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Current developments in Federal statistics

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STATISTICAL REPORTER

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The Applied Statistics Training Institute (ASTI)

BY ANDERS S. LUNDE, *Director, Office of State Services*

*National Center for Health Statistics*¹

The Applied Statistics Training Institute (ASTI) of the National Center for Health Statistics, Health Services and Mental Health Administration, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare completed its fourth year of operation in June, 1972. Between 1968 and 1972 over 1100 students participated in 58 course presentations. These students came from every State, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Guam; there were several foreign participants mainly from Canada. As an example of a program tailored to meet a long-standing need in the Federal-State-Local health statistics system, it has met with general acceptance, accomplished its initial mission and has, we believe, fully justified its establishment. The ASTI program is located at the National Center for Health Statistics Developmental Laboratory facility at Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, a center of theoretical and applied research activity. Primarily designed for State and local health statisticians, executives, administrators, and allied staff, ASTI offers short-term, practical training, usually of one or two weeks duration, in vital and health statistics.

For many years State and local health departments through their registration and vital and health statistics offices had requested the Federal government for assistance in training statistical staffs and related personnel. At the Tenth Public Health Conference on Records and Statistics held in Washington, June 1964, the Study Group on Recruitment and Training of Registrars and Statisticians recommended that a single agency be developed within NCHS responsible for leadership in training all levels and types of personnel. It was suggested that a continuing educational program on the methods and techniques of statistics in the health field be planned. More specifically the Study Group urged the establishment of a training center to provide training in

statistical methods for persons experienced in the health field, to provide initial training in statistical methods for professional personnel newly recruited to the health field, to provide for the interchange of personnel experienced in health statistics between universities and State and Federal health agencies, to attract by direct involvement the interest of university health statistics personnel to the problem of training in program statistics, and to provide for the recruitment of professional statisticians to the health statistics field. The National Center for Health Statistics, seen by the Study Group as the parent agency of such a training center for health statistics, was asked to provide a physical facility, and arrange a program involving State and local health agencies. All these recommendations have been realized in the present ASTI program.

Numerous inquiries continued to be made. The need for some kind of NCHS training was stressed by the American Association for Vital Records and Public Health Statistics and was again mentioned strongly at the Eleventh Public Health Conference in June 1966. In the ensuing months considerable thought was given to the possible implementation of a broad program to train the health statistical staff of State and local health departments. The organization of training programs was not new to the NCHS staff. Courses and workshops on Cause-of-Death coding designed for the training of nosologists in the International Classification of Diseases had been a Federal responsibility through most of the 20th Century and had been administered by the national vital statistics conference and training activity. Occasional courses and seminars had been conducted by the National Office of Vital Statistics and later by the NCHS, such as one held in 1965 entitled "Training Institute on Electronic Data Processing in Health Departments". The new pressing requests required a more extensive plan than anything considered previously.

A Task Force on Training was formed in the spring of 1967 to examine the entire matter of training for

¹Health Services and Mental Health Administration, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare

State and local health statistics personnel, to explore the feasibility of establishing a training office in NCHS, and to make plans for developing a training facility. A letter from the Center Director to State and local health directors requesting comments on the general proposal of developing a training center elicited unanimous support from all respondents. The letter also requested suggestions for needed courses. Over 250 course titles were proposed—enough to start a university! It was then decided that a training program would be established and that it would be located in the Research Triangle Park, North Carolina area where the NCHS had already placed part of its Data Processing operation. The Director of the Office of State Services, NCHS, Chairman of the Task Force, moved to North Carolina to oversee the development of a program.

One of the early problems was the selection of a name for the program. There were many suggestions including NCHS Training Center, Health Statistics Training Program, and Health Statistics Staff College, among others. At a meeting of a Social Science Research Council Conference on Statistics in Federal, State, Local and Industrial Organizations, in Washington D.C., May 1967, the proposed program was discussed. One point seemed to be emphasized—the need to stress applied rather than theoretical statistics in practical educational efforts. As the proposed program was to concentrate on the applied practical aspects of public health statistics, the name Applied Statistics Training Institute, suggested itself. It stuck.

The major problem was the design of the overall program. How many courses could be offered each year? What categories of courses should be emphasized? How long should courses be? These were all questions that had to be answered. The basic training needs as perceived by the health directors were analyzed and balanced against what the NCHS believed would improve the quality of the national as well as state and local health statistics activity. It was agreed that the courses should not be primarily academic in focus and that they should not compete with university-type courses. The length of presentations was important as employees could not be away from their jobs for extended periods of time. Visits were made to the Training Program of the Communicable Disease Center in Atlanta, and advice on program development was obtained from the Institute for Air Pollution Training, now in the Office of Air Programs, Environmental Protection Agency. These offices, with considerable training experience behind them, assisted in setting up course patterns and program goals. In the

end an initial year's pattern of one course per month with each course not to exceed two weeks was developed.

