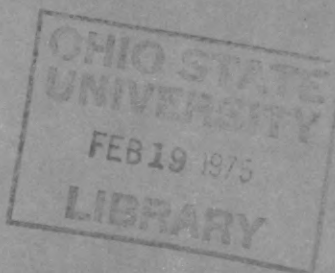


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# STATISTICAL REPORTER

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## *Some Recommendations for Data Improvement in the GNP Accounts*

BY DANIEL CREAMER  
*Project Director, and Staff<sup>1</sup>*

The impetus for the initiation of the GNP Data Improvement Project came from two unusually large revisions in critical components of the annual and quarterly estimates at critical phases of the business cycle. These revisions occurred in July 1971 and January 1972. Economic policy makers in high places claimed the economic intelligence previous to these revisions had misled them into suboptimal policy prescriptions. Their dissatisfaction with the state of the estimating art was communicated to the Statistical Policy Division of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and to the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), the sole source supplier of official GNP estimates. Subsequent discussion resulted in a general agreement that the estimating art is severely constrained by weaknesses in the underlying data. If this be so, it seemed sensible to identify these data deficiencies and to determine how to eliminate them and what the cost would be. Further, it was decided the required review could best be made by a task force without any affiliation to BEA. The GNP Data Improvement Project was launched in March 1973 under OMB sponsorship. The GNP Project Advisory Committee is composed of: Daniel Creamer, The Conference Board, Chairman; Rosanne Cole, Economic Research Department, IBM; Edward F. Denison, Brookings Institute; Raymond W. Goldsmith, Yale University; Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers; and John W. Kendrick, George Washington University.

Another consideration in this decision undoubtedly was the awareness that the last review of the GNP accounts by an agency outside of the Department of Commerce (also sponsored by the Bureau of the Budget—the predecessor agency to that sponsoring the present review) was made in 1958, 16 years ago. That review committee, under the chairmanship of Raymond W. Goldsmith, had as its principal assignment the formulation of a set of recommendations for extending the then existing, more limited set of coordinated accounts so as to obtain a more fully articulated description of the working of the national economy within a consistent framework provided by the national accounting concepts. While some attention was devoted to "data problems," these were of incidental concern.

By contrast, the main focus of the present review committee is on data improvement. Refinements of concept and possibilities for further elaboration of the national accounts in the next decade will be restricted to a final chapter of the final report, and this primarily in order to anticipate what some of the data needs may be in the intermediate term.

### *Approach to Data Improvement*

The very nature of the committee's assignment dictates dealing with the grubby details of the actual data used and their statistical processing. The project staff must acquire a knowledge of how the original data are compiled, how well they meet the conceptual requirements, and the implicit and explicit assumptions of the statistical processing that shapes the original compilation so that it better fits the concepts.

A data deficiency, not necessarily of serious proportions, may be assumed to exist whenever (1) a proxy series is used (e.g., historical averages for previous years of relationships of crop marketings to crop harvest applied to current harvest estimates to obtain cash receipts for crops); (2) continuing use is made of relationships based on data of the distant past (allocation of floor coverings between enterprise and households based on a

<sup>1</sup>A progress report based on a paper prepared for the National Bureau of Economic Research Conference on Price Behavior, November 21-23, 1974, Bethesda, Md. The recommendations and opinions described here do not necessarily have the approval of the Office of Management and Budget or the Advisory Committee of the GNP Data Improvement Project. Staff reports were prepared by Louis Wiener, Division of Research and Statistics, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; Norman Frumkin, Social and Economic Statistics Administration, Department of Commerce; and LaVerne Collins, Statistical Policy Division, Office of Management and Budget. A separate report for flow-of-funds estimates was prepared by Stephen Taylor, Division of Research and Statistics, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

ratio used in 1963, the origin of which is not known by the current BEA estimator); (3) the use of the estimator's judgment, sometimes informed by discussion with representatives of a handful of governments or companies, in lieu of solid data (state and local government purchases from industry and real estate commissions); (4) the absence of an estimate of a component known by other means to be significant (the not-for-profit organizations in the private sector which are now combined with households owing to the lack of data for the former); and (5) the use of existing survey data known to be weak (retail trade inventories). This sort of review should uncover the data gaps.

For each of the non-trivial gaps, the project staff must determine in concrete, operational terms (1) the data required to eliminate the gap, (2) the feasibility of data collection and processing as a statistical operation, and (3) the initial and recurring cost of obtaining the new data. The first determination is made by the committee staff in consultation with the concerned estimator. The second and third determinations are based on substantial inputs from the appropriate data collection agencies.

With this information in hand the staff initially, and later the advisory committee, must determine which are the serious data gaps. At this stage the relevant considerations are (1) the importance of the component in terms of analytical pertinence (change in inventories, for example), (2) estimate of the probable size of error in current estimate, and (3) potential for data improvement with the expenditure of an acceptable level of additional inputs.

At the outset there was a need to agree on the scope of this review in terms of the various accounts and, perhaps more importantly, the starting point. As to the former, rather arbitrary limits were set by including all of the accounts except "distribution of income by size" and "state and small area distribution of income." Despite the strong emphasis in the committee's charter on improving the data base of the quarterly estimates of GNP, the committee decided to start its review with the basic benchmark estimates, namely, the input-output table based in large part on the economic censuses taken every 5 years, and then to proceed to those with ever-diminishing firmness in the interim data and for shorter time frames. This ordering of the inquiry should provide more systematic insights into the effects of successive revisions in the benchmarks on current estimates as well as the impact on current estimates of successive revisions in the extrapolating and interpolating series and procedures. It may also enhance the possibility of determining whether (and how much) the

data weaknesses in the benchmark estimates are offset or aggravated by the data weaknesses in the interpolating and extrapolating series.

### *Size of Staff Inputs*

In view of the foregoing sketch of the scope and approach, the planned inputs seem woefully inadequate, particularly for a speedy completion of the review. In addition to a project director, authorized to work no more than half time, there have been three staff investigators seconded from three Federal agencies on the understanding each would devote half time to the Data Improvement Project. For good reasons, this commitment has more often been honored in the breach than in fulfillment. This imbalance between input and objective has resulted in a series of postponed completion dates.

The presence of an advisory committee, composed of five distinguished economists with long and fruitful experience as both estimators and analysts, cannot completely offset the above imbalance since the advisory committee is most effective in reacting to staff reports submitted for committee comment and in view of the staff input, these reports reach the review stage only slowly.

### *Some Background Considerations*

The beginnings of the official national accounts in the United States go back about 40 years. This area of estimation has always had the leadership and staffing of high professional competence, continuously concerned with data improvement. Thus over the decades vast improvements have indeed been made in the data base. Primarily, this has taken the form of persuading others to tabulate data previously collected but not tabulated or to add questions to surveys.

The estimators in the BEA are obliged, with relatively few exceptions, to use statistics compiled by other agencies either for general use (such as the economic censuses or the employment, payroll and price series of the Bureau of Labor Statistics or for administrative use (such as the income tax statistics of the Internal Revenue Service or the operating statistics of companies subject to Federal regulatory agencies). This circumstance has meant the data improvements for the most part have consisted of those that have been relatively easy, or entailed small additional costs to carry out, or became available as fall-out from administrative statistics of new government programs.

The data deficiencies that remain may be viewed, in the main, as constituting the hard core of the data problems. The precise formulation of the required data

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may not be apparent. Data sought from respondents may not be easily retrieved from respondents' records, or retrieval may be a financial burden to the respondent, or may be regarded as a breach of the confidential character of the respondent's operations. Or the problem may be that the customary data-gathering agencies in the Federal information system, or congressional appropriation committees, cannot be persuaded that the required data are either of general use or serve administrative objectives. Finally, the cost of the Federal government may appear to be excessive, especially compared to the sums usually allocated for such purposes.

If in effect we are dealing with the hard core of the data problems, we must realize that the possibility of quick fixes is the exception and not the rule. Often exploratory studies will be required to test whether promising suggestions will actually prove to be fruitful, and budget makers must become reconciled to requesting and spending larger sums of money to buttress the statistical foundations of the GNP accounts.

A final point by way of background considerations: Most users of the national accounts need to be reminded that gains in firmly-grounded statistics are not always held. That is, the quality of a particular statistical series can deteriorate and the trend may not be easily reversed, especially if the data collection is dependent upon State agencies. This is illustrated by the recent deterioration in the quality of the employment and payroll statistics emanating from the unemployment insurance system.

