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# statistical reporter



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## *Progress Report on the Census Bureau State Data Center Program*

BY WARREN G. GLIMPSE

*Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce*

In the fall of 1978 the Bureau of the Census began implementation of the State Data Center Program. This program is a cooperative effort between the Census Bureau and State and local governments intended to improve access to and use of statistical resources for planning, decisionmaking, research, and administration.<sup>1</sup>

Implementation of the program followed more than a year of research and development. Concepts involved in the structure and operation of the program are based upon several Federal-State-local cooperative statistical efforts that have been undertaken in the past decade.<sup>2</sup>

While there are several Federal-State and Federal-local cooperative statistical programs in operation today,<sup>3</sup> the State Data Center Program is the only one which focuses primarily on issues and operating framework for access to and use of statistical resources. All other Federal-State/local cooperative programs focus upon the development of statistical resources although some have components which relate to use of the data to meet Federal program objectives.

Ten States (Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina, Ohio, Virginia, and Wisconsin) are now formally participating in the State Data Center Program. Agreements are in various stages of

development with 12 additional States which are expected to enter the program by late summer 1979. In total, Governors of 23 States have now expressed interest in the program. The phase-in implementation of the program is scheduled for completion in early 1980.

At this early date in the program development, it is not possible to give any evaluation of the ability of the program to operate as conceptualized in participating States nor assess the impact of the program. This article provides an update on the structural mechanics of the program and reviews new activities now being implemented within the program.

### *Mission and Operation of the Program*

Within the broader framework of improving the accessibility and utility of Federal statistical resources, the mission of the program is three-fold. First, the program is intended to improve the capacity and capability of State and local government agencies and institutions to more effectively obtain and apply statistical resources in analyzing policy related issues, implementing or evaluating programs, and responding to related statistical requirements. An important element of this component is to provide a basis for coordination and establishment of Statewide policies and operating procedures relating to statistical resources.

A second component of the mission of the program is to extend and strengthen the services available to data users. This component includes user consultation, orientation and training, and data tabulating and analytical services. This component also includes improved communications and information, both by the Bureau and individual States, to data users concerning statistical resources available and related new developments.

<sup>1</sup>See Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce, "State Data Center Program: General Description," March 1977; and *Data User News*, September 1978.

<sup>2</sup>Warren G. Glimpse, "The State Data Center Program—A New Approach to Cooperative Statistical Systems," *Proceedings of the Social Statistics Section*, American Statistical Association, 1978, pp. 312-317.

<sup>3</sup>Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards, U.S. Department of Commerce, "Federal-State-Local Cooperative Systems of Data Collection," *A Framework for Planning U.S. Federal Statistics for the 1980's* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1978), pp. 285-298.

The third component of the mission of the program is to improve and systematize user feedback to statistical producing agencies to identify problems, data needs, or needs for additional services or reference aids.

The program is implemented between the Census Bureau and individual States through a written agreement. This agreement specifies the organizational structure of the State data center and the respective responsibilities of the State and the Census Bureau. A work plan is an integral part of the agreement describing the scope and schedule of activities to be undertaken through the State data center operation.

### *State Organizational Structure*

The organizational structure of a State data center varies from State-to-State but is based upon a general model involving the major State executive or planning agency, major State universities, and State library. These State-level organizations act as the principal service and analytical centers and coordinating units. The State data center typically consists of an umbrella organization of two or three agencies or institutions but in some cases may consist of a single agency.

A network of affiliate data centers is established throughout the State to extend access to and use of statistical resources on a more localized level, to more effectively integrate local administrative and statistical data, and to relate more directly to statistical and analytical needs of that area. Affiliated centers may be established in city governments, councils of governments, local or regional libraries, university extension centers, and other existing institutions.

An interagency council is established in the State to provide guidance to the State data center in identifying data needs, recommending new services needed, suggesting new statistical resources that should be developed or acquired, designating affiliate centers, and related issues. In the longer term the council might evolve into a policy coordinating group concerning all matters relating to development and use of statistical resources relating to the State.

### *State Responsibilities and Activities*

State data centers provide services directly to users as well as operating an ongoing research

and analysis facility for State and local government decisionmakers. Services include inquiry handling; user training, orientation, and consultation; maintenance of library facilities; promoting statistical products and services; computer-based analytical and statistical processing services; and analytical support for research, planning, and decisionmaking applications. The State data center provides affiliate centers with specialized education and training, basic reference collection of frequently used statistical reports, and continuous technical support. Affiliate centers minimally provide inquiry handling and user consultation and maintain the basic reference collection for public access.

### *Census Bureau Responsibilities and Activities*

The Census Bureau provides a coordinating role for the program as well as continuing training and technical support, and publicly distributing statistical products to each participating State. The training and technical support services include on-site training and education for State and affiliate center staff by Census Bureau personnel, participation of Census Bureau staff in cosponsored user training workshops and conferences, and specialized technical consultation services.

The *State Data Center Activities* is a new quarterly newsletter prepared by the Bureau to improve communication. The newsletter is intended to foster increased sharing of information among the State data centers concerning data products, methodologies, and related materials of mutual interest.