For the first year's program a basic categorization of courses was developed: administration, vital and health statistics, statistical methods and techniques, data presentation, data processing, and cause-of-death classification. The FY 69 schedule offered the following ten courses:

- The Registration of Vital Records and Records Management
- Uses of Vital Records and Vital Statistics
- Natality: Measurement and Analysis
- Mortality: Measurement and Analysis
- Morbidity: Measurement and Analysis
- Elements of Health Surveys
- Introduction to Demographic Analysis
- Methods of Estimating Population
- Capabilities and Limitations of Computer Systems: An Executive Seminar
- Advanced Cause-of-Death Classification

This modest beginning may be compared to the 28 presentations planned for FY 73 which include, to mention only a few, Research Design in the Evaluation of Health Programs; Statistics in Epidemiology; Statistics for Comprehensive Health Planning; Family Planning Statistics: Their Measurement and Evaluation; Statistical Methods in Public Health; and Health Resources Statistics.

In the 4 years of operation certain courses have been identified as being basic, that is, of filling a need for preparatory or introductory training. Others at all levels seem to be constant-demand courses with the focus on current problems for which specialized training is required. Whenever new Federal Programs are introduced, such as comprehensive health planning and family planning, the demands for training in statistics related to these programs immediately arise. Every effort is made to evaluate the needs and to determine that a training effort is required. If a need is indicated for the country as a whole ASTI will schedule the course as resources permit. One State, concerned that its local program directors did not know how to make use of State and county data, offered to develop a special course on data sources and utilization for the ASTI program. This course is being developed for presentation first in that State and then in other areas.

From the beginning when funds were low the instructors have been principally experts from the NCHS staff. As the program has grown increased use has been made of outside instructors including university faculty,

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primarily from the Schools of Public Health, State and local health officials, and authorities from other Federal agencies such as the Bureau of the Census, the National Institute of Mental Health, the Environmental Health Service, and the Center for Disease Control.

The students for the most part have come from the regular State and local health agencies where they are employed as administrators, program directors, statisticians, statistical analysts, data processors, and clerks. The rest represent the entire spectrum of the health field including comprehensive health planning agencies, regional medical programs, State planning departments, and hospital planning agencies. Federal agencies represented in the student body have been the Center for Disease Control; the Indian Health Service; National Institute of Mental Health; National Institutes of Health; Community Health Service, HSMHA; Food and Drug Administration and Environmental Protection Agency. Some university graduate students and professors have enrolled and there have been a few from private industry. Overall, over half of the students come from State agencies; another thirty percent come from local agencies, and the rest are evenly divided between Federal agencies and non-government organizations.

The prime prerequisites for admission to most courses are a university undergraduate degree or its equivalent, experience in the field, or identifiable program responsibility. In terms of educational background the record is impressive. In fiscal year 1971, some 30% had A.B. or B.S. degrees with another 12% not having completed undergraduate study. Master's degrees were held by 28%, 9% had Ph.D. or M.D. degrees, while another 13% had some graduate work completed. In other words, about half of the students had graduate training. This does not mean that lower level employees were overlooked. Some courses were designed for non-professional and clerical health occupations; among the students, 8% had a high school education and another 12% had some college training.

By the end of the third year it was obvious that most of the students attending courses at Research Triangle Park came from east of the Mississippi River. States requested that more regional courses be provided; this was put into effect in FY 72 with regular courses being offered in California, Colorado and Texas. In addition courses related to Cause-of-Death classification were scheduled for Alabama, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Missouri, New York, Nevada, South Carolina, and Utah. Regional courses are arranged through cooper-

ation with HEW Regional Offices, State and local health departments, and Schools of Public Health located in the area.

The ASTI program is under constant surveillance by the NCHS to determine that the needs of the States and local areas are being met and that the program is developing in the right direction. Aside from the routine administrative program reviews, the activity is advised by the ASTI Council, a kind of educational board of regents, of which the NCHS Director is Chairman.

Special advisory meetings with administrative and statistical consultants are held on an average of once a year to assess course content and program expansion. In March 1970 a special advisory seminar of educators, state officials, biostatisticians, and NCHS staff discussed the future development of ASTI. Among the points covered were long-term career development, extension of instruction periods, techniques of presentation, teacher training, production of training manuals, and the development of a core-course element. This last point has now been incorporated; "core courses" are provided each semester for beginning persons in the field of public health statistics or for those who wish to receive preparatory training before taking advanced courses. One of the new courses developed by NCHS in this area, "Introduction to ADP for Health Occupation Specialists", has been very well received.

