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STATISTICAL REPORTER

Current developments in Federal statistics

STATISTICAL REPORTER

Prepared Monthly by the Statistical Policy Division

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A Computer Loose in the Budget Office

By M. Scott Downing

Budget, Planning antd Presentation, Department of State

Why Budget Officers Turn Gray

In most budget offices a great deal of time is spent on two functions—creating and amending worksheets. Generally, these documents have a tabular format with several columns and stub entries for object classes, subobject classes, or for appropriation or office titles. As the budget cycle ages, these papers are amended to reflect management decisions. Deadlines near and pressure increases. Detail that was formerly felt important is lost. Mistakes creep in and, by the end of the cycle, it is often difficult to use the worksheets to trail from the original request to the final appropriation.

Time is the most important commodity in any budget office. There are inflexible deadlines to meet. Although the analysts would like to receive as much input from the program divisions as possible when creating dollar and manpower projections, this information is often difficult to obtain in time to incorporate into the proper schedules. The term "estimate" becomes a very realistic appraisal of the request that goes forward for departmental or OMB review. The most sobering thought is the realization that an agency's future operations depend on the success of an operation that, due to sheer volume, has become more clerical and less analytical.

The Search for Help

The use of a computer has been long considered as a possible aid to the budget presentation and administration process. It allows the infusion of historical data into the estimate base and permits the use of statistical techniques to gauge the realism of some projections. Most importantly, it could provide more time for the analysis of requirements and entail less time for clerical procedures.

These benefits were too tempting for several agencies to overlook and, as early as 1969, they began to investigate the use of automated batch processing for the presentation process. However, the results were frustrating. Batch processing was far too cumbersome for many of the operations. Hollerith cards had to be prepared and verified for each entry. Data changes had to be coded on special forms, punched, verified, and checked. To compound problems, the budget office was often very low on the priority list of machine users and turnaround time was twenty-four hours or longer. When the output was finally received, it often did not meet the budget officer's needs. As a result, the computer tended to be underutilized in the presentation process.

In October 1973, I began investigating the possibility of using an interactive time sharing system to overcome these difficulties. It seemed to answer most of the problems at an acceptable cost. However, the choice of a programming language became the most significant factor. FORTRAN had the capability for complex operations but required the services of an experienced computernik. BASIC offered an ease of operation for the casual user but lacked sufficient power for a complete system. A third language, APL, appeared to have possibilities. It operated on a complete table, or matrix, at one time rather than on a single value or data element. It offered the power of FORTRAN but required less development effort. After attending a 3-day school, I felt that APL had the most possibilities. I made arrangements to use the facilities of Scientific Time Sharing Corporation and, with the aid of marketing representative Robert A. Smith, went to work.

The first step was to install the necessary machinery. The input/output device resembles an IBM Selectric typewriter and takes up about as much space in the office. No special connections were necessary as the unit interacts with the main computer hardware through an accoustical coupler. To activate the unit, one simply dialed the computer office telephone number, dropped the telephone headset into a special cradle, and let the carrier sound transmit the data over the communications lines. The machine can be used anywhere there is a telephone.

Chasing Figures

The next step was to develop a program. Logic dictated that the first effort should permit the development of budget estimates by subobject categories. As most requests are created in these terms and later modified to fit a required schedule format, this routine seemed to offer the greatest savings in time. The user first jots down notes on a special coding form that contains all of the possible subobject categories used by his organization. Once he is finished, he types these notes into the terminal. At each step he is prompted to enter the subobject class code, and manpower and dollar amounts in a required sequence but he is not constrained to follow any object class order. The input/output device transfers this information to a prearranged structure in a storage file. At any time during the session the operator can call upon the machine to display the data in a formatted report. Object class subtotals and administrative group totals are provided at this point.

If more than one administrative group is involved, all of the data can be summarized onto one dated printout. This allows the analyst to judge the overall impact of the changes to any one subobject class in any administrative office. Furthermore, the program permits the operator to make two amendments to the original data, displays all three elements in the report format, and provides appropriate totals. The user can amend his information, jot the reasons for the alterations on the hardcopy, and have a permanent trail of changes. When completed, our reports are printed in the format shown in the table.

After two adjustments have been made, the computer can be told to replace the budgeted figures with those in the total column and erase all amendments. The analyst can then make further changes or display a sanitized final product.

