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Report And Recommendations Of Director's Task Force On Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas (SMSAs)

1. INTRODUCTION

a. This is the report and recommendations of the Task Force on Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas (SMSAs) appointed by Director Weinberger on December 8, 1972. (Note: SMSAs are designated by OMB. They are combinations of contiguous counties having a central city of 50,000 or more population. Counties are also subsequently added to an established SMSA if they are economically related to the county containing the central city. Thus, SMSAs are combinations of counties with close economic ties.)

b. The Task Force was appointed because Director Weinberger became concerned about the larger than usual number of allegations arising in 1972 that communities were being adversely affected by the way in which SMSAs were designated.

c. The Task Force was asked to develop recommendations relating to: (1) possible changes in criteria used to designate and define SMSAs; (2) the designation and definition of other kinds of areas used in statistical compilations; and (3) use of SMSAs in Federal program implementation.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

a. The Office of Management and Budget should (1) continue to designate, define, and title Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas (SMSAs) on the basis of current criteria; and (2) promptly announce the latest revisions in SMSA definitions based on those criteria.

b. An OMB circular should be developed to provide guidance for agency use of SMSAs for administrative or legislative purposes. This circular would emphasize that use of the SMSA in establishing program area boundaries should be based on a careful determination as to whether the boundaries of SMSAs, which are appropriate for the collection and aggregation of statistics, fit the nonstatistical purposes of the programs involved. Agencies would retain flexibility in selection of area types appropriate to the administration of their program.

c. In order to provide for needs for data which the SMSA cannot meet, consideration should be given to establishing a set of standard statistical regions larger than SMSAs. These areas, which might encompass the entire U.S. land area, would be combinations of counties, but, unlike SMSAs, they would either follow State lines or be capable of being subdivided with significant components following State lines. A new inter-agency committee should be established to evaluate the needs for such areas and to develop relevant criteria. Following completion of this project, this committee might consider the development of standard statistical areas which are component parts of SMSAs.

3. BACKGROUND

The Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area is a statistical concept originally developed in the late 1940's to make it possible for all Federal statistical agencies to use the same boundaries for collecting, compiling, and publishing statistics for the purpose of analyzing metropolitan problems. When they achieve eligibility, Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas are designated and defined by the Office of Management and Budget according to objective, specified, and recorded criteria, published well in advance of the actual designation of specific SMSAs.

SMSAs are areas defined mainly along economic lines, as distinguished from the customary political entities—States, cities, etc.—and they were established primarily for analysis of economic and social problems common to metropolitan areas. One compromise with political boundaries was made—SMSAs follow county lines (except in New England) because it would not be feasible to compile suitable statistical data in any other way. The role of size has been limited to establishing a lower boundary for the smallest SMSA (a city with 50,000 or more population).

The SMSAs established on the basis of 1960 Population Census data have recently been reviewed by a Government interagency committee chaired by OMB personnel. This review, just completed, was based on

criteria established many years ago, revised in November 1971, and applied to the 1970 Census of Population counts which became available in 1970 and 1971, as well as to 1970 commuting data which have recently been released.

However, in spite of general approval of the procedures, there were more than the usual number of objections to the outcome of the application of the criteria, as a result of which Director Weinberger designated a task force to conduct an intensive review of the situation.

In announcing the formation of the task force, the Director said:

"I am concerned about these criticisms of the Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area and the number of requests for changes in existing boundaries or additions to the list," stated Mr. Weinberger. "Of course, we cannot afford to have a statistical standard if its criteria are unsound.

"I could be equally concerned if the Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area, a statistical concept and a statistical standard, is shown to be used for purposes for which it was not intended and for which it is not appropriate. That, too, is something we will want to look at with a view to suggesting additional standard statistical area concepts that could be more appropriate for some uses."

4. ISSUES

The Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area has been one of the most popular statistical developments of the last quarter century. Not only has it been widely used as a vehicle for assembling data relating to metropolitan problems, but it has come to represent something more than merely a statistical concept. Business firms have used it to allocate advertising expenditures and to fix wages, salaries, and allowances; governments have used it to determine eligibility for various kinds of assistance. In short, in the minds of many people, for an area to be an SMSA or a part of an SMSA has come to mean something beyond having more statistics than for other types of areas; the SMSA has come to be associated with more money, public or private. When local business and political leaders believe that an appropriate SMSA designation will mean economic development, increased business volume, more financial assistance to local government, etc., they become concerned that

- a. Their community is not included in an SMSA;

- b. The distinctive features and problems of their community are obscured because it is part of an SMSA and not an independent SMSA;

- c. Their SMSA is not as big as it "should be."