In March 1971 as the result of a recommendation by the APHA Statistics Section Committee on Education and Training of Statisticians for Health Agencies the NCHS organized a special meeting to discuss the respective programs of ASTI and the Departments of Biostatistics of the Schools of Public Health. All heads of the departments, or their representatives, participated; State health officials were also present. The APHA committee had reported the results of their survey which showed that about 53 percent of the interrogated agencies intended to use the ASTI program for training and that the State and city health departments seemed especially aware of the offerings of ASTI. About three-fourths of them were reported as planning to send personnel to ASTI for training. The meeting was beneficial to all concerned and respective roles in health statistics education were clarified. As a result ASTI is working more closely with Schools of Public Health in program development. Because of the success of this meeting arrangements are being made to hold similar meetings on a biennial basis. It is expected that the interchange of ideas on meeting the growing needs of Federal, State, and local statistical offices will improve the academic programs of the

Schools of Public Health as well as making more effective the ASTI activity.

In May 1972 a Technical Consultant Panel on the training of health statistics personnel in State and local health departments under an expanded ASTI program met at Research Triangle Park to develop a long-range educational program. Members of the panel were vital statistics and statistical officials of State and city statistical departments, and professors of biostatistics of schools of public health. The officials represented the American Association of Vital Records and Public Health Statistics. One charge focused on the requirements of the Federal-State-Local Cooperative Health Statistics System and how ASTI could develop a recruitment and training plan to support it. The recommendations of this panel will provide direction for the implementation of the training aspects of the System.

The Federal government conducts large scale training programs through a variety of agencies—some whose sole responsibility is in education and training. The ASTI program of NCHS, focusing on vital and health statistics training for State and local personnel, is the only one of its kind in the Federal system. Last year the World Health Organization, through its Office for the Development of Health Statistical Services, ex-

pressed considerable interest in ASTI and considered recommending similar programs to other countries. While the program is now firmly established in the United States the ASTI staff is fully aware that the demands for ASTI services have grown more pressing. The need for health statisticians has increased along with the development of new Federal health programs and the growth of public concern over health services delivery and its cost to consumers. Requests from States on how to use existing data, and how to resolve the problem of new data needs are partially being met by ASTI training. Practical instruction related to the entire statistical field, involving the collection, processing, analysis, and presentation of data, will have to be expanded if additional needs are to be met.

Thus far, feedback from the States indicates that the ASTI program is fulfilling its mission of providing much needed instruction in vital and health statistics and related subjects. Current plans call for placing more courses in the field to make them accessible to local areas, increasing ASTI involvement with universities, developing new courses, and programming combinations of courses to provide more comprehensive career-related education. The result should be an improvement in statistical performance at all levels in Federal, State, and local government.

CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

PILOT STUDY ON PLANT CAPACITY

The Industry Division of the Bureau of the Census has recently undertaken a pilot study on the utilization of plant capacity in American industry. The purpose of the study is to determine if meaningful statistics on capacity can be collected from a broad spectrum of industries at the establishment level. Essentially, the pilot questionnaire will ask the respondent to identify his actual level, desired level, and practical capacity level in the fourth quarter 1971. "Practical capacity" is the greatest level of output the establishment could achieve within the framework of a realistic work pattern. The "desired level" is defined as a point between the actual and practical capacity levels which management would not wish to exceed because of cost or other considerations.

The survey plan calls for a sample of approximately 1,000 establishments to be drawn from the 1971 Annual Survey of Manufactures sample panel of 65,000 manufacturing plants. The sample will be dominated by plants with 250 or more employees but will include approximately 100 smaller establishments. Major Standard Industrial Classification Groups 19, 23, 27, 31, 39, and a few selected 4-digit SIC industries will not be represented because these industries are either lightly capitalized or have special reporting problems. No more than two plants will be selected from any one company.

The pilot survey will be conducted by mail, with mail, telephone, and field interview follow-ups. The field interviews will include a discussion of the quality of responses from respondents and reporting problems in the case of nonrespondents.

Copies of the pilot study questionnaire may be obtained by calling 301-763-5409 or by writing Industry Division, Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C. 20233. (WAYNE M. McCAUGHEY, INDUSTRY DIVISION, BUREAU OF THE CENSUS.)

