



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF  
THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT  
AND BUDGET

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**STATISTICAL  
PROGRAMS  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES  
GOVERNMENT**

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FISCAL YEAR

**2007**

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

THE DIRECTOR

September 23, 2006

The Honorable Richard B. Cheney  
President of the Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to transmit the enclosed *Statistical Programs of the United States Government: Fiscal Year 2007* report that is required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 [Section 3504(e)(2) of Title 44, United States Code].

The ability of our government, our citizens, and our businesses to make appropriate decisions about funding priorities, employment, investments, and a host of other important issues depends in part on the relevance, accuracy, and timeliness of Federal statistics. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) provides overall coordination for the Federal statistical system.

The enclosed report outlines the funding proposed for Federal statistical activities in the President's FY 2007 budget. The President's request includes carefully targeted investments that are essential to keep pace with changes in our economy and society, improve data quality, and provide greater public access to Government statistics. We urge the Congress to support these initiatives.

Our investment in statistical programs is crucial. Data drive fiscal and monetary policy; they also underlie Federal, State, and local income projections, investment planning, and business decisions. Without the improvements proposed for FY 2007, we risk degrading the quality of Federal statistics. In turn, core Federal, State, and local government activities, including the accurate allocation of scarce funds, would be adversely affected. Investing now to enhance the quality of Federal statistics will strengthen our information infrastructure and support better decision-making.

We look forward to working closely with the Congress to improve the statistical measurement of our Nation's performance.

Sincerely,

  
Rob Portman

Enclosure

Identical Letter Sent to the Speaker of the House of Representatives

### **One-Stop Shopping for Federal Statistical Data**

Access to the wide array of Federal statistics available to the public is provided through *FedStats* on the World Wide Web ([www.fedstats.gov](http://www.fedstats.gov)). The site offers links to Internet sites developed by individual agencies to disseminate Federal statistics.

The site also includes information on Federal policies on privacy, accessibility to the site for persons with disabilities, a set of data access tools for sophisticated users, and *MapStats* to facilitate searching for the range of Federal data available for a given U.S. geographic area.

The Appendices to this report include World Wide Web site addresses for the Federal agencies covered in this report.

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## **Introduction**

*Statistical Programs of the United States Government: Fiscal Year 2007* outlines the funding proposed for Federal statistical activities in the President's budget. The budget requests an estimated \$5,402.4 million for statistical work to be carried out in FY 2007. Approximately 40 percent of this overall funding provides resources for ten agencies that have statistical activities as their principal mission. The remaining funding is spread among over seventy other agencies that carry out statistical activities in conjunction with other program missions, such as providing services or enforcing regulations.

The information in this report covers Federal agencies that have annual budgets of \$500,000 or more for statistical activities. This information was obtained from materials supplied to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) during the budget process, with the agencies providing additional details about their reimbursements for statistical activities and their purchases of statistical services. Agencies that perform statistical activities in support of nonstatistical missions and programs supplied additional budget detail for this report.

This report fulfills a responsibility of OMB under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Section 3504(e) (2) of Title 44, United States Code) to prepare an annual report on statistical program funding. The report has three chapters. Chapter 1 outlines the effects of Congressional action on the President's FY 2006 budget request and the funding for statistics proposed in the President's FY 2007 budget. Chapter 2 highlights program changes for Federal statistical activities proposed in the President's FY 2007 budget. Chapter 3 describes a number of ongoing and new agency and interagency initiatives to improve Federal statistical programs, including making better use of existing data collections while protecting the confidentiality of statistical information. In addition to budgetary resources data, the appendices include information on staffing levels for the principal statistical agencies.

The report is available in both electronic form and a limited number of hard copies. The electronic version can be accessed on the Internet through the OMB web site: [www.whitehouse.gov/OMB/](http://www.whitehouse.gov/OMB/) (go to "Statistical Programs and Standards"). The report is also located at the one-stop shopping site for Federal statistical data: [www.fedstats.gov/](http://www.fedstats.gov/) (go to "Federal Statistical Policy"). At both sites users may also access the FY 1997 to FY 2006 versions of the Statistical Programs report.