Cost/Benefit Analysis

Any idea may make life easier but, before it can be adopted, its cost/benefit ratio must be considered. In a test run, we input data that had required two man-days to formulate into a final report. Using the routine, we were able to print a report in 1½ hours at an estimated

DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT

Request Title (user supplied)

Administrative Group: *Bureau of Administrative Operations*

	Budget Pos.	Budget $	Amendment 1 Pos.	Amendment 1 $	Amendment 2 Pos.	Amendment 2 $	Total Pos.	Total $
2100 Travel-Persons								
HQ travel overseas		22,600		2,000		—100		24,500
Other transportation		500				50		550
Subtotal, OC 21		23,100		2,000		— 50		25,050
2600 Supplies								
Administrative supplies		100						100
Subtotal, OC 26		100						100
Total, AO		23,200		2,000		— 50		25,150

$100 savings over the manual method. This may suggest a significant future cost avoidance as the budget officer can process his own changes to data and obtain a typed result at any time from 6:00 a.m. to midnight. This provides more time for better analysis and requires less time for clerical procedures.

The Unlimited Future

Although the potential of this one routine has not been fully evaluated, several uses suggest themselves. It is entirely feasible to involve program divisions more closely in the budget process by eliciting their suggestions regarding the object class distribution of request allowances. The operation requires very little computer knowledge and necessitates only about 30 minutes learning time. Furthermore, as the user controls his own storage files, he can determine whether other operators may copy, amend, or delete data. Certain reports could be forwarded from an agency to a higher review level through input/output devices rather than by printed copy. This permits maximum time utilization for analysis without sacrificing a printed output.

Of course, other programs can be developed to assist the budget office. Any task that has well-defined boundaries, a set method of operation, and requires a large amount of clerical work can be successfully automated. The only limitation is the imagination of the user. It is even possible that the day may come when gray hair would no longer identify a budget officer.

CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

1973 VACANCY RATES AND CHARACTERISTICS OF HOUSING

Annual statistics for 1973 on occupied and vacant rental and homeowner housing have been released by the Bureau of the Census. The report, *Vacancy Rates and Characteristics of Housing in the United States: Annual Statistics* 1973, is the eighth in the H-111 series to provide annual data on the housing inventory.

This report presents annual statistics on vacancy rates in the total housing inventory, the total rental inventory, the total homeowner inventory, and for subclasses of rental and homeowner units that have common characteristics. Percent distributions on housing characteristics are shown separately for vacant and occupied rental and homeowner units. Cross-tabulations of data are shown for most of the characteristics.

Some highlights from the report are:

(1) In 1973, national vacancy rates were 5.8% in rental housing and 1.0% in homeowner housing. The 1973 vacancy rate in rental housing was higher than the rate for 1972, 5.6%. The 1973 vacancy rate in homeowner housing was the same as the rate reported for 1972, 1.0% for each year.

(2) Rental vacancy rates above the overall vacancy rate were reported for units built in 1965 or later and among those renting for $120 or more a month. The rate was also relatively high in multiunit structures containing two units or more.

(3) Among homeowner units, vacancy rates higher than the overall vacancy rate existed in newer housing (built in 1965 or later).

(4) About 64.5% of the households in the Nation owned the home in which they lived.

(5) The "typical" owned home had 5.7 rooms, private toilet and bath and hot running water, and was valued at $21,100. The average vacant unit for sale had 5.3 rooms and all plumbing facilities. The average asking price was $19,600.

(6) Approximately 35.5% of the households in the United States rented their living quarters.

(7) The median number of rooms in occupied rental units was 4.0 and the median monthly rent paid was $105. For vacant rental units, the median number of rooms was 3.6 and the median asking rent was $114.

Copies of the report (Series H-111, No. 73-5, Part II) can be obtained for $1.00 from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. (PAUL P. HARPLE, JR., HOUSING DIVISION, BUREAU OF THE CENSUS, telephone (301) 763-2880.)

NEW COMPILATION OF NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE PROPOSALS

National Health Insurance Proposals: Provisions of Bills Introduced in the 93rd Congress as of February 1974 has recently been released by the Social Security Administration's Office of Research and Statistics. The study provides a common analytical framework to compare alternative ways to finance medical care in the United States. The 183-page report was compiled by Saul Waldman.

To facilitate comparison, the recently introduced Administration plan and other health insurance proposals are grouped according to their general approach: (1) Mixed public and private plans, (2) mainly public plans, (3) tax credit plans, and (4) catastrophic protection plans. The plans are listed by name and number according to their first sponsor, and announced support by major national organizations is indicated. The new report updates a similar study done last year.

Single copies of *National Health Insurance Proposals* (DHEW Publication No. (SSA) 74--11920) are available from the Publications Staff, Office of Research and Statistics, Social Security Administration, 1875 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009. The report is also for sale for $2.10 by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Order by GPO Stock Number 1770-00238. (ROBERT ROBINSON, OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND STATISTICS, SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION, telephone (202) 382-3261.)

NEW INPUT-OUTPUT TABLES

Results of a study of input-output relationships in the United States economy for 1967 have been published by the Bureau of Economic Analysis in the February 1974 issue of the *Survey of Current Business*. This is the fourth comparable benchmark input-output tables extending over a period of 20 years, from 1947-1967.

