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Federal Statistics 1977

Prepared by the Staff of the Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards

This is the first in a new series of annual reports on the status of Federal statistics. It will, in part, replace the special analysis of statistical programs distributed as a part of the budget documents in prior years. This report by the Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards (formerly the Statistical Policy Division of the Office of Management and Budget) is intended to highlight important developments in Federal statistics in 1977 and to draw attention to activities planned for fiscal year 1978 as a result of executive recommendations and congressional actions.

Additional details on the statistical programs of Federal agencies can be found in a report entitled, Developments in the United States Federal Statistical System, November 1975–November 1977. This summary report was prepared for the XIII Session of the Committee on Improvement of National Statistics (COINS) of the Inter-American Statistical Institute, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, November 18–21, 1977. Copies of this report can be obtained from the Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C. 20230.

Introduction

Federal statistics encompass a great variety of activities paralleling the full range of concerns addressed by the Federal Government. The institutional arrangements under which statistics are prepared and the scope and type of activities are highly variable and not easily summarized. Under these circumstances an annual report appearing shortly after the close of a year cannot pretend to be complete; it can provide only a sense of general developments and a selection of individual issues and events which are of importance for Federal statistics.

The first section includes a discussion of general and selected crosscutting issues for areas in which there were significant changes during the year. Highlights include new initiatives, major progress in addressing an

issue, or completion of reports of general interest. Rounding out the section is a review of Federal legislation affecting statistics, including a discussion of important legislation under active consideration as well as legislation passed during 1977. The topics covered are:

General Issues

- Planning and Coordination
- Reorganizations Affecting Statistics
- Report of the Commission on Federal Paperwork

Selected Crosscutting Issues

- Multipurpose Sample Vehicles
- Social Indicators
- Data on Race and Ethnicity
- Statistics for Allocation of Funds
- International Programs
- Federal-State-Local Cooperative Systems of Data Collection
- Statistical Disclosure and Disclosure Avoidance Techniques
- Statistical Standards

Selected Legislative Activities

The second section of the report highlights selected major developments for which funds were appropriated for fiscal year 1978. A table is provided in this section which shows the amount of appropriations for statistical programs for selected Federal agencies reflecting agency reprogramming of funds as a result of congressional action on the President's budget for fiscal year 1978. Actual obligations for fiscal year 1977 are also given. An additional table shows the President's request for FY 1979 for the major statistical agencies. Topics in this section include:

Overview

Subject Areas

- Prices and Price Indexes
- Labor Statistics

Production and Distribution Statistics
Agricultural Statistics
Transportation Statistics
Housing and Construction Statistics
General Economic and Financial Statistics
Energy Statistics
Environmental Statistics
Health Statistics
Education Statistics
Income Maintenance and Welfare Statistics
Population Statistics
Registration and Voting Surveys
Criminal Justice Statistics

Fiscal Year 1979 Requests for the Major
Statistical Agencies

General Issues

PLANNING AND COORDINATION

During the year a number of significant developments occurred in the organization and planning of Federal statistical coordination. These included the establishment of the Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards (OFSPS), improved mechanisms for interagency formulation of statistical policy, public review of "A Framework for Planning U.S. Federal Statistics, 1978-1989," and completion of the report of the Advisory Committee on Gross National Product Data Improvement.

Establishment of the Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards.—On July 15, 1977, President Carter announced Reorganization Plan Number 1. Designed to streamline the Executive Office of the President, the Plan included the proposal that certain statistical policy responsibilities be assigned to the Department of Commerce, rather than the Office of Management and Budget. The transfer was implemented on October 7, 1977 by Executive Order No. 12013, entitled "Relating to the Transfer of Certain Statistical Policy Functions."¹

To fulfill the responsibilities assigned to the Secretary of Commerce, the Department established the new Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards, which is responsible for ensuring the integrity, accuracy, and timeliness of Federal statistics. The statistical policy function includes the determination of present and future statistical requirements; the establishment of methodologies and the definition of concepts to satisfy statistical needs;

examination of the feasibility of alternative methodological approaches; evaluation of priorities to balance needs and demands; and the coordination, implementation, and evaluation of plans for statistical activities. The development and enforcement of statistical standards and guidelines ensures that statistical data are uniform and comparable.

In addition to these broad authorities, the Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards is responsible for advising the Departments and the Office of Management and Budget on budget requests for statistical programs, and for providing U.S. statistical information to international organizations. The Secretary of Commerce and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget have further agreed to cooperate in the review of legislative proposals involving statistical activities, and in the analysis of statistical data collection proposals.²

Mechanisms for Coordination.—Statistical policy development depends upon coordination among the various Departments and agencies of the Federal Government. However, until recently a formal mechanism for collaboration at the Cabinet level was lacking. In response to that gap in the Federal Statistical System, the Statistical Policy Coordination Committee, a Cabinet committee, which is chaired by the Secretary of Commerce, was established by Executive Order No. 12013. According to Section 8(c) of the order:

"The Committee shall advise and assist the President with respect to the improvement, development, and coordination of Federal and other statistical services and shall perform such other related duties as the President may prescribe."

Coordination of major statistical collection or analytical units is accomplished through the Interagency Committee on Statistical Policy and Programs, whose membership consists of the

¹ For additional details see *Statistical Reporter*, October 1977, No. 78-1, pp. 1-7.

² For additional information on the programs of the Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards, see "U.S. Department of Commerce, Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards." This brochure is available from the Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C. 20230.

heads of the statistical units. A number of interagency committees on specific statistical policy questions are coordinated by the Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards.

A Framework for Planning U.S. Federal Statistics, 1978-1989.—In 1974, in recognition of the need for a contemporary review of the needs for statistical programs and of alternatives for acquiring integrated data sets, the Office of Management and Budget launched a program to develop a framework for planning and integrating Federal statistics. An *ad hoc* committee, including one member from each major Federal agency, met to develop an approach which would build upon the existing planning efforts within the various agencies and which would permit significant cross-fertilization of ideas among agencies.

The major issues which were of interest to the agencies formed the basis for an outline which was prepared and circulated among Federal agencies in early 1976. Individual staff members in the Statistical Policy Division then developed materials based upon perspectives which had emerged from the planning and coordination of various functional areas of statistics, reviewing budget requests, and dealing with user needs. Nearly all of the basic materials were distributed to the agencies for their comment by the end of March 1977.

In April 1977, a process of public review and comment was initiated. Substantial contact with professional associations, user groups, and individual statisticians occurred throughout 1977. Comments and suggestions were reviewed and incorporated, as appropriate, during the latter part of 1977. Although a fully revised version will be published in the spring of 1978, the Framework will continue to be subject to revision as priorities change, as individual problems are solved, and as difficulties arise in the implementation of the proposals which are presented.³

Statistics for the National Economic Accounts.—A major study was completed during 1977 that recommends approximately 150 improvements in the data base used in preparing the Gross National Product Accounts.⁴ A detailed analysis was made of the many data series used for quarterly, annual, and 5-year benchmark accounts. These data series are compiled for statistical and administrative use by over 20

Federal agencies. The analysis of data weaknesses and the recommended improvements were based on extensive consultations with the various agencies.

The recommendations include changes in statistical properties, coverage, timeliness, definitions and access for the data used in compilation of the Gross National Product (GNP). Other recommendations are made for strengthening procedures used by the Bureau of Economic Analysis in making GNP estimates. The objective of the study is to improve the accuracy of the GNP accounts for their use in economic policy decisions.

The study was conducted over a 4-year period by a small staff working under the direction of an advisory committee of distinguished economists. The Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards is responsible for followup activities that will lead to implementation of recommendations. The high priority need for accuracy of this information makes the recommendations from the study a very important part of plans for improving statistical programs of the Federal Government during the next several years.

REORGANIZATIONS AFFECTING STATISTICS

The internal reorganization of three departments and the creation of a new one during the past year had a direct impact on statistical programs.

Department of Agriculture.—During 1977 reorganizations within the Department of Agriculture had a direct impact on the statistical units in the Department. The change of greatest importance to statistics was part of a departmentwide consolidation of agencies to streamline management, focus responsibility for similar functions in a smaller number of agencies and reduce the number of officials reporting to the Secretary and Assistant Secretaries. In this change, which took place at the end of the year, the Statistical Reporting

³ Draft chapters of the Framework have appeared in *Statistical Reporter* during 1976 and 1977. For an outline of the Framework, see pages 207-209 of the issue for May 1976. For a list of chapters which have appeared, see page 29 of the issue for November 1977.

⁴ For a summary of the recommendations, see *Statistical Reporter*, September 1977, pp. 549-558.

Service, Economic Research Service, Farmer Cooperative Service, and the Economic Management and Support Center were combined into one agency. The new agency, called the Economics, Statistics, and Cooperatives Service (ESCS), reports to the Director of Economics, Policy Analysis and Budget. The new organization is headed by the Administrator with a Deputy Administrator for Statistics and a Deputy Administrator for Economics.

A second change in organization was made to strengthen the linkage between foreign and domestic agriculture in analytical work and forecasting. A World Food and Agricultural Outlook and Situation Board was created in the Office of the Director of Economics, Policy Analysis and Budget. This board provides general coordination and direction to forecasting and analysis and gives final approval to all outlook and situation reports produced by the Department on agricultural sectors of the U.S. and foreign economies, commodities, trade, and food. The Outlook and Situation Board in the Economic Research Service, which had provided similar functions for domestic agriculture, became a part of the new World Board.

Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.—The major reorganization of HEW announced on March 8, 1977 by Secretary Califano impacted directly upon the statistical organizations within the health, welfare, and social service agencies of the Department. The reorganization of health care services and the creation of the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) led to the transfer of the health care statistical and operating components from the Social Security Administration (SSA) and the Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS) to the new Agency. Within the Health Care Financing Administration the statistical and research functions were combined into the Office for Policy, Planning and Research.

The reorganization also involved the transfer of the welfare payments research staff of SRS to the Office of Research and Statistics (ORS) within SSA. The social services staff and functions of SRS, and the National Center for Social Statistics were transferred to the renamed Office of Human Development Services

(OHDS) as part of the dissolution of SRS. Within the OHDS, the Office of Planning Research and Evaluation was created to coordinate the statistical activities of the OHDS components and to conduct crosscutting policy analysis and systems development.

In a later reorganization aimed at strengthening the leadership role of the HEW Public Health Service, the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) and the National Center for Health Services Research (NCHSR) were transferred from the Health Resources Administration to the Office of Policy, Services, Research and Statistics (OPSR) in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Health.⁵

Department of Justice, Criminal Justice Statistics.—In November 1977 Attorney General Griffin Bell announced the Department of Justice's intention of establishing a Bureau of Justice Statistics. The Attorney General indicated that this Bureau would have responsibility for both criminal and civil justice statistics. When the Bureau is established it will assume responsibility for all of the statistical programs now operated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, as well as many other information gathering activities of the Department. Legislation to establish the new bureau is being prepared for introduction in the Congress during the spring of 1978.

Department of Energy.—A major statistical agency came into being with the formation of the Department of Energy in 1977. This new agency, the Energy Information Administration (EIA), is headed by an Administrator appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. It has broad authority and responsibility in the collection, analysis, evaluation, and dissemination of data related to energy.

The EIA is separated into three primary operating groups. The Office of Energy Data has the major responsibility for data development, collection and processing. The Office of Applied Analysis has a primary mission to provide analytical information and forecasts, including development and use of relevant models for general use and analysis of

⁵ For further details see *Statistical Reporter*, November 1977, pp. 65-66.

policy issues. Finally, the Office of Energy Data Validation is responsible for improving the credibility of statistics on energy.

A major part of the new agency had been a part of the Federal Energy Administration. Other important data programs and related resources came from the former Energy Research and Development Administration, the Bureau of Mines in the Department of the Interior, and the Federal Power Commission.

The responsibilities of the EIA include the collection and processing of data for regulatory and program agencies in the Department, in addition to general statistical, analytical, evaluation and forecasting programs. Responsibility for scientific and technical data relating to energy development is not included in the mission of EIA.

As a part of its assignment the Agency will provide data concerning energy resource reserves, energy production, demand, and technology, and related economic and statistical information. Among new programs being developed are surveys to improve energy consumption data and a financial reporting system for companies engaged in the energy production and distribution industries.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON FEDERAL PAPERWORK

On October 3, 1977, the Commission on Federal Paperwork submitted its *Final Summary Report*, thereby completing its 2-year effort to:

"...study and investigate statutes, policies, rules, regulations, procedures, and practices of the Federal Government relating to information gathering, processing, and dissemination, and the management and control of these information activities."

and to

"...ascertain what changes are possible and desirable in existing statutes, policies, rules, regulations, procedures, and practices relating to Federal information activities in order to—

"(1) assure that necessary information is made available to Federal officials and those acting on behalf of Federal officials;

"(2) minimize the burden imposed by Federal reporting requirements on private citizens,

recipients of Federal assistance, businesses, governmental contractors, and State and local governments;

"(3) guarantee appropriate standards of confidentiality for information held by private citizens or the Federal Government, and the release thereof;

"(4) provide that information held by the Federal Government is processed and disseminated to maximize its usefulness to all Federal agencies and the public;

"(5) reduce the duplication of information collected by the Federal Government and by State and local governments and other collectors of information; and

"(6) reduce the costs of Federal paperwork."⁶

During the course of its operation, the Commission offered more than 770 recommendations in 36 separate reports. Taken together, these recommendations represent the Commission's view of actions which "are necessary to enable the Federal Government to serve the American people more efficiently and effectively by eliminating unnecessary paperwork."⁷

In carrying out its work, the Commission investigated and reported separately on many Federal programs—such as welfare, housing, education, energy, occupational safety and health—as well as on issues that cut across program and agency lines. In each case, the Commission's recommendations span a broad spectrum of "paperwork" concerns. Some of the recommendations, when implemented, may be expected to have an impact on the Federal Statistical System, while many others will affect legislative, regulatory, administrative and management practices. Many of the separate reports contain recommendations which will affect statistical programs. Of particular interest to the Federal Statistical System, is the Commission's report on *Statistics*.

The report on Federal statistics details the Commission's findings with respect to the dimensions of Federal statistical activities, the agencies which sponsor them, the provisions of

⁶ Public Law 93-556, An Act to Establish a Commission on Federal Paperwork, Section 3(a) and (b).

⁷ Letter of Transmittal, *Final Summary Report*, A Report of the Commission on Federal Paperwork, October 3, 1977.

their coordination, and the amount of paperwork which they generate. While the Commission found that statistical inquiries are not a major source of Federal paperwork, some problems do exist in newer Federal programs. These paperwork problems were ascribed to rapid expansion, agency overlap, lack of standardized terminology, and too little advance communication.

A number of recommendations contained in the report on statistics were addressed to specific problems in particular statistical series. Beyond these, the Commission recommended that:

"Increased sampling should be used in gathering data wherever possible.

"Regular review schedules should be established for major general-purpose statistics.

"Agencies which produce statistics should centralize and standardize data collection and storage wherever possible.

"Focal agencies should be established in each field to develop consolidated annual plans for data gathering and sharing, and forms approval.

"The central statistical agency's staff should be expanded to enable it to provide proper review and planning of Federal statistical programs.