Please direct any inquiries to Katherine K. Wallman, Chief Statistician, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, D.C. 20503.





## **CHAPTER 1: Budgets for Statistical Programs**

This chapter provides information about agency budgets for major statistical programs for FY 2005, FY 2006, and FY 2007. It highlights the effects of Congressional action on the President's FY 2006 budget request for Federal statistical activities and outlines recommended changes in funding for these programs for FY 2007. The chapter also includes information about statistical work performed by agencies on a reimbursable basis and about agency purchases of statistical services and products. The budget information for FY 2007 is from the President's budget as submitted to the Congress and does not reflect actual appropriations.

### **Overview of Statistical Program Budgets**

Please keep the following in mind when reviewing the information in this report:

- Not all Federal spending on statistical activities is included. The report covers agencies that have direct funding for statistical activities of at least \$500,000 in FY 2005, or estimated direct funding for statistical activities of at least \$500,000 in either FY 2006 or FY 2007. Using these criteria, the report includes the budgets for statistical programs and activities for over 80 agencies.
- Funding for statistical activities may increase or decrease as a result of the cyclical nature of surveys. Such increases or decreases should not be interpreted as changes in agency priorities, but rather as the normal consequences of the nature of the programs. Agencies also experience increases or decreases in their budgets because they conduct one-time surveys or studies in a particular fiscal year.
- Statistical activities are defined to include the following:
  - collection, processing, or tabulation of statistical data for publication, dissemination, research, analysis, or program management and evaluation;
  - planning of statistical surveys and studies, including project design, sample design and selection, and design of questionnaires, forms, or other techniques of observation and data collection;
  - training of statisticians, interviewers, or data processing personnel;
  - publication or dissemination of statistical data and studies;
  - methodological testing or statistical research;
  - data analysis;

- forecasts or projections that are published or otherwise made available for government-wide or public use;
  - statistical tabulation, dissemination, or publication of data collected by others;
  - construction of secondary data series or development of models that are an integral part of generating statistical series or forecasts;
  - management or coordination of statistical operations; and
  - statistical consulting.
- Major statistical programs differ in organizational structure and in the means by which they are funded. Some major statistical programs, such as labor force statistics and energy statistics, are carried out by agencies (the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Energy Information Administration, respectively) whose sole missions are statistical; these organizations are referred to as principal statistical agencies and appear as line items in the President's budget. In other cases, agencies have statistical programs that support their program planning and evaluation functions or that are an outgrowth of their administrative responsibilities. In these cases, the budget for statistical activities is a portion of the total appropriation for that agency, including an allocation of the salaries and operating expenses for the statistical program. In addition, a statistical program is not always executed by the agency that sponsors it. In these instances, the work is done on a reimbursable basis by another Federal agency or by a state or local government or a private organization under contract.
  - Whether statistical work is done inside or outside the agency, the direct funding reflects the level of statistical activities in support of the agency's mission. Table 1 presents direct program funding for FY 2005, FY 2006, and FY 2007 for major statistical programs, by department and agency.

**Table 1. Direct Funding for Major Statistical Programs, FY 2005–2007**  
(In millions of dollars)

Department/Agency	2005 Actual	2006 Estimate	2007 Estimate
<b>AGRICULTURE</b>			
Agricultural Research Service .....	5.2	5.1	4.7
Economic Research Service.....	74.2	75.2	82.5
Food and Nutrition Service.....	7.0	9.0	12.0
Foreign Agricultural Service .....	37.4	40.5	43.4
Forest Service .....	50.8	54.4	56.0
National Agricultural Statistics Service.....	128.4	139.3	152.6