Publicly distributable products are provided to each State data center including Census Bureau statistical and reference reports and machine-readable data files and computer software for statistical programs for the 1980 census forward. The Census Bureau will provide public use data from all statistical programs. Likewise, the basic reference collections of publications distributed to each affiliate center are provided by the Census Bureau. Informational materials, such as new product announcements, are supplied in quantity by the Census Bureau for distribution within the State. Both general and specialized user training packages are provided to the State data center including participant instructional and reference materials.

### *State Data Center Staff Established*

To facilitate improved management and operation of the program, a new branch, the State Data Center Staff, has been established.

State liaisons will serve as the major contact with a State, coordinating all activities from initial contacts including the State informational meeting, development of the joint statistical agreement, distribution of Bureau data products, provision of training and technical assistance, and general elements concerning the program operation. It is expected that the State liaison will facilitate continuity and coordination for operation of the program between the Bureau and the State. The State liaison will maintain up-to-date knowledge of individual State organizational structure, resources, special types of statistical or analytical needs, and related matters.

An analytical applications advisor position has been established to provide technical assistance to State data centers regarding analysis and applied research. Types of assistance provided include a range of activities from definitions and sources of statistical resources to techniques of integrating census and non-census data to the application of statistical algorithms and models for decisionmaking.

A computer applications advisor position has also been established to assist programmers and related analysts from State data centers to resolve technical problems and more easily use machine-readable data. Types of assistance will include use of technical documentation, resolving problems in using Bureau data files, advising on most appropriate available computer software, suggesting programming approaches to achieve desired results, and related matters.

Other positions have been established both within and outside the State Data Center Staff to operate the program. A data dissemination specialist within the Customer Services Branch of the Data User Services Division will prepare tape copies for distribution to State data centers and assist in other related matters. Training specialists in the User Training Branch of the Data User Services Division conduct basic and intermediate training for State data center and affiliate center personnel.

The Bureau's regional data user services staff are also involved in many aspects of the program. In each of the Bureau's 12 regional of-

fices a data user services officer is available for consultation and training and provides a variety of other types of technical assistance to data users. Primary areas of participation in the State Data Center Program include the clearinghouse function, information referral, and training activities.

### *Clearinghouse Initiated for Data Files and Computer Software*

A new clearinghouse function is being established initially through the State Data Center Program to facilitate the interchange of information about statistical and related data files and computer software. The purpose of the clearinghouse is to improve the ability of data users to acquire information on the availability of specific data files or computer software. As user interest evolves and the clearinghouse function is further developed, the scope may be extended to include a wider set of data users.

The coordinator of the clearinghouse operation acquires information from participating State data centers regarding their data files, computer software and technical information on computer facilities. Information collected from the State data centers will include their holdings of data files and software developed and distributed by the Census Bureau as well as those developed and distributed by other organizations. As the information is collected, it will be recorded on a standardized form and summarized in a directory which will be updated as required.

If a data file or computer program has been identified by a State data center as being available, it would be agreed that a copy of the file or program would be provided to other State data centers, and possibly other users, upon request provided that mutually satisfactory arrangements have been made for cost reimbursement. It is not presently anticipated that the Census Bureau will maintain data files or computer software, other than those developed by the Bureau, for direct distribution.

State data centers and other data users may contact the clearinghouse coordinator to learn of the availability of specific data files or computer software which they need. The coordinator will review the clearinghouse directory for the requested information. If the desired information is located, the coordinator identifies

the State data center(s) having the required materials. It will then be the responsibility of the State data center or data user making the request to contact the appropriate group having the materials to discuss arrangements for acquisition.

The primary activity of the clearinghouse is to respond to requests regarding computer software and statistical data files. However, a second purpose will be to operate an "advance notification program" which will identify new major Federal statistical requirements or new statistical product developments which may impact on users. It is anticipated that this aspect of the clearinghouse will not become fully operational for several months but work will continue in an effort to alert data users of new developments which may have significant impact on their needs or applications. In the beginning, the clearinghouse will at least provide a network for contacts among users having similar interests and data needs.

If the clearinghouse function works well for the State Data Center Program, it may be expanded to include the holdings of summary tape processing centers and perhaps an even broader set of organizations including universities, private research groups, and other governmental agencies not already participating.

In the longer term this clearinghouse function may result in a publicly distributable catalog to serve as a reference guide for information contained in this system. Attention will

be given to the possibility of integrating this program with the efforts of the Association of Public Data Users.

### *Future Developments*

Consideration continues to be given to expansion of the State Data Center Program to more actively involve other key Federal statistical agencies. However, no specific plans have been established to move in this direction.

Similarly, increasing interest is being expressed by States for a more active role, through the egis of the State Data Center Program, in the development of Federal and Federal-State cooperative statistical resources as well as issues concerning data access and use. While there is no policy for movement in this direction, steps are being taken for more systematic involvement of participating States in some of these activities. Two major examples of this now being formulated are involvement in the 1980 census local review program, and related 1980 census matters, and participation in the development of State, county, and other local area economic and demographic estimates and projections.