"Statistical service units should be established to provide technical assistance to agencies which are essentially nonstatistical in scope, to establish listings of qualified statistical contractors, and to provide the Congress and the executive branch with expert advice on statistical ramifications of pending legislation."⁸

Under the law which established the Commission (Public Law 93-556), certain followup to the Commission's work is required. Specifically, Section 3(d) of the law states:

"Upon submission of the Commission's final report, the Office of Management and Budget, in coordination with the executive agencies, shall take action to (1) formulate the views of the executive agencies on the recommendations of the Commission; (2) to the extent practicable within the limits of their authority and resources, carry out recommendations of the Commission in which they concur; and (3) propose legislation needed to carry

out or to provide authority to carry out other recommendations of the Commission in which they concur. At least once every six months, the Office of Management and Budget shall report to the Congress and the President on the status of action taken or to be taken as provided herein. A final report shall be submitted within two years."

Thus, it may be anticipated that the Office of Management and Budget, in concert with the Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards and the various Federal agencies, will address the Commission's recommendations and implement selected changes in the Federal Statistical System during the next 2 years.

Selected Crosscutting Issues

MULTIPURPOSE SAMPLE VEHICLES

The development of multipurpose sample vehicles is of growing importance to the Federal Statistical System. Such vehicles will permit the integration of important bodies of information needed for an improved understanding of social phenomena. Multipurpose vehicles should also reduce the total reporting burden on the public and should permit a more efficient use of resources.

Two multipurpose survey vehicles received considerable attention during the year—one is under development, for the other a feasibility survey is planned. 1977 was the first full year of a 4-year developmental effort for the Survey of Income and Program Participation sponsored by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. A testing program was initiated during the year to focus on data collection techniques to improve the reporting of cash and in-kind income by testing variations in questionnaire detail and the length of the recall period. The year also saw extensive planning of a panel test which, over a period of eight quarters, will pretest the survey process in a realistic approximation of ongoing survey operations and provide opportunity for testing additional variables related to the economic well-being of families. Coordination of the survey development effort was improved through a closer association of DHEW and Census efforts and through use of the Interagency Committee on Income and

⁸ *Final Summary Report*, A Report of the Commission on Federal Paperwork, October 3, 1977, pp. 47-48.

Wealth Distribution Statistics as a forum for discussing developments in the program. In order to facilitate the development of this project, the staff of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation agreed to transfer \$600,000 from the DHEW base to the Census base.

A longstanding need for improved data on land use received an important impetus during the year in a proposal developed by the Economics, Statistics and Cooperatives Service of the Department of Agriculture for carrying out the requirement of the Foreign Investment Act (Public Law 94-472) to study the "...feasibility of establishing a nationwide multipurpose land data system. . . ." Late in the year the Director of the Office of Management and Budget designated the Department of Agriculture as the lead agency in this area.

SOCIAL INDICATORS

An important milestone in this area was the release, on December 28, 1977 of the *Social Indicators 1976* report.⁹ This 647-page publication was issued by the Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards and the Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce. The new publication represents a continuation and expansion of *Social Indicators 1973*, which was an extensive presentation of measures of social conditions and change in a format similar to that used for economic indicators.

It was determined, on the basis of the experience gained in preparing these first two publications, that it would be desirable to establish a continuing program of research and development in the areas of social indicators and social accounts. This new program will be undertaken by a Social Indicators and Accounts Group being organized at the Bureau of the Census. The Bureau of the Census received \$350,000 to initiate this program. This appropriation was provided in a supplement to the FY 1977 budget.

DATA ON RACE AND ETHNICITY

Significant developments marked progress in Federal statistical activities concerned with the collection of data on race and ethnicity during 1977. The range of activities included critical review of information collected for civil rights enforcement from school systems throughout the country, expansion of the collection and

publication of data on the Hispanic population, new efforts to coordinate the requirements for data pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the completion of a governmentwide standard for the collection and publication of data on race and ethnicity.

Growing respondent dissatisfaction with the complexity and expansiveness of statistical reports required to demonstrate school systems' compliance with various civil rights laws culminated in a nationwide expression of concern at the close of 1976. During 1977, the DHEW Office of Civil Rights and the Statistical Policy Division of the Office of Management and Budget concurred in the need for a thorough review of existing data requirements. This review, conducted in cooperation with representatives of various civil rights organizations and respondent groups, led to the development of a more streamlined, carefully targeted survey instrument for use in the next cycle of reporting.

With the passage of Public Law 94-311, relating to the publication of economic and social statistics for Americans of Spanish origin or descent, Federal agencies were required to improve the collection and publication of data on the Hispanic population. During 1977, the Statistical Policy Division received from the major statistical and program agencies information concerning the types of data on the Hispanic population already collected and/or published, additional publications which could be produced using existing data, and plans for the expansion of data collection and publication plans. Agency submissions formed the basis of the report to Congress on major initiatives underway to meet the requirements of Public Law 94-311, and will serve as the baseline information for the coordination and monitoring of agency progress assigned by law to the Office of Management and Budget and transferred to the new Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards.

Under the provisions of Executive Order No. 11764, issued January 21, 1974, the Department of Justice is responsible for coordinating enforcement efforts of the Federal Departments

⁹ Copies may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, for \$7.00 a copy, Stock Number 041-001-00156-5.

and agencies conducted pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. On December 1, 1976, the Department issued its regulations setting forth minimum standards for implementation of Title VI by Federal agencies. These regulations cover a broad range of agency responsibilities with respect to the enforcement of Title VI, including a specific section on data collection. This section (42.406, Title 28, Code of Federal Regulations) requires the Federal agencies, to provide for the collection of data from applicants for and recipients of Federal assistance which is sufficient to permit effective enforcement of Title VI.

To assist Federal Departments and agencies in their responsibility to enforce Title VI, the Department of Justice is drafting a comprehensive instructional manual for interagency distribution. Volume II of this manual will, when completed, provide agencies with a uniform methodology for complying with the Attorney General's coordination regulations. Where appropriate, guidance for reporting will be provided consisting of sample formats, reporting forms, or relevant procedures necessary to implement the provisions of each section of the regulations. It is anticipated that the recent initiatives of the Department of Justice will clarify the responsibilities of the various agencies and lead to a more ordered program of Federal enforcement of Title VI.

The issuance of Revised Exhibit F to OMB Circular No. A-46¹⁰ on May 12, 1977, culminating a multiyear effort by a consortium of Federal agency personnel, represented the most far-reaching recent accomplishment affecting Federal collection and publication of data on race and ethnicity. The revised exhibit, replacing the earlier "Race and Color Designations in Federal Statistics," was designed to meet needs expressed by the Congress, executive branch agencies, and respondents for standardization of racial and ethnic data collected and published by Federal agencies. The 1977 update provides standard classifications for recordkeeping, collection, and presentation of data on race and ethnicity in Federal program administrative reporting and statistical activities. The provisions of revised Exhibit F were effective immediately for all new and revised recordkeeping and reporting requirements containing racial and/or ethnic information. Existing recordkeeping or reporting requirements must be made consist-

ent with the exhibit at the time they are submitted by extension, or no later than January 1, 1980. Implementation of the requirements of the Exhibit is expected to decrease respondent burden while substantially increasing the completeness and comparability of racial and ethnic data at the Federal level.

STATISTICS FOR ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

A Subcommittee of the Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology has completed a *Report on Statistics for Allocation of Funds* concerning the types of formulas and statistical data to be used in distributing Federal funds for State and local governments.¹¹ As part of its work the Subcommittee prepared in-depth case studies of five programs: (1) General Revenue Sharing; (2) Comprehensive Employment and Training Act; (3) Title I, Elementary and Secondary Education Act; (4) Aid to Families with Dependent Children; and (5) Community Block Grant Program. In addition, the Subcommittee analyzed the effects of various types of formulas and problems frequently encountered with data series. The report concludes with recommendations with respect to the implications of using alternative formulas and data series.

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

Under the auspices of the United Nations Statistical Commission a number of important programs continued during 1977. Relatively new work areas include the development of international data programs relating to statistics about energy and the environment. A particular long-range interest is the effort to develop a set of harmonized classification concepts which will lead to better integration of industrial, commodity and trade classifications. The U.S. has strongly supported these efforts.

During 1977, considerable progress was made by various regional bodies at the United Nations in developing recommendations for the 1980 round of censuses. A UN paper has been circu-

¹⁰ All OMB circulars relating to statistical policy will be reissued by the Secretary of Commerce in a newly developed *Statistical Policy Handbook*. The *Handbook* will be published in early 1978. Further details will be made available in *Statistical Reporter*.

¹¹ The report will be published in the Spring of 1978 as *Statistical Policy Working Paper 1* by the Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards.

lated to set forth basic agreements, even though the report will not be acted upon officially until the Commission meets in early 1979.

A number of Federal statistical agencies have been actively participating in a long-term effort aimed at the specification and development of internationally agreed upon social indicators, under the aegis of the Working Party on Social Indicators of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). The Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards maintains close liaison with the OECD Secretariat and represents the Federal Statistical System as a whole on the Working Party. In addition, several statistical agencies have sent representatives to six of the fourteen "Common Development Efforts" that were established in 1976 to specify and recommend indicators in particular areas of social concern. The progress achieved by mid-1976 in this cooperative undertaking is summarized in a report of the OECD.¹² Continued U.S. participation in this development effort is anticipated in the future.

In November 1977, the VII Session of the Inter-American Statistical Institute (IASI), which meets every 5 years, was held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. The meeting was devoted to a review of recommendations in modernizing the statistical systems of the Western Hemisphere countries. At the XIII Session of the Committee on the Improvement of National Statistics, which was held in conjunction with the IASI meeting, recommendations were approved relating to the 1980 Census round in the Americas.

An effort to provide more comparability between various classification systems, especially between different commodity systems, has been undertaken at the Customs Co-operation Council and the United Nations Statistical Office (UNSO). The Customs Co-operation Council, through its Harmonized System Committee work, is using 15 different commodity systems as input to developing an additional two levels of commodity detail to the Customs Co-operation Council Nomenclature (formerly the Brussels Nomenclature (BTN)). The deadline for this effort has been extended to 1981. The UN Statistical Office, with the active participation of the Statistical Office of the European Communities, has started a program to revise the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC) to incorporate modifications necessary to in-

crease the comparability between industry and commodity classifications.

FEDERAL-STATE-LOCAL COOPERATIVE SYSTEMS OF DATA COLLECTION

The year 1977 saw the further development and expansion of the cooperative systems of data collection in health and education, and the initiation of new programs in mental health and population statistics.¹³ The expansion of contractual arrangements with State agencies by the National Center for Health Statistics brought participation in the Cooperative Health Statistics System to 37 States for vital statistics, 39 States for health manpower data, and 37 States for health facilities information.

The National Center for Education Statistics completed design activities for the Elementary and Secondary Education Common Core of Data, and entered into contracts with 44 States for pilot testing of the directory, staffing, and pupil components of the system. The National Institute of Mental Health, in cooperation with the National Center for Health Statistics, initiated planning activities for a cooperative mental health statistics program. The Bureau of the Census inaugurated its State Data Center Program, intended to provide a central repository in each State for census data dissemination and user services, and plans to negotiate agreements with six states by the close of 1978. The Bureau anticipates establishing cooperative agreements with all States for this purpose prior to the 1980 Census.

Priority was given to the cooperative data systems throughout the Federal Government by the issuance of a Presidential directive in the fall of 1977. In a Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies entitled "Cutting Federal Red Tape for State and Local Grant Recipients," issued September 9, 1977, President Carter stated:

"Agencies should establish cooperative data collection programs with State and local governments wherever practical to eliminate dup-

¹² *Measuring Social Well-Being: A Progress Report on the Development of Social Indicators* (Paris: OECD, 1976).

¹³ Many cooperative programs (e.g., in agriculture, criminal justice, intergovernmental revenues, etc.) were, of course, in operation during this period. The program activities cited are intended to represent the growth of such arrangements in the Federal Statistical System.

licative reporting of similar data by more than one level of government, so long as no legal prohibition against this exists."

The Presidential policy statement was complemented in 1977 by the work of the program agencies individually (as noted above) and collectively through efforts of the Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology, Subcommittee on Federal/State Cooperative Statistical Systems. The Subcommittee completed the development of background documents portraying the status of the major Federal-State-local cooperative statistical programs, including information on the types of data collected, the types of support provided by the various levels of government, and the existence of standards for data collection systems.¹⁴ This work is expected to lead, in the coming year, to recommendations for guidelines for Federal agency use in the development and implementation of cooperative statistical systems.

STATISTICAL DISCLOSURE AND DISCLOSURE-AVOIDANCE TECHNIQUES

On occasion, statistical tabulations or individual records with personal identifiers removed (microdata) may lead to an inadvertent disclosure of the identity of individual respondents. In order to preclude this possibility and maintain the pledge of confidentiality, Federal agencies releasing data in tabular form and in the form of microdata files must follow reasonable disclosure-avoidance procedures.

The Subcommittee on Disclosure-Avoidance Techniques of the Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology has prepared a report including findings and recommendations on the concept of statistical disclosure. Topics covered include: how to decide what data to release, disclosure-avoidance techniques, effects of disclosure on data subjects and users, disclosure-avoidance techniques in tabulations, the release of microdata files, and needs for research and development.¹⁵ The report is intended to help managerial and technical staffs of Federal agencies which publish or otherwise release data to devise ways of achieving appropriate disclosure-avoidance practices.

STATISTICAL STANDARDS

Occupational Classification.—In the next year various Federal statistical programs will begin to

incorporate the newly developed Standard Occupational Classification which was published in late 1977.¹⁶ This new classification was developed to provide for more comparability between statistics collected by different agencies or in different surveys. Plans are now being made to use the system in the 1980 Population Census and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) programs. The Occupational Employment Survey will use the classification in the survey to update the occupation by Industry matrix.

Other agencies will be expected to make plans to use the Manual as soon as feasible, considering the need for comparability to previous data. The requirements for implementation of the standard will be contained in a directive to be issued by the Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards.

Industry Classification.—The supplement to the *Standard Industrial Classification Manual 1972* which contains minor changes, mostly in the form of corrections, will be incorporated into the Economic Censuses for 1977 and should be used in other systems in the near future.

Commodity Classification.—Three years of work to increase comparability of production, export and import statistics culminated in commodity classification changes during 1977. Substantial changes have been made in the three commodity classification systems that are used for production, export, and import data including the structure of the classification system used for export data. This work, ordered by the Trade Act of 1974, was carried out by the Departments of Commerce and Treasury and the International Trade Commission.

The new commodity classifications will be used in publishing data from the 1977 Census of Manufactures and Mineral Industries.

¹⁴ This documentation is available for review by interested parties.

¹⁵ The report on *Statistical Disclosure and Disclosure-Avoidance Techniques*, will be published as *Statistical Policy Working Paper 2* by the Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards.

¹⁶ Copies of *Standard Occupational Classification Manual 1977* are available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 for \$8.25 a copy, Stock Number 041-001-00153-1.

Changes will also be incorporated into the monthly export and import statistics compiled by the Bureau of the Census beginning January 1, 1978.

These changes will be primarily useful for comparing production, export and import data at an aggregated level of about 200 commodity groups. Work is continuing to develop future changes that will increase comparability even further including greater comparability with international classification systems. Recommendations will be submitted to Congress to allow changes in the *Tariff Schedule of the United States, Annotated*, since this classification structure used for import data requires legislative action.

Selected Legislative Activities

During the past year several pieces of legislation were introduced and/or enacted which could have a significant impact on the Federal Statistical System.