**Table 1. Direct Funding for Major Statistical Programs, FY 2005–2007**  
(In millions of dollars)

Department/Agency	2005 Actual	2006 Estimate	2007 Estimate
Natural Resources Conservation Service.....	136.5	135.6	140.4
<b>COMMERCE</b>			
Bureau of Economic Analysis .....	72.6	75.3	76.5
Census Bureau .....	764.8	821.9	898.2
Current.....	216.1	215.5	204.1
Periodic.....	548.7	606.4	694.1
Decennial Census.....	388.3	447.8	511.8
Economics and Statistics Administration .....	6.3	4.0	4.0
International Trade Administration.....	5.7	4.4	6.1
National Institute of Standards and Technology .....	7.8	5.0	0.0
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration .....	70.2	65.4	81.8
National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service .....	30.7	24.9	34.0
National Marine Fisheries Service.....	39.5	40.5	47.8
Patent and Trademark Office.....	9.3	10.4	9.8
<b>DEFENSE</b>			
Army Corps of Engineers .....	4.8	4.8	5.0
Defense Manpower Data Center.....	9.7	9.9	9.8
<b>EDUCATION</b>			
National Center for Education Evaluation .....	1.3	1.4	1.4
National Center for Education Statistics.....	226.6	227.9	263.0
National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research.....	2.3	2.4	2.4
Office of Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development .....	44.8	47.7	48.0
Program Evaluation, Data Collection, and Analysis.....	47.9	42.8	34.1
<b>ENERGY</b>			
Energy Information Administration.....	83.8	85.3	89.8
Office of Environment, Safety, and Health.....	21.5	21.5	16.9
<b>HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES</b>			
Administration on Aging .....	2.6	2.6	2.6
Administration for Children and Families .....	52.5	59.5	74.1
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality .....	162.8	161.3	160.3
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.....	2.9	4.1	4.0
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (without NCHS) .....	392.7	363.9	359.4
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services .....	16.3	18.8	18.9
Health Resources and Services Administration .....	16.1	16.1	16.2
Indian Health Service .....	3.9	4.0	4.2
National Center for Health Statistics .....	109.0	109.0	109.0
National Institutes of Health.....	856.3	853.8	851.3
National Cancer Institute.....	114.2	117.9	117.9

**Table 1. Direct Funding for Major Statistical Programs, FY 2005–2007**  
(In millions of dollars)

Department/Agency	2005 Actual	2006 Estimate	2007 Estimate
National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine.....	9.7	9.7	9.7
National Eye Institute.....	1.3	1.4	1.5
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute.....	128.7	128.7	128.7
National Institute on Aging.....	19.0	19.0	19.0
National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.....	14.4	12.4	12.2
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.....	110.1	110.1	110.1
National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Disorders.....	0.3	0.5	0.4
National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering.....	5.1	5.1	5.1
National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.....	99.0	99.1	99.0
National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders.....	3.9	5.3	5.6
National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research.....	0.0	0.1	1.1
National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases.....	169.2	166.7	162.9
National Institute on Drug Abuse.....	94.1	93.5	93.0
National Institute on Environmental Health Sciences.....	85.7	82.7	83.1
National Institute of Mental Health.....	0.7	0.6	0.6
Office of the Director.....	0.9	1.0	1.4
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation.....	24.7	25.0	25.3
Office of Population Affairs.....	4.6	4.6	4.9
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration...	136.2	128.1	132.3
<b>HOMELAND SECURITY</b>			
Bureau of Customs and Border Protection.....	37.2	37.3	39.2
Federal Emergency Management Agency.....	7.3	9.9	10.2
Office of Immigration Statistics.....	4.8	4.3	4.4
Preparedness Directorate.....	0.0	0.0	28.0
<b>HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT</b>			
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Housing.....	3.1	3.8	3.7
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research.....	26.8	21.8	27.3
Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight.....	11.0	11.0	11.0
Office of Public and Indian Housing.....	31.1	21.8	21.9
<b>INTERIOR</b>			
Bureau of Reclamation.....	4.6	4.4	4.9
Minerals Management Service.....	10.9	11.1	11.1
National Park Service.....	0.9	0.9	1.0
United States Fish and Wildlife Service.....	5.5	12.4	8.8
United States Geological Survey.....	88.4	90.7	73.5