The 1967 results presented in the February *Survey* depict the interrelationships among the industries in terms of the 85 industry categories used for the 1947, 1958, and 1963 input-output studies. The latest input-output tables show more detail on value added and on government purchases than those in earlier *Survey* articles. Value added for each industry is divided into three components—employee compensation, indirect business taxes, and property-type income. Government purchases of goods and services are divided into four broad functional groups: Federal government defense and nondefense purchases, and State and local government purchases for education and for all other functions.

The availability of the more detailed industrial information for 1967 will be announced in the *Survey of Current Business*.

Copies of the February 1974 *Survey of Current Business* are available for $2.25 from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Annual subscriptions to the *Survey* cost $34.45. (PHILIP RITZ, INTERINDUSTRY ECONOMICS DIVISION, BUREAU OF ECONOMIC ANALYSIS, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE telephone (202) 523-0683).

REVISED MONEY STOCK MEASURES, BANK DEPOSITS, AND RESERVES

Revised money stock measures and member bank deposits and reserves were published in the February 1974 *Federal Reserve Bulletin*. In addition to the regular updating of seasonal adjustment factors and the annual benchmark revision, incorporating new estimates for nonmember domestic banks, this year's revisions also incorporate data from new monthly reports filed by agencies and branches of foreign banks. Other minor corrections were made in back data to adjust for changes in accounting procedures in connection with the transfer of foreign funds.

In the current revisions, nonmember domestic banks are benchmarked to the March and October 1973 call reports, in addition to the usual June and December calls. Last year was the first time since the early 1960's that call report data appropriate for money supply benchmark have been available for the spring and fall call dates.

The nonmember-bank-benchmark adjustment raised the level of the money stock series $1.0 billion in December 1972, $2.0 billion in March 1973, and nearly $2.8 billion in both June and October of 1973.

Monthly and weekly data from 1959 to date can be obtained from the Banking Section of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System's Division of Research and Statistics, telephone (202) 737-1100, ext. 3571. (DARWIN L. BECK, FEDERAL RESERVE BOARD, telephone (202) 737-1100, ext. 3591.)

POCKET DATA BOOK, USA 1973

The Bureau of the Census has recently released the *Pocket Data Book, USA 1973*. This biennial pocket size, soft-cover reference book presents a compact selection of current economic, social, and political statistics of the Nation. It is a handy, easy to use, non-technical version of the *Statistical Abstract of the United States*.

The new data book, fourth in the series, contains approximately 350 pages, more than 500 tables and over 70 charts covering such subjects as: population, vital statistics, government, law enforcement, national defense, income, education, recreation, housing, energy, welfare, medical care, and other subjects of current interest. An alphabetical subject index and a brief section on definition of terms are included.

Charts and tables included for the first time show fertility rates, birth expectations of wives, suicide mortality rates, air pollution, Federal subsidies, Congressional bills vetoed, U.S. aid to Indochina and Thailand, juvenile court cases handled, changes in earnings, compensation and prices, union membership by State, nursing homes, energy consumption indicators, energy projections, and credit card banking.

The *Pocket Data Book, USA 1973* ($2.80) may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 or from the Department of Commerce's District Offices in major cities. (William Lerner, data user services, bureau of the census, telephone (301) 763-7024.)

SMSA REVISION

The Office of Management and Budget announced a revision in three previously designated standard metropolitan statistical areas on February 8, 1974. Two areas were redefined as follows:

Code 1800 *Title* Columbus, Ga.-Ala.
Add Columbus, Ga. (consolidated government)
Delete Muscogee County, Ga.
Code 5720 *Title* Norfolk-Virginia Beach-Portsmouth, Va.-N.C.
Delete Nansemond City (merged with Suffolk City, January 1, 1974)
The following area was retitled:
Code 4280 *New Title* Lexington-Fayette, Ky.
Previous Title Lexington, Ky.

(Charles Ellett, statistical policy division, office of management and budget, telephone (202) 395-6172.)

MONETARY POLICY AND U.S. ECONOMY IN 1973

The Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System released copies of the Prelude to its 1973 *Annual Report* on March 14, 1974. The Prelude gives a brief summary of information covered in the *Annual Report* which will be available at a later date and discusses the influence of monetary policy on the economic course of events in 1973. In addition, it provides some insight into expected economic trends in 1974.

Copies of the Prelude, entitled "Monetary Policy and the U.S. Economy in 1973," are available from Publications Services, Division of Administrative Services, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Washington, D.C. 20551. (Elizabeth Sette, federal reserve board, telephone (202) 737-1100, ext. 3567.)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCES

Local Government Finances in Selected Metropolitan Areas and Large Counties: 1971-72, Series GS72, No. 6 was published in February by the Bureau of the Census. Information presented includes local government finances and per capital relationships in fiscal 1971-72 for 72 SMSA's and 61 county areas outside SMSA's. This report is available for $1.50 from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. (Vance Kane, governments division, bureau of the census, telephone (301) 763-7664.)

INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX RETURNS FOR 1971

The Internal Revenue Service has released *Statistics of Income—1971, Individual Income Tax Returns.* This report is based on data from a sample drawn from the 75 million individual income tax returns filed during calendar year 1972.

Statistics are presented on sources of income, adjusted gross income, types of deductions, exemptions, taxable income, tax credits, tax liability and payments. Information is shown for the first time on the maximum tax on earned income. Featured are data on depletion allowed on royalty income and on characteristics of single persons and joint returns.

The statistics are classified primarily by size of adjusted gross income and marital status of the taxpayer. Also shown are the data presented biennially for the 125 largest standard metropolitan statistical areas in the Nation, in addition to annual information for States and regions. (Jack Blacksin, individual income statistics staff, statistics division, internal revenue service, telephone (202) 964-6111.)

REVIEW OF COMPUTER NETWORKING TECHNOLOGY

A *Review of Computer Networking Technology* has been issued recently by the National Bureau of Standards, U.S. Department of Commerce. This report is one of a series of publications produced by the Institute for Computer Sciences and Technology under a grant from the National Science Foundation supporting a broad program of investigation into the foundations of computer networking in support of scientific and related educational efforts. There are 13 other publications planned in the series.

Review of Computer Networking Technology, by Robert P. Blanc, gives a descriptive summary of the technical characteristics of existing computer networks, including data communication technology and configuration related to support of resource sharing services for a computer network. Included are discussions of terminal support capabilities for communications network and a development of relevant network terminology. The report concludes with a comparative evaluation of existing technological approaches to networking.

Printed copies of the 135-page publication are available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 for $1.55 each. Order printed copies by SD Cat. No. C13.46:804. Microfiche copies ($1.45 a copy) should be ordered from the National Technical Information Center, Springfield, Va. 22151. Order microfiche by NBS Designation TN-804. All orders must be prepaid.

GRADUATE SCIENCE EDUCATION

Graduate Science Education: Student Support and Postdoctorals, Fall 1972 (NSF 73-315), is the sixth report in a series. This study contains detailed information on a survey of graduate education in the sciences which was conducted in the fall of 1972. It is designed to provide statistics on trends and patterns of enrollments of graduate science students and their support. It also supplies information on the effect of the growing numbers of postdoctoral appointees assigned to graduate science departments. The survey provides the only source of data on Federal and other support of graduate education in the sciences.

The following principal characteristics of the graduate enrollment population in 1972 were examined: Enrollment status (full- or part-time); distribution among fields of science; level of study (first-year or beyond); citizenship (U.S. and foreign); control of institution (public and private); and sex of student. The sources and types of major support of full-time students were also analyzed in detail.

Preliminary data were published in *Science Resources Studies Highlights,* "Graduate Science Enrollment Declines 2 Percent From 1971 to 1972" (NSF 73-310) dated August 16, 1973.

Copies of NSF 73-315 may be purchased for $2.85 from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. (CHARLES E. FALK, DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF SCIENCE RESOURCES STUDIES, NSF, telephone (202) 282-7704.)

FEDERAL R&D FUNDING BY FUNCTION

An *Analysis of Federal R&D Funding by Function Fiscal Years 1969-74* (NSF 73-316) is the third report in a series published by the National Science Foundation designed to meet the growing demand for indicators of Federal R&D activity by functional category. It uses a revised and updated category list of 14 functions and 40 subfunctions as a structure for the analysis. In the two previous studies Federal R&D programs were related to the 12 functions in the Federal budget and classified according to overall missions of sponsoring agencies. The second study offered, in addition, an alternative system in which R&D programs were arranged by a separate set of functions that reflected R&D programs so that a truer perspective on R&D priorities could be obtained. The present report is based on a classification system which evolved from that alternative approach.

This report is organized in two major parts. Part I is concerned with broad comparisons of growth rates in Federal funding between functions over the 1969-74 period, and for shorter periods within that timespan, and with shifts in funding priorities between functional areas. Part II is concerned with a detailed analysis of each function, which includes a discussion of individual R&D programs within each functional and subfunctional area and the relationship of programs to each other. Special attention was given to significant program increases and decreases from 1973 to 1974.

Preliminary data were released in *Science Resources Studies Highlights,* "Continued Growth Planned for Federal Civilian R&D Programs" (NSF 73-314) dated October 16, 1973.

Copies of NSF 73-316 may be purchased for $1.90 from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. (CHARLES E. FALK, DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF SCIENCE RESOURCES STUDIES, NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION.)

RECENT VITAL AND HEALTH STATISTICS REPORTS

A number of the reports published recently by the National Center for Health Statistics in the vital and health statistics series are described briefly below. Copies may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. When ordering, please include the DHEW publication number.