Census Improvement Act.—In August 1977, H.R. 8871, a bill which was labeled as the Census Reform Act, was introduced by Representative William Lehman, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Population and Census, of the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service, and Representative Patricia Schroeder of the same committee. This bill would have instituted many significant changes in the organization and procedures followed by the Census Bureau. After a number of hearings, this Bill was withdrawn and a substitute bill, H.R. 9623, was introduced in its stead. Still another bill has been introduced by the Subcommittee leadership, H.R. 10386 but as of this writing H.R. 9623 has not been withdrawn.

The original bill had many provisions which would have significantly altered not only the taking of the decennial census but also the organization of the Census Bureau and its relationship with other Federal agencies.

The latest bill contains fewer provisions, but those that remain are significant. For example, H.R. 10386 contains a provision limiting the 100% census to nine substantive questions. Among other things, the bill would preclude the census asking about family relationship or mari-

tal status and would limit inquiries concerning race and ethnicity.

During the past 18 years, the Census Bureau, following the recommendations of the Hoover Commission, has done more and more work for other Federal agencies on a reimbursible basis. The current bill would require that the Congress review and approve every data collection activity of the Bureau of the Census, including those conducted for other agencies on a reimbursible basis.

These legislative proposals are pending further consideration in early 1978.

Medicare-Medicaid Anti-Fraud and Abuse Amendments.—Public Law 95-142, an Act to strengthen the capability of the government to deal with fraud under the medicare and medicaid programs, was passed in October 1977. The Act includes provisions to protect the confidentiality of patient records in the possession of a Professional Standards Review Organization (PSRO) against disclosure through subpoena or discovery proceedings in a civil action. The Act also establishes a uniform reporting system for health services facilities.

Section 19 of the Amendments requires the Secretary of HEW to establish regulations for uniform reporting for each type of health service facility and organization to which payments may be made under the medicare-medicoid programs. The data to be covered include aggregate cost of operation and services, cost and volume of services for functional accounts, rates by category of patient and class of purchaser, capital assets and discharge and bill data. The legislation also specifies that the uniform reporting system shall, to the extent practicable, be consistent with the cooperative system for producing comparable and uniform health statistics, as provided under Section 306 (e) (1) of the Public Health Act.

The Act also includes provisions for monitoring of reporting activities, technical and financial assistance, and dissemination of information obtained through the reporting system. Providers of service under this Act are also required to report information in accordance with the uniform reporting system for each type of facility.

Appropriations for Principal Statistical Programs

OVERVIEW

As implied by the title, Principal Statistical Programs, the following section is not an exhaustive analysis of recent appropriation history for all Federal statistical efforts. It is difficult to establish clear dividing lines between statistics, and program administration, evaluation, and research of which they are frequently an integral part. As a reflection of the circumstances under which statistics are generated agency practices vary considerably in the degree to which an attempt is made to separately identify for budget purposes obligations which are perceived to be related to the planning, coordination, collection, production, and analysis of statistics. Consequently the dollar amounts of budget obligations shown in this section are indicative of the general level of effort involved rather than being a complete listing of all amounts devoted to statistics in the Federal budget.

The analysis includes the entire budgets of three bureaus: the Bureau of Economic Analysis, the Bureau of the Census and the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The complete budgets of the National Center for Education Statistics and the National Center for Health Statistics are also reviewed. Budget obligations for the Bureau of the Census and the Bureau of Labor Statistics are shown separately for current and periodic programs to permit separate analysis of the major large-scale programs which would otherwise obscure trends in current program levels. Agencies with less than \$300 thousand in obligations for statistical programs are excluded from the analysis. The section concludes with a table showing appropriations requested for the major statistical agencies in the President's Budget for Fiscal Year 1979.

PRICES AND PRICE INDEXES

The price and price index work of the Bureau of Labor Statistics will require nearly \$20 million in Fiscal Year (FY) 1978. Major improvements for the year are the publication of the revised consumer price indexes, publication of related underlying consumer expenditure data, an increase in the international price index work, and a continuation of improvements in the industrial price program.

The revised consumer price index is based on item weights updated to consumer expenditures made in 1972 and 1973 and greatly improves samples of prices. A second major index will be introduced in FY 1978 that will cover the entire urban portion of the population while the index for the urban worker with a family of four will also be continued. Several years of planning, data collection and analysis preceded the release of the new indexes.

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), Department of Commerce compiles price indexes for deflating the national income and product accounts. During FY 1978 BEA is continuing the development of a new index for deflating purchases of goods and services by the Department of Defense. Price and price indexes work in agriculture is conducted by the Economics, Statistics and Cooperatives Service (see the section on Agricultural Statistics).

LABOR STATISTICS

National Commission on Employment and Unemployment.—A very important recent development in labor statistics was the establishment in 1977 of the National Commission on Employment and Unemployment Statistics which is chaired by Sar Levitan, who is head of the Center for Social Policy Studies at the George Washington University, and is thus known as the "Levitan Commission." The Commission has a mandate to identify the needs of the Nation for labor force statistics and to assess the progress of current statistical programs in fulfilling those needs. This is the first comprehensive examination of unemployment statistics since the President's Committee to Appraise Employment and Unemployment Statistics (the Gordon Committee) in 1962. The recommendations of the Commission could materially change the Current Population Survey (CPS), the current source of national employment and unemployment statistics.

Methods Test Panel.—In 1977 the Census Bureau established a Methods Test Panel which will serve as a major vehicle for testing and evaluating the feasibility of the recommendations of the new Commission on Unemployment and Employment before implementing them in the ongoing CPS. In FY1978, approximately \$0.5 million was appropriated to the Census Bureau for this purpose. The Methods Test

Panel will not only provide for improvements in the Current Population Survey, but should also provide for methodological improvements in other demographic surveys operated by the Census Bureau.

Labor Force Statistics.—In FY 1978 a total of \$33.3 million was appropriated to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) to support their labor force statistics program. An additional \$2 million was requested in a supplement to the 1978 budget. Altogether, this would represent an increase of \$7.4 million over the FY 1977 appropriation. Part of this increase is to expand the Current Population Survey to provide annual data for all 50 States. The Bureau of Labor Statistics has proposed an even larger increase in FY 1979. Among other activities, the FY 1979 proposal would permit the development of State-by-State data from the CPS on a quarterly basis. The BLS labor force statistics program also provides for State and local area unemployment statistics, employment estimates by occupation, occupational projections data on hours and earnings, wages and other data concerning the labor force.

Another major related program within the Department of Labor is the Labor Market Information Program of the Employment and Training Administration (ETA). The FY 1978 Budget identifies \$12.9 million for that purpose. This is the largest single data acquisition activity of ETA.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION STATISTICS

The major activity in production and distribution statistics for FY 1978 will be the 1977 Economic Census. This important five year benchmark survey will include manufacturing, wholesale and retail trade sectors of the economy. Coverage of service and nonprofit businesses will also be expanded. About \$15 million is expected to be spent on this program during FY 1978.

The Census Bureau is also continuing improvements in its large program of current economic statistics related to production and distribution. Special emphasis is being placed on improvement in inventory statistics for large and complex organizations. Other important programs are the current commodity reports, measures of current levels of production, ship-

ments and orders, estimates of wholesale and retail trade activity, and statistics on U.S. trade. These programs provide major statistical input to indicators and accounts that measure and monitor economic activity.

Other programs providing statistics on production and distribution are conducted by the Economics, Statistics, and Cooperatives Service of the Department of Agriculture (see the section on Agricultural Statistics); the U.S. Customs Service, Department of the Treasury; the Industry and Trade Administration (formerly the Domestic and International Business Administration), Department of Commerce, and the National Marine and Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce. The U.S. Customs Service program of about \$3.5 million concentrates on verification of import trade statistics to enhance the balance of payments calculations, analysis of impacts of trade on the domestic economy, and evaluation of trade policy.

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

The major programs in agricultural statistics are conducted by the Economics, Statistics, and Cooperatives Service in USDA and the Agriculture Division of the Census Bureau.

Current statistical estimates on the supply, use and prices of agricultural commodities, economic data series, and other related series will be continued by the Economic, Statistics and Cooperatives Service (ESCS). The ongoing program requires most of the nearly \$46 million budgeted by ESCS for statistics in FY 1978. Major program changes or improvements include continued work on construction and maintenance of a master list of farm establishments and a nationwide point-of-sale survey to improve sampling for commodity price data. Information on land use, investment and ownership will be collected in a number of singletime surveys. A new program of information on direct sales from farmers to consumers will be started in FY 1978, if requested supplemental funds are approved. The direct sales program, along with a feasibility study for a land data system that is also subject to approval of supplementary funds, has been required in recent laws.

Preparations for the 1978 Census of Agriculture will include the final design and testing of

Table 1. OBLIGATIONS FOR PRINCIPAL STATISTICAL PROGRAMS, BY AGENCY (in millions of dollars)

Agency	FY 1977 Actual	FY 1978 Actual	Agency	FY 1977 Actual	FY 1978 Actual
CURRENT PROGRAMS			National Center for Health Services Research	3.1	5.6
Department of Agriculture:			Office of Assistant Secretary for Human Development	4.8	4.6
Agricultural Research Service	3.5	3.7	Office of Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation	3.7	7.1
Economics, Statistics, and Cooperatives Service	43.1	45.7	Social Security Administration	16.0	17.9
Office of the General Sales Manager .....	.6	.6	Department of Housing and Urban Development:		
Department of Commerce:			Community Planning and Development	1.4	1.5
Bureau of Economic Analysis	12.8	13.5	Housing	2.3	2.3
Bureau of the Census	44.9	45.4	Policy Development and Research	12.3	11.2
Industry and Trade Administration	3.0	4.2	Department of the Interior:		
Economic Development Administration .....	.9	1.2	Bureau of Mines	12.4	13.7
National Fire Prevention and Control Administration	1.2	1.7	Fish and Wildlife Service	4.3	4.0
National Marine Fisheries Service	3.4	3.4	Geological Survey	4.5	7.0
Department of Defense:			Mining Enforcement and Safety Administration	2.0	2.2
Corps of Engineers	2.0	2.2	Department of Justice:		
Department of Energy:			Drug Enforcement Administration	1.4	1.5
Bureau of Mines ¹	2.3	1.9	Federal Bureau of Investigation	2.3	2.9
Energy Research and Development Administration ¹	38.2	64.3	Law Enforcement Assistance Administration	19.4	23.0
Federal Energy Administration ¹ ..	27.6	43.9	Department of Labor:		
Federal Power Commission ¹	4.4	5.2	Bureau of Labor Statistics	75.6	82.9
Department of Health, Education, and Welfare:			Employment Training Administration	24.1	25.5
Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Administration ..	8.5	9.2	Employment Standards Administration .....	.5	.6
Center for Disease Control	3.0	3.7	Occupational Safety and Health Administration	6.2	6.3
Food and Drug Administration	1.9	2.1	Department of Transportation:		
Health Care Financing Administration	4.8	4.6	Office of the Secretary	1.3	1.2
Health Resources Administration ..	4.5	10.1	Federal Highway Administration	3.9	4.6
Health Services Administration			Federal Railroad Administration	1.3	.8
Health Services	2.6	2.3	National Highway Traffic Safety Administration	11.9	11.9
Indian Health Services	1.5	1.6	Urban Mass Transportation Administration .....	.9	.9
National Center for Education Statistics	13.1	13.9	Department of the Treasury:		
National Institutes of Health:	29.3	32.4	Customs Service	3.5	3.5
National Cancer Institute	17.7	18.8	Internal Revenue Service	12.8	13.5
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute	5.3	6.0	Office of Revenue Sharing .....	.7	.8
National Institute of Neurological and Communicative Disorders and Stroke	3.7	4.5	Civil Aeronautics Board	2.5	2.6
Other National Institutes of Health	2.6	3.1	Environmental Protection Agency ...	25.1	24.7
Office of Assistant Secretary for Health			Federal Home Loan Bank Board	3.8	3.6
National Center for Health Statistics	29.3	35.5	Federal Trade Commission	1.4	1.6

TRANSPORTATION STATISTICS

Agency	FY 1977 Actual	FY 1978 Actual
Interstate Commerce Commission ...	1.3	1.7
National Science Foundation	2.8	2.6
Securities and Exchange Commission	1.5	1.5
Veterans Administration	8.3	9.0
PERIODIC PROGRAMS		
Department of Commerce:		
Bureau of the Census:		
1972 Economic Census .....	.1	—
1977 Economic Censuses	5.9	15.3
1977 Census of Governments	3.5	1.0
1974 Census of Agriculture	2.0	—
1978 Census of Agriculture	3.3	10.7
1980 Census of Population and Housing	17.9	31.0
Intercensal demographic estimates	1.8	1.8
Registration and voting surveys	2.9	7.2
Periodic program geographic support	2.9	2.9
Data processing equipment ²	6.1	7.8
General administration and other	2.6	3.9
Department of Labor: Bureau of Labor Statistics:		
Revision of Consumer Price Index		
Standard industrial classification revision program	7.2	3.6
	1.5	1.6

¹ Organizations transferred to the Department of Energy.

² Includes capital outlays for data processing acquisitions.

the survey form along with completion of mailing lists. A recent law moved this census ahead by one year from 1979 so that by 1982 the census of agriculture will be on the same time sequence as other economic census work. A major emphasis of the 1978 Census of Agriculture is to reduce reporting burden by shortening the form and by using more sampling. Providing a supplemental appropriation is approved, another major change will be the inclusion of the separate survey to estimate the completeness of the Census coverage.

Collection of data in a nationwide sample of nutrition and food consumption will be completed in FY 1978 by the Agriculture Research Service of USDA. Food consumption data are collected about every 10 years to provide information for policy planning, nutrition research and consumer decisionmaking.

The FY 1978 Budget for statistical programs in transportation includes over \$19 million for agencies in the Department of Transportation (DOT). Other statistical programs are located in the Interstate Commerce Commission, the Civil Aeronautics Board, and the Corps of Engineers, Department of the Army. Most of these programs show little change from a year earlier.

The largest statistical budget for transportation is that of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration within DOT. This nearly \$12 million program of comprehensive motor vehicle accident statistics supports accident problem identification work, development and evaluation of standards and regulations, and evaluation of highway safety programs. Many of the other transportation statistics programs also support development and evaluation of standards and programs for the transportation industry.

HOUSING AND CONSTRUCTION STATISTICS

Fiscal year 1978 appropriations earmarked by the Department of Housing and Urban Development for statistics remained relatively unchanged from previous years at \$15 million. The largest share of this sum is for the support of the Annual Housing Survey which provides regular comprehensive data on the characteristics of the housing inventory. In addition, funds are provided for collection of data on the current operation of the new sales and rental housing markets and on the flow of funds for home purchase.

National data will be collected for the fifth cycle of the Annual Housing Survey program during FY 1978. In recognition of this, an extensive evaluation of the survey program is planned to reexamine data priorities, frequency of collection needed and priorities for providing supplements on topics such as energy, neighborhood quality and recent movers.

Funds for the construction statistics program of the Bureau of the Census remained essentially unchanged from FY 1977 at \$4.5 million.

GENERAL ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL STATISTICS

Two programs dominate the area of general economic and financial statistics. The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) is the largest with a

budget of about \$13.5 million for FY 1978. This amount supports a longstanding program of the preparation, development and interpretation of economic accounts of the United States such as national income and product accounts, input-output tables for interindustry accounts, and regional accounts. Other program areas include the construction of statistical indicators, analysis of business trends and outlook, preparation and development of the balance of payments accounts on international transactions, and surveys of international investments.