**Table 1. Direct Funding for Major Statistical Programs, FY 2005–2007**  
(In millions of dollars)

Department/Agency	2005 Actual	2006 Estimate	2007 Estimate
<b>JUSTICE</b>			
Bureau of Justice Statistics .....	38.8	39.8	59.8
Bureau of Prisons.....	13.4	10.1	10.3
Drug Enforcement Administration .....	2.6	3.4	3.6
Federal Bureau of Investigation.....	7.5	7.6	7.7
<b>LABOR</b>			
Bureau of Labor Statistics.....	529.0	537.1	563.3
Employment Standards Administration .....	3.3	3.8	3.9
Employment and Training Administration .....	106.8	92.7	31.1
Mine Safety and Health Administration .....	5.2	5.7	5.9
Occupational Safety and Health Administration.....	23.0	25.0	33.0
<b>STATE</b>			
Broadcasting Board of Governors .....	12.1	10.7	11.3
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>			
Bureau of Transportation Statistics (Research and Innovative Technology Administration) .....	26.3	26.7	27.5
Federal Aviation Administration .....	3.8	8.2	8.4
Federal Highway Administration.....	20.9	18.8	30.3
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.....	17.0	12.0	13.5
Federal Railroad Administration.....	4.4	4.0	3.9
Federal Transit Administration.....	4.3	5.6	5.4
Maritime Administration .....	1.7	2.0	3.0
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.....	50.0	51.3	52.1
Office of the Secretary of Transportation .....	1.5	1.5	1.5
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration.....	4.9	5.9	6.9
<b>TREASURY</b>			
Statistics of Income Division (Internal Revenue Service) ....	38.5	40.5	41.5
<b>VETERANS AFFAIRS</b>			
Board of Veterans' Appeals .....	0.7	0.7	0.7
National Cemetery Administration.....	0.4	0.4	0.5
Office of Policy, Planning, and Preparedness.....	7.1	7.4	7.2
Veterans Benefits Administration.....	0.9	1.6	1.5
Veterans Health Administration .....	92.6	94.4	91.3
<b>OTHER AGENCIES</b>			
Agency for International Development.....	12.0	16.7	16.5
Consumer Product Safety Commission .....	10.0	11.0	12.0
Environmental Protection Agency.....	131.2	129.6	117.6
Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.....	2.0	2.1	2.2
Institute of Museum and Library Services .....	4.4	4.5	4.6
National Aeronautics and Space Administration .....	14.7	17.0	15.0
National Science Foundation.....	129.3	122.1	126.4
Science Resources Statistics.....	30.6	32.3	35.1
Small Business Administration.....	1.1	1.3	1.1

**Table 1. Direct Funding for Major Statistical Programs, FY 2005–2007**  
(In millions of dollars)

Department/Agency	2005 Actual	2006 Estimate	2007 Estimate
Social Security Administration .....	27.0	47.5	35.9
Office of Research, Evaluation, and Statistics .....	17.2	19.3	17.0
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>5,180.4</b>	<b>5,239.7</b>	<b>5,402.4</b>
Total without Decennial Census .....	4,792.1	4,791.9	4,890.6

Note: Figures shown in Table 1 have been provided by the agencies and are derived from "total budget authority" shown in the program and financing schedule for these agencies in the President's FY 2007 budget. The amounts for BJS and NCES include estimated salaries and expenses that are not directly appropriated. The FY 2007 amounts for BJS include administrative and overhead expenses not included in FY 2005 and FY 2006. Components may not add to stated totals due to rounding.