In approaching the problems which led to the creation of the task force, we have addressed ourselves to the following questions:

- a. Are the present SMSA criteria adequate to designate and define areas for compiling, analyzing, and publishing statistics relating to metropolitan characteristics and problems?

- b. Are there Federal laws which require some agencies to use SMSAs in program implementation?

- c. Are there agencies whose regulations obligate them to use SMSAs in the program implementation?

- d. Do agency guidelines, manuals, or practices make use of the SMSA?

5. FINDINGS

- a. *SMSA criteria are adequate for designating and defining areas for the statistical purposes for which they were established.*

There is no scientific and unchallengeable way of describing a metropolitan area for statistical purposes or for any other purpose. There is, however, general agreement that a metropolitan area consists of a central aggregation of urban population of substantial size and an area around this center which has close economic and social interrelationships with its central aggregation. The criteria used by OMB to designate and define standard metropolitan statistical areas are based on this general proposition.

Since the SMSA is designated for the purpose of compiling and publishing statistics, the criteria must be operationally sound in that they must (1) use data elements which are collected throughout the Nation in a uniform manner, according to standard definitions and (2) use as "building blocks" small areas for which a substantial body of statistics is produced on a continuing basis.

The present criteria start with an urban center of 50,000 population and add surrounding areas which possess defined characteristics of urban population, population growth, population density, and worker commuting. Since the smallest basic unit for which substantial bodies of information are regularly produced is the

county, SMSAs consist of a single county or aggregations of counties (towns in New England).

The Decennial Census is the basic source for the data elements used in applying the criteria. It is the only source which provides all the needed data for all parts of the country according to standard definitions.

The criteria used to designate and define standard metropolitan statistical areas have been developed by a process of interagency cooperation through the Federal Committee on Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas, chaired by OMB. They have been amended from time to time as new data elements have become available, though the lower size limit has remained constant since the beginning.

A comprehensive review of all SMSA criteria was conducted by OMB during the period 1966-71. Over 400 individuals and organizations from business, government, and the academic world participated in the review. As a consequence of that review, new criteria were published in 1971.

The task force finds that the criteria used to designate and define SMSAs are reasonable; that the criteria are under more or less continuing review; that they are generally accepted; and that they are operationally sound. For the most part, recent criticisms have been directed against inappropriate use of the SMSA in Federal program administration rather than against the criteria used to designate and define SMSAs.

In looking at 61 specific problem areas which have been brought to OMB's attention, 26 can be resolved within the present criteria to the satisfaction of the interested parties, 9 can be resolved in part within the existing criteria, 25 clearly cannot be resolved within the present criteria, and the resolution of the remaining 1 problem is still unclear. There is no reasonable way of changing the criteria which would assure that all 25 problems not now resolved would be resolved to the satisfaction of the interested parties. Some of them—maybe as many as 12—might be resolved if there were some additional kinds of statistical areas.

The task force also finds that there is a continuing need for data at levels below that of the SMSA. The presentation of data at the level of the SMSA or any other such area should in no way inhibit the production and presentation of data at lower levels when there is a demonstrated need for information, and its production is both economically and statistically feasible.

b. *Agencies in general are not required by law to use the SMSA in program implementation.*

While seven laws make reference to SMSAs as defined by OMB, only two require an agency to use the SMSA.

The most common legal provision, which provides flexibility, is similar to that of the Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act of 1966 which states:

" 'Metropolitan area' means a standard metropolitan statistical area as established by the Bureau of the Budget, subject, however, to such modification and extension as the Secretary may determine to be appropriate for the purposes of this title."

On the other hand, the Fair Labor Standards Act directs the Secretary of Labor to strict use of the SMSA as defined by the Office of Management and Budget. In the judgment of DOL staff, removal of this requirement would have no significant effect upon the agency's mission.

Section 704(b)(1) of the Emergency School Aid Act of 1972 provides that 5% of the funds appropriated to carry out the purposes of the Act be reserved for use in metropolitan area projects. Metropolitan area is specifically defined as a Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area as defined by the Office of Management and Budget.

c. *Regulations do not require use of SMSA in program implementation.*

Such references to Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas as appear in the Code of Federal Regulations use language which permit the agency to use areas other than those established by SMSA definitions.

d. *Some agencies use SMSAs in program implementation.*

In general, Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas are not considered by Federal agencies to be appropriate area designations for use in the implementation of most Federal programs. Agencies typically use a wide range of geographic areas for program purposes, some larger, some smaller than Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas.