Relatively small program changes are being made in FY 1978 by BEA to improve annual estimates of capital expenditures and operating costs for pollution abatement and control. A number of other program improvements are being made as recommendations of the *Gross National Product Data Improvement Project Report* are implemented. For FY 1978, planned changes include publication of an added quarterly GNP estimate 75 days after the close of the quarter and development of comprehensive documentation on methods and procedures used in the accounts.

The second major program in this area is the statistics of income program conducted by the Internal Revenue Service. Approximately \$11.4 million will be used for extracting, compiling and reporting statistical information from individual and business tax forms during FY 1978. Data on personal and business income and related financial statistics for the 1974 and 1975 tax years will be compiled and published during 1978.

Other statistical programs providing general economic and financial statistics are conducted by the Federal Reserve Board, the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Federal Trade Commission, the Federal Home Loan Bank Board, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the Department of Agriculture. Little change is expected in FY 1978 for these programs which obtain data on securities markets, corporate finance, housing mortgage and farm lending activities, stocks of debt for housing, farming and corporate business operations, and on operations of financial institutions. The responsibility for a data program on the working capital of nonfinancial corporations

is being transferred from the Securities and Exchange Commission to the Federal Trade Commission, which also compiles the Quarterly Financial Report of these corporations.

ENERGY STATISTICS

Data needed for monitoring and analyzing the energy situation as well as development of energy policies and programs has been one of the fastest growing areas of Federal statistics. The FY 1978 budget for the new Department of Energy lists nearly \$115 million for statistical programs, many of which will be conducted by the Energy Information Administration. This is about double the appropriations for statistics of 2 years earlier for predecessor agencies. The National Energy Plan of 1977 and the development of a comprehensive national energy policy have placed a much greater emphasis on the need to develop a coordinated statistical program to support analytical, policymaking and regulatory activities.

One of the major additions to the budget for energy statistics is increased work in a uranium resource assessment program. The goal is to complete a comprehensive assessment of the total potential uranium resource and its distributional characteristics in the United States by 1983.

An oil and gas reserves survey and information system will be implemented in FY 1978 and efforts are being undertaken to significantly improve data on energy consumption. Development of a financial reporting system for companies in energy production and distribution industries is continuing.

Other energy related data programs continue to be located within the Geological Survey in the Department of the Interior and the Environmental Protection Agency. The \$7 million program in the Geological Survey consists of energy resource surveys, estimates and mapping. The energy data collected by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are used to establish an energy-related environmental baseline which will serve as a reliable reference from which environmental trends caused by energy developments may be judged. Extensive information on energy-related technologies is also being collected by EPA.

ENVIRONMENTAL STATISTICS

The major statistical programs concerned with the environment are conducted by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The estimated \$24.7 million for FY 1978 statistical work in EPA is only slightly less than the amount spent the previous year. However, some change in program emphasis is taking place within the total budget.

The 1978 program includes a nearly \$1 million increase in efforts to monitor and analyze water quality and some increase in epidemiological studies and residue profiles related to pesticides. Most of the program decrease to offset these changes will come from statistics on health effects of air pollution.

HEALTH STATISTICS

Between FY 1977 and 1978, funding for the health statistics programs within the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (DHEW) increased by 21%, to a total of \$107 million in 1978 appropriations. The largest part of this budget was accounted for by the statistical activities of the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), the primary Federal agency for the collection and dissemination of health and health care statistics. In 1978, NCHS accounted for a third of the DHEW health statistical budget. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) accounted for 30% of the health statistical budget.

The NCHS National Health and Vital Statistics Program funding, \$19.9 million in FY 1978, was approximately the same as for the previous year. This program includes the periodic surveys of the Nation's health status, health resources and utilization, family growth, and the national registration data system.

Funding for the Cooperative Health Statistics System (CHSS) increased from \$8.4 million in FY 1977 to \$14.3 million in 1978. During 1977, CHSS continued to expand its Federal, State and local activities, with some components of the data set being adopted in most States. Three new vital statistics programs were added. By FY 1979, the health manpower, health facilities and vital statistics data components will be operational in all States, the hospital care component will be operational in a third of the States and development work will be started on the ambulatory and long-term care data set.

NIH had a relatively small increase in funding in FY 1978, to a total of \$32.4 million. The major portion of this budget was allocated to the biometry program of the National Cancer Institute, for the conduct of research on the etiology of cancer and consultation and support of cancer research.

Other major statistical activities included support, by the National Center for Health Services Research (NCHSR), of the National Panel Study of Medicare Expenditures. Four rounds of interviewing for the household survey phase of the study were conducted in 1977. Preliminary data on the completed household survey will become available in 1978. The data were collected under a cooperative arrangement between NCHSR and NCHS.

Statistical activity in the health services, occupational health and mental health areas will continue at the same level as in the previous year. A number of specialized occupational inventory and manpower supporting studies were undertaken by the Bureau of Health Manpower in 1977.

EDUCATION STATISTICS

In FY 1978, nearly \$14 million was appropriated to the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), the primary Federal agency responsible for the collection, analysis and dissemination of statistics about education. This represented a modest increase over the total funds made available to the NCES in FY 1977 (\$13.1 million).

During 1978, NCES will work with 44 States to pilot test the directory, staff and pupil components of the Elementary-Secondary Common Core of Data program. This testing will culminate a multiyear cooperative developmental effort, and lead to full-scale implementation of the program in the following year. At the post-secondary level, design work will continue, based on inputs received through several studies of issues and user needs.

Revision of the Vocational Education Data System, mandated to NCES under the Education Amendments of 1976, will be completed based on field test results during 1978. This will allow for initial implementation of the new recordkeeping system during the 1978-1979 school year, as required by the law.

In line with its objective to shift emphasis from data describing educational institutions to data describing student characteristics, backgrounds, and outcomes, NCES will undertake major developmental work on a new cohort for longitudinal study. This work is expected to lead to base-year collection of information on high school sophomores and seniors in 1980.

During 1978, NCES will continue to cooperate with the States in activities designed to improve their statistical and data collection systems. A modest program of grants to State and local agencies will be inaugurated. New analytic and dissemination services will be provided in accordance with the Center's revised organizational structure and user services strategy.

INCOME MAINTENANCE AND WELFARE STATISTICS

Obligations for that portion of the budget of the Office of Research and Statistics (ORS) of the Social Security Administration which is devoted to income maintenance statistics increased by 4.7% to a total of \$15.1 million in FY 1978. ORS programs supported by this sum remained essentially unchanged from 1977, as increases and decreases reflected different stages of data collection and analysis in the various subprograms. A broad variety of activities are supported, including economic and long-range studies, analyses of the impact of programs on the population served and ongoing analyses of legislation under consideration.

During FY 1978, the fifth phase of the retirement history study will be completed and plans will be developed for the sixth and final phase of biennial data collections which began in 1969. Analyses of cross-sectional retirement and survivor studies will focus on recent surveys of the adequacy of social security benefits for students and young widows. Data contained in social security records will be employed to analyze the roles of social security benefits for blacks and, where possible, for other groups disadvantaged by social and economic conditions or racial discrimination. Analyses of changes in the status of the recipient population resulting from the initiation of the Supplementary Security Income Program will continue with reports based on surveys conducted immediately prior to and following the start of the program.

Clearly, the most important activity involving appropriations for population statistics is the preparation for the 1980 decennial census. However, there is another activity which will take on greater and greater importance in coming years. In FY 1978 work will begin on the first mid-decade census of population and housing. One-half million dollars was included in the Census 1978 appropriation to begin work on the mid-decade census and experiment with the concept of "nested samples," which is proposed as a major technique for better integrating social statistics.¹⁷

In FY 1978 \$31 million were appropriated for the 1980 decennial census. An additional \$330,000 has been requested in a supplemental budget. The most important set of activities which will take place in 1978 will be the census dress rehearsals. The dress rehearsals are the final test of the procedures which will be used in 1980. The dress rehearsals are scheduled to take place in three different locations. First, a final test of the mail system of data collection will take place in the Richmond, Virginia area. The testing of conventional door-to-door data collection will take place in La Plata and Montezuma Counties, Colorado. A final test of materials and procedures will take place in a portion of New York City. Specifically, this activity would cover the approximately 125,000 population living in the southern portion of Manhattan.

The dress rehearsal activities in the first two areas, Richmond, Virginia and the two counties in Colorado, will be conducted in April 1978. Because funds for the New York City test are included in a supplemental appropriation request which will not be available in time, that part of the dress rehearsal procedure will not be conducted until September 1978.

The materials and procedures involved in the dress rehearsal have been developed over the past half decade and have been evaluated in various pretests. The most recent was conducted in Oakland, California in April 1977. Intensive work will continue in 1978 and on into FY 1979 to develop methods for further improving

¹⁷ See the draft Framework chapter on Standards for Statistical Methodology in the June 1977 issue of *Statistical Reporter*.

coverage and thus reducing the "undercount" of various segments of the population. Work will also intensify in the search for methods of adjusting for this undercount in various population estimates which use the census as their base.

The Department of Commerce has requested the Committee on National Statistics of the National Academy of Sciences to examine the Census Bureau's procedure involving the improvement of coverage and possible methods of undercount adjustment. The Academy will prepare recommendations by May 1978. Some of the modifications of basic census procedures could hopefully be tested as early as the New York dress rehearsal in September of 1978.

REGISTRATION AND VOTING SURVEYS

The Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended, requires that the Census Bureau collect data on the registration and voting patterns of minority groups in areas with significant minority populations or in which the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights feels that there is a probability of discriminatory practices.

Originally, the President's 1978 budget requested no funds for these voting and registration surveys. Instead, a recommendation was made that legislation be introduced to require that the surveys be conducted on a quadrennial basis rather than a biennial basis as required by the statute. In the spring of 1977, the Administration decided not to seek such legislation and a supplementary appropriation was requested to carry out the planning and other preparations for the next survey which would be conducted

Table 2. APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTED IN THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 1979 FOR MAJOR STATISTICAL AGENCIES
(in millions of dollars)

Agency	1979 Estimate
Bureau of Economic Analysis	14.8
Bureau of Labor Statistics	95.0
Bureau of the Census	288.1
Current	50.7
Periodic	237.4
1980 Census of Population and Housing	146.5
National Center for Education Statistics	15.9
National Center for Health Statistics	43.4

after the elections of November 1978. The supplementary appropriation was \$7.0 million for FY 1978. The 1979 budget requests almost \$34.5 million for the actual collection of data.

The sum of these amounts contrasts with the approximately \$4.7 million which was used for the 1976 round of surveys. The increase results from a reinterpretation of the coverage requirements of the Act, as well as a requirement for an increase in the reliability of the data sought. The program in 1978 will compile data for the 931 jurisdictions covered by Section 207 of the Act, as amended, and for the 24 divisions designated by the Civil Rights Commission in accordance with the Act.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE STATISTICS

During the last several years, the funding for criminal justice statistics has been erratic. This is particularly true of the program of the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA). The *Special Analysis to the Budget of the United States* for Statistical Programs shows over the last few fiscal years the actual amounts expended for statistics by the LEAA progress from \$24.8 million in 1974 to \$42.7 in 1975, \$34.0 in 1976, \$19.3 in 1977, \$22.9 in 1978. In part, these fluctuations reflect the fact that some of the LEAA's statistical programs are funded from the agency's general discretionary grant programs. The budgets for these grant programs have also varied considerably.

In mid-1977, in response to generally dwindling resources and increased commitments, particularly to its Federal/State cooperative statistical programs, LEAA proposed that the National Crime Survey be interrupted for an extended period. After an intensive review within LEAA and the Departments of Justice and Commerce, and following hearings with the Subcommittee on Crime of the House Judiciary Committee, this decision was at least partially reversed. However, significant modifications may have to be made in the LEAA statistics program since the President's budget for FY 1979 requests only \$20 million, a decrease of approximately \$3 million over the 1978 level.

Funds requested by the FBI have also varied during this period, but to a much lesser extent than those of the LEAA. The FBI range has

been from a low of \$1.7 million in FY 1976 to a high of \$2.8 million in FY 1978. These fluctuations have not had visible impact on the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting program. The Drug Enforcement Administration, on the other hand, has shown a relatively consistent budget pattern.

Fiscal Year 1979 Budget Request for the Major Statistical Agencies

The budget proposed for fiscal year 1979 by the President includes requests for specific obli-

gation authority for the major statistical agencies.¹⁸ By far the largest single increase over the appropriations request for FY 1978 is for the 1980 Census of Population and Housing to provide for the final full year of preparation prior to the census date of April 1980. The total FY 1979 requests for the individual agencies are given in Table 2.

¹⁸ *The Budget of the United States Government, 1979—Appendix.*

The Revision of the Consumer Price Index

W. JOHN LAYNG

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Mr. Layng wishes to note that completion of the CPI Revision Program was made possible only by the extremely hard work of many people in Washington and across the country.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) is about to complete the fifth and most complex revision of the U.S. Consumer Price Index (CPI). The Bureau will begin publishing the revised Consumer Price Index with the release of the January 1978 index, scheduled for February 27. At that time, the BLS will publish three Consumer Price Indexes: (1) a new CPI for All Urban Consumers; (2) a revised CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers; and (3) the present unrevised CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers. The present unrevised CPI will be discontinued after the June 1978 index is published. The new CPI and the revised CPI will continue into the future.

The role of the CPI in our economic life has a long history, stretching back to World War I. It is, and has been since its inception, the only measure compiled by the U.S. Government which is designed to measure changes in the purchasing power of the consumers' dollar, or,

in the other way it is often expressed, to measure changes in the cost of living insofar as living costs are affected by price changes. Today, it is one of the most important economic indicators compiled by the U.S. Government, not only because of its use in collective bargaining but also because of its use in the formulation and evaluation of Government economic policies and the escalation of legislated benefits, such as social security payments and food stamps.

The basic objective of the CPI will not change with establishment of the revised CPI. The objective will continue to be to measure changes in the cost of a fixed market basket of goods and services in order to gauge changes in consumers' cost of living and to provide the American people, as well as policymakers in government, industry, and labor, with an accurate and easily understood measure of the rate of inflation.

Changes in the Presentation of Data

The most important change in the CPI, at least in terms of its visibility to the typical user of the index, is that, in February 1978, there will be a Consumer Price Index for two groups of the population. One will cover the traditional urban wage earner and clerical worker popula-

tion, and the other will cover all urban consumers. The new broader coverage index will include all civilian households living in urban areas of the country. The rural population, except that which resides inside the boundaries of metropolitan areas, will continue to be excluded from the CPI. The All Urban Consumer Price Index will include salaried workers, the self-employed, the retired, and the unemployed, as well as the wage earner and clerical worker population. It will cover approximately 80% of the total noninstitutional civilian households in the United States, and the traditional wage earner and clerical worker index will cover approximately half of the all urban index. Both indexes will, of course, incorporate all the improvements that are being put in place.

The existence of Consumer Price Indexes for two population groups means that a choice between the two may have to be made by parties that use the CPI in escalator clauses or other contractual arrangements. It is impossible to tell, of course, whether the all urban consumer index will rise more or less rapidly than the index for wage earners and clerical workers. To some extent, one can speculate that the movement of the urban wage earner index will closely parallel the movement of the all urban consumer index, since they are not mutually exclusive series—one is a large part of the other. But no one can speak authoritatively on this matter at this time, since the differences will be a function of not only differences in the expenditure weights in the two market baskets but also differences in the behavior of the prices of the individual index components in the future.