Series 2 (Data evaluation and methods research):

Vision Test Validation Study for the Health Examination Survey Among Youths 12-17 Years (No. 59, DHEW Publication No. (HRA) 74-1333, 36 pp., 65 cents) is a validation study of selected parts of the vision test battery used in the Health Examination Survey of 1966-70 among a national probability sample of youths

12-17 years of age in the United States. The validation study was designed primarily to determine the degree of correspondence between actual survey test results and those obtained in the usual clinical examination by an ophthalmologist. Two parts of the vision test battery were selected for comparison—the trial lens test for myopia and the phoria (eye muscle imbalance) tests.

Series 10 (Data from the Health Interview Survey):

Prevalence of Selected Chronic Digestive Conditions (No. 83, DHEW Publication No. (HRA) 74-1510, 52 pp., 85 cents) is the first of a new series of reports on the prevalence of selected chronic conditions based on data collected as a part of the Health Interview Survey. The data are presented in two parts. The first gives prevalence estimates of the selected chronic digestive conditions along with several measures of impact such as long- and short-term disability, medical attention, and degree to which the conditions bother the person. The second is a series of charts and tables on the distribution of the digestive conditions by selected demographic characteristics.

Prevalence of Selected Chronic Respiratory Conditions (No. 84, DHEW Publication No. (HRA) 74-1511, 49 pp., 85 cents) presents information as measured in the 1970 Health Interview Survey among members of the civilian population not confined to institutions. The first section shows prevalence estimates for a selected group of chronic respiratory conditions and a percent distribution for each condition by such measures of impact on the individual as whether the condition causes long- or short-term disability or requires medical attention. The second section presents data on the distribution of each condition for a series of demographic characteristics.

Current Estimates from the Health Interview Survey, 1972 (No. 85, DHEW Publication No. 85, DHEW Publication No. (HRA) 74-1512, 74 pp., $1) continues a series of annual publications entitled "Current Estimates."

Health Characteristics (No. 86, DHEW Publication No. (HRA) 74-1513, 56 pp., 90 cents) contains estimates of selected health characteristics as distributed by geographic region, large metropolitan areas, and other places of residence. The data are based on findings from the 1969-70 Health Interview Survey. The health characteristics discussed include activity limitation due to chronic disease, disability days, incidence of acute conditions and persons injured, hospitalization, and physician and dental visits. The data are shown by four geographic regions, metropolitan areas, farm and nonfarm places of residence outside the metropolitan areas, and by residence inside or outside the central city of a metropolitan area.

Impairments Due to Injury (No. 87, DHEW Publication No. (HRA) 74-1514, 53 pp., 90 cents) presents estimates based upon data reported in household interviews of the civilian, noninstitutional population in 1971. An impairment is a chronic or permanent defect, disabling or not, representing for the most part decrease or loss of ability to perform certain functions, particularly those of the musculoskeletal system and special senses.

Series 11 (Data from the Health Examination Survey):

Body Weight, Stature, and Sitting Height: White and Negro Youths 12-17 Years (No. 126, DHEW Publication No. (HRA) 74-1608, 34 pp., 65 cents) presents data from Cycle III of the Health Examination Survey 1966-70.

Intellectual Development of Youths (No. 128, DHEW Publication No. (HRA) 74-1610, 42 pp., 80 cents) discusses results of the vocabulary and block design subtests of the Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children administered to a national probability sample of noninstitutionalized youths 12 through 17 years of age in the Health Examination Survey of 1966-70.

Examination and Health History Findings Among Children and Youths, 6-17 Years (No. 129, DHEW Publication No. (HRA) 74-1611, 71 pp., $1) contains information on parent ratings of health status and health history in relation to the significant examination findings among children 6-11 years and youths 12-17 years in 1963-65 and 1966-70, respectively. The data were obtained by direct physical examination in the Health Examination Survey and by health history forms completed by the parent prior to the physical examination.

Literacy Among Youths 12-17 Years (No. 131, DHEW Publication No. (HRA) 74-1613, 28 pp., 55 cents) presents information on the extent of illiteracy among American youths. The data are based on results of a specially constructed test which was administered as part of the Health Examination Survey during 1966-70.

Age at Menarche (No. 133, DHEW Publication No. (HRA) 74-1615, 29 pp., 65 cents) provides estimates of current median age at menarche (onset of menstruation) of women in the United States and discusses differences in age at menarche associated with social and economic variables as well as selected body measurements. Estimates are based on results of three separate, cross sectional programs of the Health Examination Survey during 1960-70, involving adults, children, and youths respectively. Each program involved the selection and examination of a national probability sample, and the three programs together provide health information on the noninstitutionalized U.S. population aged 6-79 years. Information from all three programs was used in this report.