By structuring the State Data Center Program in a way which makes maximal use of in-place organizations, there remains considerable flexibility for moving in these directions in the future as well as others. Future issues of *Statistical Reporter* will chart the progress of the program in these new areas.

## CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

### OFSPS ISSUES GNP DATA IMPROVEMENT PROJECT REPORT

The Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards in the U.S. Department of Commerce recently issued the *Gross National Product Data Improvement Project Report*, which is the report of the Advisory Committee on Gross National Product Data Improvement. The report is a landmark in that it provides the first comprehensive evaluation of the underlying data used to estimate the national economic accounts. It will, therefore, be a valuable tool in developing improved programs for economic statistics in the years ahead.

The Data Improvement Project study focused on data needs for the quarterly GNP estimates, the annual revisions made every July, the quinquennial benchmarks associated with the input-output tables, and the preparation of constant-dollar "real" GNP estimates that adjust the dollar values for price changes. The components on both the product and income sides of the accounts were covered in this evaluation: on the product side, consumer expenditures, private investment, government purchases, and net exports; on the income side, employee compensation, proprietors' income, corporate profits, net interest, rental income, capital consumption allowances, and indirect business taxes. Because the Federal Reserve Board's flow of funds accounts are integrated with the national economic accounts, the Committee included an assessment of the flow of funds data base in the study.

This was the first nongovernmental review of the national economic accounts by an advisory committee in 20 years. The previous assessment was made in 1957 by the National Accounts Review Committee. It concentrated on the needs for a further conceptual development of the accounts, with a limited examination of the quality of the underlying data. By contrast, the Data Improvement Project study is an intensive analysis of data needs for the existing concepts of the

accounts, with limited attention to needs for supplementary analytic measures (and the associated data) of the accounts.

Readers of *Statistical Reporter* will recall that the September 1977 issue featured an article giving background information on the study and the major recommendations of the Committee. The March 1979 issue reported on the progress being made to implement the recommendations contained in the Data Improvement Project report.

Copies of the 204-page *Gross National Product Data Improvement Project Report* are available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 for \$4.25 a copy, G.P.O. Stock Number 003-010-00062-7. (NORMAN FRUMKIN, OFFICE OF FEDERAL STATISTICAL POLICY AND STANDARDS, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, telephone (202) 673-7977.)

### REPORT ON PROSPECTS FOR THE AMERICAN FAMILY AND THE ELDERLY

The Census Bureau has recently issued a special report offering a look at the prospective structure of the American family and the composition of the elderly population. The report consists of two papers presented as Congressional testimony by Census Bureau staff members before House Committees in May 1978. "The Future of the American Family," delivered by Senior Demographer Paul C. Glick before the Select Committee on Population, discusses the implications of declining birth rates; increasing postponement of marriage and incidence of alternative living situations; and leveling off of the divorce rate and of women's participation in the labor force in recent years. Glick forecasts a period of slower change for the nuclear family in coming years, which he attributes to the resiliency of the American people in coping with the pressures and changes witnessed in the last two decades.

Senior Statistician Jacob D. Siegel's paper on "Prospective Trends in the Size and Structure of the Elderly Population, Impact of Mortality Trends, and Some Implications," projects increases in the proportion of elderly persons in the total population due to the increases in the numbers of births in the early part of this century and the recent declines in the birth rate. Declining death rates are expected to contribute to the increase, but the impact will be small as compared with the effect of fertility changes. The very rapid increases in the number and proportion of the elderly that are almost certain to occur in the second and third decades of the next century as a result of the entry of persons born during the baby boom into the elderly population will create difficult problems of public and private planning. In this paper, which was presented before the Joint Hearing of the Select Committee on Aging and the Select Committee on Population, Siegel speculates on the burgeoning of needs for health care and other government-supported services which may be expected as the elderly population expands in future years.

Copies of the report, "The Future of the American Family and Prospective Trends in the Size and Structure of the Elderly Population, Impact of Mortality Trends, and Some Implications," *Current Population Reports*, Series P-23, No. 78, are available for \$1.30 per copy from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, or from Commerce District Offices in major cities. Single copies of the report may be obtained by calling (301) 763-5020. (PAUL C. GLICK, telephone (301) 763-7030 and JACOB S. SIEGEL, telephone (301) 763-5784, BUREAU OF THE CENSUS, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.)

#### **WORLD POPULATIONS PROJECTED TO THE YEAR 2000**

The population of the world for the year 2000 is projected to be almost 6.4 billion, which represents a 55-percent increase over the estimated 1975 population of 4.1 billion, according to the medium projection series in a recently released Census Bureau report entitled "Illustrative Projections of World Populations to the 21st Century."

This increase of 2.3 billion persons in the final quarter of this century results in an average annual increase of 90.4 million persons a

year. More developed regions of the world, with a total population estimated at 1.1 billion in 1975, are projected to add about 200 million persons by the year 2000, or an average of 7.7 million annually. The less developed regions, with a combined population for 1975 estimated at 3.0 billion, are projected to add another 2.1 billion persons to their population, for an average annual increase of 82.7 million.