Funds have been requested and approved by the Congress to continue calculation of the existing CPI for wage earners and clerical workers for 6 months after introduction of the two new indexes so that those who have difficulty shifting quickly to the revised CPI or the new CPI will have some extra time. This means that for 6 months there will be three indexes: the old index for wage earners and clerical workers; the revised index for wage earners and clerical workers; and the new index for all urban consumers. All three indexes will be presented on a 1967=100 reference base, and BLS will attempt to maximize the historical continuity of individual component indexes.

Other highly visible changes in the CPI program will be in the way data are presented to

the public. At the present time, the CPI is presented primarily in terms of food, other commodities, and services. BLS intends to shift the emphasis to the major categories of consumption as viewed by most American families. That means that BLS will be emphasizing categories of consumption such as housing and transportation rather than categories such as commodities other than food, apparel commodities, nondurable goods, durable goods, or services. Within each of the seven major household budget categories, however, information will be provided on the makeup of the category in terms of commodities and services, distinctions which are often important to economic analysts. This will provide BLS with the opportunity to discuss movements in prices of all of the categories of consumption, whether they be commodities or services. In addition, price indexes will be presented for some new aggregations, particularly in the food area where there will be a food and beverage price index for the first time. Table 1 provides a listing of the categories which BLS plans to use as a basis for discussion in the release of the CPI each month.

There will also be a major improvement in the geographic detail available from the CPI program. The number of CPI's for local areas will be expanded from the present level of 24 to 28. The four additional indexes will cover Miami, Florida; Portland, Oregon; Scranton, Pennsylvania; and Denver, Colorado. Perhaps a more important change will be the introduction of regional Consumer Price Indexes cross-classified by population size. The availability of these data will enable users in local areas for which an index is not published to get a better approximation of the CPI for their area by using the appropriate population-size class measure for their region. Table 2 provides the publication schedule for each of the area indexes for the revised CPI.

Major Changes in Index Construction

The ability to produce this information results from a major expansion in the number of areas in which price data are collected for the CPI. The number of areas in which prices will be collected for the revised CPI has been increased to 85 from a level of 56 areas in the present index. The new 85-area design is a probability sample of urban areas based on the 1970 Census of Population. The expansion in the number of

CPI pricing areas will also improve the reliability of the national index.

Less visible, but equally important, changes include the improvements made in obtaining the updated consumption weights to be used in calculation of the Consumer Price Index, substantial improvements in the method of selecting retail stores for pricing, and the introduction of a major change in the process of selecting products within stores for pricing over time.

The consumption weights for the Consumer Price Index were developed from the Consumer Expenditure Survey conducted for the years 1972 and 1973. Several changes were made from previous surveys in sample design and collection methodology, all of which were designed to provide more accurate and more complete data for the selection and weighting of items to be included in the CPI market basket. Clearly, this was the most important survey in the CPI revision in terms of time and cost. The data

Table 1. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR ALL URBAN CONSUMERS: U.S. CITY AVERAGE, BY EXPENDITURE CATEGORY AND COMMODITY AND SERVICE GROUP, 1967=100

Groups	Relative importance December	Unadjusted indexes 1967=100 unless otherwise noted		Unadjusted percent change to Jan. 1978 from—		Seasonally adjusted percent change from previous month		
	1977	December 1977	January 1978	January 1977	December 1977	Oct. to Nov.	Nov. to Dec.	Dec. to Jan.
Expenditure category								
All items								
All items (1957-59=100)								
Food and beverages								
Food								
Food at home								
Cereals and bakery products								
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs								
Dairy products								
Fruits and vegetables								
Sugar and sweets								
Fats and oils								
Nonalcoholic beverages								
Other prepared foods								
Food away from home								
Alcoholic beverages								
Housing ¹								
Shelter								
Rent, residential								
Other rental costs								
Homeownership								
Home purchase								
Financing, taxes, and insur- ance								
Maintenance and repairs								
Services								
Commodities								
Fuel and other utilities								
Fuels								
Fuel oil, coal, and bottled gas								
Gas (piped) and electricity ..								
Other utilities and public serv- ices								
Household furnishings and operation ¹								

from this survey were assembled into a complicated classification structure in order to develop the sample of items to be used in the revised CPI market basket. The classification structure consists of seven major groups containing 68 expenditure classes. The expenditure classes contain a total of 265 item strata. Item strata were further divided into a total of 382 lower-level categories which are termed entry-level items. In the present Consumer Price Index, there are 52 expenditure classes and a universe

of 800 detailed items, about 400 of which were selected for pricing in the 56 pricing areas.

For the revised Consumer Price Index, almost all of the 265 item strata will be priced in each of the 85 pricing areas. However, not all of the 382 entry-level items will be priced in each area. Expenditure values were used to select a probability sample of entry-level categories for each area in which pricing will be conducted. Table 3 provides percent distributions for major groups of the CPI classification structure or market

Table 1. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR ALL URBAN CONSUMERS: U.S. CITY AVERAGE, BY EXPENDITURE CATEGORY AND COMMODITY AND SERVICE GROUP, 1967=100—Continued

Groups	Relative importance December 1977	Unadjusted indexes 1967=100 unless otherwise noted		Unadjusted percent change to Jan. 1978 from—		Seasonally adjusted percent change from previous month		
		December 1977	January 1978	January 1977	December 1977	Oct. to Nov.	Nov. to Dec.	Dec. to Jan.
Expenditure category								
Housefurnishings ¹								
Housekeeping supplies								
Housekeeping services								
Apparel and upkeep								
Apparel commodities								
Men's and boys' apparel								
Women's and girls' apparel								
Infants' and toddlers' apparel ..								
Footwear								
Other apparel commodities								
Apparel services								
Transportation								
Private transportation								
New cars								
Used cars								
Gasoline								
Maintenance and repair								
Other private transportation ...								
Commodities								
Services								
Public transportation								
Medical care								
Medical care commodities								
Medical care services								
Professional services								
Other medical care services								
Entertainment								
Entertainment commodities								
Entertainment services								
Other goods and services ²								
Tobacco products								
Personal care								
Toilet goods and personal care								
appliances								
Personal care services								

Table I. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR ALL URBAN CONSUMERS: U.S. CITY AVERAGE, BY EXPENDITURE CATEGORY AND COMMODITY AND SERVICE GROUP, 1967=100—Continued

Groups	Relative importance	Unadjusted indexes		Unadjusted percent change to Jan. 1978 from—		Seasonally adjusted percent change from previous month		
	December	December 1977	January 1978	January 1977	December 1977	Oct. to Nov.	Nov. to Dec.	Dec. to Jan.
Expenditure category								
Personal and educational expenses								
School books and supplies								
Personal and educational services								
Commodity and service group								
All items								
Commodities								
Food and beverages								
Commodities less food and beverages								
Nondurables less food and beverages								
Apparel commodities								
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel								
Durables								
Services								
Rent, residential								
Household services less rent								
Transportation services								
Medical care services								
Other services								
Special indexes:								
All items less food								
All items less mortgage interest costs								
Commodities less food								
Nondurables less food								
Nondurables less food and apparel								
Nondurables								
Services less rent								
Services less medical care								
Domestically produced farm foods								
Selected beef cuts								
Energy								
All items less energy								
All items less food and energy								
Commodities less food and energy								
Energy commodities								
Services less energy								
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar:								
1967 = \$1.00								
1957-59 = \$1.00								

¹ Includes T.V. and sound equipment, formerly found in health and recreation.

² Formerly included alcoholic beverages, now found in food and beverages; now includes personal care and education related expenses, formerly found in health and recreation.

Table 2. PUBLICATION SCHEDULE FOR AREA INDEXES: NEW SERIES CPI

Publication months	Pivot month ²	First published index
Monthly		
Chicago, Ill.—Northwestern Ind	December 1977	January 1978
Detroit, Mich .....	.....do.....	.....do.....
Los Angeles—Long Beach, Anaheim, Calif .....	.....do.....	.....do.....
New York, N.Y.—Northeastern N.J. ....	.....do.....	.....do.....
Philadelphia, Penn.—N.J. ....	.....do.....	.....do.....
January, March, May, July, September, November		
Miami, Fla ¹	November 1977	January 1978
Milwaukee, Wis .....	.....do.....	.....do.....
Northeast, Pa. (Scranton) .....	.....do.....	.....do.....
San Diego, Calif .....	.....do.....	.....do.....
Seattle—Everett, Wash .....	.....do.....	.....do.....
Washington, D.C.—Md.—Va .....	.....do.....	.....do.....
Anchorage, Alaska		
Boston, Mass	January 1978	March 1978
Denver—Boulder, Colo .....	.....do.....	.....do.....
Portland, Ore.—Wash .....	.....do.....	.....do.....
Baltimore, Md		
Cincinnati, Ohio—Ky.—Ind	March 1978	May 1978
St. Louis, Mo.—Ill .....	.....do.....	.....do.....
February, April, June, August, October, December		
Atlanta, Ga	December 1977	February 1978
Honolulu, Hawaii .....	.....do.....	.....do.....
Kansas City, Mo.—Kan .....	.....do.....	.....do.....
San Francisco—Oakland, Calif .....	.....do.....	.....do.....
Buffalo, N.Y.		
Cleveland, Ohio	February 1978	April 1978
Dallas—Ft. Worth, Texas .....	.....do.....	.....do.....
Houston, Texas		
Minneapolis—St. Paul, Minn.—Wis	April 1978	June 1978
Pittsburgh, Penn .....	.....do.....	.....do.....

¹ Miami base period—November 1977; no index in the old series for Miami.

² Pivot month: The month in which the indexes for the old series and the new series are set at the same level; each index will move upward or downward from that level in accordance with subsequent changes in prices.

NOTE: Area indexes for the unrevised old series—both for monthly and quarterly areas—will be terminated with publication of the June 1978 index.

Table 3. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF MEAN EXPENDITURES BY MAJOR GROUP, U.S. CITY AVERAGE

Major Groups	Revised CPI		Current CPI
	All Urban Population 1972-73 ¹	Wages Earner, Clerical Worker Population 1972-73 ¹	Wage Earner, Clerical Worker Population December 1973
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Food and alcoholic beverages	18.8	20.4	27.1
Housing	42.9	39.8	34.6
Apparel	7.0	7.0	10.0
Transportation	17.7	19.8	12.5
Medical care	4.6	4.2	6.3
Entertainment	4.5	4.3	3.9
Other goods and services	4.5	4.5	5.6

¹ Relative importance as of the survey period, 1972-73. Expenditure weights must be updated for price change between the survey period and the link dates for use in the revised CPI. Consequently, relative importance data BLS will publish for the revised indexes will differ from those shown here.

basket for the all urban consumer index, the revised wage earner and clerical worker index, and the current Consumer Price Index.

The importance of the 1972-73 Consumer Expenditure Survey to the data base underlying the 1977 revision of the CPI is clear. Perhaps of more significance, however, is the innovation made in this revision effort in developing a large part of the data base for selecting retail stores in which price data are regularly collected for the CPI. For the first time, the selection of retail stores will, for the most part, be based on the results of a household survey, which BLS refers to as a Point-of-Purchase Survey, in which families spread across the country were asked for information on the names and the location and for the amount they spent in retail stores for many different categories of goods and services. Data provided from this Point-of-Purchase Survey have been used to develop, for the first time, a consistent, objective, and scientifically based sample of retail stores and service establishments for the CPI. In the last revision in 1963, data for selecting retail stores were developed from many secondary sources that were not necessarily consistent or related to the population represented by the CPI.

The expenditure survey and the Point-of-Purchase Survey provide most of the information for determining what items to price and where to price them within each of the 85 geographic areas selected for price collection. The final step in the process of selecting items, that is, determining the specific items to be priced in a specific retail store, has been accomplished through a process that may turn out to be one of the most important improvements in price collection methodology in the history of the CPI.

For the current CPI, the BLS price collection agents enter stores with a very detailed description of the item or items for which they are to obtain price information. These descriptions are prepared nationally by the Washington office staff and are referred to as item specifications. They are basically the same for every store across the country. In every city and store in which an item is to be priced, BLS attempts to obtain the price of the volume selling product meeting the detailed item description. Every time the data collectors return to the store, they attempt to price the same product.

Over the past 10 years, this process has resulted in a number of problems. The items which can be priced for the CPI have been restricted to a relatively narrow segment of the quality range available in the market and very little attempt has been made to vary the detailed item specifications priced in individual stores to allow for differences in the types of items sold by different stores. As a result, the detailed item sample in the present CPI is not as representative of the universe of items available in retail markets as BLS would like.

In the current revision of the CPI, a process has been developed which BLS thinks will yield much more representative measures of price change for major groups, subgroups, and individual components of consumption. BLS refers to this approach as store specific pricing. It is called this because, in effect, BLS has taken this final phase of item sample selection into the store itself and have made it dependent on the characteristics of each store. The idea is to enter a store with an exhaustive definition of a fairly broad category of goods and services—the entry-level item—and to proceed systematically through successive stages of selection on the basis of sales information provided by the respondent at each stage. In this fashion, a specified-in-detail item is selected for pricing over time in the retail outlet. For example, in the current CPI, BLS attempts to price a 25-inch color TV, console model, with automatic fine tuning. Specifically excluded are TV sets with remote control and those in combination with radio or phonograph.

For the revised CPI, the store is entered with a broader category called console or combination color television. Within each outlet, BLS has determined, based on the sales of that outlet, whether the specific item priced for the index would be a combination TV or a console TV; whether the brand of TV priced is RCA, Zenith, GE, etc.; whether the picture size is 25, 23, 22, 21, or 19 inches diagonal measure; whether the TV has remote control; for combination TV, whether radio, tape machine, or phonograph are included; whether the chassis is 100 percent solid state or hybrid; and whether the unit has electronic color tuning or not. If the store sells more than one model of TV having the characteristics that have been determined above, BLS requests the volume selling specific model to be priced for the index. In this

way, the entire range of console and combination color TV sets for eligibility for pricing for the CPI is included. All of these changes will contribute significantly to more representative and accurate measures of price change for all the different levels of detail for which BLS provides Consumer Price Index information.

Major improvements will also be made in the timeliness of CPI data. Pricing in the food component of the CPI, which is now carried out in the first week of each month, will be carried out throughout the month. This change will put the food component of the CPI on the same basis as other components of the CPI. In addition, pricing of other items will be spread more evenly over the month, and prices which are now collected on a quarterly cycle will be shifted to a bimonthly cycle. This will mean that the CPI will be more representative of the month as a whole and price changes that are taking place in the market place will be reflected more quickly.

Future Directions

With completion of this revision effort, the BLS hopes that the Consumer Price Index program will be substantially improved and the stage will be set for further improvements in the future. One of the most important areas of future improvement is in the revision process itself. The long lengths of time required to complete revision programs is a serious problem. When the revised CPI becomes available, it will have been 8 years in the making, and it will have been over 14 years since completion of the previous revision in 1964.

In the past, data on consumer income and expenditures have been collected every 10 to 15 years as a major component of large-scale programs to update and revise the CPI. Because detailed surveys of consumer expenditures are extremely complex, such surveys have historically been difficult, time consuming, and expensive. Although more than \$20 million was spent on the 1972-73 Consumer Expenditure Survey, the 1978 revised CPI contains base year weights which will be 5 years old at its first release. This lag results from the long length of time and cost associated with such a massive survey. A smaller, continuing Consumer Expenditure Survey has therefore been adopted to reduce this lag, to eliminate periodic start-up costs, to increase the overall timeliness and efficiency of future CPI

revision programs, and, for broader use, to report current data on consumer buying patterns.