However, we find that some agencies have used the SMSA directly or indirectly to determine eligibility for Federal program benefits. For example:

- (1) The Department of Labor, in administering the Emergency Employment Act of 1971, indirectly uses the SMSA to define areas of substantial unemployment. Here "area" usually means "labor

market," which the Department of Labor's *Handbook on Defining Labor Market Areas* defines as follows:

"The major labor market definition now in use in the employment security system conforms, with some few exceptions, to the Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (SMSA) definitions."

When a Congressional inquiry suggests that the definition of a labor area should be changed, a typical reply from the Department of Labor will state that the DOL would accede to the Congressman's suggestion if OMB changed the SMSA definition accordingly.

- (2) Similarly, the HUD procedure for certifying metropolitan planning areas and organizations creates pressure on OMB to modify SMSA definitions. It works like this:

To obtain funds under certain DOT, EPA and HUD programs, a locality must show that the proposed project conforms to an areawide comprehensive plan produced by a HUD Certified Areawide Planning Jurisdiction. Certification of Areawide Planning Jurisdictions is a function of HUD area offices which require an Areawide Planning Jurisdiction to have the same boundaries as a Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area, where feasible.

In practice some HUD area offices insist that the Areawide Planning Jurisdiction have the same boundaries as SMSAs. The practical effect is that local jurisdictions must use SMSAs to get Federal money.

6. METHOD AND SCOPE OF INQUIRY

- a. A memorandum of December 7, 1972 to the heads of DOT, DOL, EPA, HEW, HUD, and OEO was sent by OMB Deputy Director Carlucci to inquire how their agencies use the Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area and other multijurisdictional areas in program administration.

In addition to materials pertaining to the SMSA, described above, more than two dozen types of areas being used in the administration of programs were identified. The responsibility for their definition may be that of elected officials, planning bodies, Federal regional offices, or headquarters agencies. They may be defined to meet the special requirements of human resource programs, or for capital grants for sewer, water, and highway

facilities, or for any of the other many program purposes of government. Whether these diverse program areas can be rationalized in terms of standard statistical units is doubtful.

- b. Similarly, the Task Force Secretary asked the executive directors of the Council of State Governments, National Association of Counties, National League of Cities, U.S. Conference of Mayors, International City Managers Association, Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, and State Statistical Coordinators to provide information on Federal agency use of the SMSA as a criterion for resource allocation and planning. None of the replies received from these groups identified specific Federal programs whose use of multijurisdictional areas results in an inequitable distribution of program benefits.

- c. In order to stimulate discussion of the problems of area definition, the task force developed a paper which suggested that the SMSAs be abolished and that they be replaced by four different kinds of areas: principal urban counties, labor markets, consolidated economic areas, and State economic areas.

This proposal was not found to be acceptable for the following principal reasons:

- (1) The abolition of SMSAs would impose hardships on users of the SMSA as in the following examples:
 - (a) Abolition of the SMSA concept would have a disruptive effect upon SMSA-based Federal programs which promote areawide planning and interlocal cooperation. The concept has provided a neutral means of specifying interjurisdictional responsibilities for solving areawide metropolitan problems. The SMSA concept has thereby given impetus to the organization of areawide planning organizations and councils of government. In this regard, the SMSA has been of particular importance in interstate metropolitan areas such as the Washington Metropolitan Area, which includes the District of Columbia, the Maryland counties of Montgomery and Prince Georges, plus seven Virginia jurisdictions (Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William Counties and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, and Falls Church).
 - (b) Abolition would probably adversely affect private sector users of SMSA information.

For example, SMSAs are used in advertising campaigns, setting prices for TV and newspaper ads, establishing fund-raising quotas for various purposes, etc. Many groups use data on metropolitan versus nonmetropolitan counties for economic analysis purpose. The discontinuance of SMSAs would adversely affect such business practices, and would force adjustments that would be time consuming and costly as well as yield an inferior product.