High and low projection series are also included in the report which are intended to set reasonable limits within which population growth is expected to fall, given certain assumptions about the future course of fertility and mortality. The high projection series places the world's population in the year 2000 at 6.8 billion, whereas the low series figure is 5.9 billion. The range between the high and low projections for the year 2000 is about 100 million persons for the more developed countries and 770 million persons for the less developed countries, which reflects the greater uncertainty about the "reasonable limits" of growth in these areas.

The two largest countries in 1975 in the more developed regions are the U.S.S.R., with an estimated population of 254 million, and the United States, with an estimated population of 214 million. The year-2000 population for the U.S.S.R. and the United States, as projected in the medium series, are 309 million and 248 million, which amounts to 22 and 16 percent increases for the 25-year period, respectively.

The People's Republic of China, with an estimated 1975 population of 935 million in the medium series, is projected to add almost 400 million persons by the year 2000, resulting in population for the year 2000 of slightly over 1.3 billion. A great deal of uncertainty about the path of growth in China is indicated by the range of population projections for the year 2000, from 1.2 billion persons in the low series to almost 1.5 billion persons in the high series. (Recently revised estimates and projections for the People's Republic of China, also included in this report, are slightly higher.) Another country which is projected to add another 400 million persons to its population by 2000 is India, growing from an estimated 1975 population of 618 million to just over 1.0 billion in 2000. Together, the People's Republic of China and India are expected to account for approximately



one-third of the world's population growth between 1975 and 2000.

Major countries which are projected to double their population in the final quarter of the century include Bangladesh, with a medium series projection for the year 2000 of 159 million persons; Pakistan, 149 million; Nigeria, 135 million; Mexico, 131 million; and Brazil, 226 million. The United States, with a projected growth of 16 percent in the 1975-2000 period, is expected to have one of the lowest rates of growth in the world.

Copies of the report, "Illustrative Projections of World Populations to the 21st Century," *Current Population Reports*, Series P-23, No. 79, (116 pp., \$3) may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. (MAURICE J. MOORE, BUREAU OF THE CENSUS, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, telephone (301) 763-5303.)

#### HOUSEHOLD MONEY INCOME IN 1977

A report on "Money Income in 1977 of Households in the United States" has recently been published by the Bureau of the Census. This report contains data on household money income distributions cross-classified by various demographic, social, and economic characteristics such as residence, size and type of household, and relationship to household head.

The report shows that the median income of households in the United States rose to \$13,570 in 1977, an increase of about 7 percent over the 1976 median of \$12,690. However, after adjusting for the 6.5 percent rise in prices between 1976 and 1977, the 1977 median in terms of constant dollars did not show a significant change from the 1976 median.

The report suggests that the lack of growth in real median household income may be due, in part, to the changing composition of households during the 1970's. In March 1971, 80 percent of U.S. households were maintained by families and the rest by unrelated individuals (persons living alone or with nonrelatives). By March 1978, the comparable percentages for the two groups had changed to 75 and 25 percent, respectively. This trend is reinforced by the fact that the average number of persons per household declined from 3.11 in March 1971 to 2.81 in March 1978. Because families tend to have

higher incomes than unrelated individuals, and larger families tend to have more earners, these trends have created a downward pressure on median household income.

Aggregate household money income increased by 11 percent between 1976 and 1977 as a result of a 3 percent increase in the number of households (1.9 million additional households) and an 8 percent increase in the average (mean) household money income. After adjusting for inflation, the 1977 aggregate household income represented an increase of 4 percent over the 1976 figure.

Of the 76.0 million households in the United States in March 1978, 13.8 million (18.2 percent) had incomes of \$25,000 or more in 1977, these households received 41.3 percent of aggregate income in 1977. Another 20.6 million households (27.2 percent) had incomes between \$15,000 and \$25,000 and received 32.7 percent of aggregate income. At the other end of the scale, 12.5 million households (16.5 percent) had incomes under \$5,000 and received 3.0 percent of the aggregate income.

Copies of this report, "Money Income in 1977 of Households in the United States," *Current Population Reports*, Series P-60, No. 117 (86 pages, \$2.75) may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. (ROBERT W. CLEVELAND, BUREAU OF THE CENSUS, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, telephone (301) 763-5682.)

#### REPORT ON GEOGRAPHIC EXPANSION OF BANKS

The Federal Reserve Board recently issued a staff paper entitled "Geographic Expansion of Banks and Changes in Banking Structure."

Various forces have provided impetus to geographic expansion in commercial banking since 1960. Because expansion could affect banking structure and competition, a study was made of the changes in local market structure over the period 1966-76 and statewide structure for 1960-77.

To determine whether geographic expansion of banking organizations has a systematic effect on local market and statewide structure, an index of geographic expansion was constructed for local markets-154 standard metropolitan statistical areas (SMSA's) and 129 non-SMSA

counties—and for 48 States. The index is included in this study in a multivariate regression for testing purposes.