#### *Current Status of the Data Improvement Project*

(1) As already noted, the project staff's starting point has been the examination of the data base of the ultimate benchmark estimates of the five-year input-output table together with the associated estimates of final products comprising the GNP accounts and the associated estimates of the factor returns comprising the national income accounts.

The estimators of the inter-industry flow of goods and services eventuating in sales to final users develop a voracious appetite for economic statistics that is moderated, if not satisfied, by the wealth of statistical detail collected in the economic censuses. These are defined to include the Censuses of Agriculture, Minerals, Manufactures, Construction, Transportation, Wholesale Trade, Retail Trade, Selected Services, and State and Local Governments. They are now compiled every five years and, with the exception of the Census of Agriculture, are carried out in the same year. This is the reason

the ultimate benchmark estimates are on a quinquennial basis and coincide with the year for which the economic censuses collect statistical data. The role of the economic censuses in the derivation of the input-output table is best described by saying the data constitute not only the keystone of the arch but virtually the arch itself.

For this reason, the project staff has devoted much time to evaluating the deficiencies of the economic censuses for the derivation of the 5-year input-output table and related GNP benchmarks. Their recommendations for data improvement are in the form of a 50-page memorandum to the Bureau of the Census. The Bureau of the Census cooperated fully in a careful review of the recommendations, detailing the view of its industry specialists on the feasibility of capturing the data and expressing a willingness to explore data availability and to pretest new survey schedules in preparation for possible inclusion in the next quinquennial censuses for 1977. In light of the response from the Bureau of the Census and after additional discussion with the BEA estimators, the original recommendations were reviewed and assigned an order of priority. This statement was again submitted to the Bureau of the Census in the latter part of July 1974 for rough estimates of the cost of exploring and pretesting the recommendations. The cost estimates have not yet been received.

(2) Another major staff input has been devoted to a review of the price series used to express the GNP and its components in constant prices. A report identifying the data deficiencies, developing the recommendations, and presenting rough cost estimates is now available. In this area, actual practice has not distinguished between benchmark and on-going price statistics.

(3) A third report recently completed discusses the serious shortcomings in the annual and quarterly estimates of farm net income, giving special attention to farm inventory change. These recommendations were submitted recently to the appropriate agencies in the Department of Agriculture for cost estimates.

(4) A review of data deficiencies and recommendations for data improvement of flow-of-funds estimates comprises the fourth completed report.

In addition to these four completed reports, each of substantial proportions, preliminary reports have been prepared on data needs for (1) an annual updating of the input-output table and (2) for improving the annual and quarterly estimates of nonfarm inventories. And, as a final item, staff work was initiated in mid-October on all the other components comprising the monthly personal income and quarterly GNP estimates.



The completion date for this project is now estimated as the latter part of calendar 1975. As an offset to the failure to meet an earlier completion date, interim and completed reports on particular components have been made available to OMB and interagency committees engaged in strengthening the Federal statistical program. In addition, the recommendations on the economic censuses were submitted to the Census Bureau in time for use in planning for the 1977 Economic Censuses, thereby avoiding a delay until 1982 for consideration of these recommendations.

### *Highlights of Recommendations on Data Improvements*

This progress report covers the data gaps which have been identified and the recommendations proposed for filling the gaps, but not a listing of all the detailed recommendations. Moreover, this summary is restricted to the four completed reports. This means that no recommendations are given on the quarterly GNP estimates, except for the farming sector, since the review of these estimates has not been completed.

### *Quinquennial Input-Output and the Economic Census*

(1) Purchased *service* inputs on the part of enterprise, except for electricity, are rarely reported in the economic censuses. This is in sharp contrast to purchased *commodity* inputs for manufacturing and mining industries which are reported in considerable detail. Prominent among the recommendations are those urging the inclusion in the census schedules of questions on the purchase of the whole roster of business services—legal, accounting, advertising, insurance, communications, and transportation. The project staff also recommends that the finance, insurance, and real estate industries, not now covered, should be included in the Census of Selected Services.

(2) Absence of data on transportation costs is one of the more serious data deficiencies in the services owing to its critical role in computing gross margins. The deficiency can be traced in large part to the history of subjecting each new type of public carrier of goods to the control of a different regulatory agency or to a different department in the same agency. There is no comprehensive and consistent set of data on all forms of transportation as an industry. The so-called "Census of Transportation" is a misnomer, limited as it is to a sample survey of waybills and selected passenger trips. That is, it is a users' survey rather than a survey of the industry's input and outputs. Legislation is probably required to enable the Bureau of the Census or the Department of Transportation to assume responsibility for developing industry-wide statistics that could provide the transportation cost of moving goods from one en-

terprise to another and eventually to the final consumer.

(3) Data on *government* purchases of goods classified by supplying industries are much less adequate than data on *household* purchases of goods classified by industry. At the Federal level, the General Services Administration has undertaken a new initiative that should correct much of this deficiency. At the level of State and local governments, the census should include more detail on purchases and report all information on a calendar year basis or by calendar quarters.

(4) There is an unacceptable lack of homogeneity in the so-called household sector which combines household proper and not-for-profit organizations, owing to the absence of data on the latter. A quinquennial census of not-for-profit organizations, including religious organizations, is long overdue.

(5) Material and service inputs into construction are based essentially on some project construction cost information and imputation by formula, because relevant detail is not available from the Census of Construction. A major overhaul of this census is in order to collect intermediate purchases distinguishing materials and services as well as new construction and repair and maintenance. The latter distinction with respect to receipts would enhance the value of the Census of Construction as a broad check on output of this industry.

(6) Changes in inventories in many industries are based on inadequate knowledge of the valuation base, commodity composition, and prices. This need can be met by requesting more detailed information on commodities held and the valuation formula used.

(7) The Census of Agriculture, not now taken in phase with the other economic censuses, should collect data relating to the year being covered by the other censuses.

(8) "Agricultural services" has very limited coverage as an industry in the Federal statistical programs. While purchases of agricultural services are collected in the quinquennial Census of Agriculture, the data on inputs into this industry are very limited, being restricted to payrolls. This omission should be corrected by inclusion in the appropriate census.

(9) Present estimates of force-account construction have a weak empirical base. The most promising way of improving this particular data base is to capture these data in all of the economic censuses.

(10) A weakness of some significance in the Censuses of Trade and Selected Services is the failure to break

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down business receipts into those from the sale of commodities and those from the sale of services.

Thus far the list of recommendations has been concerned with data improvement in the benchmark estimates of interindustry flow of goods and services and the derivation of benchmark estimates of the GNP accounts viewed as output. The set of recommendations that follow are designed to strengthen the data base of those benchmark estimates of GNP viewed as returns to the factors of production, i.e., the income side of the accounts.

The great merit of the economic censuses is that the responding unit is the establishment and not the firm. This makes for more precise industrial classification. Their demerit, as presently constituted, is the grossness of the "value added," in particular the components of the return to capital and entrepreneurship. This defect is one of the reasons the BEA estimator relies on the business income statistics of the IRS in which the reporting unit is the firm. The consequent need to transform company-based statistics to establishment-based statistics introduces error into estimates of "value added" in terms of national account definitions by industry classification.

One way to eliminate the present inconsistency is to obtain data by means of the economic censuses from establishments that could be made to conform, or at least much more closely approximate the national accountants' definition of "value added." This would require the following data not now reported in the economic censuses:

- (1) Fringe benefits to work force including plant management, central administrative offices and auxiliaries;
- (2) Capital consumption;
- (3) Other allocable overheads with a breakdown between salaries and other costs; and
- (4) Net profit before payment of interest and rent, but after allocable overhead costs.

An alternative approach to solving the present inconsistency in industrial classification of factor returns is to devise a method for obtaining payroll data (returns for labor input) from records now under the control of the Internal Revenue Service, which is also the source of the returns to capital and entrepreneurship. This will be discussed later in another context.