### Highlights of Congressional Action on the President's FY 2006 Budget Request

The figures for FY 2006 in Table 1 reflect Congressional action on the President's budget request for funding of statistical activities. The following are highlights of the effects of these appropriation levels on the programs of the principal statistical agencies:

**Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA):** The FY 2006 appropriation of \$75.3 million was \$5.9 million below the President's request. This appropriation included \$2.9 million for initiatives to improve the accuracy and timeliness of the Nation's economic statistics. With these funds, BEA will improve the statistics on multinational companies and trade in services to fill gaps in U.S. international statistics and help answer pressing questions including those related to offshore outsourcing. BEA will complete its five-year statistical improvement program to accelerate the timeliness of its measures and improve their accuracy by releasing metropolitan area data and gross state product estimates sooner and by incorporating new monthly and quarterly data to fill gaps in coverage in GDP.

**Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS):** The FY 2006 appropriation of \$39.8 million, \$13.1 million below the President's request, represented a stable funding level from FY 2005. BJS did not receive the funding requested to restore its base funding necessary to meet the growing costs of data collection and the information demands of policymakers and the criminal justice community. To address base adjustments insufficient to carry out ongoing operations of its National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) and other national collection programs, BJS has utilized many strategies, such as cutting sample, to keep costs within available spending levels. However, changes to the NCVS have had significant effects on the precision of the estimates—year-to-year change estimates are no longer feasible and have been replaced with two-year rolling averages. In addition, BJS did not receive funding to conduct the proposed Felony Arrestee Drug Use Reporting Program which would

have provided estimates of and monitored trends in drug use among the offender population; this program was intended to replace, at a lower cost, the Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring program conducted by the National Institute of Justice, which was discontinued in 2005. Funds were also not provided for the proposed expansion of BJS's civil justice statistical program designed to include alternative dispute resolution measures for torts and other civil matters.

***Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS):*** The FY 2006 appropriation of \$537.1 million was \$5.4 million below the President's request. This level provides the necessary funds to continue programs that are of vital concern to the Congress, the policymaking agencies of the Executive Branch, and the public. BLS will continue efforts to extend Producer Price Index coverage for the first time to the construction sector of the U. S. economy and to enhance service sector coverage. BLS will continue the biennial updating of the Consumer Price Index market basket by updating consumer expenditure weights and population weights, as well as continue work on initiatives to expand the Employment Cost Index sample and to convert the classification of establishments from the Standard Industrial Classification System to the North American Industry Classification System. In addition, the BLS released its 2004-14 employment projections and published the 2006-07 edition of the Occupational Outlook Handbook.

***Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS):*** The FY 2006 appropriation of \$26.7 million was \$6.1 million below the President's budget request. BTS stopped the long distance travel survey, the non-air TransStats portion of the Intermodal DataBase, and several economic research projects. Other programs, such as the Transportation Statistics Annual Report and airline data processing, have been scaled back. As in past years, no funding was appropriated from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund—an authorized appropriation that is intended to fund BTS's aviation statistics program; in FY 2006 BTS's aviation statistics activities were financed with carry-over funds from the Highway Trust Fund.

***Census Bureau (Census):*** The FY 2006 appropriation of \$821.9 million was \$75.5 million below the President's request. This funding level was sufficient to continue a number of important activities, including the current economic and current demographic statistics programs, preparation for the 2007 Economic Census and Census of Governments, and ongoing planning for the 2010 Census. The appropriation included approximately \$167.8 million for full implementation of the American Community Survey, with group quarters enumeration and a methods panel. Several proposed 2006 initiatives were unfunded: enhancements to provide new source data on the service sector to improve measures of the GDP; enhancements to insure full use of the legislatively mandated Automated Export System; measuring migration across U.S. borders; and mail security enhancements at the National Processing Center. The Census Bureau continued to receive \$20.0 million in mandatory appropriations—\$10.0 million for the State Children's Health Insurance Program and \$10.0 million for the Survey of Program Dynamics. The Medicare, Medicaid, and State Children's Health Insurance Act appropriates funds to the Census Bureau to produce statistically reliable annual state data on the number of low-income children who do not have health insurance coverage. Under the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, the

Census Bureau receives funds to produce data from the Survey of Program Dynamics to evaluate the effects of the Act.

