federal Survey Consultation Service could provide a means for efficient cooperation and coordination among States.

Monitoring.—To ensure that the statistical packages are being used properly, the Federal Survey Consultation Service would need to develop a set of standards for acceptable procedures and to provide "monitors" for reviewing study plans and inspecting ongoing work in terms of its adherence to acceptable statistical standards and procedures. The standards should be the *minimum* necessary to ensure the adequacy of the statistical products. The technical and methodological requirements should be

appropriate to the intended uses of the data, but not so rigid or intensive as to stifle the creativity or innovativeness of the State's research staff or to raise inordinate administrative or budgetary barriers to implementation.

Certification.—The monitoring process offers an interesting, but potentially risky, method for placing the responsibility and the capability for local area data generation with the State and local governments under a cooperative Federal program. The risks of State or local political dominance of a technical decision process must be weighed against the substantial gains of limiting direct Federal involvement in local data collection and reporting which can result.

Certification would provide a statement from the Federal Survey Consultation Service of Federal acceptance of survey data for use in meeting allocation, application, or Federal program and planning requirements when there has been a formal finding by the Federal Survey Consultation Service monitor that the State-local organization has met the required minimum standard in the design and conduct of a survey. As an added buffer, the certifying board or committee could be placed outside of, or advisory to, the Federal Survey Consultation Service staff and management.

A General Strategy

The principles outlined earlier and the suggestions in the previous section apply to many special-purpose statistical activities. At a broader level, there are opportunities for improving the regional statistical data base within the context of existing major general-purpose programs. Two opportunities are evident in the national income account estimates and in the population census. In development of the input and output tables, the current procedure is to estimate national relationships and to disaggregate the national tables to produce the regional or State tables. An alternative strategy is to incorporate State-level tables (using Gross State Product concepts) into the estimating process for making national estimates. There are, of course, serious data deficiencies for interstate transactions, nevertheless, a procedure for making State tables has been suggested by the Bureau of Economic Analysis.⁶

⁶ Daniel H. Garnick, "Issues in Estimating Gross State Product," *Federal Data for University Research*, Association

In the area of the population census, the 94th Congress authorized the conduct of a mid-decade census in 1985. This census can be used as a means for developing regional data through the use of nested surveys. The proposed approach would be to utilize the mid-decade census as a "mid-decade statistical effort" designed to provide the social and demographic statistics needed for various formula-grant programs of the Federal Government in allocating funds to the different regions, States, and sub-State areas throughout the Nation. This program would refine the special-purpose local-area surveys designed to satisfy individual program needs by providing benchmark measures and updated estimates of key demographic statistics needed for various formula-grant programs of the Federal Government in allocating funds to the different regions, States, and sub-State areas throughout the Nation. This program would refine the special-purpose local-area surveys designed to satisfy individual program needs by providing benchmark measures and updated estimates of key variables.

To accomplish this, it would be necessary to establish prior agreement on a set of common concepts, definitions, and population characteristics for these special-purpose surveys so that this set of common concepts could then be applied in both the special-purpose surveys and in the national surveys and censuses alike. Initial efforts in this direction, making use of the 1980 Census, should permit full implementation by the time of the 1985 Census effort. That effort could then be used to develop the local-area information required for individual special-purpose topics.

In effect, this would create a series of "nested" surveys whereby a common set of information would be collected for all populations sampled, but the detailed characteristics explored would remain unique to the needs of the individual surveys. In addition to the common concepts and classifications employed in these surveys, this approach would require developing a data file in which households with common characteristics would be statistically matched to yield a statistical profile relating to various functional areas without the need to

question each individual unit with respect to all of the subject-matter areas included in the profile. This capability would provide analysts with a rich data resource for the investigation of interactions among various programs and associated population characteristics.

A number of programs now undertaken to provide local-area estimates could be merged into this approach. For example, the demographic portion of the Census of Agriculture could be substantially reduced, and the mid-decade program could yield better data on the total rural population. Also, the metropolitan detail (60 cities covered once every 3 years) in the Annual Housing Survey could be dropped in order to obtain housing data for all 281 Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas once every 5 years. When these and similar revisions are accumulated over the entire decade, our analysis shows that it is possible to offset the cost of the mid-decade statistical effort, while bringing about an improved integration of social, economic, and demographic statistics.