The data reveal that the great majority of local banking markets decreased in concentration, but test results provide no evidence that geographic expansion affects local market concentration. At the State level, the study shows that more than half the States increased in concentration, and statistical tests indicate that geographic expansion tends to increase statewide concentration. The data also reveal that over all the number of banking organizations in the United States has declined since 1970, a trend that has occurred in about half of the States. Finally, there has been a notable change in the size distribution of banking organizations in individual States—the proportion of organizations with \$10 million or less in assets has declined dramatically.

Copies of this staff paper may be obtained from the Publications Unit, Federal Reserve Board, 20th and Constitution Avenue N.W., Washington, D.C. 20551. (STEPHEN A. RHOADES, DIVISION OF RESEARCH AND STATISTICS, FEDERAL RESERVE BOARD, telephone (202) 452-2611.)

#### **FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION**

The recently released preliminary tabulations of data collected from approximately two-thirds of the Nation's 3,130 colleges and universities indicate that current financial operations expanded at a faster pace in fiscal year 1978 than either inflation or enrollments. Current funds revenues and expenditures increased 7.8 and 7.1 percent, respectively, compared to a 2.6-percent increase in enrollments. The rate of inflation for 1978, as measured by the Higher Education Price Index, was 6.7 percent. Adjusted for inflation, current funds revenues and expenditures on a per student basis were higher for 1978 than for 1976 but lower than for 1977.

In terms of current dollars, current funds revenues of public institutions were up 6.8 percent in 1978 compared to a 9.9-percent rise in 1977, while their current funds expenditures rose only 5.8 percent in 1978 compared to 9.3-percent growth in 1977.

Privately controlled institutions showed for the second consecutive year greater percentage increases in revenues and expenditures than

their public counterparts. Prior to 1977, the public sector had experienced 15 years of higher rates of growth than did the private sector.

Following an off-year in 1977, 2-year colleges resumed outpacing universities and other 4-year colleges in their current financial operations.

The market value of endowments of higher education institutions rose only 4.0 percent in 1978, falling behind the increase in the Higher Education Price Index.

Free single copies of the report entitled *Financial Statistics of Colleges and Universities, 1978, Preliminary Tabulations (NCES 79B-5)*, may be obtained from the project officer, Norman J. Brandt, NCES, Room 3073, 400 Maryland Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20202. The report offers six tables of financial data in national aggregates for the Fiscal Years 1976, 1977 and 1978 broken by control and level of institutions.

Computer tapes with higher education financial data may be purchased from the Data Systems Branch, NCES, Room 3033, 400 Maryland Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20202. Tapes are available for every fiscal year between 1966 and 1977. A tape for Fiscal Year 1978 is scheduled to be available by late summer of 1979. (O. JEAN BRANDES, NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE, telephone (202) 472-5026.)

#### **ISSUES IN POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION**

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) has recently published a series of papers exploring issues in postsecondary education. The papers are byproducts of a project sponsored by NCES for the design of a postsecondary education data core. The purpose of the project was to identify and set priorities for the information needs of postsecondary education decisionmakers that are to be served by NCES data collection activities. Three of the areas that emerged as being of most significant concern for future NCES efforts are addressed in the following papers in the series on *Issues in Postsecondary Education*:

—*Financial Viability*: This paper examines the adequacy of data presently available for the purpose of determining the extent to which postsecondary institutions are meeting their financial goals. Recommendations include that

more discriminating data be collected to allow for greater differentiation in the analysis of various institutions. The report offers specific suggestions for future data collections.

-*The Impact of Non-Traditional Students*; This paper examines the phenomenon of the growth of non-traditional students and the effect they are having on postsecondary institutions. The report suggests a taxonomy of the characteristics of the non-traditional students in postsecondary education for the purpose of data collection. The paucity of the data available on non-traditional students is also discussed.

-*Personnel Challenges*: The paper addresses itself to manpower problems in postsecondary education. The report reviews the currently available data on the subject and suggests additional data to be collected, taking into consideration the criteria of reporting burden on respondent, cost, timeliness of data, and quality of data.

Copies of the reports, *Financial Viability*, NCES 79-354 (61 pages), *Impact of the Non-Traditional Student*, NCES 79-352 (34 pages), and *Personnel Challenges*, NCES 79-353 (23 pages) may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Additional information on this project may be obtained from Gerald Malitz, Project Officer, National Center for Education Statistics, telephone (202) 472-5812. (JEAN BRANDES, NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE, telephone (202) 472-5026.)

#### NCES DATA ON POSTSECONDARY OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION

The information on vocational education at the noncollegiate postsecondary level released most recently by the National Center for Education Statistics is available in the three following computer tapes:

1. *Directory of Postsecondary Schools with Occupational Programs, 1978*: The Directory tape provides a universe listing of 9,000 public and private postsecondary schools that offer career-related programs at less than the baccalaureate level. Information on each school includes name, address, telephone number, accreditation, total enrollment, and types of occupational programs

offered. A tape with the data from the predecessor survey in 1967 is also available.

