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STAT-USA, an office within the U.S. Department of Commerce, has been delivering timely federal economic and trade information for over 20 years.

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STAT•News

Say So Long, Not Goodbye

We are undergoing a big change at STAT-USA® – we are losing our Director. After 13 years at STAT-USA (*four as Director*), I am retiring. I have enjoyed my tenure at STAT-USA, but it is time for me to move on to other activities.

It is interesting to reflect upon the maturation of STAT-USA during my tenure. Our Web sites are still considered America's most extensive Federal sites devoted to business, trade and economic information. And we continue to be an important type of outreach for the U.S. Department of Commerce, with a presence in many user communities which otherwise would be hard for the Department to reach. Our ties to the academic and library user communities are extremely strong, and we find that many businesses now access our services through organizational "site" subscriptions, rather than individual accounts.

STAT-USA adopted our current name and structure over 13 years ago with the advent of the Internet. However, STAT-USA has been providing electronic information to the public for over twenty years, developing a sense of continuity and history in the process. For many of our users, STAT-USA has been the face of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Because we have some active projects that are improving our services, I am reluctant to leave. You will soon learn about several new information sources that have been added to the **STAT-USA®/Internet™** and **USA Trade™ Online**. We are also redesigning and the home page of STAT-USA/Internet.

While I am sad to be leaving, I do feel good about leaving the organization in very capable hands. Several of these individuals you know from your contacts with STAT-USA. They are full of enthusiasm and dedication to not only maintaining, but improving STAT-USA and its products. I am sure that in the coming years, you will see a number of significant changes.

Thanks for all of your support of me and STAT-USA over the years. I feel very honored and humbled by being able to serve as Director of this office for the Department of Commerce.

Forrest Williams
Retiring Director, STAT-USA