Conclusion

This paper has traced the U.S. experience in relation to the growing demand for regional statistics. First, it has demonstrated that the trend of recent legislation at the Federal level has been to sharply increase the pressures on the national statistical system for providing more local-area detail concerning important statistical series. Currently, these demands exceed the ability of the national statistical system to deliver accurate estimates required for policy or resource allocation.

This paper also points out the basic difficulties which arise for the national statistical system when it must provide a high level of geographic detail. The strategy for overcoming these problems must derive first from a national strategy concerning appropriate Federal-State relationships. In the United States, these relationships are continuing to evolve, and the overall direction for the coming decade is still not fully determined. Nevertheless, the paper has (1) proposed some principles for developing statistical programs in response to these growing pressures, (2) outlined some organizational concepts for further consideration, and (3) made two modest proposals for improving national economic data and national geographic data in relation to local-area needs.

for University Business and Economic Research, Idaho State University, 1975, pp. 23-34.

In conclusion, the task faced by national statistical systems is both very important and very difficult. In the United States, three basic issues remain to be resolved. These are:

1. The development of an appropriate definition of the shared responsibility between Federal and State and/or local data collection units.
2. The design of an appropriate national program focus concerning the diversity of local needs. This suggests a minimum set
3. The development of an appropriate set of priorities for statistical budgets, given limited resources. This resolves into the issue of allocating available resources across a comprehensive array of statistical series versus the strategy of more geographic detail for a few selected major series.

of information for national policymaking and general guidelines for local area policymaking.

New Occupational Information Tools

Standard Occupational Classification Manual

The first edition of the *Standard Occupational Classification Manual* (SOC) has just been published. This standard provides a statistical classification system for occupations that should make statistics compiled by different agencies much more comparable, such 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 occupational data were collected. It had become increasingly apparent that, although the difficulties associated with meeting the often contradicting and many-faceted requirements had earlier kept the statistical community from developing a standard, the need for comparability now overrode such problems.

The SOC 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. In areas where the classification is too detailed, higher level groups should be used. Where the system is not detailed enough, additional detail within the existing framework should be collected. The system also allows for rearrangements of occupations that would be useful, such as combining data for managers with data for supervisors or combining data for all helpers. Also, college teachers were subdivided by the field in which they

taught, so that data for many teachers could be combined with data for practitioners in the same field.

The concern about occupational classification which resulted in this Manual began in 1966 when the director of what was then the Office of Statistical Standards in the Bureau of the Budget asked several agencies for their views on the feasibility of this project. Concern about occupational classification, of course, goes back much farther.

The Manual was developed by an interagency committee and several technical work groups under the direction of the Statistical Policy Division staff at the Office of Management and Budget which was helped considerably by several persons detailed by agencies. The responsibility for promulgating the Manual will be in the Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards (OFSPS), U.S. Department of Commerce to which the statistical policy and standards function were transferred when the Executive Office of the President was reorganized.

The classification relied on the concepts, principles, and structures of several other occupational classifications. Where these classifications did not meet the needs of statistical users, other structures were incorporated into the system. Because this classification has some configurations which have not been used before, the OFSPS will consider a program of revisions approximately every 5 years.

Agencies will be expected to incorporate the classification into their statistical programs at an early date. Maintaining comparability with data collected earlier will, of course, preclude some Federal agencies from changing completely to the new system immediately.

The *Standard Occupational Classification Manual, 1977* is for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, for \$8.25 a copy, Stock Number 041-001-00153-1.

The 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.

Secretary of Labor Ray Marshall, in announcing the availability of the new Dictionary for use by commerce, industry, and government, said the 1,400-page fourth edition describes the occupational structure of American industry with comprehensive and standardized definitions.

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. This edition, with its new and more detailed occupational information, enhances its usefulness for a wide variety of additional uses such as career guidance, vocational education and rehabilitation, and long-range job planning. It contains the most comprehensive, up-to-date information on job duties and requirements in the United States ever assembled in a single volume.

This new edition includes 2,100 occupations that have been identified since the last edition. More than 3,500 definitions have been eliminated because of obsolescence, technological change, or were determined to be duplications of other jobs. The new occupations reflect the changing sociology and technology of the times with such additions as credit-card clerk and photocomposition keyboard operator. Load-

control agents (with the advent of more powerful airplanes, weight is no longer critical) and stencil-cutters (with the advent of photocopying machines now in wide general use) have been dropped.

The new single-volume edition also includes materials formerly found in four separate publications. It eliminates sex and age references—in both definitions and job titles—which were contained in more than 3,000 occupations in the previous edition.