#### *Price Data*

- (1) The deflation of personal consumption expenditures for goods and services, both annually and quarter-

ly, relies very heavily on the BLS consumer price index. The data are, in general, good with respect to both item coverage and quality of pricing. Present BLS plans for the revision of the consumer price index (scheduled for release in 1977) involve not only an updating of weights, etc., but other improvements as well. This revision should meet most of the BEA data needs for deflation in these areas. However, it is possible that some individual series that would be important to BEA in deflation might fall through the random sampling mesh that BLS uses in selecting items for inclusion in the index. The project staff recommends strongly that BLS keep BEA staff informed as the item selection process develops, and that BEA needs be given ample consideration.

- (2) The price data used for deflation in other GNP categories, however, are subject to important gaps in coverage and deficiencies of quality. The most important single data source for these other categories (and also for deflation of input-output and gross product originating) is the BLS wholesale price index. BLS is now engaged in a substantial improvement program for this index—a program likely to extend over a number of years. The main features of this program involve (a) an updating of the weights; (b) a review of the present weighting structure, which results in duplication of values at successive stages of processing; (c) the substitution of probability sampling in a systematic fashion for the present basis of the index; (d) an ongoing review of specifications and sustained efforts towards further incorporation of transaction prices wherever feasible; and (e) the eventual development of price indexes—both for output and input—of all 1008 4-digit SIC industries. Currently only output prices are available and for about 150 industries. As part of this revision process, assuming adequate funds are made available, major deficiencies of coverage and quality in the prices available for deflation of GNP expenditure categories should eventually be remedied. Specifically, these deficiencies are:

- (a) Insufficient coverage of producers' durable equipment, where as much as 20% of the value of the group has either no price data or only fragmentary data. For much of this missing area (for example, computers) conceptual problems are complex. A second problem in this sector (of increasing importance during the current inflation) is the lags of varying length between orders and shipments. BEA needs quotations for deflation that are appropriate to current shipments, whenever the order was placed, but BLS price quotations apparently are current market quotes. The problem is further aggravated by the existence of escalator clauses for items with a long delivery period and by the current reluc-

tance of producers to quote firm prices for more than a brief period ahead. What BEA needs is an appropriately weighted average (for the various machinery categories) of prices actually charged at time of shipment or delivery. For BLS to obtain "realized" prices for actual deliveries would not only be very expensive but would involve some fundamental conceptual problems, including those relating to adequacy of sample for BEA purposes, comparability of specifications, etc. Exploratory work, however, should be conducted by BLS in this direction. A supplemental investigation which would be useful would be periodic surveys in selected machinery and equipment areas to obtain a comprehensive picture of current pricing practices. Such information could be invaluable in helping to estimate appropriate weighted lags for pricing and deflating current shipments.

(b) Prices of goods purchased by governments. For the Federal sector, this involves a distinction between "civilian-type" goods and unique goods, e.g., defense hardware. Sampling, specification, and weighting problems would not be easy for civilian-type purchases without a comprehensive survey of government purchases. However, the implementation of the GSA initiative in this area may fill a good part of this need. The conceptual difficulties in the pricing of defense goods have been well established but their resolution still poses formidable problems. For State and local government, purchases are civilian-type.

(c) The separation of book values of inventory change into the price change component and the physical change component is an extremely critical element in the accounts. The deficiencies of price data for final purchases are important here, too, and conceptual work on the appropriate deflation of work-in-process at the manufacturers' level would be highly desirable.

(d) Prices used for deflation of exports and imports of goods are the total unit value indexes calculated by the Foreign Trade Division of the Bureau of the Census. Improvements in quality and changes in mix within categories make these data unreliable as price indexes, especially for goods other than agricultural commodities and raw materials. The best hope for improvement of these deflators lies in the use of new data on prices of exports and imports that are being collected and combined into indexes by BLS. In addition to increasing the frequency of collection, BLS is proposing to expand the coverage of both exports and imports and to update the weights from 1969 to 1973 U.S. trade values. This work should be encouraged and expedited. Up to now, BEA has not been able to use the new data for deflation purposes, primarily because

of the limited size of the sample. As more data become available, however, and on a one-month-a-quarter basis, BEA should take steps to merge or integrate these on a progressively larger scale into the existing unit value data.

(e) Important price gaps for deflation exist outside of final products and the needs for the GNP expenditure components, i.e., for input-output and gross product originating. These include large segments of the service industries broadly defined, including a wide range of business services (generally included in SIC 70-78); the finance, insurance, and real estate categories (SIC 60-67), where conceptual problems are substantial; and important segments of the transportation industry.

(3) With the exception of prices of single family homes (a Census Bureau series) and prices for highway construction (which account for less than 30% of the construction total) price information in the construction area is generally poor, with basic reliance on the cost of inputs. The major possibility for improvement in pricing over the next few years is in nonresidential structures, both private and State and local. For the past 14-15 years, the Census Bureau has been collecting information for a sample of all private nonresidential building starts. A question on floor space, however, was not added until January 1974. Also, as of the beginning of 1974 Census started to collect comparable data for State and local governments. The project staff recommends that Census be allocated resources to permit the exploitation of this material with the ultimate objective of developing price/cost indexes (using hedonic regression techniques) for nonresidential structures.

#### *Farm Income and Farm Inventories*

The 5-year benchmark estimates of farm income are essentially derived from the quinquennial Census of Agriculture. The annual and quarterly updates rely on a hodge-podge of extrapolating series for farm receipts and farm expenses. Where the coverage of the extrapolators is patently incomplete, historical relationships are applied. When agricultural prices are relatively stable, the historical adjustments are probably acceptable. However, in periods of relatively large price changes, as in 1973 and the first two quarters of 1974, the historical adjustments have yielded estimates that were subject to large revisions, thereby misleading those responsible for economic policy. The data base and estimating procedures are in need of a thorough overhaul and the infusion of additional budget funds and a willingness to use the new techniques in economic surveying.



### Flow of Funds

For current calculations the outstanding problems in information sources that need attention are, in rough order of priority:

- (1) Large corporations
- (2) Bank nondeposit sources of funds
- (3) Unaccounted balances of payments
- (4) State and local government finances
- (5) Savings and loan association secondary assets
- (6) Life insurance sources of funds

A special memorandum prepared on this subject includes recommendations for each of these problem areas. According to the memorandum "the analytic value of business data in the accounts is impaired by mixing major companies, almost all of them publicly held, with many thousands of small corporations that cannot be distinguished in behavior from partnerships and established proprietorships." The major proposal for data improvement is "development of an integrated reporting system for registered corporations, plus others, that would incorporate for those companies the content of the new Federal Trade Commission form, the Securities and Exchange Commission's 10-Q reporting requirements, and summary figures on capital accounts transactions that would generate a real statement of financial activity, capital formation, and income. It is a big project but an essential one if the present inadequate business statement is to be made a real source of information."

In addition to these specific recommendations relating to particular accounts and components, the project staff has considered a list of general recommendations. When this list is completed, there is a high probability that the following items will be included:

(1) Preparation and publication of a handbook on the GNP accounts detailing concepts, sources of data, estimating methodology and their limitations. An updating of the comparable efforts of 1954 with a more complete coverage on deflation and the quarterly GNP estimates is long overdue. Although the BEA has been conscientious in describing major revisions and additions to the accounts by articles in the *Survey of Current Business*, the practice does not fulfill its obligations to the many serious minded professional users of the GNP estimates who are now frustrated whenever they need to know the grubby details.

(2) All necessary support should be given to the speedy completion of the industrial directory now in

progress in the Bureau of the Census. This, however, is possible only if the Bureau of the Census has access to income tax returns on file with the IRS, with appropriate protection of individual taxpayers against invasion of privacy.

(3) Creation of a capacity somewhere in the Federal statistical system for carrying out quick surveys on economic subjects on short notice. This capacity is required wherever unexpected changes in the economic climate and in business behavior create the need for information that is not being collected.

This need is well illustrated by the current effort of BEA in surveying industry to determine the extent of the shift from FIFO to LIFO in valuing inventories in the cost of goods sold and the effect of this shift on company profit. The alertness to anticipate this development and to come to grips with it could forestall another embarrassingly large revision and, more importantly, provide a much more reliable estimate of corporate profits and therefore a more realistic projection of corporate income tax revenues for the coming fiscal year.

In this particular instance BEA has had to cover the cost of this unbudgeted survey from its own funds thereby forcing some curtailment in its regular estimating work load. A budgetary reserve for such contingencies should be provided and arrangements made in the Statistical Policy Division for the speedy clearance of survey schedules. If this capacity had existed, the recent errors in the initial estimates of net farm income and inventory changes might have been avoided.