***Economic Research Service (ERS):*** The FY 2006 appropriation of \$75.2 million was \$5.6 million below the President's request. Congressional action included a smaller than requested increase for the continued development of the Consumer Data and Information System, and funding for a report on the sheep industry. The new consumer data platform will be used to identify, understand, and track changes in food supply and consumption patterns, and to explore the relationship between consumers' knowledge and attitudes and their consumption patterns.

***Energy Information Administration (EIA):*** The FY 2006 appropriation of \$85.3 million, \$0.6 million below the President's request, included funding for ongoing operations with a focus on improving petroleum and natural gas data security, reliability, and quality; conducting the quadrennial commercial, manufacturing, and residential energy consumption surveys; implementing the enhanced Voluntary Greenhouse Gases Emissions Reporting System to support the President's Climate Change Initiative; and developing a program performance prototype to assess EIA's data collection and operations costs at a more disaggregated level. EIA discontinued two petroleum surveys, the EIA Monthly Foreign Crude Oil Acquisition Report and the EIA Domestic Crude Oil First Purchase Report.

***National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS):*** The FY 2006 appropriation of \$139.3 million was \$5.9 million below the President's request. The appropriation provided partial funding for the Agricultural Estimates Restoration and Modernization initiative and did not fund improvements to the county estimates program. It also funded increases associated with the cyclical fluctuations in needs for the quinquennial Census of Agriculture .

***National Center for Education Statistics (NCES):*** The FY 2006 appropriation of \$227.9 million was \$24.6 million less than the President's request.<sup>1</sup> NCES received appropriations for three major programs: Statistics, Assessment, and Statewide Data Systems. The Statistics program received an appropriation of \$90.0 million in 2006, an amount that was \$0.9 million less than the President's request due to rescissions. The Assessment program received \$93.1 million, but did not receive the \$23.2 million requested to implement state-level assessments in reading and mathematics in the 12th grade. Of the \$93.1 million for Assessment, \$88.1 million was for the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) and \$5.0 million was for the National Assessment Governing Board (NAGB). The Statewide Data Systems program received \$24.6 million, which was \$0.3 million less than the President's request.

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<sup>1</sup> The President's FY 2006 request for NCES was listed as \$225.7 million rather than \$252.5 million in last year's report because funds for the Statewide Data Systems (SDS) program were reported as reimbursable funds from other Federal agencies rather than part of the NCES request. At the time, the Department of Education had not determined which office would ultimately administer the program. Since the Department has determined that NCES will administer the program, this report shows funding for SDS in NCES for all years.



***National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS):*** For FY 2006 NCHS received \$109.0 million in appropriations, as requested by the President, for its program activities. This provided level funding to sustain investments made for maintaining and transforming CDC/NCHS data systems to meet the demands of increasingly complex public health and health policy issues. These funds enabled the CDC/NCHS to continue taking important steps to maintain and improve its core data systems, address long-term funding shortfalls for these systems, as well as pursue ongoing efforts to improve timeliness and quality through re-engineering of survey technologies and redesign of samples.

## **Highlights of the FY 2007 Budget Request**

As shown in Table 1, the FY 2007 budget submitted by the President for statistical activities covered by this report is estimated at \$5,402.4 million. This year's proposed budget includes a number of key initiatives designed to improve significantly the breadth and quality of information on major segments of the economy and population that currently are not adequately measured. These initiatives include:

- producing detailed social and economic data every year from the American Community Survey for all places (including group quarters) with a population of 65,000 or more beginning in 2006, all places with a population of 20,000 or more beginning in 2008, and all places down to the Census Tract level beginning in 2010. The 2011 data release will be the first to include five-year accumulations of both housing unit and group quarters data for every year in the release and, therefore, will produce annual information comparable in content and reliability to the decennial census long form;
- re-engineering the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) in order to improve data quality, address falling response rates, and accelerate the timely release of data at a reduced cost to taxpayers;
- continuing development of a database infrastructure that integrates state administrative data and Census Bureau data products to fill critical data gaps at the state and local levels;
- implementing a more representative and current sample of geographic areas, as well as a continuously updated housing sample, to update the CPI on a continuous basis and improve its accuracy and timeliness;
- continuing to expand the Employment Cost Index (ECI) sample to produce better annual estimates of employer compensation cost levels;
- rebuilding the national sample of the National Crime Victimization Survey to improve the quality of national estimates; testing enhancements to the survey that will result in improved efficiencies and the opportunity to modify survey questions to address evolving crime issues such as identity theft, hate crime, and victim descriptions of the response of the justice system; and conducting