The definitions are used widely by business and industry where uniform descriptions of occupations are necessary, such as in government contracts and government-subsidized job-training programs. The occupations are coded by numbers, with each occupation having a unique 9-digit code. For example, a boot and shoe side laster who *cements* the last is designated as 690.685.358 while the laster who *staples* the last is a 690.685.362.

The 1977 edition is the result of continued research on the changing occupational structure of the American economy, conducted by the U.S. Employment Service (of the Labor Department's Employment and Training Administration), and job analysts in affiliated State Employment Service Occupational Analysis Field Centers throughout the country. The 4th edition is based on more than 75,000 on-site job analyses of the spectrum of jobs in various industries to verify or revise the definitions of occupations listed in the *DOT*. Extensive contacts were also made with professional and trade associations. As a result of eliminating obsolete occupations and consolidating and restructuring others, the current *DOT* contains about 1,800 fewer listings than the third edition.

While the basic occupation classification structure is retained, the new edition now describes occupations on the basis of a structure which places similar occupations together rather than in alphabetical order. Significant military occupations are included for the first time.

Other sections included in the *DOT* are:

- (1) Master titles and definitions—describing work duties common to a number of jobs.
- (2) Term titles and definitions—describing jobs that may differ widely in job knowledge required, tasks performed, and job location.

- (3) Alphabetical index of occupational titles—arrangements of titles and codes in alphabetical order with complete nine-digit codes for all titles.
- (4) Occupational titles arranged by industry designation.
- (5) Alphabetically arranged glossary defining 722 technical words italicized in *DOT* definitions. The meaning of these technical words often differs from common usage as shown in a standard dictionary.

Besides being a primary tool in the job placement function at the 2,500 Federal-State public employment service offices throughout the country, the *DOT* is used extensively by local

prime sponsors of employment and training programs, professional societies and trade associations, vocational counselors and vocational rehabilitation workers, community development workers, community development agencies, labor market information specialists, employment and training planners, affirmative action and equal employment opportunity planners, industry personnel offices, schools and libraries, private employment agencies, and employment agencies in foreign countries.

The *Dictionary of Occupational Titles* is for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 for \$12.00 a copy, Stock Number 029-013-00079-9.

CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

WILLIAMSON COUNTY ADDED TO AUSTIN, TEXAS SMSA

On December 6, 1977, Secretary of Commerce Juanita M. Kreps announced the addition of Williamson County to the Austin, Texas Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (SMSA).

The standard metropolitan statistical area is a statistical standard used in the development and presentation by Federal agencies of statistical information on metropolitan areas. A standard metropolitan statistical area is designated and defined according to a body of objective, published criteria.

The Austin, Texas Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area is redefined as Hays County, Travis County, and Williamson County.

The responsibility for designating and defining SMSA's has recently been transferred from the Office of Management and Budget to the Department of Commerce. Inquiries regarding the SMSA should be referred to Joseph W. Duncan, Director, Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C. 20230. (SUZANN K. EVINGER, OFFICE OF FEDERAL STATISTICAL

POLICY AND STANDARDS, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, telephone (202) 673-7965.)

BLOCK STATISTICS AVAILABLE

As part of the 1980 Decennial Census of Population and Housing, the Census Bureau is planning to tabulate and publish block data drawn from the subjects which are being covered on a 100-percent basis. Block tabulations are useful in planning, housing urban renewal, and other federally assisted programs.

The block data under the regular program will be prepared for each urbanized area in the United States and for each incorporated place over 10,000 inhabitants. Outside these areas, State and local government authorities will be able to contract with the Bureau of the Census to produce block data for their areas. Among criteria to be met for the contract program are the furnishing of maps which meet Census specifications and paying a fee based on population.

Cities, towns, and other local units that wish to participate should write immediately for further information, including fee schedule, to: Arthur F. Young, Chief, Housing Division,

Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C. 20233. (WILLIAM A. DOWNS, BUREAU OF THE CENSUS, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, telephone (301) 763-2873.)

LOCAL AREA PERSONAL INCOME 1970-1975

The Bureau of Economic Analysis has published a nine-volume set containing data on total personal income and per capita personal income, total population, components of personal income by type, and labor and proprietors income by major industries, SMSA's, BEA economic areas, States, and the Nation.