LABOR PRODUCTIVITY IN THE FEDERAL SECTOR

A study for the Joint Economic Committee of Congress, *Measuring and Enhancing Productivity in the Federal Sector*, conducted during fiscal year 1972 as a joint project by the Civil Service Commission, the General Accounting Office and the Office of Management and Budget, reports on their pilot effort to construct overall productivity indices for the Federal sector. Following a Phase I inventory of 17 agencies using quantitative work measurement systems, it was deemed feasible to construct (labor) productivity indices for various organizational components. In addition, the study effort sought to improve the use of such measurement system, to expand the use of unit costs, and to encourage greater use of effective measures.

The study covers 605 output products of 114 organizational elements, including the Postal Service, amounting to 1,560,000 man-years or about 56% of the civilian personnel employed by the 17 participating Executive agencies. The aggregate productivity index increased by 7.7% during the reference period, fiscal years 1967-71, or at an average annual rate of about 1.9%. Per unit of output, labor costs increased nearly 30% in current year dollars, but declined over 7% on a constant 1967 dollar basis. Further, the study draws some illustrative inferences from (labor) productivity measurement with respect to management, capital investment, and overall budgeting decisions, and identifies several potential areas for enhancing Federal productivity.

Since the study is a preliminary effort with only slightly more than one-half of Federal employment included in the computed indices, it should not be used to generalize for the whole Federal Government. The report does bring into serious question, however, the common assumption of a "zero-rate" of productivity growth for Federal Government personnel. A continuation of the joint project during fiscal year 1973 will seek to expand coverage, and to refine measurements and management applications. Extension of common function measures to State and local levels is also proposed.

Copies of *Measuring and Enhancing Productivity in the Federal Sector* (139 pp., 60 cents) (Catalog No. Y4.EC7P94/20.) may be purchased from the Superin-

tendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. (NEIL S. WEINER, STATISTICAL POLICY DIVISION, OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET.)

TIME FROM START TO COMPLETION OF RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

The Bureau of the Census has released a report dealing with the length of time required from the start of construction to completion of private residential buildings. The study is based on buildings completed in 1971 and appears as a supplement to the report, "Housing Completions," July 1972, *Current Construction Reports*, series C22-72-7 (10 pp., 10 cents). The study will also be incorporated in other construction reports.

Copies of *Current Construction Reports*, series C22-72-7 are for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. (ELINOR CADOURA, CONSTRUCTION STATISTICS DIVISION, BUREAU OF THE CENSUS.)

MEDICARE STANDARDS FOR AUTOMATED LABORATORIES

A study of Medicare standards for automated hospital and independent clinical laboratories is being made under contract by Auerbach Corporation of Philadelphia for the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. One of the responsibilities of the Community Health Service, Health Services and Mental Health Administration, in conjunction with its role as consultant to the Social Security Administration on professional aspects of Medicare is to develop, assess and evaluate standards applied in health care facilities, including clinical laboratories. The purpose of this survey is to provide further information about the independent clinical laboratories certified under Medicare as part of a larger study on laboratory automation.

When the Medicare regulations for independent laboratories were written in 1966, there were relatively few automated laboratories. Now automation has increased to the point that relevant standards for this type of laboratory are necessary. Before standards can be developed, however, the present state of the art of laboratory automation must be determined. One means of assessing current use and determining future trends is to query the laboratory directors and owners who use or are likely to use automated equipment. A questionnaire will be

sent to a randomly selected sample of independent and hospital laboratories on the Social Security Administration's list of laboratories certified under Medicare which perform tests in Chemistry, Hematology, Immunohematology or Serology, specialties in which automated equipment is currently available and in use.

The data on the nature and extent of laboratory automation will be analyzed to assess the need for new or revised certification standards and a final report describing the study and presenting the recommended standards is due from the contractor at the end of October 1972. (BARBARA C. NAGEL, DIVISION OF MEDICAL CARE STANDARDS, COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICE, HEALTH SERVICES AND MENTAL ADMINISTRATION, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE.)

HOUSEHOLD INCOME IN 1971

The Bureau of the Census recently released a report on household income in 1971 and selected social and economic characteristics of households. This report contains information on households by total money income in 1971, by age, educational attainment, sex, race, occupation and employment, status of head, and farm-non-farm residence. In addition, the report contains data on households by total money income, by size of household, relationship of household members, and presence of own children.

Copies of the report, "Household Money Income in 1971 and Selected Social and Economic Characteristics of Households," *Current Population Reports*, Series P-60, No. 84 (20 pp., 20 cents), are for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. (EMMETT SPIERS, POPULATION DIVISION, BUREAU OF THE CENSUS.)

PERCENT OF INCOME SPENT FOR FOOD

The Economic Research Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture publishes quarterly a continuing statistical series showing annual food expenditures as a percent of after-tax income. The series is calculated from the national income accounts (NIA) published by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce. It is simply the food component (excluding alcoholic beverages) of personal consumption expenditures divided by disposable personal income. This proportion declined from 20% in 1960 to 16% in 1971, indicating a larger proportion of the Nation's aggregate income available for other goods and services.