Past expenditure surveys have not responded to the continuing demand—from the public and private sectors—for up-to-date information on consumer spending and income. Current data on consumer expenditure patterns are important to policymakers both within and outside the government. For this reason, both the Administration and the Congress have endorsed a continuing Consumer Expenditure Survey program to collect data on an ongoing basis in 102 primary sampling units (geographic sampling areas). Across the country, 85 of these areas have been selected for ongoing price data collection for the CPI. This design will enable the BLS to revise the CPI and to establish a regular publication program of reporting on changes in consumer expenditures. As in 1972-73, the project will consist of both quarterly interview and diary survey panels. For each respondent, quarterly interviews will be conducted for 5 calendar quarters, with approximately 6,000 households interviewed each quarter. For the diary survey, two 1-week diaries will be obtained from about 4,800 households each year. After a 12- to 18-month start-up period, expenditure data will be published regularly 6 to 9 months after the reference period.

Another important change as a result of the 1978 CPI revision program has been the implementation of modern scientific sampling procedures to develop survey data for the selection of the CPI outlet sample. To insure that current and future CPI's properly reflect the market place on a continuing basis, a point-of-purchase survey will be conducted in one-fifth of the 85 primary sampling units in the index outlet sample each year. From these surveys, a new outlet sample for each pricing area covered will be selected. Thus, over a 5-year period, the entire CPI outlet sample will be revised completely. The point-of-purchase approach to updating the CPI outlet sample represents a marked advance in CPI design and methodology.

In addition, research and analysis will continue on longstanding problems such as the treatment of owner-occupied housing, health insurance, measurement of rent changes, quality adjustments, and computation of expenditure weights used in calculation of the CPI.

Bibliography

The following is a list of published materials on the revision of the Consumer Price Index. A limited number of copies of these documents are available from the Division of Information Service, Office of Publications, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Washington, D.C. 20210, or telephone (202) 523-1222.

Technical inquiries on the CPI should be referred to Kenneth Dalton, Division of Consumer Prices and Price Indexes, Office of Prices and Living Conditions, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Washington, D.C. 20210, telephone (202) 523-9605.

"Updating the Consumer Price Index—An Overview," *Monthly Labor Review*, July 1974.

The Consumer Price Index: How Will the 1977 Revision Affect It, BLS Report 449 (out of print). Speech by Julius Shiskin to the Economic Club of Detroit, October 20, 1975. (Much of the information in this publication is contained in *The Consumer Price Index: Concepts and Content Over the Years*, BLS Report 317, December 1977.)

Revising the CPI: A Brief Review of Methods, BLS Report 484. Paper by W. John Layng adopted from presentation to North American Conference on Labor Statistics, July 1976.

"Preliminary Estimate of New Consumer Expenditure Weights," Press Release dated August 22, 1977.

"The Revision of the Consumer Price Index." Paper by W. John Layng before the American Statistical Association, August 1977.

"Announcement to Users of the Consumer Price Index." Addenda to press releases for October, November and December 1977 CPI data.

Revising the Consumer Price Index. Pamphlet originally produced in 1976 and updated in 1977.

The Consumer Price Index: Concepts and Content Over the Years, BLS Report 517, December 1977. Contains much of the information found in *The Consumer Price Index: How Will the 1977 Revision Affect It*, BLS Report 449, 1975 (out of print).

Information for Persons Using the Consumer Price Index for Escalation Purposes (Pamphlet). To be available in January 1978.

Fact Sheet on the Revised Consumer Price Index. Pamphlet comparing current (old) CPI with revised CPI and new All Urban Consumers Price Index. To be available in January 1978.

Short Description of the Consumer Price Index (Revised Version) (Pamphlet). To be available in March 1978.

Statistics For Americans of Spanish Origin or Descent

KATHERINE K. WALLMAN

Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards, U.S. Department of Commerce

On June 16, 1976, House Joint Resolution 92, relating to the publication of economic and social statistics for Americans of Spanish origin or descent, was signed into law (Public Law 94-311). The law stated:

"Whereas more than twelve million Americans identify themselves as being of Spanish-speaking background and trace their origin or descent from Mexico, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Central and South America, and other Spanish-speaking countries; and

"Whereas these Americans of Spanish origin or descent have made significant contributions to enrich American society and have served their Nation well in time of war and peace; and

"Whereas a large number of Americans of Spanish origin or descent suffer from racial, social, economic, and political discrimination and are denied the basic opportunities they deserve as American citizens and which would enable them to begin to lift

themselves out of the poverty they now endure; and

"Whereas improved evaluation of the economic and social status of Americans of Spanish origin or descent will assist State and Federal Governments and private organizations in the accurate determination of the urgent and special needs of Americans of Spanish origin or descent; and

"Whereas the provision and commitment of State, Federal, and private resources can only occur when there is an accurate and precise assessment of need; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Department of Labor, in cooperation with the Department of Commerce, shall develop methods for improving and expanding the collection, analysis, and publication of unemployment data relating to Americans of Spanish origin or descent.

"SEC. 2. The Department of Commerce, the Department of Labor, the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, and the Department of Agriculture shall each collect, and publish regularly, statistics which indicate the social, health, and economic condition of Americans of Spanish origin or descent.

"SEC. 3. The Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in cooperation with the Secretary of Commerce and with the heads of other data-gathering Federal agencies, shall develop a Government-wide program for the collection, analysis, and publication of data with respect to Americans of Spanish origin or descent.

"SEC. 4. The Department of Commerce, in cooperation with appropriate Federal, State and local agencies and various population study groups and experts shall immediately undertake a study to determine what steps would be necessary for developing creditable estimates of undercounts of Americans of Spanish origin or descent in future censuses.

"SEC. 5. The Secretary of Commerce shall ensure that, in the Bureau of the Census data-collection activities, the needs and concerns of the Spanish-origin population are given full recognition through the use of Spanish language questionnaires, bilingual enumerators, and other such methods as deemed appropriate by the Secretary.

"SEC. 6. The Department of Commerce shall implement an affirmative action program within the Bureau of the Census for the employment of personnel of Spanish origin or descent and shall submit a report to Congress within one year of the enactment of this Act on the progress of such program."

Following passage and signing of the law, the responsibility for developing "a Government-wide program for the collection, analysis, and publication of data" was assigned by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to OMB's Statistical Policy Division.

In the ensuing months, the Statistical Policy Division met with Federal agencies having specific responsibilities under the law, as well as with those agencies sponsoring major statistical programs which could contribute to meeting the intent of the statute. These agencies were asked to provide information concerning current and proposed data collection and publication programs which would contribute to the improved availability of information on the Hispanic population. Agency submissions were subsequently reviewed and synthesized to produce working papers on the status of Federal initiatives which would respond to the requirements of the law.¹

On December 22, 1977, the Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards² sent to Congressman Roybal, the original sponsor of the House Joint Resolution, a status report on Federal initiatives relevant to the requirements of Public Law 94-311. The report to Congressman Roybal, while not inclusive of all Federal activity in this area, highlights major agency programs responsive to the law. The text of the letter to Congressman Roybal follows:

Honorable Edward R. Roybal
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Roybal:

I am replying to your letter of November 17, 1977, to the Office of Management and Budget

¹ Ed Fernandez, Bureau of the Census, contributed substantially to this review and synthesis task.

² Under Reorganization Plan No. 1, the responsibilities for Federal statistical policy under the Budget and Accounting Procedures Act were transferred to the Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards, Department of Commerce. Responsibility for coordination of agency activities in response to P. L. 94-311 was included in this transfer.

concerning activities which have been undertaken by the various Departments in conjunction with the provisions of P. L. 94-311. As Mr. Harris indicated to you in his letter of December 5, 1977, the responsibility for overseeing these developments was transferred to the new Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards, effective October 9, 1977. The information we are forwarding in this letter will provide you with an overview of actions previously taken by the Statistical Policy Division at OMB, our findings from the agency responses to our inquiries, and a brief discussion of strategies for future coordination in this area.

In August of 1976, following enactment of P. L. 94-311, the Office of Management and Budget initiated activities to meet its requirement to "develop a government-wide program for the collection, analysis and publication of data with respect to Americans of Spanish origin or descent." At that time, the Statistical Policy Division, which was assigned the responsibility for fulfilling the OMB mandate, identified major Federal statistical series which could be expected to contribute to fulfilling the requirements of P. L. 94-311, as well as key agencies having statistical data collection programs which might be affected by the new law.

On September 16, 1976, the Office of Management and Budget convened a meeting of the Federal agencies responsible for major statistical programs affected by the requirements of P. L. 94-311. The agencies participating in our discussions included: the Agriculture Research Service, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Bureau of the Census, the Economic Research Service, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Employment Standards Administration, the National Center for Education Statistics, the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, the National Center for Health Statistics, the Office of Research and Statistics—Social Security Administration, and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation—Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights was also represented at the September meeting.

As a follow-up to the interagency meeting, each agency was asked to provide to the Office of Management and Budget certain information which would indicate the current status of activities responsive to the mandate, as well as

problems and changes to programs which could be anticipated. More specifically, the agencies were asked to provide:

1. A description of data currently existing which would meet the requirements of the law, including:
 - a. the elements which are collected, and the analyses which are produced, as well as those which could be developed using existing data;
 - b. the geographic detail of the data;
 - c. the periodicity of the data; and
 - d. the schedule on which the data could be provided to the Congress.
2. A description of any short-term (FY 1977) actions being taken to respond to the requirements of P. L. 94-311.
3. An assessment of the alternative changes or modifications to ongoing programs which could be made in the long run to enable the agencies to meet the requirements of the law.

The information which was received from the agencies in response to our request was used to assess the status of current activities and to evaluate and monitor additional needs and developments.

Reports from the agencies indicated that concerted attention is being given to meeting the requirements of P. L. 94-311. Initiatives which will significantly enhance Federal statistical data on the Hispanic population are as follows:

- The National Center for Health Statistics has mounted a major effort to encourage the inclusion of an Hispanic identifier on all vital (birth and death) records maintained by State agencies, which are in turn provided to the Federal Government. The activities underway are expected to result in orderly estimates of the Hispanic population in the next few years.
- The Bureau of Labor Statistics, in collaboration with the Bureau of the Census, will provide substantially improved data on the social and economic condition of the Hispanic population. The Current Population Survey sample has been increased to provide reliable data on the employment status, occupation, and industry of the Hispanic population, by age and sex. The increase in

available data will be complemented by an expanded program of tabulations and publications detailing the status of the Hispanic population nationally, as well as at selected State and SMSA levels.

- The Food and Nutrition Service will provide data on participation in the Family Food Assistance Programs and the National School Lunch Program, and the Agricultural Research Service will provide a report on household food consumption patterns, including those of Hispanics, in 1979.
- The Department of Housing and Urban Development will continue to collect and publish data on the characteristics of housing and neighborhoods for the Hispanic population.
- The Department of Health, Education, and Welfare is currently publishing extensive reports on the bilingualism, school enrollment, handicapping conditions, and financial status of the Hispanic youth, based on the Survey of Income and Education. The Survey of Income and Program Participation, currently under development, will collect statistics leading to indicators of the social, and economic conditions of population subgroups, including Hispanic Americans.
- The National Longitudinal Survey and the National Assessment of Educational Progress, continuing studies of the National Center for Education Statistics, will provide data on the educational experiences and achievements of Hispanic youth.
- Information on the health status, disabilities and use of health care services by the Hispanic population will be provided by the National Center for Health Statistics' Health and Nutrition Examination Survey and Health Interview Survey.
- In response to recommendations of the Spanish Advisory Committee, the Bureau of the Census has designed the 1980 Census of Population and Housing to collect information concerning Hispanic origin by various subgroupings (e.g. Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, and other Spanish), from 100 percent of the U.S. population.

The activities highlighted above illustrate the comprehensiveness of Federal departmental and agency initiatives which will be responsive to the requirements of P. L. 94-311. Additional

efforts which are planned or in operation were noted in the reports provided to our office, which can be made available for review by your office.

In addition to these specific programs, the issuance of revised Exhibit F to OMB Circular A-46 will have a continuing, broad impact on the production of data concerning the Hispanic population in Federal statistical efforts. Under the terms of this Exhibit, which is attached for your information, Federal agencies which collect and publish racial and ethnic information must use standard categories and definitions, including a separate designation of persons of Hispanic origin.

In fulfilling its responsibility under P. L. 94-311, our office has encouraged the Federal statistical agencies to build upon existing survey activities, and to improve the publication of information which may already be available. We do not anticipate that a single collection instrument or a single publication could meet the diverse needs of the Hispanic community. Thus, we are working with the responsible agencies to improve and coordinate their programs so that the maximum improvements can be made without imposing substantial increases in respondent burden on the public. We will continue to monitor the progress of the Departments and agencies in meeting the requirements of P. L. 94-311, based on their reports to us as well as under our general authority for the planning and coordination of Federal statistics.

We appreciate having the opportunity to report to you on the progress which has been made to date, and trust that you will let us know your reactions to our findings. Please be assured that we will be available to discuss the individual initiatives with you or other appropriate individuals if you so desire.

Sincerely,

JOSEPH W. DUNCAN
Director, Office of Federal
Statistical Policy and
Standards

The Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards will continue to monitor agency progress in meeting the requirements of P. L. 94-311 through its general planning and coordination activities, as well as in its review of

proposed statistical surveys sponsored by the various Federal agencies. New or updated information concerning agency initiatives to col-

lect and publish data on Americans of Spanish origin or descent should be provided to the Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards.

CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

SOCIAL INDICATORS 1976 NOW AVAILABLE

Social Indicators 1976 was recently issued by the Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards and the Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce. Readers of *Statistical Reporter* are referred to the December 1977 issue which contained a feature article on this publication. Copies of this 647-page report may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, for \$7.00 a copy. (Make checks payable to the Superintendent of Documents.) When ordering, include the following Stock Number: 041-001-00156-5.

Of related interest is the January 1978 issue of *The Annals* (Volume 435), entitled "America in the Seventies: Some Social Indicators." The entire issue is devoted to the *Social Indicators 1976* report. Copies may be obtained by sending a check for \$6.00 (made payable to The Annals, AAPSS) to Managing Editor, The Annals, AAPSS, 3937 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104. (SUZANN K. EVINGER, OFFICE OF FEDERAL STATISTICAL POLICY AND STANDARDS, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, telephone (202) 673-7965.)

COMMITTEE ON IMPROVEMENT OF NATIONAL STATISTICS

The XIII session of the Committee on Improvement of National Statistics (COINS) of the Inter-American Statistical Institute was held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, during November 17-21, 1977. COINS is composed of the chief statistical officers of the countries which are members of the Organization of American States (OAS), plus Canada. Twenty-three national delegations participated in the meeting.

The agenda included the 1980 Program of the Census of America, national reports covering work since the last session (1975), interna-

tional coordination, future work program for COINS and round tables on confidentiality of statistical information and on use of administrative records for statistical purposes. The national report presented by the delegation of the United States, which gives the major statistical activities in the past biennium, and the paper on "Confidentiality of Statistical Information" are available from the Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards, Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C. 20230, telephone (202) 673-7959.