The set, entitled *Local Area Personal Income 1970-1975*, also contains methodology and shows the county composition of SMSA's and BEA economic areas. The set and individual volumes are available from National Technical Information Service, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Virginia 22161. The price for the nine-volume set is \$64.00; the Accession No. is PB-270-879/AS-SET. Titles, Accession Numbers, and prices for the individual volumes follow:

<i>Vol. 1: Summary</i> , PB-270-880/AS	\$12.00
<i>Vol. 2: New England Region</i> , PB-270/881/AS	\$ 5.25
<i>Vol. 3: Mideastern Region</i> , PB-270-882/AS	\$ 6.50
<i>Vol. 4: Great Lakes Region</i> , PB-270-883/AS	\$10.75
<i>Vol. 5: Plains Region</i> , PB-270-884/AS	\$12.00
<i>Vol. 6: Southeastern Region</i> , PB-270-885/AS	\$16.50
<i>Vol. 7: Southwestern Region</i> , PB-270-886/AS	\$ 9.25
<i>Vol. 8: Rocky Mountain Region</i> , PB-270-886/AS	\$ 7.25
<i>Vol. 9: Far Western Region</i> , PB-270-887/AS	\$ 6.50

(LINNEA HAZEN, BUREAU OF ECONOMIC ANALYSIS, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, telephone (202) 523-0966.)

THIRD PUBLIC-USE COMPUTER TAPE AVAILABLE FOR EXPENDITURE SURVEY

The Bureau of Labor Statistics has released the Interview Survey Detailed Public-Use Tape of individual survey family value data for the 1972-73 Consumer Expenditure Survey. This tape includes individual family data in the maximum detail for about 2,600 items of expenditures, gifts and contributions given, sources of family income, net change in assets and liabilities, and value of goods and services received without direct expense.

Characteristics are shown for each of the about 10,000 survey families in each survey year, 1972 and 1973, including region, location

of residence, family size, automobile ownership, description of housing, fuels used; education, occupation, and earnings of family head and spouse; and age, sex, employment status, weeks worked for each family member.

Copies of the announcements, order forms and other information on this tape, the Diary Survey Public-Use Tape, announced in April, and the Interview Survey Summary Public-Use Tape, released in June, can be obtained from the Division of Living Conditions Studies, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Washington, D.C. 20212. (TOM LANAHAN, BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, telephone (202) 523-9641.)

REVISED MONTHLY BUSINESS ESTIMATES

The Bureau of the Census has issued the first of three special reports showing revised monthly business estimates. These reports showed revised monthly data for retail sales, wholesale sales, and selected services.

The revisions are the result of a major change in the Census Bureau's current business sample surveys—the first change in several years. They reflect:

- A new sample design
- A new sample of business firms
- Linking to dollar volume levels from the 1967 and 1972 economic censuses
- Redefining sales and receipts to exclude sales taxes and finance charges
- Updating business classifications to the 1972 Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code rather than the 1967 SIC code
- Revising and updating the seasonal adjustment factors

The information in the retail and wholesale special reports replace the monthly estimates previously published for January 1967 through August 1977, while the data in the service report replace the monthly series from January 1972 through August 1977.

The new sample design shows a number of improvements. For example, the new samples were selected from an updated list of businesses; the redefinition of sales and receipts to exclude sales taxes and finance charges has re-

sulted in more uniform reporting; an increased sampling efficiency has reduced the number of reporting firms; and a change in the sampling "unit" has provided more accurate representation of large companies.

In addition, the Bureau plans to have sample updates more often. Large companies with substantial growth will be identified annually and included in the sample.

To order the current business reports or the special reports with the data from previous years please call or write to the Publication Distribution Section, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C. 20233, telephone (301) 763-7472. (CARL J. BOSTROM, BUREAU OF THE CENSUS, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, telephone (301) 763-7040.)

INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX RETURNS FOR 1974

The Internal Revenue Service has released *Statistics of Income-1974, Individual Income Tax Returns*. The statistics in the report are based on a sample selected from the 83.3 million returns filed by taxpayers during calendar year 1975.

Statistics are presented on sources of taxpayers' income, exemptions, deductions, taxable income, and income tax liability classified by size of taxpayer's adjusted gross income for the Nation. Data are also classified by marital status of taxpayers, taxable and nontaxable returns, taxpayers age 65 and over, and by State.

For the first time since the 1969 report, separate wage data are included for male and female taxpayers based on the Forms W-2 Wage and Tax Statements filed with their income tax returns.

The publication contains detailed information on returns of taxpayers claiming the standard deduction or itemized deductions such as for medical and dental expenses, charitable contributions, interest, taxes and casualty and theft losses, and on taxpayers reporting credits such as the investment and retirement income credits.