2. *Enrollments and Programs in Postsecondary Schools with Occupational Programs, 1978*: This tape provides additional data that were collected from a 25-percent sample of the schools. Its coverage includes the charges, the number of those who left with a marketable skill without completing the program, sex and race/ethnicity of the students, as well as the sex and functions of staff.

3. *Characteristics of Students in Noncollegiate Postsecondary Schools, 1977*: This tape provides information on students in noncollegiate postsecondary schools, including their sex, race/ethnicity, military status, highest educational level attained, prior vocational education, reasons for selecting their current program or school, potential obstacles to the completion of their study, plans for further education work experience and plans, as well as their parents' occupation and educational level. Weights for each student are provided on the tape. The data are based on the responses of a sample of 6,800 students in 600 schools in 1977. The tape based on the successor survey that is underway at this writing is expected to become available in Fall 1979.

The tapes may be purchased for \$94.00 (9-track, 1600 BPI). They are in EBCDIC with odd parity and standard IBM labels.

Copies of the computer tapes may be obtained from the Data Systems Branch, NCES, 400 Maryland Avenue, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20202, telephone (202) 245-8760. Further information may be obtained from Evelyn R. Kay, Project Officer, NCES, Room 3073, 400 Maryland Avenue, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20202, telephone (202) 245-8340. (O. JEAN BRANDES, NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE, telephone (202) 472-5026.)

#### DEGREE AWARDS TO WOMEN: 1977 UPDATE

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) has published an update, as of the academic year 1976-77, of four earlier reports concerned with changing patterns in degree awards to women. Separate chapters are devoted to bachelor's, masters's, doctoral, and first profes-

sional degrees. Each chapter examines, by field of study, the percentage representation of women among degree recipients in 1977 as compared with 1971. Also presented and discussed are data regarding the relative popularity of different fields of study for men and for women.

At all four degree levels women continued to increase, at least slightly, their percentage representation among degree recipients. At both the bachelor's and master's levels, women tended to show the greatest increase in percentage representation in those fields in which they have traditionally had small representation. At the doctoral degree level, the opposite trend was evident, that is, women's gains were greatest in the traditionally female fields and least in the traditionally non-female fields.

This report, entitled *Degree Awards to Women: 1977 Update*, is based on data collected through the Annual Survey of Degrees and Other Formal Awards Conferred (part of NCES' Higher Education General Information Survey (HEGIS)). Single copies may be obtained free by written request to the Project Officer, George H. Brown, Room 3153, National Center for Education Statistics, 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20202. (O. JEAN BRANDES, NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE, telephone (202) 472-5026.)

#### NCES NATIONAL LONGITUDINAL STUDY REPORTS AND TAPES

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) has recently made several additions to its series on the National Longitudinal Study of the High School Class of 1972 (NLS). The study is a long-term project designed to gain insights into the educational, social, and economic factors involved in the transition from high school through postsecondary institutions and into the labor market. The base-year survey was conducted in the spring of 1972, with a target sample of over 21,000 seniors from 1,200 high schools and involved testing as well as completion of questionnaires by students, school administrators, and counselors. Follow-up surveys conducted by mail, with personal interviews scheduled for nonrespondents, were initiated in October 1973, October 1974, and October 1976, with a sample retention rate of approximately

94 percent from one survey to the next. A fourth follow-up is scheduled for October 1979.

Computer tapes containing data from the base year and the three followup surveys are available from the Data Systems Branch of NCES for \$250. Base year data include students' personal-family background, education and work experiences, immediate postsecondary plans, aspirations for the future, and attitudes. Also included are test results for both verbal and nonverbal ability, as well as items from the student's high school records. All subsequent periodic followups provide data about the respondents' activity status (e.g., education and work); plans for education, work and career; and aspirations, attitudes, and expectations. Complete documentation on this data set will be available through a reissue of the *NLS Data File Users Manual* which may be purchased separately for \$35. In addition, a newly created self-weighting subsample of the NLS data may be ordered from the Data Systems Branch, NCES, 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20202, telephone (202) 247-8760. This subfile contains a sample of cases selected from those who participated in all four surveys. The recently published report, *Data Collection Activities for the Third Followup Survey* (DHEW Publication No. (NCES) 78-223, 100 pp.) provides a detailed account of the procedures used to increase the response rate such as newsletters sent to sample members, telephone tracing, a \$3.00 incentive payment, postcard and mailgram reminders and personal or telephone interviews with nonrespondents.

A report on *The Influence of High School Racial Composition on Black College Attendance and Achievement Test Performance* (DHEW Publication No. (NCES) 78-212, 143 pp.) contains results of aggregated regression analyses carried out on the effects of high school racial composition on early adult careers. The main exogenous variables in the analytical model were school mean socioeconomic status of black students in the school, the percentage of white students in the school and the school district size. The dependent variables used for black students included the following: mean achievement measured by a battery of tests administered in the base-year, the percentage attending college and the percentage entering the junior year of college. College outcomes for black students were generally found to be negatively related to desegre-

gation in the South and positively related in the North; mean black student achievement was not found to be related to desegregation in the South in contrast to the North where it was positively related to the extent of desegregation.