(4) There is an urgent need to reduce the time lag in the completion of the quinquennial benchmark estimates as well as in the incorporation of all new benchmark estimates into the current estimates. To the extent that these excessive delays are attributable to insufficient staff, the budget should be increased to cover the additional personnel to incorporate new benchmarks into the accounts as soon as the benchmark estimates have been completed. This should minimize the number of occasions when estimates of best change must take priority over estimates of best level.

Over the last decade, in BEA memoranda on new statistical programs, one finds frequent reference to the desirability of developing estimates of national income originating in the corporate sector by computer matching of corporate income tax returns and payroll tax withholding returns, both under the control of the Internal Revenue Service. If this should prove to be feasible, the resulting estimates would lead to several important benefits:

(a) Provide a cross-check on the estimates of national income originating in the corporate sector based on current data and methodology.

(b) Place these estimates on a consistent system of industry classification since returns to both labor and capital would be based on reports from the same responding units.

(c) Create the possibility of developing estimates of income originating by size of corporation that would be compatible with the proposed estimates of flow of funds by size of company.

There should be no further delay in moving from discussion into the development stage to link employee wage records with IRS corporation income tax returns for 1 year. This would include the necessary research

work on the record required before the actual linking could be undertaken. If this exploratory effort should confirm expectations, a new significant dimension would be added to economic analysis. This proposal, therefore, has a strong recommendation.

A final word is needed to place this progress report in perspective. This statement has concentrated entirely on data deficiency in the GNP accounts for the simple reason this is the directive given to the Project. It would be unfortunate if this concentration conveys the impression that the current set of elaborate GNP accounts is in a sorry state in terms of their data base. This is very far from the truth. The purpose of the Advisory Committee is to assist in making a generally good set of estimates still better.

## *An Index to Federal Statistical Data Publications*

BY MORRIS B. ULLMAN<sup>1</sup>

The *American Statistics Index: 1974 Annual and Retrospective Edition* is now available for use in most large Federal libraries, as well as in many of the major reference libraries in the United States. The three-volume reference tool provides the first comprehensive listing, abstracting and indexing of the entire Federal statistical output. More than 11,000 Federal publications containing statistical data are abstracted or listed in two volumes and indexed in a third. The process was designed so that the researcher can go directly to the specific data after examining the abstract and establishing his interest in the particular item. Virtually all documents listed are also available on microfiche.

In the introduction of this publication, the publisher, James B. Adler of the Congressional Information Service, states,

"Literally hundreds of Government officials and employees have cooperated in the massive effort necessary to locate, screen, and acquire the

thousands of documents which represent the raw material for our work. The assistance of these helpful public servants has been and remains, indispensable."

For comprehensive coverage of the statistical output of the Federal government, direct contact had to be established with more than 650 offices and individuals.

### *Initiation of the Program*

The *American Statistics Index* (hereafter *ASI*) had its present genesis in the discussions during 1970 and 1971 of the Commission on Federal Statistics, although the need for an index to Federal statistical data can be traced back much further. In discussing the scope of its activity, the Commission felt the lack of a catalog of Government statistical series and immediately considered preparing such a listing. Concluding that the problems of a definitive list exceeded both its available resources and the time limit set for submission of its report, the Commission nevertheless felt that the feasibility of preparing such a list should be investigated. Specialists of various types were consulted, including the publisher of the Congressional Information Service (hereafter *CIS*), which issues a monthly service, with an annual cumulation, abstracting and indexing the pub-

<sup>1</sup>Consultant to the Congressional Information Service; retired from U.S. Government service after experience with the Bureau of the Census, the Office of Statistical Standards in the Bureau of the Budget, and the National Center for Educational Statistics in the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

lications of the U.S. Congress. The Commission report, issued in 1971, contained the following statement,

"We undertook a thorough examination of the problem involved in developing such a catalog (of Federal Statistics). The results of our analysis of feasibility have been discussed with indexing and cataloging authorities who agree with our findings. In fact, one of the private authorities with whom we discussed our results, James Adler, of Congressional Information Service, has decided to index and abstract all federal statistical publications. His firm will provide both an index and published material in microcopy form."

### *The Development Phase*

*ASI 1974* is the culmination of three years of effort. The entire first year consisted of exploratory activity not only to determine the best way to attack the logistical problems involved, but also to examine thoroughly the need and the utility of the undertaking. Because of the magnitude of the undertaking, it was decided to cover the field in two stages. The *ASI 1973 Annual* and monthly supplements were limited to the government statistical output in the social and socioeconomic area. The expanded *ASI 1974 Annual and Retrospective Edition* is thus the first determined and conscientious effort to provide reliable access to all Federally produced statistical data.

After preliminary attempts to assess the scope of the Federal statistical output and its character, a pilot pamphlet was prepared indicating the nature and form of the intended coverage. Copies of this pamphlet along with a questionnaire were distributed for comment to librarians, to users, and to producers of statistics. Members of the Federal Statistics Users Conference and a sample of American Statistical Association members received copies of the pilot. Librarians were covered mainly through current subscribers to CIS and a sampling of the subscribers of the *New York Times Index*.

An Editorial Advisory Board was organized to provide guidance on the quality of the product and arrangements were made to obtain the services of two special consultants to augment the activities of the CIS staff. The Editorial Advisory Board now includes: Hon. Richard Bolling, Representative from Missouri; Edward Diroma, New York Public Library; William Kingsley, Institute for Life Insurance; John W. Lehman, Washington, D.C.; Robert R. Nathan, Robert R. Nathan Associates; Conrad Tauber, Washington, D.C. Special Consultants include Ruth

Fine, former librarian of the Office of Management and Budget, and Morris B. Ullman.

The explorations disclosed that, except for those specializing in very limited areas of data, there were no general tools which directed the user directly to the data he needed. Some summary guides provided a starting point in the search for detailed data; but the main reliance was on personal acquaintances, on the telephone, on persistence in following a trail of clues from one office to another, and on luck. Typical search methods included individually prepared card files, memory, and individual contacts often involving transfers from one office to another before reaching the data needed or concluding that the search was futile. The reaction to the *ASI* proposal, especially on the part of the reference librarians, was therefore very positive. The existence of such an index promised to save much of their time and the time of the government employees whom they were constantly calling. From the users' point of view, the benefits were obvious. From the data producers' point of view, the reception was also favorable, for it held promise of making their material more widely known and more readily accessible.

### *Acquisition Problems*

For the *ASI* publisher, however, the explorations uncovered problems which were less encouraging. Statistical publications—defined as publications containing or relating to statistical data—are put out by almost every agency of the three branches of the Federal Government. The inclusion of the major survey publications, such as the Census volumes or the reports of the Bureau of Labor Statistics was an obvious task. However, statistical data also appear in many other government publications, including the annual reports of the agencies, analytic reports prepared for special purposes, articles in periodicals issued by the Government, and many other government products. Sometimes even press releases are the source of statistics not obtainable elsewhere. The acquisition of the publications to be covered would therefore involve almost the entire Government establishment.

This kind of comprehensive coverage might not have been too much of a problem if there were key central spots for obtaining the source material. Few agencies, however, had complete central sources for their publications and, even where there was a central listing, publications containing statistics were seldom identified as such. To obtain comprehensive coverage there had to be many contacts, often down to the data producing office. The offices to be contacted were spread out not only over the entire Washington metropolitan area, but even in other cities. Since the *ASI* service also provides

for monthly supplements and notes on continuity, constant contact has to be maintained with more than 650 offices and persons to assure continuous acquisition of publications and their correct identification through the constant stream of organization, program, and personnel changes.

### *Selection Problems*

The tremendous volume of data produced also was found to include information of doubtful general interest. Some reports of an administrative character had data of internal significance only. There were also reports of such elaborate detail that listing them in a national index would submerge material of more general interest. Illustrative are the agriculture market news reports covering a single crop in a single local area, which number in the hundreds. There were also among the publications data stemming from specific scientific and technical research which would have little general application. It was apparent that a selection had to be made which might run the risk of omitting useable material, but unless some limitations were imposed, the work load would make the undertaking prohibitive. Generally, in borderline cases, the tendency was for inclusion lest something useful be lost.