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, balance due, and the tax rebate effective for 1974.

This 277-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.)

DEFINING DISABILITY

The Office of Research and Statistics in the Social Security Administration has released a Staff Paper (No. 28) entitled *Defining Disability: A Cross-Country Study*.

The 46-page paper analyzes how the Belgian, British, Dutch, French, Swedish, and West German social security systems define and measure nonwork-related disability. Most of these systems have two concurrent income maintenance programs—one for short-term and one for long-term incapacity—to protect workers against a loss of earnings due to nonoccupational illness or injury. A third program covers work-related incapacity. The findings show that pension provisions for both permanent, partial and total invalidity are common. These European programs evaluate severity of invalidity in terms of the worker's inability to do his regular job (occupational incapacity), his inability to do any work at all (general invalidity), or his need for constant attendance.

Detailed charts summarize coverage, source of funds, qualifying conditions, cash benefits, and the administrative organization of these programs as well as those of the United States.

Single copies of *Defining Disability: A Cross-Country Study* (HEW Publication No. (SSA) 77-11853) 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. (ROBERT E. ROBINSON, SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE, telephone (202) 673-5576).

RECENT VITAL AND HEALTH STATISTICS REPORTS

Described below are some of the reports published recently by the National Center for Health Statistics in the *Vital and Health Statistics* series. Single copies of these reports are avail-

able free of charge from NCHS, Rm 1-57, Center Building, 3700 East-West Highway, Hyattsville, Maryland 20782, Attention: M. Murray, or call (301) 436-NCHS.

Series 10 (Data from the Health Interview Survey):

Out-of-Pocket Cost and Acquisition of Prescribed Medicines, United States, 1973 (No. 108, DHEW Publication No. (HRA) 77-1542, 45 pp.) discusses data collected during 1973 in the Health Interview Survey on the acquisition and cost of prescribed medicine. Various statistics are derived from these data including those on average out-of-pocket cost per person, average number of acquisitions per person per year, average cost per purchase, and the percent of acquisitions according to source of payment and selected sociodemographic characteristics. It also includes information on the number of acquisitions and percent distribution by conditions for which prescribed.

Limitation of Activity Due to Chronic Conditions, United States, 1974 (No. 111, DHEW Publication No. (HRA) 77-1537, 65 pp.) presents statistics on persons limited in activity due to chronic conditions by age, sex, color, family income, educational attainment, usual activity status, living arrangements, geographic region, and place of residence. Statistics are also presented on chronic conditions reported as causing limitation of activity by demographic characteristics.

Persons Hospitalized by Number of Episodes and Days Hospitalized in a Year, United States, 1972 (No. 116, DHEW Publication No. (HRA) 77-1544, 54 pp.) presents statistics on persons with one or more episodes in short-stay hospitals during an average year, according to number of episodes, days hospitalized, patterns of stay, age, sex, and income.

Hospital and Surgical Insurance Coverage, United States, 1974 (No. 117, DHEW Publication No. (HRA) 77-1545, 48 pp.) analyzes data on the number of persons in the civilian, non-institutionalized population with hospital and surgical insurance coverage and is based on information collected in health interviews during 1974. Private hospital and surgical insurance coverage of persons under 65 years of age is distributed by selected demographic characteristics. Statistics on the number of hospital insurance plans per person, how the plans were obtained, type of in-

surging organization, and reasons for not having hospital insurance are presented for this age group. Estimates on private hospital insurance are compared with data from the Health Insurance Association of America.

Series 11 (Data from the Health Examination Survey):

Dietary Intake Findings, United States, 1971-74 (No. 202, DHEW Publication No. (HRA) 77-1647, 74 pp.) is the first of a series of five reports to assess the nutritional status of the U.S. population aged 1-74 years. Thirty-two detailed tables present data on the nutrient intake of 20,749 persons examined in the first Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (HANES), 1971-1974, by age, race, and income group. The general characteristics of the (HANES), program are described. Two appendixes define terms and outline dietary standards used in HANES. This report presents the data that will be used in the detailed analyses of a forthcoming report.