Series 20 (Data on mortality):

A Study of Infant Mortality from Linked Records by Age of Mother, Total-Birth Order, and Other Variables (No. 14, DHEW Publication No. (HRA) 74-1851, 52 pp., 85 cents) is an analysis of infant mortality rates for the 1960 live-birth cohort according to maternal age, birth order, illegitimacy, and sex, color, and age at death of infant. The study was undertaken to probe aspects of infant mortality in greater depth than is possible by the usual vital-statistics technique. Data were obtained from 54 vital statistics reporting areas (the 50 States and the cities of Baltimore, New Orleans, New York, and Washington, D.C.). A total of 107,038 certificates of infant death during 1960 and 1961 were matched with certificates of live birth during 1960.

Mortality Trends: Age, Color, and Sex, 1950-69 (No. 15, DHEW Publication No. (HRA) 74-1852, 40 pp., 70 cents) analyzes mortality trends by age, color, and sex in the United States during 1950-69, with primary emphasis on 1960-69 data. An upcoming report in this series will cover trends of causes of death for the 1950-69 period.

Series 21 (Data on natality, marriage and divorce):

100 Years of Marriage and Divorce Statistics, United States, 1867-1967 (No. 24, DHEW Publication No. (HRA) 74-1902, 61 pp., 90 cents) presents the history of U.S. marriage and divorce statistics from 1867 to 1967. The first section of the report describes data collection procedures throughout the time span, including frequency of collection, completeness of coverage, and the types of information collected. Other sections deal with time trends in national and area totals and rates, characteristics of marriages and divorces, and personal characteristics of those marrying and divorcing. The section on characteristics of divorces gives information on duration of marriage prior to decree, duration of separation, children of the divorced, legal grounds, party to whom decree was granted, and other legal variables.

Remarriages (No. 25, DHEW Publication No. (HRA) 74-1903, 27 pp., 65 cents) provides trends for the United States based on estimates, 1965-69, and for the marriage-registration area (MRA) based on probability samples of records from the States participating in the MRA in 1960 and 1963-69. Detailed data on characteristics of remarriages are presented for the MRA in 1969.

NBS GENERAL INTEREST SCIENCE MAGAZINE

A new magazine describing the latest scientific and technical advances over a wide range of topics and written for laymen as well as professionals is being published by the National Bureau of Standards, U.S. Department of Commerce. Entitled *Dimensions/NBS*, this monthly magazine is directed to a "multiform" audience of scientists, engineers, technologists and teachers on the one hand, and to citizens without technical expertise, on the other.

Dimensions/NBS is available by subscription for \$6.50 annually. Single copies may be obtained for 65 cents at U.S. Department of Commerce District Offices throughout the country. Subscription orders should be placed with the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. (RICHARD FRANZEN, NBS, telephone (301) 921-2691.)

THIRD PRODUCTIVITY CONFERENCE

The "Third Conference on Productivity Improvement in the Service Sector of the National Economy" will be held on the campus of Franklin Pierce College, Rindge, New Hampshire, July 28 to August 4, 1974.

Sponsors of the conference are the National Commission on Productivity, the Engineering Foundation and the Commerce Department's Office of Telecommunications and National Bureau of Standards (NBS).

The conference is expected to attract representatives of government, labor, industry, education and the public to assess their role in the use of information transaction technology to increase the productivity of service industries and to identify for consideration significant issues at the policy level.

Service industries include both public services rendered by government agencies and a host of private services ranging from banking to appliance repair.

General chairman of the conference is Alan McAdams of Cornell University, formerly with the President's Council of Economic Advisors. Program chairman is Paul Polishuk, deputy director of the Office of Telecommunications. Conference coordinator is Edwin J. Istvan, associate director of the NBS Institute for Computer Sciences and Technology.

Attendance is limited to 100 persons and is by invitation or application. The conference fee is $180.00 for registration, lodging and meals. Single occupancy rooms carry a $15.00 surcharge.

The series of conferences on productivity improvement in the service sector of the economy began in 1971. Possible future conference topics include consumer, labor and management implications for productivity improvement as well as education, training and mechanization in the field.

The Engineering Foundation conferences were initiated in 1962 to provide an opportunity for the exploration of problems or issues of concern to many disciplines. The Productivity Commission was established in 1970 to focus national attention on the need for productivity growth and to help coordinate public and private efforts toward that end.

Further information may be obtained directly from either the Engineering Foundation, 345 East 47th Street, New York, New York 10017, telephone (212) 752-6800, ext. 294, or Elaine Cardone, Office of Telecommunications, 1325 G Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005, telephone (202) 967-5171.