Special consideration had to be given to the repetition of the same material in different publications. A publication such as the *Statistical Abstract* is usually more readily available to the user than the original reports it summarizes and therefore warranted inclusion. Detailed treatment for such secondary publications would involve a degree of indexing disproportionate to original survey reports. An abbreviated form of treatment was developed for such compendia and other secondary publications, especially where the report had a well-developed index of its own. Emphasis here was on subjects covered rather than detail, with appropriate inclusion of references in the *ASI Index*.

Two other types of reports, not strictly data publications, were also included. Methodological reports provide information needed for the proper use of the data. Bibliographies show the output of statistics-producing agencies, and indicate the existence of some of the marginal publications omitted.

The standards for inclusion of material in *ASI* are given in more detail in the introductions to the Index volume and the first Abstract volume.

### *Level of Detail*

After selecting the reports to be included, it was then necessary to establish proper controls and to abstract the contents in sufficient detail so that the user

could determine whether the data were of the character needed. Overly general descriptions would not give adequate detail for helpful use. On the other hand, too much detail would defeat the purpose of ready access.

In dealing with statistical data, especially with periodically recurring reports containing statistical series and with primary reports of surveys, the best descriptions are often contained in the titles of the tables themselves. If properly prepared, the titles make clear what cross-classifications are available. Abstracts of such reports, therefore, include a listing of the table titles as part of the description. This procedure was not applied to the compendia, which often have good indexes of their own, nor was it applied to those reports, especially of an analytical nature, where a shorter description seemed adequate for making known the nature of the data included.

*ASI's* main index to subjects and names is included in more than 600 three-column pages of entries and is supplemented by other guides to facilitate locating data and publications. Among these is a "Category Index," a multi-dimensional arrangement which narrows the search for commonly-used groupings of data. This innovative index assembles all references which contain breakdowns by types of geographic area and by certain standard economic and demographic categories. Within each of these categories references are further grouped by subjects. Thus, for example, if one wanted to identify housing data available by States, he would find such references grouped together on two pages of the category index. This *ASI* innovation should be very helpful in narrowing down the search for specific items.

In addition, other listings included in the Index volume are a guide to selected standard classifications widely used in Federal statistical reports, an Index by Titles, and an Index by Agency Report Numbers.

The indexing rules and forms of entry, examples of the entries, and instructions on the use of *ASI* are all fully explained in the introductions to the Index and Abstracts volumes.

### *The ASI Service*

The annual *ASI* volumes are supplemented by monthly issues which provide indexes and abstracts to the new Federal statistical publications as they appear and which describe revisions in continuing publications. All reports, except for a few which may not be available and are so noted in the volumes, are issued in microfiche by the publisher. Many libraries subscribe to the large, complete collections of microfiche of Congressional and Federal statistical publications issued by CIS which makes possible a large file of fully catalogued

government publications in a compact form. CIS has also received an increasing number of requests for an "on demand" service that offers an easy, efficient, and economical way to purchase any individual document covered in any issue of the *CIS/Index* or *American Statistics Index*. The publisher is now making arrangements to provide such a service, which is tentatively scheduled to be in operation early in 1975.

Also, starting early in 1975, the data bases from which the *CIS/Index* and *American Statistics Index* are published will be electronically accessible through a computerized, interactive, on-line information retrieval system. CIS feels that this new accessibility will significantly improve the cost effectiveness of research in the areas presently covered by its hard copy indexes.

Future extension of the *ASI* service will depend on the public reception which, so far, has been very favor-

able. Since *ASI* is a continuing program, changes can be expected from year to year as potential improvements become apparent. One possibility is the extension of the service to include data available in non-printed form, such as computer tapes and printouts. Another possibility is a limited edition designed for smaller reference libraries. The variation of the presentation format to serve special purposes is another possibility.

The service is priced on a sliding scale according to an individual library type and budget. A brochure, price list, and subscription order blank, or additional information may be obtained from the Congressional Information Service, 600 Montgomery Building, Washington, D.C. 20014. Comments and suggestions on the service will be welcomed.

## CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

### POLICY COMMITTEE ON POVERTY DEFINITION

The Office of Management and Budget has established a policy committee to assure adequate attention to policy implications, both statistical and programmatic, in the definition of poverty. During the past decade there has been an increasing use of the statistical measures of poverty and economic well-being for administrative purposes. The distribution of billions of dollars is affected by the use of such measures as elements in grant formulae. The technical weaknesses in these formulae have become increasing apparent and attempts to make *ad hoc* improvements have resulted in a proliferation of unsatisfactory solutions. In at least three recent pieces of legislation, the Congress has directed different agencies to study the problem and make recommendations for change. The aim of the new policy committee is to develop recommendations leading to a reasonable and effective government policy.

The members of the committee include: Paul O'Neill, Deputy Director, OMB, Chairman; Joseph W. Duncan, Deputy Associate Director for Statistical Policy, OMB, Vice Chairman; Gary SeEVERS, Council of Economic Advisers; William A. Carlson, Director, Office of Planning and Evaluation, Department of Agriculture; William A. Morrill, Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Department of Health, Edu-

cation, and Welfare; Michael H. Moskow, Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research, Department of Housing and Urban Development; Abraham Weiss, Assistant Secretary for Policy, Evaluation, and Research, Department of Labor; Frederick W. Hickman, Assistant Secretary for Tax Policy, Department of the Treasury; Donald A. Derman, Deputy Associate Director for Community and Veterans Affairs, OMB; C. William Fischer, Deputy Associate Director for Human Resources, OMB; Donald E. Crabill, Deputy Associate Director for Natural Resources, OMB; and David M. Bray, Deputy Associate Director for Economics and General Government, OMB.

The first meeting of the policy committee was held in January 1975, with periodic meetings to be held thereafter, as necessary. The first recommendations should be developed by the Fall of 1975. (JOSEPH W. DUNCAN, DEPUTY ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR STATISTICAL POLICY, OMB, telephone (202) 395-3730.)

### DETAILED MONTHLY REPORT ON CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

The Bureau of Labor Statistics has placed on sale its monthly detailed report on the Consumer Price Index, beginning with the issue for August 1974. This periodical, the *CPI Detailed Report*, replaces the previously



published periodical, *The Consumer Price Index*, which was distributed without charge. It presents in chart and tabular form a comprehensive picture of the changes in prices of goods and services usually bought by urban wage earners and clerical workers. An analysis of the month's price movements and a brief technical note explaining the Consumer Price Index and the nature of seasonally adjusted and unadjusted data are included.

The *CPI Detailed Report* may be ordered from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 for \$1, single copy, or \$11.55, yearly subscription. Foreign subscriptions are an additional \$2.90. (TOMMY C. ISHEE, DIVISION OF SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS, BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, telephone (202) 961-5470.

#### FEDERAL AGENCY COUNCIL ON THE 1980 CENSUS

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in conjunction with the Bureau of the Census has established a new interagency committee for discussion about the 1980 Census. Eighty-seven agencies have thus far expressed an interest in participating in the Council's work. Interested agencies were invited to send representatives to the first session which was held on December 4, 1974. Eighty-four agency personnel were in attendance.

The first session included introductory remarks by OMB and Census Bureau staff including Joseph W. Duncan, Deputy Associate Director for Statistical Policy, OMB; and Vincent P. Barraba, Director, Bureau of the Census.

The Council is not a policy-making body but a means to facilitate two-way exchange of information. It provides a formal mechanism for all interested agencies to express their views on content, program data needs, reliability requirements, etc. While all agency needs cannot be met by the Decennial Census, this mechanism will give OMB a better idea of priority data needs over the next several years. This type of Council was used for the 1960 and 1970 Censuses as well.

The Council as a whole will not meet frequently but there will be a substructure of subcommittees and task groups to work on expressed areas of concern. The next session of the full Council is scheduled for February 1975. The Federal Agency Council on the 1980 Census is chaired by George E. Hall, Chief, Social Statistics, Statistical Policy Division, OMB. All agency comments should be forwarded both to Mr. Hall and David Kaplan, Assistant Director for Demographic Censuses,

Bureau of the Census. (GEORGE E. HALL, STATISTICAL POLICY DIVISION, OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET, telephone (202) 395-4697.)