Series 13 (Data on Health Resources Utilization):

Inpatient Utilization of Short-Stay Hospitals by Diagnosis, United States, 1974 (No. 30, DHEW Publication No. (HRA) 77-1783, 72 pp.) presents statistics on the utilization of non-Federal short-stay hospitals based on data abstracted in the Hospital Discharge Survey from a national sample of hospital records of discharged inpatients. The number of discharges, discharge rates, and average length of stay are shown for the classes and categories of first-listed diagnoses, by age, sex, and color of patients, by geographic region, and by bed size of hospital. The number and percent distribution of all-listed diagnoses (up to five per patient) reported for inpatients discharged, as well as the number of deaths in short-stay hospitals and hospital fatality rates by age, sex, and first-listed diagnostic conditions are also given.

Utilization of Nursing Homes, United States: National Nursing Home Survey, August 1973-April 1974 (No. 28, DHEW Publication No. (HRA) 77-1779, 77 pp.) presents statistics on various measures of utilization according to selected facility, resident, staffing, and financial characteristics. These statistics include distribution of beds, occupancy rate, demographic characteristics of residents, length of stay since current

admission, primary reason for admission, living arrangements prior to admission, admissions, discharges, rate of turnover, full-time equivalent staff, skill of charge person, charges for care, and sources of payment.

FEDERAL INFORMATION SOURCES AND SYSTEMS

The 1977 edition of *Federal Information Sources and Systems*, a Directory issued by the Comptroller General, has recently been released by the General Accounting Office. The data compilation responds to information requirements of Title II of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970, as amended by Title VIII of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

The directory contains descriptions of approximately 1,400 major systems containing fiscal, budgetary and program-related information which are maintained by 91 executive and legislative agencies.

The publication contains a citation and an index section. The citation section, arranged by agency, consists of descriptive information and an abstract prepared by participating agencies. The descriptive information elements are as follows:

- Abstracts outlining purpose, inputs, data content and outputs
- Title/acronym of source, system or activity
- Agency identification number
- Relevant budget programs and OMB Funding Title/Code
- Congressional committee jurisdiction
- Agency contact
- Notice of availability
- Key words and descriptors

The *Index section*, comprised of a subject index, title index, agency index, congressional index, program index, budget function index, and an OMB funding title/program table, facilitates the search for citations of information sources and systems. A glossary of program, budgetary, and information terms is appended.

Copies of *Federal Information Sources and Systems* can be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 for \$6.75 a copy, GPO stock number 020-000-00152-6.

Both microfiche and a limited number of paper copies of the directory are available to Members of Congress, congressional committee staff members, officials of Federal, State, and local governments, nonprofit organizations, and college libraries, faculty members, and students by writing to:

U.S. General Accounting Office
Distribution Section
Room 4522
441 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20548

(MARTHA JO DEY OR ROBERT JAXEL, PROGRAM ANALYSIS DIVISION, GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE, telephone (202) 275-1837.)

NEW JERSEY ECONOMIC REPORT

The New Jersey Economic Policy Council has released its 10th Annual Report. The report contains several chapters which review the state of the New Jersey economy, recommend several innovative policies related to taxation, housing finance, and industrial inducements. Eight chapters are devoted to indepth studies such as the impact of business cycles, potential for employment in the service sector, labor and pollution abatement costs, and the sunbelt-snowbelt controversy. The report also contains statistical time service for New Jersey economic indicators. For information and copies call (609) 292-1891 or write Adam Broner, Office of Economic Policy, 142 West State Street, Trenton, New Jersey 08625.

UN STATISTICAL POCKETBOOK

The United Nations Statistical Office recently released *United Nations Statistical Pocketbook (World Statistics in Brief)*. This is the second in a new series of annual compilations of basic international statistics. The compilation was undertaken in response to General Assembly resolution 2626 (XXV), in which the Secretary-General was requested, *inter alia*, to supply adequate basic national data that would increase international public awareness of countries' development efforts.

The data were selected from the wealth of international statistical information compiled regularly by the Statistical Office of the United Nations and the statistical services of the specialized agencies. The first part of the *Pocketbook*

has a separate page for each of 148 countries, showing important and frequently consulted statistical indicators. The second part contains demographic, economic and social statistics for the world as a whole, selected regions of the world and major countries.

This *Pocketbook* generally covers the years 1960, 1965, 1970 and 1975. The statistics included for each year are those most recently published by the United Nations and the specialized agencies. The aim is to present for the

various countries, over the period covered, time series which are as nearly comparable as the available statistics permit.

Copies of the *Pocketbook* (Statistical Papers, Series V, No. 2. x + 251 pp., UN Sales No. E.77.XVII.15, \$3.95) may be purchased from the Sales Section, United Nations, New York, N.Y. 10017. Government agencies should request the discount to which they are entitled as it is not automatically given. In ordering, please use the sales number and price shown above.