SELECTED NEW REPORTING PLANS AND FORMS

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

Department of Agriculture

Economic Research Service

Survey of structure and organization of cheese plants (singletime).—This survey is to serve as the basis for an in-depth study of the organizational structure and production conditions of the U.S. cheese industry. The form will collect information on labor force structure, capital equipment and types of processes used, and detailed descriptions of outputs by plant. The purpose is to take account of changes within the industry (e.g., the emergence of regional cooperatives, changes in technology, and changes in output configuration) in light of the growing demand (increase in per capita cheese consumption) since the last benchmark study in 1966 by the National Commission on Food Marketing. The questionnaire was developed with the cooperation of the National Cheese Institute. (For further information: Harold W. Lough, USDA, (202) 447-4879.)

Rural subdivision impacts study for Colorado (singletime).—This is a survey of lot buyers to determine their characteristics and their reasons for buying lots from subdivision developers. A sample of 500 will be selected from 3,054 purchasers of lots from 42 cooperating rural subdivisions in the Sangre-de-Christo RC&D project area of Colorado between July 1, 1967 and July 1, 1972. Final publication of results is scheduled for late September. (For further information: Dwight M. Gadsby, USDA, telephone (202) 447-8353.)

Department of Health, Education, and Welfare

National Institutes of Health

Evaluation of the effectiveness of equal educational opportunity programs in U.S. schools of the health professions (singletime).—This is a survey of 300 health professional schools to obtain information concerning programs designed to encourage enrollment, retention and education of minority and educationally or financially deprived groups. The final report is expected late in 1974. (For further information: William E. Bennett, Bureau of Health Resources Development, telephone (301) 496-5353.)

Factors in successful occupational safety programs (singletime).—This is a pilot study to collect data on the safety and health practices of 75 pairs of establishments in Wisconsin matched with respect to SIC code and number of employees where one member of the pair has a high accident rate and the other member has a low accident rate. As many as 9 industry groups including fabricated metals (SIC 34) and lumber and wool products (SIC 24) will be covered. (For further information: Alexander Cohen, NIOSH/HEW, telephone (513) 684-3540.)

Department of Commerce

Bureau of Economic Analysis

BCD Subscriber Survey (singletime)—This questionnaire is designed to survey the opinions of subscribers to the Bureau's monthly *Business Conditions Digest*. The survey will be part of a comprehensive review of the content of *BCD* in terms of the data included and the methods of presentation and will be used by the BEA in planning future changes in the format and content of *BCD*. A sample of approximately 600 out of an estimated 9,000 *BCD* subscribers will be surveyed. (For further information: Barry Beckman, BEA telephone (301) 763-5550.)

Department of Housing and Urban Development

Office of Policy Development and Research

Housing allowance administrative agency experiment: Jacksonville special study (singletime).—A survey of households unable to find standard housing within 60-90 days of enrollment is planned. Information will be collected on lease and inspection requirements, cost of housing, discrimination, and services required in search process. (For further information: Garland Allen, Office of Policy Development and Research, HUD telephone (202) 755-5606.)

Department of Justice

Law Enforcement Assistance Administration

Survey of the criminal investigation process in municipal and county police departments (singletime).—All municipal and county police departments with 150 or more employees will be surveyed to establish a national profile of the variation in criminal investigation procedures, organizational style, and performance and innovative programs. There are about 270 departments of the required size and 10 of them will be selected for study in depth. (For further information: Richard Layman, Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, telephone (202) 386-6581.)

Department of Transportation

Office of Pipeline Safety

Survey of rapid shutdown in the pipeline industry (singletime).—The questionnaire is designed to gather data on the pipeline industry's experience, problems and solutions, involved in rapid shutdown of failed facilities. It will also measure limitation of overpressures to prevent added failure after shutdown to counteract damage to property, and prevent injuries and deaths. The data will be used to review existing safety standards and to review improved methods. The survey is divided into three separate forms to take account of the varying characteristics of gas transmission, gas distribution and liquid carrier lines. The survey is completely voluntary. Aggregate data will be made available to industry, professional and research groups, and the public. (For further information: Lloyd Ulrich, Office of Pipeline Safety, telephone (202) 426-2082.)

PERSONNEL NOTES

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Bureau of Standards: ARTHUR O. MCCOUBREY, formerly with Frequency & Time Systems Inc., Danvers, Mass., has been named director of the Institute for Basic Standards. The Institute for Basic Standards serves the Nation's scientific, industrial and commercial communities with units, standards and methods of measurement of high accuracy and reliability. As the United States' central link to the International System of Measurement (SI), IBS provides accurate realizations of a wide range of units such as the mechanical quantities of mass, force, pressure, of temperature and time frequency of electrical units from direct current to microwaves and of radiation quantities from the infra-red through the visible to ionizing radiation.

Social and Economic Statistics Administration

Bureau of Economic Analysis: MARY K. HOOK, formerly with the Council of Economic Advisers, has joined the Current

Business Analysis Division as an economist. ANNE L. PROBST, formerly a consulting economist with Foster Associates, has joined the National Income and Wealth Division.