- (2) The basic objective, to alleviate pressures to modify areas boundaries, would not be accomplished by the proposed new area definitions. Pressure arises from the fact that area definitions are used in connection with eligibility for benefits under a number of programs. There will always be pressure to add geographic units located at the fringes of whatever eligible areas are defined to permit such units to receive whatever assistance is involved.
- (3) The proposed four-tier geographical units could actually increase pressures for area definitional changes for program purposes. The initial plan assumes that program benefits relating to unemployment conditions, for example, would be limited to labor market areas. Yet "agencies producing general purpose statistics (would) give equal priority to the production of statistics for each (of the 4) kind(s) of areas." If unemployment data are available for these very sizable consolidated economic areas and State economic areas, it would be difficult to deny program benefits if the rates are sufficiently high that they would have received benefits under the SMSA definition.
- (4) There does not seem to be any firm rationale for limiting standardized areas to the four proposed categories. Other types of geographical units for which program and general purpose statistics are developed could include multi-county State economic planning districts, intra-county or core-city areas such as HUD-Model Cities, poverty neighborhood areas, and Labor Department Concentrated Employment Program and Emergency Employment Act areas.

A number of other points were made by reviewers of the trial proposal for new areas. None was favorable.

There was unanimity in favor of remaining with the SMSA concept, while allowing for agency freedom in special area definitions for their respective program needs.

JULIUS SHISKIN, *Chairman,*
Task Force on Standard Metropolitan
Statistical Areas.

March 1, 1973.

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SCHEDULE OF RELEASE DATES FOR PRINCIPAL FEDERAL ECONOMIC INDICATORS

May 1973

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

A similar schedule will be shown here each month

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

| <i>Date</i> | <i>Subject</i> | <i>Data for</i> |
|-------------|--|----------------------|
| May 1 | Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories & Orders, Census, M 3-1 (20, 65, 852) | March |
| 1 | Construction Expenditures (Press release), Census, C-30 (69) | March |
| 2 | Condition Report of Large Commercial Banks, Federal Reserve (FRS), H.4.2 (72) | Week ending April 25 |
| 3 | Money Stock Measures, FRS, H.6 (85, 102, 103) | Week ending April 25 |
| 3 | Factors Affecting Bank Reserves and Condition Statement of Federal Reserve Banks, FRS, H.4.1 (93) | Week ending May 2 |
| 3 | Consumer Buying Indicators, (Press release), Census, P-65 (420, 425, 430) | April 16 |
| 3 | U.S. Government Security Yields and Prices, FRS, G.14 (114) | April |
| 3 | Consumer Credit, FRS, G.19 (66, 113) | March |
| 3 | Wholesale Price Index, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), (55, 58, 750, 751, 752) | April |
| 3 | Manufacturers' Export Sales and Orders, Census, M4-A (506) | March |
| 4 | Review of Productivity, Wages and Prices, BLS, (748, 749, 858) | 1 Q '73 |
| 4 | The Employment Situation, BLS, (1, 21, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 740, 841-848) | April |
| 4 | Monthly Wholesale Trade (Press release), Census, BW | March |
| 8 | Retail Trade Report (Press release), Census, (54) | March |
| 9 | Condition Report of Large Commercial Banks, FRS, H.4.2 (72) | Week ending May 2 |
| 10 | Money Stock Measures, FRS, H.6 (85, 102, 103) | Week ending May 2 |
| 10 | Factors Affecting Bank Reserves and Condition Statement of Federal Reserve Banks, FRS, H.4.1 (93) | Week ending May 9 |