SCHEDULE OF RELEASE DATES FOR PRINCIPAL FEDERAL ECONOMIC INDICATORS

February 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.*

A similar schedule will be shown here each

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.

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

<i>Date</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Data for</i>
February 1	Construction Expenditures (Press release), Census, C-30 (69)	December
1	Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders, Census, M3-1 (65)	December
1	Condition Report of Large Commercial Banks, Federal Reserve Board (FRB), H.4.2 (72, 112)	Week Ending January 25
2	Money Stock Measures, FRB, H.6 (85, 102, 107, 108)	Week Ending January 25
2	Factors Affecting Bank Reserves and Condition Statement of Federal Reserve Banks, FRB, H.4.1 (93, 94)	Week Ending February 1
3	The Employment Situation (Press release), Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) (1, 21, 37, 40-44, 91, 340, 442, 444-448, 451-453)	January

February 3	Manufacturers' Export Sales and Orders, Census, M4-A	December
3	Open Market Money Rates and Bond Prices, FRB, G.13	January
7	Consumer Credit, FRB, G.19 (66, 113)	December
8	Condition Report of Large Commercial Banks, FRB, H.4.2 (72, 112)	Week Ending February 1
9	Money Stock Measures, FRB, H.6 (85, 102, 107, 108)	Week Ending February 1
9	Factors Affecting Bank Reserves and Condition Statement of Federal Reserve Banks, FRB, H.4.1 (93, 94)	Week Ending February 8
9	Monthly Wholesale Trade (Press release), Census, BW	December
10	Wholesale Price Index (Press release), BLS (330-334)	January
10	Advance Monthly Retail Sales (Press release), Census (54)	January
15	Manufacturing and Trade: Inventories and Sales, Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) (31, 56, 71)	December
15	Yields on FHA Insured New Home 30-Year Mortgages, HUD (118)	February 1
15	Industrial Production and Related Data, FRB, G. 12.3 (47, 73-76)	January
15	Food Assistance Programs Results, Agriculture	December
15	Condition Report of Large Commercial Banks, FRB, H.4.2 (72, 112)	Week Ending February 8
16	Money Stock Measures, FRB, H.6 (85, 102, 107, 108)	Week Ending February 8
16	Factors Affecting Bank Reserves and Condition Statement of Federal Reserve Banks, FRB, H.4.1 (93, 94)	Week Ending February 15
16	Personal Income, BEA (223)	January
16	Housing Starts (Press release), Census, C-20 (28, 29)	January
17	Output, Capacity, and Capacity Utilization, FRB, G.3 (82, 84)	January
21	Gross National Product (Revised), BEA (200, 205, 210)	4Q'77
22	Advance Report on Durable Goods, Manufacturers' Shipments and Orders (Press release), Census, M3-1, (6, 24, 25, 96, 548)	January

<i>Date</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Date for</i>
February 22	Condition Report of Large Commercial Banks, FRB, H.4.2 (72, 112)	Week Ending February 15
23	Money Stock Measures, FRB, H.6 (85, 102, 107, 108)	Week Ending February 15
23	Factors Affecting Bank Reserves and Condition Statement of Federal Reserve Banks, FRB, H.4.1 (93, 94)	Week Ending February 22
24	Average Yields of Long-Term Bonds, Treasury Bulletin (115, 116)	December
27	Consumer Price Index (Press release), BLS (320-322)	January
27	Real Earnings (Press release), BLS (341)	January
28	Productivity and Costs in Nonfinancial Corporate Sector, BLS (63, 358, 370)	4 Q '77
28	Export and Import Merchandise Trade, Census, FT-900 (602-612)	January
28	Labor Turnover in Manufacturing (Press release), BLS (2, 3, 4)	January
28	Work Stoppages (Press release), BLS	January
28	Composite Indexes of Leading, Coincident, and Lagging Indicators (Press release), BEA	January
28	Agricultural Prices, Agriculture	Mid-February

PERSONNEL NOTES

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of the Census: HAROLD NISSELSON has been designated as Associate Director for Statistical Standards and Methodology. TYLER R. STURDEVANT has been designated Chief, Business Division. LEONORA M. GROSS has been designated Chief, Construction Statistics Division.