These percentages are often cited as if they represent a typical family situation, which they do not. Disposable personal income in NIA accounts includes components such as imputed rental value of owned homes and imputed interest. These are not commonly considered income by families. In addition, food expenditures include food received as pay and food consumed on farms where grown. The percentage is also affected by the skewed distribution of household incomes compared with the more normal distribution of food expenditures.

The effect of these characteristics of NIA on the food-income percentage can be measured to some extent by comparing those data with expenditure and income data obtained from household surveys. An article, "Percent of Income Spent for Food—Estimates from National Income and Household Survey Data" by Fredericka Bunting and Corinne Le Bovit (*National Food Situation*, August 1971) makes such a comparison. They compared the 1955 and 1965 USDA Household Food Consumption Surveys and the 1960-61 BLS Consumer Expenditure Surveys with the NIA data for the same years. The adjustment of the NIA data to household definitions raised the percentage by 1 or 2 points, mostly because of exclusion of some income items from NIA. Even after the adjustments there were some large differences between the NIA percentages and those from USDA survey data for 1955 and 1965. Specific causes of these differences were not identified but the scope, coverage, and reporting errors in the surveys could be contributing factors.

Subsequent study of survey data showed that the use of median rather than mean after-tax income raises the percentage about 3 points. Thus the 16% estimated from 1971 NIA data probably understates the percentage for a median income household by about 4 percentage points. The following compares various percentages in 1960-61.

Source	Food expenditures as a percent of income			
	Before tax		After tax	
	Mean	Median	Mean	Median
Consumer Expenditure Survey, BLS	21%	—	23%	26%
National income accounts	17	—	20	—
Census household survey ¹	—	25	—	—

¹ Median household income from *Current Population Reports*, P-60 series; average per capita food expenditure from NIA multiplied by average household size.

The percentage of income spent for food differs greatly by income class. Not only is the percentage lower with higher household incomes in a particular year, but

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it has declined over time as the general level of income has risen. For example, urban families of 2 or more persons with \$1,000 to \$2,000 income spent 42% for food in 1950 while those with \$7,500-\$10,000 spent 24%. In 1960-61 the percentages covered a similar range, but at each income level the percentage was 1 to 3 points lower.

Both the percentages derived from NIA and those from survey data have a place in the array of statistical data. In a macro-economic context, the NIA data measure the proportion of the Nation's aggregate income which is devoted to personal food consumption. In the micro context, the household surveys are more meaningful to those interested in average expenditures in basic consuming units.

Copies of the article on "Percent of Income Spent for Food—Estimates from National Income and Household Survey Data" are available from the Division of Information, Office of Management Services, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250. (HAZEN F. GALE, HEAD, FOOD CONSUMPTION AND UTILIZATION SECTION, ECONOMIC AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS DIVISION, ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE.)

TWO NEW SSA REPORTS

The Office of Research and Statistics in the Social Security Administration has announced the availability of two new publications.

General Characteristics of the Disabled Population (Report No. 19, July 1972; also published in a shorter form in the August 1972 issue of the *Social Security Bulletin*), was authored by Kathryn H. Allan and Mildred E. Cinsky. This report presents data on the social, economic, demographic, and health characteristics of noninstitutionalized disabled adults in relation to the severity of disability. The data are derived from the 1966 Social Security Survey of Disabled Adults. The objectives of the survey included assessment of the effects of severity of disability on income, occupation, work and family adjustments, medical care, and rehabilitation. Many of the survey findings were presented in earlier reports of this series (Reports No. 1-18).

Homeownership and Financial Assets: Findings From the 1968 Survey of the Aged (Report No. 5, August 1972; also published in the August 1972 issue of the *Social Security Bulletin*), was prepared by Janet Murray. This information is from the 1968 Survey of the Demographic and Economic Characteristics of the Aged,

based on supplemental questions asked in the monthly Current Medicare Survey. Some of the survey findings include: Equity in the owned home and holdings of financial assets are the two major forms of savings held by those aged 65 and over; over three-fourths of the married couples and over a third of the nonmarried persons owned homes, mostly mortgage free; and half the aged units had financial assets of only \$550 or less. Other articles on the findings of this survey appear in Reports No. 1-4.

Single copies of these reports are available for official use from the Publications Staff, Office of Research and Statistics, Social Security Administration, U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Washington, D.C. 20201, or by calling 382-3439 (within Government, 128-3439). (ROBERT ROBINSON, CHIEF, PUBLICATIONS STAFF, OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND STATISTICS, SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE.)