#### COMMITTEE TO REVIEW BALANCE OF PAYMENTS STATISTICS

Roy Ash, Director of the Office of Management and Budget has announced the formation of a group of non-government experts in international economics for the purpose of reviewing the method of presenting the official statistics on the U.S. balance of payments. The group will examine the interpretation of the major balances and recommend to OMB improvements in the data presentation which will make it more useful for the analysis of the U.S. balance of payments and exchange rate developments each quarter. The discussions will be convened by Joseph W. Duncan, Deputy Associate Director for Statistical Policy of the Office of Management and Budget. The balance of payments tables are developed and published by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, an agency of the Commerce Department's Social and Economic Statistics Administration.

Many economists have questioned whether the overall balances continue to reflect accurately the U.S. balance of payments and exchange rate developments due to the introduction of the managed floating exchange rate system and the emergence of large flows of funds related to global petroleum developments. The overall balances were reviewed and revised substantially in the mid-1960's by the Bernstein Committee which issued its report on the *Balance of Payments Statistics of the United States* in 1965.

The members of the Committee are as follows:

Edward Bernstein, President, EMB Limited  
Rimmer de Vries, Vice President, Morgan Guaranty  
Robert Ulin, Economist-Finance, Mobile Oil Corporation  
Marina Whitman, Professor of Economics, University of Pittsburgh  
Peter Kenen, Professor of Economics, Princeton University  
James Burtles, Vice President, W.R. Grace and Company  
Wilson Schmidt, Chairman, Department of Economics Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University  
Walter Salant, Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution

The members were selected in consultation with representatives of the Department of Treasury and Commerce, the Council of Economic Advisers and the Fed-

eral Reserve Board. (DAVID T. HULLETT, STATISTICAL POLICY DIVISION, OMB, telephone (202) 395-4730).

### ESCAP MEETING IN JAKARTA

The first session of the Committee on Statistics of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) was held in Jakarta, Indonesia on November 21-27, 1974. The Committee on Statistics is a successor to the Conference of Asian Statisticians, having been reorganized as part of the reorganization of the Economic and Social Commission of Asia and the Far East (ESCAFE).

The United States was officially represented by Joseph W. Duncan, Deputy Associate Director for Statistical Policy, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President. Other U.S. representatives attending were Joseph Willard, Assistant Chief for Statistical Operations, International Statistical Programs Center of the United States Bureau of the Census, and Lucian Rocke, Deputy Permanent Representative to ESCAP in Bangkok, Thailand.

The agenda included a review of statistical program developments in the countries of the region, a report of the Asian Statistical Institute, and a report of the workshop on Census tabulation, using the U.S. Bureau of the Census COCENTS system.

Technical discussions were held on several topics, including (1) energy statistics, (2) statistics for environmental studies, (3) economic statistics of shipping, and (4) cultural statistics. Working group reports were presented on manpower and labor statistics and on current demographic statistics.

Considerable attention was devoted to the program of work and priorities for the ESCAP Secretariat, especially in terms of developing statistics for the priority programs of ESCAP. (BENNETT BRADY, STATISTICAL POLICY DIVISION, OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET, telephone (202) 395-3836.)

### NEW MEASURES OF WAGE-RATE CHANGE

The Bureau of Labor Statistics has begun publishing three new statistical series of wage data: (1) Quarterly measures of wage-rate changes actually placed into effect. Previously available only on an annual basis, these data combine immediate adjustments under new collective bargaining settlements with deferred increases under past settlements and adjustments pursuant to cost-of-living escalator clauses. (2) Separate statistics for new settlements on the average size of wage-rate adjustments deferred until the second and third contract years. These data supplement existing series on

the size of first year adjustments and the annual rate of increase over the entire contract term, and (3) Data on the impact of escalator adjustments on measures of first-year wage-rate settlements. The series retrospectively combines escalator adjustments during the first 12 months of the contract term—after they have been determined—with adjustments agreed upon at the bargaining table for the same timespan.

These new series are described in an article, "New measures of wage-rate change," appearing in the December 1974 issue of *Monthly Labor Review*. (VICTOR J. SHEIFER, DIVISION OF TRENDS IN EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION, BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, telephone (202) 961-2508.)

### STOCK OWNERSHIP

New information on the amounts of stock owned by different groups of U.S. individuals and the rates of return and risk characteristics of stock portfolios held by different groups is provided in an article appearing in the November 1974 issue of the *Survey of Current Business*, the monthly magazine of the Bureau of the Economic Analysis of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

The article, "Stock Ownership in the United States: Characteristics and Trends," shows that both small and large individual investors have been selling significant portions of their portfolios to institutional investors since 1950. Prepared by Wharton School professors Marshall E. Blume, Jean Crockett, and Irwin Friend, the findings are based in part on an analysis of 17,056 income tax returns filed in 1971, processed so as to preserve complete confidentiality of the returns.

Copies of the November 1974 *Survey of Current Business* may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. The single copy price is \$3.00; the annual subscription \$48.30, including weekly supplements. (AGO AMBRE, CURRENT BUSINESS ANALYSIS DIVISION, BUREAU OF ECONOMIC ANALYSIS, telephone (202) 523-0777.)

### MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS

The Bureau of the Census has released the second report, in its current mergers and acquisitions series. "Mergers and Acquisitions: 1967-1971," ES 20(74)-4 presents detailed statistical information on the amount and type of U.S. merger activity from 1967 to 1971, and on the economic characteristics of both acquiring companies and their acquisitions. The report has two parts—Part 1 concerns acquisitions made by large

multiunit companies over the 4-year period and stresses the industrial relationships between the acquiring companies and their acquisitions; Part 2 deals with large manufacturing establishments acquired by other companies during each of the years 1968, 1969, and 1970 and examines both the industrial and geographic relationships between the acquired establishments and their acquiring companies.

Copies of the report (278 pp; \$5.00) may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, or from U.S. Department of Commerce district offices. (CAROL E. LUTZ, ECONOMIC SURVEYS DIVISION, BUREAU OF THE CENSUS, telephone (301) 763-7078.)

### DIRECTORY OF NATIONAL UNIONS 1973

The Bureau of Labor Statistics has released the 1973 edition of its biennial *Directory of National Unions and Employee Associations*. The 156-page *Directory* includes a description of the structure of the labor movement, a report on developments in organized labor from 1971 to 1973, and extensive data on union membership. Also included is a listing for each national union and employee association which gives the following: address, phone number, principal officers, total membership, number of locals, frequency and date of convention, publication and editor, research and education director, and officials responsible for social insurance, organizing, legal, legislative, and safety activities. A separate listing covers AFL-CIO State labor organizations, their principal officers, and legislative representatives.

The appendixes are much the same as in the 1971 edition of the *Directory*, however new appendixes give information on women officers and officials; employee association members by occupation; methods of electing officers; and strike benefit plans.

With this issue, the *Directory* has been changed to a looseleaf form for the convenience of the subscriber. The Bureau will provide each subscriber with annual replacements of the union and association listings during the 2-year period between editions. These replacements will include all changes that have been provided to the Bureau by listed organizations or that have come to the Bureau's attention through published sources.

Copies of the *Directory of National Unions and Employee Associations, 1973* (156 pp., \$4.45) may be purchased from regional offices of the Bureau or from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. (HARRY P. COHANY, CHIEF, DIVISION OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS,

BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, telephone (202) 961-2143.)

### URISA CONFERENCE

The Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA) will hold its 13th Annual Conference in Seattle, Washington, August 24-28, 1975. The theme will be "The Role of Information Systems Technology in Community Management."

Papers dealing with data systems technology or examples of urban and regional information systems applications are invited. In particular, papers in the following subject matter areas are desired.

- Technology Transfer,
- Geographic data processing,
- Uses of census data,
- Research and evaluation,
- The State's role in urban information systems,
- Applications at the State level,
- Functional systems applications in local government (e.g., law enforcement and criminal justice, human resources, land use, housing and related information, planning and administration, and financial management.

Papers may be submitted by city/county government people, consultants, Federal and State people, academicians, and businessmen—any information system data users.

It is not necessary to submit a whole paper now—an abstract or outline of 400 words or less is enough. The deadline for submitting abstracts and/or outlines is February 15, 1975. Submissions will be reviewed and tied into the program where appropriate. Notification of acceptance will be made by mail soon thereafter. Your abstract or outline should be sent to: Sidney H. Brounstein, URISA Program Committee, Institute for Law and Social Research, 1125 Fifteenth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005.