The following staff assignments in the Data User Services Division have been announced: WARREN C. GLIMPSE, Assistant Chief for User Services; WILLIAM LERNER, Assistant Chief for Statistical Reports; and HELEN E. TEIR, Chief, Statistical Compendia Staff.

WILLIAM W. PERRY was appointed Chief of the Outlying Areas Statistics Branch, Agriculture Division. FRANCIS J. BOUCHER has been designated Assistant Division Chief for Program Implementation, Foreign Trade Division. JOHN WIKOFF is designated as Assistant Division Chief for Current Programs, Industry Division. JAMES L. O'BRIEN has been designated Acting Chief of Statistical Research Division. DAVID W. CHAPMAN has been designated Chief, Census Operations Branch, and PAUL BETTIN designated Chief, Recurring Surveys Branch in the Statistical Methods Division.

The following reassignments in the Demographic Surveys Division have been announced: GEORGE H. GRAY, Chief, Longitudinal Surveys; ROBERT W. MANGOLD, Chief, Health Statistics Branch; and EVAN H. DAVEY, Chief, Special Survey Branch.

The Overseas Consultation and Technical Services Branch of the International Statistical Programs Center reports the following changes in its overseas advisory staff: ANTHONY BONI, Education Sector Analysis Adviser, completed a regular tour of duty with the Ministry of Education in El Salvador and returned to the United States on October 14. BOBBIE E. CATLIN, Principal Data

Processing Adviser, completed a regular tour of duty on November 15 with the National Computer Center, Central Department of Statistics, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, under the auspices of the U.S.-Saudi Arabian Joint Economic Commission.

FEDERAL RESERVE BOARD

Division of International Finance: EDWIN M. TRUMAN, formerly Associate Director of the Division, has been appointed Director. JOHN E. REYNOLDS is now Counselor to the Division, formerly having been Associate Director and Acting Director. ROBERT F. GEMMILL, GEORGE B. HENRY and CHARLES J. SIEGMAN have been designated Associate Directors in the Division. They formerly were Senior International Division Officers. Mr. Gemmill has advisory responsibility for the Financial Markets, International Banking and U.S. International Transactions Sections; Mr. Henry for the Quantitative Studies and Trade and Financial Studies Sections; and Mr. Siegman for the International Development and World Payments and Economic Activity Sections.

GERARD CAPRIO, formerly an Economist in the Young Professionals Program at the International Monetary Fund, has joined the Board's staff as an Economist in the World Payments and Economic Activity Section. Also joining this Section as an Economist is RICHARD T. FREEMAN, formerly an Assistant Professor at Cornell University and a Brookings Institution Policy Fellow at the World Bank. THOMAS A. CONNORS has joined the Board's staff as an Economist in the International Development Section from the University of Michigan where he is completing work toward his Ph.D.

Division of Research and Statistics. JAMES FERGUS, formerly an Economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, has joined the Board's staff as an Economist in the Mortgage and Consumer Finance Section.

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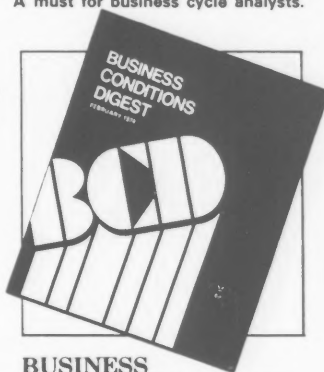
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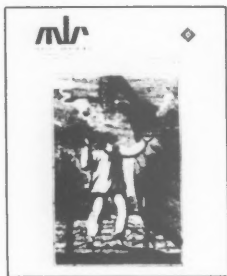
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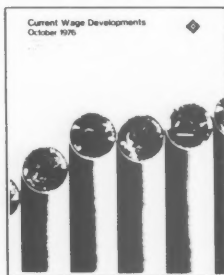
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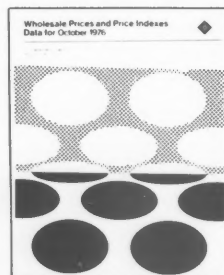
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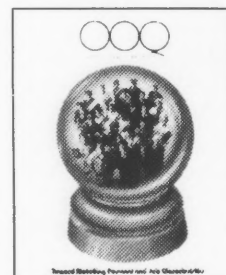
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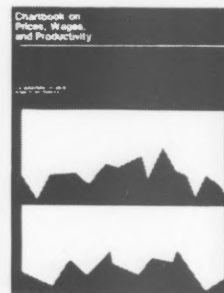
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