Single copies of the above-mentioned reports are available in limited supply from the Longitudinal Studies Branch, National Center for Education Statistics, 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20202. Multiple copies may be ordered from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office. Additional information is available from Elmer F. Collins, Chief, Longitudinal Studies Branch, NCES. (O. JEAN BRANDES, NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE, telephone (202) 472-5026.)

#### **REPORT ON PURCHASES OF FOOD STAMP CUSTOMERS**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently released Agricultural Economic Report No. 421 entitled *Do Food Stamp and Other Customers Buy the Same Products in Supermarkets?* The study analyzes cash register receipts from eight supermarkets in seven States by comparing the purchases of food stamp customers and others. The sample of eight supermarkets was chosen purposively using three characteristics: (1) an automated checkstand, (2) at least four percent of total sales to food stamp customers, and (3) a location helping to establish a diverse cultural and geographic representation. Within each store, a random selection procedure was used to choose the checkout counter which would collect the duplicate of each customer's sales receipt. Single copies of this report are available free upon request from Paul E. Nelson. (PAUL E. NELSON, ECONOMICS, STATISTICS AND COOPERATIVES SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, telephone (202) 447-9200.)

#### **SOLID WASTE SYSTEMS FOR RURAL CITIES**

The results of a study designed to provide information to assist small communities in their solid waste management planning have just been published by the Economics, Statistics, and Cooperatives Service. The report focuses on the costs of solid waste management systems of rural cities in the Southeast with less than 10,000 population. Rural communities in Geor-

gia, Alabama, South Carolina, and North Carolina were sampled. The sample was representative of rural areas in the three major geographic regions—mountain, piedmont and costal plains. Twenty-five counties were selected containing 125 cities with population ranging from 102 to 9,700 people. Single copies of *Economic Analysis of Solid Waste Systems for Rural Cities in the Southeast* are available free upon request from J.R. Russell. (J. R. RUSSELL, ECONOMICS, STATISTICS, AND COOPERATIVES SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, telephone (202) 228-7326.)

#### **COTTON STATISTICS, 1960-78**

The Economics, Statistics, and Cooperatives Service recently issued Statistical Bulletin No. 617 entitled *Statistics on Cotton and Related Data, 1960-78*. This 145-page publication provides extensive statistics on cotton and other fibers. It supersedes a previous comprehensive compilation of cotton statistics published in 1974 which is out of print. Data include extensive detail on production, consumption, stocks, foreign trade, prices, utilizations and other statistics. Single copies are available free upon request from Mildred V. Jones. (MILDRED V. JONES, ECONOMICS, STATISTICS, AND COOPERATIVES SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, telephone (202) 447-8776.)

#### **AN ANALYSIS OF A BAN ON NITRITE USE IN CURING BACON**

The Economics, Statistics, and Cooperatives Service of USDA has recently issued an in-depth analysis of the economic impacts of a ban on the use of nitrites in curing meat. The analysis includes estimates of the expected direction of changes in prices, production, and consumption. The research technique used in the study utilized the best available information in a computer model of the livestock industry. The results are reported as deviations from a baseline projection. The baseline itself is a set of projected price, quantity and income values of what would be expected annually if nitrite curing of bacon is continued and consumers follow historical bacon consumption patterns. Single copies of *An Analysis of a Ban on Nitrite Use in Curing Bacon* are available free upon request from Clark Burbee. (CLARK BURBEE, ECONOMICS, STATISTICS, AND COOPERATIVES SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, telephone (202) 447-9200.)

## PERSONNEL NOTE

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND  
WELFARE

*National Center for Health Statistics:* ELIJAH L. WHITE, As-

sociate Director for Data Systems, and his wife, Mary, died  
April 12 in an automobile accident in Poland.

# SCHEDULE OF RELEASE DATES FOR PRINCIPAL FEDERAL ECONOMIC INDICATORS

## June 1979

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

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

A similar schedule will be shown here each

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

<i>Date</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Data For</i>
June	1 The Employment Situation (Press release), Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) (1, 21, 37, 40-44, 91, 340, 442, 444-448, 451-453) .....	May
	1 Construction Expenditures (Press release), Census C-30 (69) .....	April
	5 Open Market Money Rates and Bond Prices, Federal Reserve Board (FRB), 415 .....	May
	6 Manufacturers' Export Sales and Orders, Census, M4-A .....	April
	6 Consumer Credit, FRB, 421 (66, 113) .....	April
	6 Condition Report of Large Commercial Banks, FRB, 504 (72, 122) .....	Week Ending May 30
	7 Money Stock Measures, FRB, 508 (85, 102, 107, 108) .....	Week Ending May 30
	7 Factors Affecting Bank Reserves and Condition Statement of Federal Reserve Banks, FRB, 503 (93, 94) .....	Week Ending June 6
	7 Producer Price Indexes (Press release), BLS, (330-334) .....	May
	7 Monthly Wholesale Trade (Press release), Census, BW .....	April
	7 Plant and Equipment Expenditures, Bureau of Economic Analysis, (BEA) (61) .....	IQ '79 and 1979
	11 Crop Production, Agriculture .....	June 1