methodological research aimed at reducing respondent burden and cognitively testing a variety of new approaches to obtain victimization data;

- developing an Agricultural and Rural Development Information System to monitor the changing economic health and well-being of farm and non-farm households in rural areas;
- completing the development of the Consumer Data and Information System—which will be used to identify, understand, and track changes in food supply and consumption patterns, and to explore the relationship between consumers’ knowledge and attitudes and their consumption patterns—by incorporating food away from home data;
- increasing global oil and gas data and modeling capabilities;
- redesigning key petroleum and natural gas surveys to improve reliability and statistical accuracy; and
- designing and beginning scoping activities for a next-generation U.S. energy model to replace the current national energy model system, which will improve the ability to assess and forecast supply, demand, and technology trends affecting U.S. and world energy markets.

The following are highlights of proposed program changes in the principal statistical agencies and their associated costs. Additional details about these changes are provided in Chapters 2 and 3 of this report. Appendix B provides information on the staffing levels of the principal statistical agencies.

***Bureau of Economic Analysis:*** The President’s budget request for FY 2007 is \$76.5 million. Funding requested will help the Bureau promote the understanding of the U.S. economy by providing timely, relevant, and accurate economic accounts data in an objective and cost-effective manner. The BEA Strategic Plan provides a detailed outline for improving the quality and accuracy of BEA economic statistics, and calls for specific, continuous improvements to each of its measures to better meet its mission in FY 2007.

***Bureau of Justice Statistics:*** The President’s FY 2007 budget request of \$59.8 million includes an increase of \$10.3 million to BJS’s base program. This request will address growing problems in quantifying year-to-year change in rates of criminal victimization estimated from the ongoing National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). BJS proposes utilizing the funds to rebuild the national sample to improve the quality of national estimates. In addition, BJS proposes to test enhancements to the survey that will result in improved efficiencies and the opportunity to modify survey questions to address evolving crime issues such as identity theft, hate crime, and victim descriptions of the response of the justice system. Funds will be used to conduct methodological research aimed at reducing burden on respondents and cognitively testing a variety of new approaches to obtain victimization data.

***Bureau of Labor Statistics:*** The FY 2007 budget request of \$563.3 million will enable BLS to continue to fulfill its role in developing national labor-related statistics and to measure the economy through producing, disseminating, and improving BLS economic measures. The requested funding provides \$8.0 million to begin implementing a more representative and current sample of geographic areas, as well as a continuously updated housing sample in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). These activities will continue the program's conversion to updating the CPI on a continuous basis and improve the accuracy and timeliness of the CPI.

***Bureau of Transportation Statistics:*** The President's FY 2007 budget requests \$27.5 million for BTS. This funding level will provide the necessary funds to continue base programs. The President's FY 2007 budget submission requests \$4.0 million for the aviation statistics program as part of FAA's operation appropriation, to be reimbursed to BTS.

***Census Bureau:*** The FY 2007 budget request of \$898.2 million will fund continuing support for the Census Bureau's cyclical programs, including \$511.8 million for the 2010 Decennial Census program, \$82.4 million for the third year of the six-year 2007 Economic Census funding cycle, and \$7.8 million for the third year of the five-year 2007 Census of Governments funding cycle. The request for the Decennial Census program includes \$179.8 million for the ACS and funds to continue to enhance and improve the Census Bureau's Master Address File (MAF) and geographic data base by bringing them into alignment with global positioning system (GPS) coordinates; continue to re-engineer the 2010 Decennial Census program to control costs, reduce operational risk and improve census coverage; and complete key mail-out, field, and special purpose studies for the 2010 Census. For the current demographic statistics program, the budget proposes the design of a new data collection system on the dynamics of economic well-being through the re-engineering of the Survey of Income and Program Participation.