NATIONAL WHITE-COLLAR SALARY SURVEY

Initial results from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' annual national salary survey of white-collar occupations in private industry have been announced in a U.S. Department of Labor news release. They show that average white-collar salaries rose 4.4% between June 1971 and March 1972. Adjusted to an annual rate of increase, average salaries were up 5.9% for 1971-72, compared with 6.6% for 1970-71, and 6.2% for 1969-70.

The release contains March 1972 salary information for 77 work levels selected from the following fields: Accounting, law, personnel management, engineering (including technicians), chemistry, purchasing, drafting, clerical supervisory and clerical. The study is used by the administrative agencies responsible for reviewing Federal salary levels, as well as by persons in private industry, labor unions and economic research.

Copies of the release are available from the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Office of Publications, Washington, D.C. 20212. A full report, titled *National Survey of Professional, Administrative, Technical, and Clerical Pay, March 1972*, will be published late this year and will be available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. (GEORGE L. STELLUTO, DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL WAGE STRUCTURES, BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.)

THE BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

The Bureau of the Census is the title of a recently published book by A. Ross Eckler, the Director of the Bureau of the Census from 1965 until 1969 and its Deputy Director from 1949 to 1965.

The author chronicles not only the early history of the Bureau but also the changes that have overtaken the agency in its attempts to measure and document changes in the numbers, life-styles, and pursuits of twentieth-century Americans. His book does much to clarify the reasons behind those seemingly personal questions asked by the census takers every 10 years.

Dr. Eckler devotes several chapters to the less well-known work of the Bureau on current statistics, the economic censuses, statistical research and development, and cooperation with foreign statistical agencies and the international organizations. Among other subjects discussed are the confidentiality of census returns, the public relations activities of the Bureau, and the annual appearances before the Senate and House Appropriations committees. The book concludes with observations on the future of the Census Bureau and comments on the current issue of privacy versus centralizing statistical information in a national data bank.

The Bureau of the Census (268 pp., \$9) was published in the series of the Praeger Library of the U.S. Government Departments and Agencies.

AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION FELLOWS

The following Federal Government statisticians were among the 42 selected as "Fellows of the American Statistical Association" in a ceremony on August 15, 1972 at the Association's annual meetings in Montreal:

BEN BURDETSKY, Deputy Commissioner, Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, for his effectiveness as an administrator of Federal programs in the field of labor statistics and for his energetic development through cooperative efforts with state governments of new statistical measures of job vacancies and of occupational employment, safety and health.

TAVIA GORDON, Supervisory Statistician, Biometrics Research Branch, National Heart and Lung Institute for his pioneering work in the planning, data collection and analysis of the National Health Examination Surveys and for the development of analytical methods and fundamental statistics in the area of cardiovascular epidemiology.

J. RICHARD GRANT, Assistant Director and Clearance Officer, Standards and Research Division, Statistical Reporting Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, for his superior contributions to the improvement of statistical standards and techniques used in the collection of agricultural statistics.

DENIS F. JOHNSTON, Senior Demographic Statistician, Office of Manpower Structure and Trends, Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, and Professorial Lecturer in Sociology at Georgetown University, for his contributions in the application of demographic techniques and sociological insights in the analysis of labor force statistics and for his contributions to long-term population and labor force projections.

HAROLD A. KAHN, Chief, Office of Biometry and Epidemiology, National Eye Institute, for his many consulting and collaborative activities in several important fields of health research.

SHIRLEY KALLEK, Chief, Economic Statistics and Surveys Division, and Chief, 1972 Economic Censuses Staff, U.S. Bureau of the Census, for her innovative work in developing new data series, especially on minority business enterprise, and for her outstanding contribution to the improvement of existing industry statistics through effective administration and improved application of computer techniques.

EARL S. POLLACK, Assistant Chief, Biometry Branch, National Institute of Mental Health, for his outstanding contributions to the development of methods for the collection, processing and analysis of data on the epidemiology of mental disorders and the care of the mentally ill.

E. FRED SCHULTZ, Jr., Director, Biometrical Services Staff, Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, for his outstanding contributions to the field of applied statistics as a teacher, researcher and consultant and for his able administration of the Biometrical Services Staff.

In addition to the Federal Government statisticians, others selected for this honor included:

SYLVIA OSTRY, Chief Statistician, Statistics Canada, for pioneering contributions to statistical and analytical studies of the Canadian labor market, for leadership in the development of Canadian manpower data and for her effective direction of policy-oriented economic research at the Economic Council of Canada.