Joseph W. Duncan, United States delegate, was reelected Chairman of the Coordinating Board of COINS. Maria Elena Gonzalez was an alternate to the U.S. delegate. The function of the Coordinating Board is to provide continuity between sessions of COINS; these sessions are usually held at 2-year intervals. The next session of COINS will be held in Venezuela in the latter half of 1979. (SUZANN K. EVINGER, OFFICE OF FEDERAL STATISTICAL POLICY AND STANDARDS, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, telephone (202) 673-7965.)

INTER-AMERICAN STATISTICAL CONFERENCE AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The VII Inter-American Statistical Conference was held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, from November 22-28, 1977, sponsored by the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS). The meeting was attended by most of the countries who are members of OAS and by Canada. The basic document discussed at the meeting was "Modernization of national statistical systems as a requisite for the improvement of the statistics of the American countries," a document which covered topics such as the program of the 1980 Census of America, multipurpose household surveys, administrative statistics: improvement and linkages.

The Inter-American Statistical Conference also considered resolutions presented by the government delegations. The delegation of the United States co-sponsored a resolution which recognized the unique position of the Inter-American Statistical Institute (IASI) for regional leadership in the field of statistics.

The VII General Assembly of the Inter-American Statistical Institute members held its meeting concurrently from November 22-25, 1977. Two technical meetings were organized on: (1) Development of the Statistical Profession in the Western Hemisphere chaired by Thomas B. Jabine and (2) Measures of Income Distribution. Calvert L. Dedrick was proclaimed Honorary President of the Inter-American Statistical Institute.

The United States delegation to the IASI meetings was headed by Joseph W. Duncan, Director, Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards (OFSPS), Maria Elena Gonzalez (OFSPS) was an alternate delegate and Jack Lawson (AID) was an advisor. (SUZANN K. EVINGER, OFFICE OF FEDERAL STATISTICAL POLICY AND STANDARDS, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, telephone (202) 673-7965.)

BEA ISSUES SECOND REVISION OF NIPA THIRD QUARTER 1977 ESTIMATE

On December 20, 1977, the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), Department of Commerce issued for the first time a release containing a comprehensive second revision of the third quarter 1977 national income and product account (NIPA) estimates. This new revision will be released, on a regular basis, 75-80 days following the end of each quarter. Until now, the estimates issued at that time have been revised only to incorporate additional data on investment income from abroad in the net export component and to reflect in corporate profits both the additional data on investment income from abroad and revised data on domestic earnings.

The comprehensive second revision is in accordance with a recommendation made by the Advisory Committee on Gross National Product Data Improvement which was established by the Office of Management and Budget. The Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards, Department of Commerce now has responsibility for implementing the recommendations contained in the Advisory Committee's report.

From now on, the second revision will incorporate additional or revised data that are not available when the first revision of the quarterly NIPA estimates is made about 45 days after the end of the quarter. In the past, such additional data were not incorporated until the annual revision in July. The purpose of the second revision is to improve the statistical foundation of the current NIPA estimates and to reduce the size of the revision in July.

The major additional data incorporated in the revised 1977 third quarter NIPA estimates are: (1) for personal consumption expenditures—revised retail sales and new quarterly data on consumption of natural gas; (2) for fixed investment—revised construction put in place and shipments of equipment, and new quarterly data on expenditures on plant and equipment; (3) for inventory investment—revised book value data for manufacturers, merchant wholesalers, and retailers; (4) for net exports of goods and services—revised data on investment income from abroad and merchandise trade; (5) for government purchases of goods and services—revision construction put in place and preliminary quarterly data on progress payments made to defense contractors; (6) for wages and salaries—revised September employment, average hourly earnings, and average weekly hours; and (7) for corporate profits—revised quarterly data on domestic corporate earnings and investment income from abroad.

The impact of this comprehensive second revision is illustrated in the table below which compares the revised GNP estimates of the third quarter, 1977 with previous estimates. For example, the real GNP increased at a rate of 4.7% in the first revision while the second revision

	Preliminary (10-19-77)	1st Revision (11-17-77)	2nd Revision (12-20-77)
	(Seasonally adjusted percent at annual rate)		
Change from previous quarter:			
Current-dollar GNP	9.2	10.0	10.2
Real GNP	3.8	4.7	5.1
GNP implicit price deflator ...	5.1	5.0	4.8
GNP chain price index	4.7	4.4	4.3
Real GDP	4.0	4.7	5.3

showed an increase of 5.1%. If this second revision had not been introduced, users would not have been alerted to the accelerated rate of

increase until the annual revisions in July 1978.

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

COVERAGE OF STATE POPULATIONS IN 1970 CENSUS

A major exploratory project for measuring the coverage of the population of States in the 1970 census has been under way at the Census Bureau in the last few years, using principally the method of demographic analysis. The results of this project are the subject of a Bureau report, "Developmental Estimates of the Coverage of Population of States in the 1970 Census: Demographic Analysis," which was issued in December as *Current Population Reports*, Series P-23, No. 65. This report presents several sets of estimates of the completeness of coverage of the population of each State in 1970, derived by the method of demographic analysis, or a combination of demographic analysis and the results of a study matching the census and the Bureau's Current Population Survey.

Because of the limitations of the available data and the lack of empirical evidence regarding the determinants and correlates of underenumeration, several alternative series of estimates of coverage for States were prepared. These alternative series of estimates serve to reflect the sensitivity of the estimates to the many alternative assumptions that were made at many different points in the estimation procedure. No single set of State estimates covering all States was designated as a "preferred" set. A detailed description of the methods employed in developing the various series of estimates, including a full description of the data and the assumptions incorporated into the methods, is given. The principal findings are discussed and, insofar as possible, the results are evaluated.

The report consists of eight chapters and seven appendixes. The first chapter discusses in general terms the various techniques of evaluating census data and summarizes the methods and results of the study. The next five chapters describe the methods in detail. Separate chapters are devoted to the white population under age 35, the black-and-other-races population under age 35, the white population aged 35 to 64, the black-and-other-races population aged 35 to 64, and the total population 65 years and over. Chapter 7 presents a synthesis of the sepa-

rate age-sex-race coverage estimates in the form of various series of coverage estimates for the population of all ages—all classes, total white, total black-and-other-races, total male, and total female—and presents the estimates incorporating the results of the match study. The chapter also describes the principal results and presents an overall evaluation of them. The final chapter, Chapter 8, considers the possible use of the results and some of their implications, and the possible refinement of the methods for use in the evaluation of the 1980 census. The several appendixes provide additional details regarding the data, methods, and assumptions, and present additional series of coverage estimates and summary data not shown in the main text.

Copies of the report, "Developmental Estimates of the Coverage of Population of States in the 1970 Census: Demographic Analysis," *Current Population Reports*, Series P-23, No. 65 (148 pp., \$3.00) may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 or from Department of Commerce district offices. (J. GREGORY ROBINSON, BUREAU OF THE CENSUS, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, telephone (301) 763-5784.)

NBS STANDARDS FOR CODING CITIES, TOWNS, RELATED PLACES

From urban townships to rural communities and from airports to Indian reservations, more than 136,000 cities, towns and places in the United States are profiled in specially developed codes issued by the National Bureau of Standards (NBS).

The codes, made available by the NBS Institute for Computer Sciences and Technology, are for use in information systems and computer applications where there is need to collect, process, and interchange information on American localities.

Implementing a voluntary industry standard (ANS X3.47-1977) of the American National Standards Institute, the NBS standard place codes will also be provided in statistical files of the Census Bureau beginning with the 1980 population census.

Used in conjunction with the two-character standard State code or abbreviation, the standard place code becomes part of a unique seven-character identifier.

Error, confusion or delay in the handling of geographical information can be reduced through use of the new codes. For example, there are 28 "Jefferson" place names in Ohio and the coding system allows for push-button, computerized sorting out of each so that a searcher can find the "right" Jefferson for his particular purpose.

The NBS-provided standard code file offers a variety of aids to effective processing and use of place information, including:

- The State and county where a place is located is also identified by name and standard code.
- When a place is located in more than one county, the file identifies these by name and code. There are 1190 such multi-county places in the file.
- The postal ZIP code of the servicing post office is provided. Where a place is serviced by more than one post office, the ZIP code range is indicated.
- Each place included in the file is categorized into one of eighteen classes. The classification of a place provides further information as to whether it is incorporated, unincorporated, a rural community, a military installation, a transport point, a shopping center, an airport, a township or other type of place.
- Alternate and former names are included with a cross reference to the current place code.
- The world-wide geographic code issued by the General Services Administration (GSA) is included as a cross reference and to facilitate conversion to the standard by those users who currently employ the GSA codes.

Now being processed by NBS as a proposed Federal standard, the place code is expected to be available in published form in May 1978. The initial version will be published as a Federal Information Processing Standard Guideline pending final approval by the Secretary of Commerce as a governmentwide standard.

NBS has made arrangements through the National Technical Information Service (NTIS) for early release of the standard place code file in machine-readable magnetic tapes and on microfiche.

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The magnetic tape, identified as PB 274-150, Standard Codes for Named Populated Places and Related Entities of the States of the U.S., is available at a cost of \$125. The microfiche, identified as PB 274-146, are available at a cost of \$17.50 for a set of 34 fiche. Payment (check, money order, deposit account, or American Express) should be made to the National Technical Information Service, U.S. Department of Commerce, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Va 22161. To place telephone orders, call (703) 557-4763.

Additional information concerning the standard and its use may be obtained from the NBS Office of ADP Standards Management, Washington, D.C. 20234, telephone (301) 921-3157. (STAN LICHTENSTEIN, NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, telephone (301) 921-3181.)

MOVEMENT OF RETAIL SALES IN SELECTED SMSA'S

The Industry and Trade Administration of the Department of Commerce has recently released a new publication, *Market Center Shifts: Movement of Retail Sales in Selected Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas*. This publication develops a method for tracing the movement of retail trade by metropolitan areas and by major kinds of business. The report is based largely on Bureau of the Census data collected in 1963, 1967, and 1972. The study analyzes patterns of the retail trade movement from the central cities to the suburbs for 52 selected standard metropolitan statistical areas and 11 kinds of businesses.

Copies of the report may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 for \$1.50 a copy, Stock Number 003-009-00249-4.

Single copies of the publication are available for official use from the Office of Consumer Goods and Service Industries, Bureau of Domestic Business Development, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C. 20230. (WRAY O. CANDILIS, BUREAU OF DOMESTIC BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, telephone (202) 377-3793.)

NIMH STATISTICAL NOTES

The National Institute of Mental Health, Division of Biometry and Epidemiology has re-

cently released Statistical Notes 136-141 which are briefly described below.

Emergency Services in Psychiatric Facilities, United States, January, 1976 (Note 136) reports data on the provision of emergency mental health services in a variety of psychiatric facilities in the United States. Community-based facilities provided a greater proportion of emergency mental health services than noncommunity-based facilities. Data are reported for service modalities, hours of availability, size of facility, and for DHEW regions. The report is based on a survey conducted by NIMH in January, 1976 of mental health facilities in the United States.

Primary Diagnosis of Discharges from Nonfederal General Hospital Psychiatric Inpatient Units, United States, 1975 (Note 137) is based on an NIMH survey conducted in February, 1975 of psychiatric inpatient services in nonfederal general hospitals. Data indicate the majority of discharges received diagnoses of depressive disorder, schizophrenia, or alcohol disorder. Differences in diagnosis by race, age, sex, and hospital control (public nonfederal vs. nongovernmental) are also reported.

Diagnostic Distribution of Admissions to Inpatient Services of State and County Mental Hospitals, United States, 1975 (Note 138) is based on a survey conducted during the period April-July, 1975, by the NIMH of inpatient services in all State and county mental hospitals. The majority of the admissions to these facilities received a diagnosis of schizophrenia or alcohol disorders. Data are presented for diagnosis by age, sex and race, including both numbers of admissions and rates per 100,000 population.

Provisional Data on Patient Care Episodes in Mental Health Facilities, 1975 (Note 139) contains data which show that during 1975 there were 6.9 million patient care episodes in mental health facilities in the United States representing a four-fold increase over the 1.7 million such episodes in 1955. Of the total patient care episodes in 1975, 27% were inpatient episodes, 70% were outpatient episodes and 3% were day treatment episodes. Between 1955 and 1975 the locale of these episodes shifted from predominantly inpatient to predominantly outpatient. Results are based on historical data from NIMH surveys for 1955 and surveys conducted throughout 1975.

Admission Rates to State and County Psychiatric Hospitals by Age, Sex, and Race, United States, 1975 (Note 140) is a report on differential utilization of mental health inpatient services by specific subgroups of the population as reflected by the number and rate of admissions to these facilities. Data indicate males are admitted almost twice as frequently as females and that admission of races other than white are generally higher regardless of sex. The data is based on a survey conducted during the period April-July, 1975 by the NIMH of inpatient services of all State and county mental hospitals.

Treatment Received by Patients in Nonfederal General Hospital Psychiatric Inpatient Units, United States, 1975 (Note 141) examines the number and percent distribution of discharges from nonfederal general hospital psychiatric inpatient units by the treatment combination received and by age, sex and race, hospital control, diagnosis and length of stay. It also examines the number and percent distribution of discharges by the actual number of different treatments received and by race and sex, length of stay and diagnosis. Results are based on an NIMH conducted survey in February 1975 of psychiatric inpatient services in nonfederal general hospitals. (SALLY BARRETT, NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE, telephone (301) 443-4862.)

CORPORATION INCOME TAXES

The Internal Revenue Service has recently released the report, *Statistics of Income—1973, Corporation Income Tax Returns*. Based on a sample of unaudited corporation income tax returns with accounting periods ended July 1973 through June 1974, the report includes statistical estimates of corporate receipts, deductions, assets, liabilities, income tax liability, tax credits, and distributions to stockholders, as well as on the corporate tax base and book net income.

Also included in the report are categories of tax returns. These include returns with net income, consolidated returns, returns of members of Controlled Groups, returns of Small Business Corporations electing to be taxed through their stockholders, and returns of Domestic International Sales Corporations (DISCs).

Copies of the 243-page report (IRS Publication 16) may be purchased from the Superin-

tendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 for \$4.25. (JOEL R. STUBBS, IRS, DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY, telephone (202) 376-0102.)

FIDUCIARY INCOME TAX RETURNS FOR 1974

The Internal Revenue Service released *Statistics of Income-1974, Fiduciary Income Tax Returns*. This report, based on a sample drawn from the 1.3 million returns filed during calendar year 1975, presents estimates of the total income, deductions, taxable income, and tax on estates and personal trusts for which a fiduciary had to file an income tax return, Form 1041.

Income and tax data are presented classified by size of total income for estates and trusts by type (simple vs. complex), taxable and nontaxable returns, accounting period, and State.

Featured topics include details on the deduction for distributions to beneficiaries and the charitable deduction, types of tax computation, the computation of additional tax for tax preferences, and the accumulation distribution.

This 98-page IRS Publication 808 may be purchased for \$2.75 from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. (KEITH GILMOUR, INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY, telephone (202) 376-0177.)

INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX RETURNS DATA FOR SMALL AREAS

The Internal Revenue Service has recently released the *Supplemental Report, Statistics of Income-1974, Small Area Data, Individual Income Tax Returns*. This report presents data for the more than 3,000 counties and county equivalents, as well as the 125 largest standard metropolitan statistical areas (SMSA's) in the United States with 1973 population of 270,000 and over. The source of the data was the 1974 IRS Master File of over 82 million individual income tax returns.