### CATALOG OF CENSUS PUBLICATIONS 1790-1972

A new historical volume, Bureau of the Census Catalog of Publications, 1790-1972, has been published by the Bureau of the Census. It includes two catalogs under one cover: the *Catalog of United States Census Publications, 1790-1945* and the new *Bureau of the Census Catalog of Publications, 1946-1972*.

The *Catalog of United States Census Publications 1790-1945* was issued in 1950 and has been out of

print for several years. It was the work of the Census Library Project of the Library of Congress and the Bureau of the Census and represented the first attempt since the publication of the *Circular of Information Concerning Census Publications, 1970-1916* to compile a comprehensive listing of all materials issued by the Bureau of the Census and its predecessor organizations. It started with the first decennial census report of 1790 and ended with publications released at the close of the calendar year 1945.

The contents of the 1790-1945 Catalog are divided into two general sections. The first section covers all publications issued in connection with the successive decennial censuses, and the second section includes Bureau of the Census publications released as the result of its other surveys. Within each of the sections, the titles are first grouped by major subject, e.g., agriculture, manufactures, population, etc., and then arranged chronologically within each subject or its subdivisions. A subject index completes the presentation.

The new *Bureau of the Census Catalog of Publications, 1946-1972* updates its historical predecessor. It is a compilation of over 60,000 reports issued since 1946, all of which have been published in the periodic *Bureau of the Census Catalog*.

The contents of the new catalog are presented by series of reports from the subject fields, e.g. agriculture, construction, foreign trade, etc., and where applicable, the material within the subject files are arranged as follows:

- (1) Census reports (beginning with the earliest applicable census after 1946 and continuing through the most recent census prior to 1973);
- (2) Other reports (usually containing information based on a census); and
- (3) Reports issued on a current basis (based on intercensal surveys) which relate to a particular field.

Sections on compendia and guides, methodological studies, and studies of foreign countries follow. An appendix, a subject index, and geographic index complete the presentation.

Together, these two catalogs provide an historical and comprehensive bibliography of sources for the Bureau of the Census statistics from 1790 through December 1972. Copies of the *Bureau of the Census Catalog of Publications, 1790-1972* (915 pages, \$7.10) are available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. (ANN M. KING, DATA USER SERVICES DIVISION, BUREAU OF THE CENSUS, telephone (301) 763-5575.)

## SELECTED NEW REPORTING PLANS AND FORMS

The following listing gives brief descriptions of selected new reporting plans and forms approved in the previous month by the Office of Management and Budget under the provisions of the Federal Reports Act. These descriptions provide information on surveys and data collection programs currently being started or soon to be started.

### Department of Agriculture

#### Economic Research Service

*Rail users survey* (singletime).—The Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry has requested that the Economic Research Service, in cooperation with other agencies, evaluate the impact of the loss of rail lines on agriculture and rural development. This survey was designed to determine how best to satisfy the Senate request. A major objective of this survey is to evaluate

methodology and data sources available. The sampling frame is rural, midwest rail users on lines likely to be abandoned. If this initial attempt proves successful in meeting the needs of the Senate Committee, the study will be broadened to include other areas where rail abandonment might have significant impact on the rural economy. (For further information: John O. Gerald, ERS, Department of Agriculture, telephone (202) 447-6363.)

#### Farmer Cooperative Service

*Study of feasibility of transportation and distribution system for cooperative fruit and vegetable processors* (singletime).—Through this survey, the Farmer Cooperative Service hopes to assess the possibility of additional economies and efficiencies in the processing and marketing of fruits and vegetables by cooperatives.

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The survey plan is to contact cooperatives to determine the quantity and quality of data available, and to determine the firm's interest in a regionally integrated system for processing, warehousing and shipping. If data are available and interest is sufficient, an in-depth study will be conducted to determine production and warehouse capacity that might be available at times during the year, and to coordinate shipping to make better use of truck and railcar space. A publication is planned for mid-1975. (For further information: James R. Jacks, FCS, Department of Agriculture, telephone (202) 447-8889.)

## Department of Commerce

### Bureau of the Census

*Commodity transportation survey of wholesalers and mineral industries, 1974* (singletime).—This study is designed to obtain traffic flow data from a sample of establishments in the wholesale sector and mineral industries not previously covered in the Censuses of Transportation. It is based on both a sample of shippers and a sample of their bills of lading, sales invoices, and other papers that contain necessary data on date of shipment, origin and destination areas, commodity description, weight, and mode of transport. Like data of different industrial sectors were previously obtained in Transportation Censuses. (For further information: J. Litzky, Bureau of the Census, Transportation Division, telephone (301) 763-5843.)

*Survey of election expenditures (State and local governments)* (singletime).—The Bureau of the Census is conducting a survey of State and local government election expenditures designed to yield State estimates of local government aggregate expenditures for the election administration process. A questionnaire will be mailed to the chief finance officer in each State and to finance officers in approximately 4,000 county, municipal and township governments. Current, capital, and intergovernmental expenditures for administering elections will be sought for the period fiscal year 1970 through fiscal year 1973. Due to interstate variations in the scheduling and financing of elections, data for 4 years are requested to provide a more accurate estimate of election expenditure. (For further information: William C. Fanning, Bureau of the Census, telephone (301) 763-7704.)

## Department of Health, Education, and Welfare

*Day care center director's phone survey* (singletime).—1440 day care directors will be surveyed in 18 cities as

background information to the 3-year National Day Care Study. This large-scale research program is designed to examine two major policy issues in child care. These issues are staff-child ratio and day care center professionalism. The survey includes questions about the center, the experience and education of its staff, staff-child ratios, the center program, and characteristics of children enrolled in the program. (For further information: Allen Smith, Office of Child Development, telephone (202) 755-7420.)

### Food and Drug Administration

*Consumer survey of OTC drug labels* (singletime).—This study of 900 adults in one SMSA seeks to examine consumer preferences and attitudes associated with alternative versions of over-the-counter (OTC) drug labels. The Food and Drug Administration is responsible for seeing that drug labels are accurate and present to the public useful and pertinent information. Four dimensions of label presentation by use of symbols, tables and/or narratives will be studied. They are readability stimulation, the active ingredient statement, the specific warnings section, and dosage instructions. Each respondent will be asked to evaluate one experimental and one control label on each of these dimensions. (For further information: John McCutcheon, Food and Drug Administration, telephone (301) 443-4230.)

### Social Security Administration

*Physician extender reimbursement study: baseline data collection activity* (singletime).—This activity will collect pre-reimbursement or baseline information from practices which employ physician extenders (PE's) and a matched group of practices which do not employ PE's. This information will be used to (1) perform a cross-sectional analysis of PE and non-PE practices and (2) form a set of pre-experimental observations against which to compare experimental and post-experimental data.

Approximately 1500 PE practices and an equal number of non-PE practices will participate. This population will produce about 4500 observations (two in each PE practice, one in each non-PE practice) through the use of a log-diary and questionnaire to be completed during three-day intervals to which participants will be randomly assigned.

Specific data to be collected through the log-diary and questionnaire include professional characteristics of physicians and PE's, types and volume of services delivered by PE and non-PE practices. Data analysis will focus on assessment of differences in productivity and organization between PE and non-PE practices.



(For further information: Stephen B. Morris, Social Security Administration, telephone (202) 382-4145.)

*Teaching hospitals questionnaire* (singletime).—This survey will be conducted by the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences. Respondents will be the universe of 1500 hospitals with AMA approved teaching programs. Object is to gather data which will be used in a series of studies covering the following issues:

- a. Appropriate and equitable methods of reimbursement for physicians' services, under Titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act, in hospitals which have an approved teaching program.
- b. The extent to which funds expended under Medicare and Medicaid are supporting the training of medical specialties which are in excess supply.
- c. How such funds could be expended in ways which support more rational distribution of physician manpower, geographically and by specialty.
- d. The extent to which such funds support or encourage teaching programs which tend to disproportionately attract foreign medical graduates.
- e. The existing and appropriate role that such funds play to meet, in whole or in part, the salaries of interns and residents.

(For further information: Clifton Gaus, Assistant Director for Research and Evaluation, Division of Health Insurance Studies, Office of Research and Statistics, Social Security Administration, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, telephone (202) 382-8231.)