ANN R. MILLER, Research Associate Professor of Sociology, Population Studies Center, University of

Pennsylvania, for her excellent contributions to the development, improvement and analysis of labor force statistics in the United States, with particular reference to her contributions to labor force demography and occupational classifications. Mrs. Miller serves as a consultant to the Statistical Policy Division, Office of Management and Budget.

INDIANAPOLIS HOSTS FIRST CENSUS USE STUDY DIME WORKSHOP

Indianapolis hosted the first in a series of DIME (geographic base) file training workshops organized by the Census Use Study of the Bureau of the Census, in cooperation with the National Association of Regional Councils and with the support of the Ford Foundation, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the Defense Civil Preparedness Agency of the Department of Defense. The workshops are designed for systems analysts, planners, programmers, and other subject-matter oriented professionals responsible for the manipulation of local and census data. A 2-day managers' seminar was held at the end of the first workshop to speak with managers and decision makers about the benefits of implementing a DIME system.

Thirty-nine participants and representatives from Federal departments attended the first workshop. An additional 27 regional council executives and other local managers joined the workshop for the 2-day seminar.

The training program was designed to demonstrate various techniques for testing the quality of the DIME files and for implementing and maintaining a DIME

system. An on-site computer terminal was used in the training process. Practical examples of applications from the Census Use Study's demonstration experiences in New Haven, Los Angeles, and Indianapolis were used. Participants were also asked to submit descriptions of local projects which would be suitable for consideration during the sessions on applications of DIME and related computer products.

The second DIME workshop is planned for Atlanta in late October. In addition to the Census Use Study staff, experts on the DIME system and small-area data analysis will be part of the workshop staff. Time will be allotted during the program for individual consultation with Census Use Study experts and consultants. (DOROTHY BOMBERGER, DATA USER SERVICES OFFICE, BUREAU OF THE CENSUS.)

HAWAII DATA BOOK

The 1972 State of *Hawaii Data Book*, containing 248 pages in two volumes, was recently published by the State Department of Planning and Economic Development. The second volume is a supplement consisting of State of Hawaii Census Tract Maps and a directory of Hawaii map sources. The main volume has 22 sections on such subjects as population, vital statistics and health, land use and ownership, recreation and tourism, construction and housing.

The two-volume publication is available from the Department's Information Office, 20 South King Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804, for \$4 in the State, or \$5 airmailed elsewhere.

PERSONNEL NOTES

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Office of Management and Budget: JUSTINE RODRIGUEZ, formerly Second Vice President of the Chase Manhattan Bank in New York, has joined the staff of the Office of Planning and Economic Affairs.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Social and Economic Statistics Administration: International Statistical Programs reports the following change in its overseas advisory staff operating under the Technical Assistance

Programs of the Agency for International Development: JOHN C. RUMFORD, Demographic Surveys Adviser, has completed a regular tour of duty in Liberia and returned to the U.S. for home leave and reassignment.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

National Center for Health Statistics: ARTHUR L. WHITAKER, III, formerly with the Field Division, Demographic Branch, Bureau of the Census, has joined the Office of the Center Director as field statistical consultant for the Cooperative Fed-

eral-State-Local Health Statistics System. JOAN W. BRACKETT, formerly with the research staff of the Urban Institute, has joined the staff of the Division of Vital Statistics as a social science analyst.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Division of Research and Statistics: WILLIAM WILES, Banking Markets Section, has been designated as Deputy Program Director for Banking Structure. JAMES WETZEL has returned to the National Income Section after a 1-year leave of absence at the Council of Economic Advisers. STEVEN SALOP, Ph.D. candidate at Yale University, has joined the staff of the Special Studies Section. EDWIN WESS, formerly in private business,

JOHN MINGO, formerly an Assistant Professor at the University of Montana, and ROBERT DUGGER, formerly a Research Fellow at the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond and a Ph.D. candidate at the University of North Carolina, have joined the staff of the Banking Markets Section. FRANK RUSSEK, who recently completed his Ph.D. degree requirements at the University of Maryland has joined the staff of the Government Finance Section. FREDERICK STRUBLE, formerly in the Banking Section, has transferred to the Government Finance Section. RICHARD PETERSON, formerly an Assistant Professor at Southern Methodist University, has joined the staff of the Consumer Credit and Finances Section. JAMES PFLUEGER, formerly in the Division of Data Processing, has transferred to the Consumer Credit and Finances Section. EDWIN PRICE, Ph.D. candidate at the University of Kentucky, has joined the staff of the Business Conditions Section.