The publication includes statistics on number of returns filed, number of exemptions, amount of adjusted gross income, salaries and wages, interest, dividends, and tax liability, all classified by size of adjusted gross income. A comparable report, containing information for 1972, was released in May 1977.

This 447-page IRS Publication 1008 may be purchased for \$6.00 from the Superintendent

of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. At this time, we are planning to provide computer tapes containing these aggregated county and SMSA data to the National Technical Information Service for public release. (JACK BLACKSIN, INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY, telephone (202) 376-0155.)

BUSINESS INCOME TAX RETURNS

The Internal Revenue Service has recently released the *Preliminary Report, Statistics of Income-1975, Business Income Tax Returns*, presenting data from the returns of sole proprietorship and partnership businesses.

Receipts, deductions, and profits are included in four tables covering the business activities of almost 12 million unincorporated businesses. Data are presented by 190 industry groupings adapted from the 1972 *Standard Industrial Classification Manual*. All data in the report are estimates based on samples.

More comprehensive statistics from business income tax returns will be published in the complete report for 1975 now in preparation.

Copies of the 30-page *Preliminary Report, Statistics of Income-1975, Business Income Tax Returns*, IRS Publication 453 may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 for \$1.30. (JOHN DIPAOLO, INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY, telephone (202) 376-0151.)

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION, 1976 EDITION

The Federal Reserve Board has recently released a publication entitled, *Industrial Production, 1976 edition*. This volume contains descriptive material, weights, classification, sources of underlying data, and statistical tables showing the total industrial production index from 1919 to 1975 and data for component indexes as far back as available.

This latest revision of the Federal Reserve's index of industrial production, which was announced in June 1976, incorporates 1963 to 1967 census benchmark information where necessary as well as adjustments to annual data from many sources through 1973. The gross-value series for industrial production products are based on weights in 1972 dollars instead of

1963 dollars which were used in the prior (1971) revision. Allowances for irregular monthly movements and for seasonal fluctuations have also been revised. The seasonal adjustment factors for the revised index are based on data through 1974 in order to provide measures largely free of the effects of the cyclical downturn and recovery on seasonal patterns.

The price of this volume is \$4.50 per copy; 10 or more copies to one address are \$4.00 each. A 9-track, 1600 BPI, standard-label computer tape containing statistical tables from 1919 through June 1977 is also available for \$60.00. Copies of the publication and/or tape may be obtained from Publication Services, Division of Administrative Services, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Washington, D.C. 20551. A check made payable to the Board of Governors must accompany each request. (MARY HEDDA HILLARD, DIVISION OF RESEARCH AND STATISTICS, FEDERAL RESERVE BOARD, telephone (202) 452-3897.)

1977 STATISTICAL ABSTRACT

The Bureau of the Census has released the 1977 edition of the *Statistical Abstract of the United States*. This 98th issue of summary statistics features more than 1,500 tables and charts on a wide variety of subjects and serves also as a guide to other statistical publications and sources.

Statistics shown for each subject in this edition refer to the most recent year or period for which they were available by June-October 1977. Each year all tables and charts are reviewed and evaluated, new tables and charts of current interest are introduced, continuing data series are brought up to date, and less timely data are condensed or omitted.

For regular users of the *Abstract*, two noteworthy changes appear in the 1977 edition: (1) Former section 2, Vital Statistics, Health, and Nutrition has been divided into section 2, Vital Statistics, and new separate section 4, Health and Nutrition; and (2) the appendix on Statistical Methodology and Reliability has been expanded to cover a substantially greater number of surveys and censuses. The first change reflects both the increasing amount of statistical information available on and the heightened public interest in birth rates, abortions, marriages, divorces, health expenditures, and

health care and nutrition. The second change is a further development and refinement of an appendix initially introduced in the 1976 *Abstract* to provide the user of statistics with a greater awareness of the shortcomings of the data presented and, in specific cases, with an understanding of how the data were collected and a measure of their validity.

The 131 new tables introduced this year accent current public preoccupations with the behavior and activities of people, government, and industry. Prominent among those relating to people are tables on surgical operations performed, persons engaged in physical exercise, drug and marijuana use, participation in gambling, day care of children, and two-person household-sharing by unrelated individuals of opposite sex. Government concerns are newly reflected in tables on prosecutions of public officials, controllability of Federal budget outlays, federally employed Armed Forces retirees, errors in payments for public health care, and oil and gas leases and production on the Outer Continental Shelf. Industrial and related activities are newly-represented in tables on oil spills in U.S. waters, characteristics of bank lending, fossil fuel prices, adequacy of large companies' capital facilities, world steel trade, and franchised businesses.

Recent *Social and Economic Trends*, a reprint from the *Statistical Abstract*, features more than 600 items outlining current trends in 22 major subject areas, such as population, health, employment, energy, foreign commerce, etc. This reprint of the "Recent Trends" section of the *Abstract* can be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, for 80 cents per copy (discount of 25% on orders of 100 copies or more sent to the same address). *USA Statistics in Brief*, a pocket-size summary of socioeconomic data, is included as an insert in the *Abstract*, and is also available separately for 50 cents each.

The *Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1977* (1,072 pp.) may be purchased in either a clothbound edition (\$11.00, stock number 003-024-01478-5) or paperbound (\$8.50, stock number 003-024-01477-7) from Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

Copies may also be purchased in or ordered from Government Printing Office bookstores usually located in the Federal Building of larger

cities (e.g. Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Houston, New York, Philadelphia, Seattle, etc.); consult your local telephone directory. In Washington, D.C., copies may be purchased at the bookstore in the lobby of the U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th and Constitution Avenue, N.W., telephone (202) 967-3527. (WILLIAM LERNER, BUREAU OF THE CENSUS, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, telephone (301) 763-7024.)

FRB STATISTICAL DIGEST

The Federal Reserve Board recently announced the availability of the *Annual Statistical Digest, 1972-76*. It is designed to be a convenient source of economic, and especially financial, data for a broad range of users. Its main function is to provide sufficient historical data for tables in the statistical section of the Federal Reserve *Bulletin* in order to reduce drastically the work required to put together consistent and detailed series of statistics for the areas covered. Another function is to provide several special tables that for many years had appeared in the *Bulletin*. Data for those tables now appear only in the *Digest*, as do data for certain other series that are no longer available in the *Bulletin*.

This issue of the *Digest* generally covers the period 1972-76. Weekly data are shown only for 1976 unless otherwise noted. Domestic nonfinancial series included are those for which the Board of Governors is the primary source.

Copies of the *Digest* are available from Publications Services, Division of Administrative Services, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Washington, D.C. 20551. The price is \$10.00 per copy. A check made payable to the Board of Governors must accompany each request. (DOREEN DIPPRE, DIVISION OF RESEARCH AND STATISTICS, FEDERAL RESERVE BOARD, telephone (202) 452-3567.)

1976 HUD STATISTICAL YEARBOOK

The Department of Housing and Urban Development has recently published the *1976 HUD Statistical Yearbook*. This Yearbook contains statistical and financial information on the programs and activities of the Department, including the characteristics of the properties and projects, as well as the socioeconomic characteristics of the recipients of the programs.

Information on the housing programs includes data on the volume of mortgage insurance written, type of financing, terminations of insurance, disposition of acquired properties, and claims data. Data on the Low-Income Housing programs (public housing), the Section 8 program, and the Housing Rehabilitation Loan program are also shown.

Occupancy data and financial statements are presented for Low-Income Housing, Section 232-Nursing Homes, 236-Rental Housing Assistance, and Rent Supplement Housing programs.

In the urban development area, data for the first two years of funding under the Community Development Block Grant program is presented as well as activity under the Comprehensive Planning Assistance program.

Government National Mortgage Association (GNMA) activities under their special assistance and mortgage purchasing functions are included. Information is also provided on fair housing and equal opportunity, federal disaster assistance, federal flood, and crime insurance and urban property protection and reinsurance. Data are included for the first time on the originations and acquisitions of long-term mortgage loans by lender groups, the means of financing homes and multifamily projects and federal credit assistance for housing.

A section of the Yearbook is devoted to general statistics related to housing and the urban environment including urban population characteristics, households, construction indexes, mortgage financing and some of the results of the 1975 Annual Housing Survey. Copies may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE, Washington, D.C. 20402 for \$5.00 a copy, Stock number 023-000-00414-3. (ROBERT E. RYAN, OFFICE OF ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT INFORMATION, ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATION, DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, telephone (202) 755-5190.)

CORRECTION

The price of the *Handbook of Cyclical Indicators* was incorrect in the December 1977 *Statistical Reporter*. The price is \$4.00 a copy.

1977 INDEX, JULY-DECEMBER

This index for *Statistical Reporter* lists the articles and news items which appeared in the issues from July through December 1977, Nos. 77-10 through 78-3. The listing is by agency. Where more than one agency was involved, the article is listed under each agency.

Agency listings are under headings: For example,

LABOR, DEPARTMENT OF
Bureau of Labor Statistics

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SCHEDULE OF RELEASE DATES FOR PRINCIPAL FEDERAL ECONOMIC INDICATORS

March 1978

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

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

A similar schedule will be shown here each

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

<i>Date</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Data For</i>
March 1	Construction Expenditures (Press release), Census, C-30 (69)	January
1	Condition Report of Large Commercial Banks, Federal Reserve Board (FRB), H.4.2 (72, 112)	Week Ending February 22
2	Factors Affecting Bank Reserves and Condition Statement of Federal Reserve Banks, FRB, H.4.1 (93, 94)	Week Ending March 1
2	Money Stock Measures, FRB, H.6 (85, 102, 108)	Week Ending February 22
2	Defense Indicators, Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) (525)	January
3	Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders, Census, M3-1 (65)	January
3	Open Market Money Rates and Bond Prices, FRB, G.13	February
7	Consumer Credit, FRB, G. 19 (66, 113)	January
7	Manufacturers' Export Sales and Orders, Census, M4-A	January
8	Crop Production, Agriculture	March 1
8	Condition Report of Large Commercial Banks, FRB, H.4.2 (72, 112)	Week Ending March 1
9	Money Stock Measures, FRB, H.6 (85, 102, 107, 108)	Week Ending March 1

<i>Date</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Data For</i>
March 9	Factors Affecting Bank Reserves and Condition Statement of Federal Reserve Banks, FRB, H.4.1 (93, 94)	Week Ending March 8
9	Plant and Equipment Expenditures, BEA (61)	4 Q '77 and 1977
9	Wholesale Price Index (Press release), Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) (330-334)	February
10	Monthly Wholesale Trade (Press release), Census, BW	January
10	The Employment Situation (Press release), BLS (1, 21, 37, 40-44, 91, 340, 442, 444-448, 451-453)	February
10	Advance Monthly Retail Sales (Press release), Census (54)	February
15	Industrial Production and Related Data, FRB, G.12.3 (47, 73-76)	February
15	Food Assistance Programs Results, Agriculture	January
15	Yields on FHA Insured New Home 30-Year Mortgages, HUD (118)	March 1
15	Condition Report of Large Commercial Banks, FRB, H.4.2 (72, 112)	Week Ending March 8
16	Money Stock Measures, FRB, H.6 (85, 102, 107, 108)	Week Ending March 8
16	Factors Affecting Bank Reserves and Condition Statement of Federal Reserve Banks, FRB, H.4.1 (93, 94)	Week Ending March 15
16	Manufacturing and Trade: Inventories and Sales, BEA, (31, 56, 71)	January
16	Housing Starts (Press release), Census, C-20 (28, 29)	February
17	Personal Income, BEA (223)	February
17	Output, Capacity, and Capacity Utilization, FRB, G.3 (82, 84)	February
20	Corporate Profits, BEA (16, 22, 68)	4Q '77
20	Bank Rates on Short-Term Business Loans, FRB, E.2 (67)	February 1-15
20	Gross National Product (Second Revision) (200, 205, 210)	4Q'77
21	Federal Receipts and Expenditures, NIPA Basis, BEA (500, 501, 502)	4Q '77
21	Hogs and Pigs, Agriculture	March 1
21	Advance Report on Durable Goods, Manufacturers Shipments and Orders (Press release), Census M3-1 (6, 24, 25, 96, 548)	February

<i>Date</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Data For</i>
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22	Condition Report of Large Commercial Banks, FRB, H.4.2 (72, 112)	Week Ending March 15
23	Money Stock Measures, FRB, H.6 (85, 102, 107, 108)	Week Ending March 15
23	Factors Affecting Bank Reserves and Condition Statement of Federal Reserve Banks, FRB, H.4.1 (93, 94)	Week Ending March 22
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28	Export and Import Merchandise Trade, Census, FT-900 (602, 612)	February
29	Work Stoppages (Press release), BLS	February
29	Labor Turnover in Manufacturing (Press release), BLS (2, 3, 4)	February
29	Composite Indexes of Leading, Coincident, and Lagging Indicators (Press release), BEA	February
29	Condition Report of Large Commercial Banks, FRB, H.4.2 (72, 112)	Week Ending March 22
30	Money Stock Measures, FRB, H.6 (85, 102, 107, 108)	Week Ending March 22
30	Factors Affecting Bank Reserves and Condition Statement of Federal Reserve Banks, FRB, H.4.1 (93, 94)	Week Ending March 29
30	Defense Indicators, BEA (525)	February
30	Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders, Census, M3-1 (65)	February
31	Agricultural Prices, Agriculture	Mid-March

PERSONNEL NOTES

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of Economic Analysis: FRANK DE LEEUW, formerly Assistant Director, Fiscal Analysis Division, Congressional Budget Office, has joined BEA as Chief Statistician. ROBERT P. PARKER was appointed Chief, National Income and Wealth Division. JOHN A. GORMAN was appointed Assistant Chief, National Income and Wealth Division. JOSEPH C. WAKEFIELD was appointed Chief, Government Division.

Office of the Chief Economist: LESLIE W. SMALL, formerly an economist with Office of the Chief Economist, has joined the staff of the United States Railway Association as Chief, Economic Analysis in the Office of Marketing Analysis, Office of the Vice President for Operations.

RETIREMENT

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

JOHN M. WEARMOUTH, Chief, Publications Standards and Development, Office of Publications retired in De-

ember 1977 after almost 30 years of Federal Government service.

DEATH

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Mines: ARTHUR BERGER, Chief of Statistical Standards Section, Office of Statistics, died on Saturday, January 21, 1978.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGE

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

The Domestic and International Business Administration (DIBA) has been replaced by the Industry and Trade Administration (ITA). ITA retains the functions of DIBA but reorganizes them.

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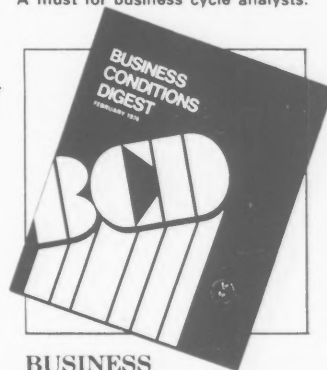
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systems, and programs such as railroad retirement, workers' compensation, and unemployment insurance. Year by year changes in national expenditures for health and social welfare are reported. A special section in each *Bulletin* issue is devoted to current operating statistics from social security and related programs. In addition to the 12 monthly magazines, subscribers also receive the *Annual Statistical Supplement* to the *Bulletin* featuring an extensive compilation of general time-series data on social security and the economy as well as interprogram data, program definitions, and historical summaries of social security legislation.

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