| <i>Date</i> | <i>Subject</i> | <i>Data for</i> |
|-------------|--|--------------------|
| May 10 | Advance Monthly Retail Sales (Press release), Census, (54) | April |
| 14 | Manufacturing and Trade Inventories and Sales, Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), (31, 56, 71, 851) | March |
| 15 | Personal Income, BEA, (52, 53) | April |
| 15 | Balance of Payments on Official reserve transactions and net liquidity balance, BEA, (521, 522) | 1 Q '73 |
| 15 | Yields on FHA Insured New Home 30-Year Mortgages, HUD (118) | May 1 |
| 16 | Business Indexes (Industrial Production and Components), FRS, G.12.3 (47, 853) | April |
| 16 | Housing Starts (Press release), Census, C-20 (28, 29) | April |
| 16 | Condition Reports of Large Commercial Banks, FRS, H.4.2 (72) | Week ending May 9 |
| 17 | Money Stock Measures, FRS, H.6 (85, 102, 103) | Week ending May 9 |
| 17 | Factors Affecting Bank Reserves and Condition Statement of Federal Reserve Banks, FRS, H.4.1 (93) | Week ending May 16 |
| 17 | Corporate Profits, BEA, (16, 22, 68) | 1 Q '73 |
| 17 | Federal Receipts and Expenditures, NIA Basis, BEA, (600, 601, 602) | 1 Q '73 |
| 17 | Gross National Product (Revised), BEA, (200, 205) | 1 Q '73 |
| 21 | Advance Report on Durable Goods, Manufacturers' Shipments and Orders, Census, M3-1 (6, 24, 25, 96, 647, 648) | April |
| 22 | Consumer Price Index, BLS, (781, 782, 783, 784) | April |
| 22 | Real Earnings, BLS, (741, 859) | April |
| 23 | Average Yields of Long-Term Bonds, Treasury Bulletin (115, 116) | April |
| 23 | Condition Report of Large Commercial Banks, FRS, H.4.2 (72) | Week ending May 16 |
| 24 | Money Stock Measures, FRS, H.6 (85, 102, 103) | Week ending May 16 |
| 24 | Factors Affecting Bank Reserves and Condition Statement of Federal Reserve Banks, FRS, H.4.1 (93) | Week ending May 23 |
| 25 | Productivity and Costs in Nonfinancial Corporations, BLS | 1 Q '73 |
| 25 | Export and Import Merchandise Trade, Census, FT-900 (500, 502, 512) | April |
| 29 | Advance Business Conditions Digest, BEA: (12, 33, 69, 813, 817) | March |
| | (5, 10, 17, 45, 59, 62, 810, 811, 814, 815, 816, 820, 825, 830, 853, 860) | April |
| 30 | Defense Indicators, BEA, (625) | April |
| 30 | Condition Report of Large Commercial Banks, FRS, H.4.2 (72) | Week ending May 23 |
| 31 | Money Stock Measures, FRS, H.6 (85, 102, 103) | Week ending May 23 |
| 31 | Factors Affecting Bank Reserves and Condition Statement of Federal Reserve Banks, FRS, H.4.1 (93) | Week ending May 30 |
| 31 | Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders, Census M3-1 (20, 65, 825) | April |
| 31 | Agricultural Prices (Agriculture) | Mid-May |

CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

1973 MANPOWER REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

The eleventh *Manpower Report* opens with a letter of transmittal from the President to the Congress which states that the "Administration will take steps during 1973 and 1974 to institute a new program of manpower revenue-sharing within the existing legislative framework", in order to permit States and localities to use manpower resources in a manner more consistent with their diverse requirements.

The first chapter of the report describes the acceleration of economic activity and revitalization of labor demand characteristic of 1972. Overall gains in employment are analyzed in terms of their differentiated impact on demographic and racial groups, as well as on other sectors of the labor force. The chapter accords special attention to the job situation of Vietnam-era veterans and "discouraged workers".

The second chapter reviews the latest developments in the evolution toward manpower-revenue sharing through decentralization of program activities. In addition, it provides an overview of the preceding year's manpower program efforts, and special sections are devoted to the Public Employment Program (PEP) and the recent history of the public employment service (ES).

Other chapters include:

—An analysis of the short-term and long-term manpower implications of current demographic trends featuring a lower birth-rate and a slower rate of population growth. Of particular significance is the outlook for the female labor force in a social context of smaller families and reduced child-rearing responsibilities. Other sections discuss the possible impacts of reduced population growth on schools and hospitals, consumption levels and patterns of resource utilization.

—A manpower profile of Spanish-speaking Americans, the nation's second largest minority group. Based on recently-published census data, the chapter assesses the social and economic situation of Americans of Mexican American, Puerto Rican and Cuban heritage, and

describes the manpower and related programs aimed at widening their employment opportunities.

The report has two appendices: a summary of recent improvements in the public employment service's management and information systems, and an extensive statistical appendix.

Copies of the 253-page report may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 (\$2.85 domestic postpaid or \$2.50 at GPO bookstores.) (FLORENCE CASEY, OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, MANPOWER ADMINISTRATION, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.)

OMB ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON IMPROVEMENTS IN GNP DATA

A Committee of non-government experts has been named by Roy L. Ash, Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to advise on steps required to improve the accuracy and timeliness of the Gross National Product statistics. GNP data must be improved to provide a better basis for economic policy decisions by government, business and labor.

The GNP estimates are made by the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) of the Department of Commerce on the basis of data collected chiefly by other Federal agencies, notably, the Bureau of the Census and the Bureau of Labor Statistics. During the next year, this new Advisory Committee will examine data sources now available and recommend a blueprint for improving the basic data over the next five years. Accuracy of early estimates and reduction of revisions will be given a high priority.