<i>Date</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Data for</i>
11	Advance Monthly Retail Sales (Press Release), Census (54) .....	May
12	Manufacturing and Trade: Inventories and Sales, Census (31, 56, 71) .....	April
12	Quarterly Financial Report for Manufacturing Corporations, Federal Trade Commission .....	1Q '79
13	Condition Report of Large Commercial Banks, FRB, 504 (72, 112) .....	Week Ending June 6
14	Money Stock Measures, (FRB), 508 (85, 102, 107, 108) .....	Week Ending June 6
14	Factors Affecting Bank Reserves and Condition Statement of Federal Reserve Banks, FRB, 503 (93, 94) .....	Week Ending June 13
15	Yields on FHA Insured New Home 30-Year Mortgages, HUD (118) .....	June 1
15	Industrial Production and Related Data, FRB, 414 (47, 73-76) .....	May
15	Food Assistance Program Results, Agriculture .....	April
18	Housing Starts (Press release), Census, C-20 (28, 29) .....	May
19	Output, Capacity, and Capacity Utilization, FRB, 402 (82, 84) .....	May
19	Personal Income, BEA (223) .....	May
20	Gross National Product (Second Revision), BEA (200, 205, 210) .....	1Q '79
20	Revised Corporate Profits and National Income, BEA .....	1 Q '79
20	Condition Report of Large Commercial Banks, FRB, 504, (72, 112) .....	Week Ending June 13
21	Money Stock Measures, FRB, 508 (85, 102, 107, 108) .....	Week Ending June 13
21	Factors Affecting Bank Reserves and Condition Statement of Federal Reserve Banks, FRB, 503 (93, 94) .....	Week Ending June 20
21	Hogs and Pigs, Agriculture .....	June 1
21	Advance Report on Durable Goods, Manufactures; Shipments and Orders (Press release), Census, M3-1 (6, 24, 25, 96, 548) .....	May
21	Summary of U.S. International Transactions, BEA .....	1 Q '79
25	Average Yields of Long-Term Bonds, Treasury Bulletin (115, 116) .....	April
26	Real Earnings (Press release), BLS (341) .....	May
26	Consumer Price Index (Press release), BLS (320, 322) .....	May



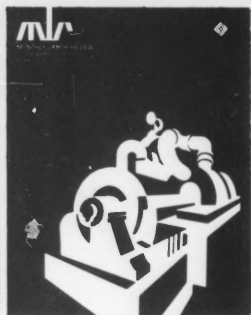
<i>Date</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Data for</i>
27	Supply Demand Estimates, Agriculture .....	Current Marketing Season
27	Export and Import Merchandise Trade, Census, FT-900 (602, 612) .....	May
27	Condition Report of Large Commercial Banks, FRB, 504 (72, 122) .....	Week Ending June 20
28	Work Stoppages (Press release), BLS .....	May
28	Factors Affecting Bank Reserves and Condition Statement of Federal Reserve Banks, FRB, 503 (93, 94) .....	Week Ending June 27
28	Money Stock Measures, FRB, 508 (102, 107, 108) .....	Week Ending June 20
29	Labor Turnover in Manufacturing (Press release), BLS (2, 3, 4) .....	May
29	Composite Indexes of Leading, Coincident, and Lagging Indicators (Press release), BEA .....	May
29	Agricultural Prices, Agriculture .....	Mid-June

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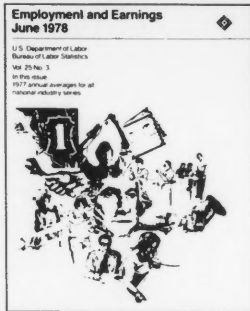
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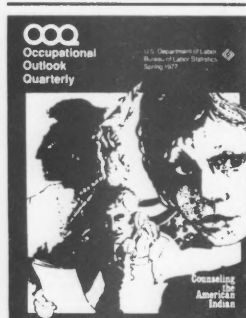
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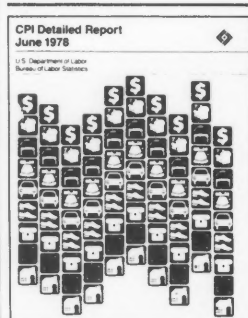
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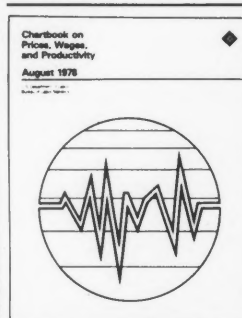
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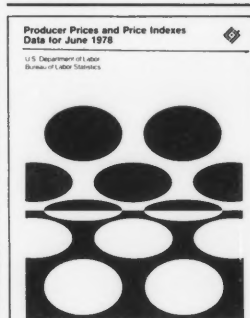
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