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 Domestic Commerce

Franchising in the economy 1971-1973 (singletime).—Will provide an updating of the 1969-71 published report on franchising activity. The new survey form requests actual 1971 data and 1972-73 anticipated totals from the approximately 1,500 U.S. franchisor firms in 17 different industries. Data items will include: number

of outlets operated by franchisees; those operated by franchisor firms themselves; volume of actual or anticipated sales and costs each year; changes in franchise outlet ownership; employment; extent of foreign operations; and extent of minority group participation as franchisees.

Bureau of the Census

November 1972 voting supplement (singletime).—Questions on voting and registration will be asked of all household members 18 years old and over. Supplemental information will be obtained on reasons for nonvoting and nonregistration. These questions are sponsored by the Bureau of the Census as part of their continuing research in the area of social statistics. Similar information on voting was gathered after the elections of 1964, 1966, 1968, and 1970.

SCHEDULE OF RELEASE DATES FOR PRINCIPAL FEDERAL ECONOMIC INDICATORS

October 1972

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>
October 2	Construction Expenditures (press release), Census C-30 (69)	.....August
3	Consumer Credit, Federal Reserve (FRS) G.19 66, 113)	.....August
3	Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders, Census, M3-1 (20, 65, 852)	.....August
4	U.S. Government Security Yields and Prices, FRS, G.14 (114)	...September
4	Condition Report of Large Commercial Banks, FRS, H.4.2 (72)	.....Week ending September 27
5	Money Stock Measures, FRS, H.6 (85, 102, 103)	.....Week ending September 27
5	Factors Affecting Bank Reserves and Condition Statement of Federal Reserve Banks, FRS, H.4.1 (93)	.....Week ending October 4
5	Manufacturers' Export Sales and Orders, Census, M4-A (506)	.....August
5	Wholesale Price Index, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) (55, 58, 750, 751, 752)	.....September
6	The Employment Situation, BLS, (1, 21, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 841-848)	.....September
10	Advance Monthly Retail Sales (press release), Census, (54)	.....September
10	Retail Trade Report, (press release), Census, (54)	.....August
11	Monthly Wholesale Trade (press release), Census, BW	.....August
11	Condition Report of Large Commercial Banks, FRS, H.4.2 (72)	.....Week ending October 4
12	Money Stock Measures, FRS, H.6 (85, 102, 103)	Week ending October 4

<i>Date</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Data for</i>
October 12	Factors Affecting Bank Reserves and Condition Statement of Federal Reserve Banks, FRS, H.4.1 (93)	Week ending October 11
13	Manufacturing and Trade: Inventories and Sales, Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) (31, 56, 71, 851)	August
16	Business Indexes (Industrial Production and Components), FRS, G.12.3 (47, 853)	September
16	Yields on FHA Insured New Home 30-Year Mortgages, HUD (118)	October 1
17	Personal Income, BEA, (52, 53)	September
18	Housing Starts (Press Release), Census, C-20 (28, 29)	September
18	Condition Report of Large Commercial Banks, FRS, H.4.2 (72)	Week ending October 11
19	Money Stock Measures, FRS, H.6 (85, 102, 103)	Week ending October 11
19	Factors Affecting Bank Reserves and Condition Statement of Federal Reserve Banks, FRS, H.4.1 (93)	Week ending October 18
19	Gross National Product (Preliminary), BEA (200, 205)	3 Q '72
20	Consumer Price Index, BLS, (781, 782, 783, 784)	September
20	Real Earnings, BLS (859)	September
24	Capacity Utilization in Manufacturing, FRS, E.5 (850)	3 Q '72
24	Advance Report on Durable Goods, Manufacturers' Shipments and Orders, Census, M3-1 (6, 24, 25, 96, 647, 648)	September
25	Condition Report of Large Commercial Banks, FRS, H.4.2 (72)	Week ending October 18
26	Money Stock Measures, FRS, H.6 (85, 102, 103)	Week ending October 18
26	Factors Affecting Bank Reserves and Condition Statement of Federal Reserve Banks, FRS, H.4.1 (93)	Week ending October 25
26	Average Yields of Long-Term Bonds, Treasury Bulletin (115, 116)	September
26	Housing Vacancies (press release), Census H-111 (857)	3 Q '72
27	Merchandise trade balance (Balance of Payments Basis), BEA (250, 252, 253, 520-575)	3 Q '72
26	Export and Import Merchandise Trade, Census, FT-900 (500, 502, 512)	September
27	Advance Business Conditions Digest, BEA: (12, 33, 69, 813, 817)	August
	(5, 10, 17, 45, 62, 810, 811, 814, 815, 816, 820, 825, 830, 853, 860)	September
27	Productivity and Costs, BLS	3 Q '72
30	Defense Indicators, BEA, (625)	September
31	Agricultural Prices, (Agriculture)	Mid-October

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