The Committee will be chaired by Daniel Creamer, Director of Special Projects of The Conference Board. He will also serve as the Executive Director of a small staff of government statisticians. Members of the Committee include Rosanne E. Cole of IBM; Alan Greenspan, President of Townsend-Greenspan and Company; Raymond Goldsmith of Yale University; Edward F. Denison of The Brookings Institution; and John W.

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Kendrick, Vice President and Director of Economic Research at The Conference Board. (DAVID T. HULETT, STATISTICAL POLICY DIVISION, OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET.)

PROJECTING INDUSTRY OUTPUTS

The Bureau of Economic Analysis of the Commerce Department's Social and Economic Statistics Administration has published *Input-Output Analysis as a Predictive Tool*, a staff paper by Arlene K. Shapiro. The study compares projections of industry outputs obtained via six methods: I-O analysis, two regression methods, a GNP blowup method, a final demand blowup method, and a combined GNP and final demand blowup method. The study reexamines the relative merits of the various methods, and concludes that the I-O method is at least as good and generally better than these alternative methods.

Copies of *Input-Output Analysis as a Predictive Tool* may be purchased from the National Technical Information Service, U.S. Department of Commerce, Springfield, Virginia 22151. The price is \$3 in paper or 95 cents in microfiche. Mention accession number COM-73-10146. (ARLENE K. SHAPIRO, ECONOMIC GROWTH DIVISION, BUREAU OF ECONOMIC ANALYSIS, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC STATISTICS ADMINISTRATION, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.)

REVISION OF AUTOMOBILE CREDIT STATISTICS 1960-72

The automobile credit statistics published in the Federal Reserve statistical release G.26 (volume of auto credit extended, average size of note, and number financed) have been revised for the period 1960-72. The revision reflects benchmark revisions in the extensions data between 1965 and 1970, and the inclusion of a trading day adjustment in the seasonally adjusted series. The revision also reflects discontinuance of an ad hoc adjustment to the data to eliminate refinanced paper.

Tables of the revised data may be obtained from Charles Luckett, of the Mortgage, Agricultural, and Consumer Finance Section, Division of Research and Statistics, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Washington, D.C., 20551.

MONTHLY ESTIMATES OF RETAIL SALES FOR NASSAU-SUFFOLK SMSA

Effective with the January 1973 issue of the Monthly Retail Trade Report, the Bureau of the Census began publishing separate monthly retail estimates for the newly designated Nassau-Suffolk SMSA and for the revised New York SMSA. Nassau and Suffolk counties, which constitute the new SMSA, were formerly a part of the New York, New York SMSA. Estimates for the newly designated areas were published for October 1972 to date but are not available for prior months. Totals combining the two new areas (i.e., for the old New York SMSA) will continue to be published until year-to-year comparisons can be made for the new SMSA's. (CONRAD ALEXANDER, BUSINESS DIVISION, BUREAU OF THE CENSUS.)

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE PUBLICATIONS

Several publications of the Joint Economic Committee were described in the March issue of *Statistical Reporter* (No. 73-9, p. 146). Four additional publications are described below.

Part 5, *Housing Subsidies*, of a compendium of papers on *The Economics of Federal Subsidy Programs* includes six articles on federally assisted housing, the distribution of housing benefits, and some specific Federal housing programs. The 134-page volume is priced at 55 cents.

Paper No. 3 entitled "The Effectiveness of Manpower Training Programs: A Review of Research on the Impact on the Poor" is one of the *Studies in Public Welfare* prepared for the use of the Subcommittee on Fiscal Policy of the Joint Economic Committee. The study was prepared by Jon H. Goldstein of the Subcommittee staff. The 70-page study is priced at 45 cents (GPO Stock No. 5270-01638).

Housing Subsidies and Housing Policy (29 pp., 35 cents domestic postpaid or 20 cents GPO bookstore) is a report of the Subcommittee on Priorities and Economy in Government of the Joint Economic Committee. It was issued March 5, 1973. The GPO Stock Number is 5270-01725.

Part 4 of the Hearings on *Current Labor Market Developments* covers hearings held from July 1972 through January 5, 1973 on employment, unemployment, productivity, and prices. The 525-page volume should be ordered by Stock Number 5270-01734 for \$3.10 domestic postpaid or \$2.75 at GPO bookstores.

These publications should be ordered from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. The price and GPO Stock Number (if known) are shown for each publication.