Bureau of the Census: KENNETH BRIMMER, previously designated as "Acting" has been officially designated as Chief, National Prisoner Statistics Branch, Demographic Surveys Division. EVAN DAVEY has been named Chief, Health Statistics Branch, Demographic Surveys Division. DONALD R. JAHNKE has been designated Chief of the Crops Statistics Branch, and JOHN E. ADKINS, Chief of the Programming Branch, Agriculture Division.

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

The following persons have joined the Division of Science Resources Studies, Manpower Characteristics Studies Group, as program analysts: NANCY CONLON, formerly a statistician at the National Cancer Institute; and JOHN A. SCOPINO, formerly a staff associate, Office of Science Information Service, NSF.

SCHEDULE OF RELEASE DATES FOR PRINCIPAL FEDERAL ECONOMIC INDICATORS

May 1974

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

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

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

Date		Subject	Data for
May	1	Construction Expenditures (Press release), Census, C-30 (69)	March
	1	Condition Report of Large Commercial Banks, Federal Reserve (FRS), H.4.2 (72)	Week ending April 24
	2	Money Stock Measures, FRS, H.6 (85, 102, 103)	Week ending April 24
	2	Factors Affecting Bank Reserves and Condition Statement of Federal Reserve Banks, FRS, H.4.1 (93)	Week ending May 1
	2	Manufacturers' Export Sales and Orders, Census M4-A (506)	March
	3	U.S. Government Security Yields and Prices, FRS, G.14 (114)	April
	3	Consumer Credit, FRS, G.19 (66, 113)	March
	3	The Employment Situation, Bureau of Labor Statistics, (BLS), (1, 21, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 740, 841-848)	April
	6	Monthly Wholesale Trade (Press release), Census, BW	March
	7	Retail Trade Report (Press release), Census (54)	March
	8	Condition Report of Large Commercial Banks, FRS, H.4.2 (72)	Week ending May 1
	9	Money Stock Measures, FRS, H.6 (85, 102, 103)	Week ending May 1
	9	Factors Affecting Bank Reserves and Condition Statement of Federal Reserve Banks, FRS, H.4.1 (93)	Week ending May 8
	9	Wholesale Price Index, BLS, (55, 58, 750, 751, 752)	April

Date	Subject	Data for
May 10	Advance Monthly Retail Sales (Press release) Census, (54)	April
15	Yields on FHA Insured New Home 30-Year Mortgages, HUD, (118)	May 1
15	Manufacturing and Trade Inventories and Sales, Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), (31, 56, 71, 851)	March
15	Balance of Payments, (Official reserve transactions balance and net liquidity balance), BEA, (521, 522)	1 Q '74
15	Industrial Production and Related Data, FRS, G.12.3 (47, 853)	April
15	Condition Report of Large Commercial Banks, FRS, H.4.2 (72)	Week ending May 8
16	Money Stock Measures, FRS, H.6 (85, 102, 103)	Week ending May 8
16	Factors Affecting Bank Reserves and Condition Statement of Federal Reserve Banks, FRS, H.4.1 (93)	Week ending May 15
16	Personal Income, BEA, (52, 53)	April
16	Housing Starts (Press release), Census, C-20 (28, 29)	April
17	Corporate Profits, BEA, (16, 22, 68)	1 Q '74
17	Federal Receipts and Expenditures, NIA Basis, BEA, (600, 601, 602)	1 Q '74
17	Gross National Product (Revised), BEA, (200, 205)	1 Q '74
21	Consumer Price Index, BLS (781, 782, 783, 784)	April
21	Real Earnings, BLS, (741, 859)	April
21	Advance Report on Durable Goods, Manufacturers' Shipments and Orders, Census, (6, 24, 25, 96, 647, 648)	April
22	Condition Report of Large Commercial Banks, FRS, H.4.2 (72)	Week ending May 15
23	Money Stock Measures, FRS, H.6 (85, 102, 103)	Week ending May 15
23	Factors Affecting Bank Reserves and Condition Statement of Federal Reserve Banks, FRS, H.4.1 (93)	Week ending May 22
23	Average Yields of Long-Term Bonds, Treasury Bulletin (115, 116)	April
24	Productivity and Costs in Nonfinancial Corporations, BLS	1 Q '74
28	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
29	Condition Report of Large Commercial Banks, FRS, H.4.2 (72)	Week ending May 22
30	Money Stock Measures, FRS, H.6 (85, 102, 103)	Week ending May 22
30	Factors Affecting Bank Reserves and Condition Statement of Federal Reserve Banks, H.4.1 (93)	Week ending May 29
30	Defense Indicators, BEA, (625)	April
31	Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders, Census, M3-1 (20, 65, 852)	April
31	Agricultural Prices (Agriculture)	Mid-May

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