#### Social and Rehabilitation Service

*Survey of sheltered workshops programs and services* (singletime).—Survey to provide information concerning the effectiveness of sheltered vocational rehabilitation workshops in evaluating, training and placing handicapped individuals. Data to be collected include staff and services provided, characteristics of handicapped and attitudes of public, labor and clients toward workshop activities. Some 400 of an estimated 2,000 workshops will be surveyed. (For further information: Richard Leclair, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, telephone: (202) 245-0301.)

#### Environmental Protection Agency

*Survey of participants in water workshops* (singletime).—This survey is a follow-up on the participants in EPA-sponsored water quality workshops. The form seeks to determine what individuals, organi-

zations, civic officials, etc. the participants typically contact after participation in such workshops. (For further information: Peter Clapper, Program Support Division, EPA, telephone (202) 755-0722.)

#### Department of Housing and Urban Development

*Catalog of local neighborhood preservation programs* (singletime).—This survey will collect information for use in a catalog which will identify and profile about 100 of the most imaginative and promising approaches being used to preserve residential neighborhoods. It will include a description of neighborhood conditions, program operations, samples of special forms used, and results experienced to date. (For further information: Pamela Hussey, Department of Housing and Urban Development, telephone: (202) 755-6785.)

*Neighborhood housing services survey* (singletime).—This two-part survey covers both residential property buyers and loan recipients of Neighborhood Housing Services in Pittsburgh's Central North Side. The study will determine (1) program process, relationships and costs; (2) the extent to which there has been a stemming of neighborhood decline in the Central North Side; (3) the direct effects of the Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc. in stemming neighborhood decline; and (4) the indirect effects of the Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc. in stemming neighborhood decline. (For further information: Pamela Hussey, Department of Housing and Urban Development, telephone: (202) 755-6785.)

#### Department of Labor

##### Bureau of Labor Statistics

*Directory of National Unions and Employee Associations 1975* (biennial).—This report will continue and update to 1974 the Bureau's labor organization membership series. The new report will continue the features of earlier directories: Trends in total, industrial and geographic membership, the structure of the labor movement, a listing of officers, officials, and related information of national unions and State and professional employee associations, significant labor developments during 1973-1975, and an analysis of labor organization functions and characteristics. Appendixes will provide, for individual organizations, information on the number of women members and officials, broad occupational grouping of members, and industry and related data. A new feature of the 1975 Directory is an extensive discussion of the initiation fees, dues and per capita tax arrangements of these organizations. The 1975 Directory is planned for early 1976. (For further information: H.P. Cohany, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Division of Industrial Relations, telephone (202) 961-2143.)

## PERSONNEL NOTES

### DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

*Agricultural Marketing Service:* WILLIAM O. THOMPSON, formerly a mathematical statistician with the National Institute of Drug Abuse of the Addiction Research Center in Lexington, Kentucky, has been appointed Manager, Statistical Services Group.

*Economic Research Service:* REX DALEY has been designated as Senior Economist in the Office of the Administrator. Mr. Daley has just returned from an assignment in Thailand as Economic Adviser to the Ministry of Agriculture. Previously he was director of the Economic and Statistical Analysis Division of ERS and prior to that, Chairman of the Outlook and Situation Board.

### DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

#### *Bureau of Labor Statistics*

*Office of Occupational Safety and Health Statistics:* THEODORE GOLONKA has been selected as Assistant Commissioner for the Office of Occupational Safety and Health Statistics. This office, established in 1971, is responsible for (a) collection and analysis of occupational injury and illness data representing about 5 million establishments and 60 million employees in the United States and offshore territories, and (b) administration of a system of grants to assist States in develop-

ing and administering their own occupational safety and health statistics programs. Mr. Golonka, a mathematical statistician, has been associated with the survey design aspects of the occupational safety and health statistics program since its inception.

*Office of Publications:* GEORGENA R. POTTS, former Managing Editor of the *Monthly Labor Review*, has retired after more than 30 years of government service.

*Office of Survey Design:* PHIL D. GILLILAND, formerly Chief, Sample Research Staff, Statistics Division, IRS, has recently joined the Office of Survey Design as Chief, Survey Techniques Division.

### BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

*Division of Research and Statistics:* RICHARD D. PORTER, Economist in the Econometric and Computer Applications Section, has been promoted to Section Chief. NORMAN MAINS, formerly with Investment Company Institute, has joined the Board's staff as an Economist in the Capital Markets Section. ROBERT DUGGER, Economist in the Financial Studies Section, has transferred to the Office of Board Members. BARRON PUTNAM, Economist in the Statistical Management and Control Section, has transferred to the Office of Managing Director for Supervision.

## SCHEDULE OF RELEASE DATES FOR PRINCIPAL FEDERAL ECONOMIC INDICATORS

*February 1975*

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 titles 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.)

DATE	SUBJECT	DATA FOR
February 3	Construction Expenditures (Press release), Census, C-30 (69)	December
4	Manufacturers' Export Sales and Orders, Census, M4-A (506)	December
5	Consumer Credit, Federal Reserve Board (FRB), G. 19 (66, 113)	December
5	U.S. Government Security Yields and Prices, FRB, G. 14 (114)	January
5	Condition Report of Large Commercial Banks, FRB, H.4 (72)	Week Ending January 29
6	Money Stock Measures, FRB, H.6 (85, 102, 103)	Week Ending January 29
6	Factors Affecting Bank Reserves and Condition Statement of Federal Reserve Banks, FRB, H.4.1 (93)	Week Ending February 5
7	The Employment Situation, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), (1, 21, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 740, 841-848)	January
7	Monthly Wholesale Trade (Press release), Census, BW	December
7	Retail Trade Report (Press release), Census (54)	December
10	Advance Monthly Retail Sales (Press release), Census, (54)	January
12	Condition Report of Large Commercial Banks, FRB, H.4.2(1972)	Week Ending February 5
13	Money Stock Measures, FRB, H.6 (85, 102, 103)	Week Ending February 5
13	Factors Affecting Bank Reserves and Condition Statement of Federal Reserve Banks, FRB, H.4.1 (93)	Week Ending February 12
14	Wholesale Price Index, BLS, (55, 58, 750, 751, 752)	January

February 14	Manufacturing and Trade Inventories and Sales, Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), (31, 56, 71, 851) .....	December
14	Industrial Production and Related Data, FRB, G.12.3 (47, 853) ..	January
14	Balance of Payments on Official Reserve Transactions, and Net Liquidity Balance, BEA (521, 522) .....	4 Q '74
18	Yields on FHA Insured New Home 30-Year Mortgages, HUD, (118) .....	February 1
19	Housing Starts (Press release), Census, C-20 (28, 29) .....	January
19	Personal Income, BEA, (52, 53) .....	January
19	Condition Report of Large Commercial Banks, FRB, H.4.2 (72) .....	Week Ending February 12
20	Money Stock Measures, FRB, H.6 (85, 102, 103) .....	Week Ending February 12
20	Factors Affecting Bank Reserves and Condition Statement of Federal Reserve Banks, FRB, H.4.1 (93) .....	Week Ending February 19
20	Gross National Product (Revised), BEA, (200, 205) .....	4 Q '74
21	Consumer Price Index, BLS (781, 782, 783, 784) .....	January
21	Real Earnings, BLS, (741, 859) .....	January
24	Advance Report on Durable Goods, Manufacturers' Shipments and Orders, Census, (6, 24, 25, 96, 647, 648) .....	January
26	Average Yields on Long-Term Bonds, Treasury Bulletin (115, 116) .....	January
26	Condition Report of Large Commercial Banks, FRB, H.4.2 (72) .....	Week Ending February 19
27	Money Stock Measures, FRB, H.6 (85, 102, 103) .....	Week Ending February 19
27	Factors Affecting Bank Reserves and Condition Statements of Federal Reserve Banks, FRB, H.4.1 (93) .....	Week Ending February 26
27	Productivity and Costs in Nonfinancial Corporations, BLS .....	4 Q '74
27	Export and Import Merchandise Trade, Census, FT-900 (500, 502, 512) .....	January
27	Advance Business Conditions Digest, BEA: (12, 33, 69, 813, 817) .....	December
	(5, 10, 17, 45, 59, 62, 810, 811, 814, 815, 816, 820, 825, 830, 853, 860) .....	January
28	Labor Turnover in Manufacturing (Press release), BLS, (2, 3) .....	January
28	Agricultural Prices (Agriculture) .....	Mid-February
28	Defense Indicators, BEA, (625) .....	January