UN SAMPLE SURVEY PUBLICATION

The twelfth edition of *Sample Surveys of Current Interest* has been issued by the UN Statistical Office. Sample surveys carried out in 56 geographic areas are described in part I. In part II, the subject index, the sample surveys are classified by subject and arranged alphabetically by country.

For the United States, the following surveys are described: Urban employment survey, the 1967 census of construction industries, import c.i.f. values, current industrial reports surveys (paint, varnish and lacquer; mattresses and bedsprings; non-ferrous castings), revised sample for estimating monthly receipts of retail establishments, current medicare survey, survey of disabled adults, survey of new beneficiaries of retirement benefits, longitudinal retirement history survey, rural life survey, surveys of farm uses of pesticides, June survey of crop acreages and livestock numbers, Current Population Survey reinterview program, intensive coverage check, survey of consumer expenditures, and national consumer panel.

Copies of *Sample Surveys of Current Interest* (Statistical Papers, Series C, No. 13) may be purchased for \$10 from the Sales Section, United Nations, New York, N.Y. 10017. Order by UN Sales No. E.73.XVII.5.

YEAR BOOK OF LABOUR STATISTICS 1972

The International Labour Office (ILO) has issued the 1972 edition of its *Year Book of Labour Statistics*, presenting a summary of the principal labor statistics in some 180 countries and territories. Whenever possible, the data cover the last 10 years (1962-1971) and, for some tables, one month or a period near the middle of 1972. Texts, headings and notes are given in English, French, and Spanish.

The various subjects are grouped in nine chapters, each with an introductory note briefly indicating the main characteristics of the different types of series published in the tables. The subjects covered are popula-

tion, employment, unemployment, hours of work, productivity, wages, consumer prices, industrial accidents, and industrial disputes. The base period of 1963=100 has been used for all series presented in the form of index numbers.

Appendixes provide information on exchange rates and classifications used in the yearbook. A list of ILO publications dealing with the special problems of statistical methodology involved in the compilation of labor statistics as well as a list of the main national publications in which current labor statistics are issued appear in "References and Sources." An index shows the countries and territories for which data are given in each table, with appropriate page references.

Copies of the 828-page *Year Book of Labour Statistics, 1972*, may be purchased for \$18 (paperbound) or \$21 (clothbound) from the ILO Branch Office, 666 Eleventh St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001. Copies may also be purchased from ILO Publications, International Labour Office, CH-1211, Geneva 22, Switzerland.

PHS GRANTS AND AWARDS

The National Institutes of Health has published the first in a six-volume series on *Public Health Service Grants and Awards Fiscal Year 1972 Funds*. Part I, NIH Research Grants, provides the descriptions, locations, and monetary allotments for 11,524 research grants funded by NIH in FY 1972.

The remaining volumes, soon to be released, will contain listings of grants and awards supported through other NIH programs—research training, research fellowships, research career program awards, construction, and library resources (Part II); recipients of NIH research contracts (Part III); awardees under the training and education programs of the Bureau of Health Manpower Education (Part IV); and organization and State totals covering all NIH support (Part V). Part VI lists grants supported by other health agencies in the Department of Health Education, and Welfare—the Health Services and Mental Health Administration and the Food and Drug Administration.

Copies of Part I, NIH Research Grants, *Public Health Service Grants and Awards Fiscal Year 1972 Funds*, are available for \$1.50 each from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

SELECTED NEW REPORTING PLANS AND FORMS

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

Department of Commerce

Bureau of the Census

Occupational changes in a generation (singletime).—This study will examine trends in social mobility, and describe and analyze the processes of inter- and intra-generational mobility. Interviews and questionnaires will be administered during April and May of 1973 as part of the Current Population Survey. (For further information: Edward Knowles, Bureau of the Census, telephone 301-763-2802.)

Department of Defense

Air Force

Depot maintenance contractor reporting of production and supporting material (daily).—This is a proposed new system to manage and monitor the large-scale Air Force Depot Repair and Maintenance Service. It is expected to provide a control over end items and inventories in the hands of contractors by using daily electronic transmission of individual transactions. This would also substantially reduce contractor recordkeeping and reporting of bulk monthly reports since the Air Force would produce both end item and contractor reports by computer. Approval granted on a test basis. There would be brief overlap with the present three monthly reports which would be phased out under the new system. (For further information: John Wenderoth, Office of the Secretary of Defense, telephone 703-695-0706.)

Department of Housing and Urban Development

Metropolitan area mapping project (singletime).—Location of Federally-subsidized housing in each of 269 standard metropolitan statistical areas will be spotted on

maps by local Public Housing authorities and by HUD area offices. Project location will be related to socioeconomic and demographic data at the level of Census tracts. Computer-produced standard base maps with overlays will be supplied to the appropriate operating levels of the Department to aid in project evaluation. (For further information: Marilyn Fine, Department of Housing and Urban Development, telephone: 202-755-5913.)

Commission on Civil Rights

Questionnaire to State and local governments regarding their general and minority procurement systems (singletime).—Questionnaire to 50 States, 50 counties and 50 cities for the purpose of locating jurisdictions having programs to assist minority business development. (For further information: James B. McDaniel, Commission on Civil Rights, telephone 202-254-6614.)

Environmental Protection Agency

National emissions data systems (NEDS) input data forms (semi-annual).—States are required to report total plans or applicable portions of plans approving the collection, correlation and public dissemination of source emission data and to make semiannual progress reports to the Administrator of EPA throughout the viable life of the plan. Data will serve as a basis for determining the progress of individual States in meeting national emissions standards. (For further information: S. Von Lee White, Environmental Protection Agency, telephone 919-688-8146.)

Hazardous air pollutant report/waiver application (occasional).—Proposed regulations require that sources of hazardous air pollutants report the nature of their activities within 30 days of promulgation of the regulations. Sources not in compliance with regulations must request a waiver at the same time to allow the agency 60 days for review. This form is designed to provide a format for reporting the nature of activities for hazardous air pollutants and includes the request for waiver of compliance. (For further information: Pat A. Alberico, Environmental Protection Agency, telephone 202-755-0950.)

PERSONNEL NOTES

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Division of Research and Statistics: JOHN AUSTIN, formerly an economist in the Econometric and Computer Applications Section, is now an Assistant to Governor Brimmer. ALBERT TEPLIN, formerly an economist in the Government Finance Section has transferred to the Mortgage, Agricultural and Consumer Finance Section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Statistical Reporting Service: EMMETT B. HANNAWALD, Chief of the Livestock, Dairy and Poultry Branch, has retired from Government service. WILBERT H. WALTHER, formerly Deputy Chief of the Branch, has been named to succeed Mr. Hannawald. JASPER E. PALLESEN, Agricultural Statistician in Charge of the Kansas State Statistical Office, has retired. He is being replaced by RAYMOND R. HANCOCK, formerly Head of the Fruit and Vegetable Section, Crops Branch, Estimates Division in Washington. DONALD J. FEDEWA has returned to SRS from an assignment with the Agriculture Division, Bureau of the Census, to replace Mr. Hancock.

JAMES L. DAVIS, formerly Mathematical Statistician in the Texas State Statistical Office, has joined the Methods Staff, Estimates Division in Washington. WENDELL W. WILSON, formerly Mathematical Statistician in the California State Statistical Office, has transferred to the Research and Development Branch, Research Division in Washington. REX G. BUTLER, formerly in the Systems Branch, Survey Division in Washington, has transferred to the Tennessee State Statistical Office in Nashville. He will also be working with the Tennessee State University in developing a curriculum for statistics and will assist staff in statistical methods and ADP applications.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Social and Economic Statistics Administration: In the Personnel Division, GEORGE M. BOWDEN, previously designated as "Acting", has been officially designated as Chief and WALTER BELLER has assumed the duties as Special Assistant to the Chief.

Bureau of the Census: ROBERT L. HAGAN has been designated as Acting Director.

EDWARD A. ROBINSON has been appointed Acting Assistant Division Chief for Industrial Activities, Industry Division, replacing Willis K. Jordan who has retired.

International Statistical Programs has reported the following changes in its overseas advisory staff operating under the AID Technical Assistance Programs: JOHN C. RUMFORD has been detailed to the United Nations on a non-reimbursable basis for an initial 1-year assignment in Monrovia, Liberia as Population Census Adviser. ARNOLD L. BRADDOCK has completed a regular tour of duty as Data Processing Adviser (Programmer) to the Pakistan Government and returned to the United States for reassignment.

Bureau of Economic Analysis: PHILIP M. RITZ, formerly with the National Planning Association, has joined BEA as the Assistant Chief of the Interindustry Economics Division (telephone 967-4948.)

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service, Statistics Division: DANIEL W. BURCH has been appointed Chief of the Statistical Techniques Branch, Statistics Division. Mr. Burch formerly was the Assistant Branch Chief.

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