***Economic Research Service:*** The President's FY 2007 budget request of \$82.5 million includes an increase of \$5.0 million to develop an Agricultural and Rural Development Information System to monitor the changing economic health and well-being of farm and non-farm households in rural areas. The initiative will support the collection of longitudinal survey data from farm and non-farm households to empirically assess the effects of policy adjustments or strategies in rural areas that represent specific development challenges, such as persistent poverty or substantial out-migration. It also includes \$1.6 million to complete the development of the Consumer Data and Information System by incorporating food away from home data.

***Energy Information Administration:*** The budget request of \$89.8 million includes funding for ongoing operations and provides additional funding to increase global oil and gas markets data and modeling capabilities; redesign key petroleum and natural gas surveys to improve data reliability and accuracy; and begin scoping activities for design requirements for the next-generation U.S. model to replace the current National Energy Model System, which will improve the ability to assess and forecast supply, demand, and technology trends affecting U.S. and world energy markets. The EIA-767 *Steam-Electric Plant Operation and Design Report* will be discontinued.

***National Agricultural Statistics Service:*** The FY 2007 budget request of \$152.6 million reflects a net increase of \$13.3 million. This request includes an increase of \$11.1 million for priority activities to restore and modernize the core agricultural survey and estimation program, and to conduct cyclical activities associated with the Census of Agriculture, which is conducted every five years.

***National Center for Education Statistics:*** The FY 2007 request of \$263.0 million includes funding for three major programs: Statistics, Assessment, and Statewide Data Systems. The budget request for the Statistics program includes an increase of \$3.0 million to initiate a longitudinal study of the educational experiences of middle and high school students and their eventual transitions to post-secondary studies and work. The requested funding for the Assessment program will provide continuing support for the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), a key measure of performance on the status of and trends in student learning over time, on a subject-by-subject basis. An increase of \$4.0 million in 2007 would allow the implementation of state-level assessments in reading and mathematics in the 12<sup>th</sup> grade in 2009. In addition, the Administration is requesting \$54.6 million for the Statewide Data Systems program, an increase of \$30 million that would, in part, support the development and implementation of systems for accurate reporting of high school graduation rates and dropout data.

***National Center for Health Statistics:*** The President's FY 2007 budget request of \$109.0 million represents level funding. The request seeks to sustain investments made for maintaining and transforming CDC/NCHS data systems to meet the demands of increasingly complex public health and health policy issues. At the requested level, CDC/NCHS will take important steps to maintain and improve its core data systems, addressing long-term funding shortfalls for these systems as well as pursuing ongoing efforts to improve timeliness and quality through re-engineering of survey technologies and redesign of samples.

## **Reimbursable Programs**

Agencies whose missions are primarily or entirely statistical often perform statistical work for others on a reimbursable basis. These reimbursements come from other agencies within the same department or from other Federal agencies, state governments, and occasionally the private sector or foreign governments. Sometimes data collected by one agency for its programmatic purposes can be used for a different programmatic purpose in another agency. Further, some agencies that have reimbursable programs, for example, the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation in the Department of Health and Human Services, do not necessarily perform all the work. Rather, they use part of the reimbursable program money to purchase statistical work from other Federal agencies.

Table 2 presents a list of agencies that expect to perform at least \$100,000 of statistical work on a reimbursable basis for state and local governments, the private sector, and/or other Federal agencies, ranked by the estimated size of the reimbursable program for FY 2007. As shown in Table 2, of the estimated total of

\$576.3 million in reimbursable work, an estimated \$437.3 million is performed for other Federal agencies. A large portion of the reimbursable work performed for other Federal agencies is funded through intradepartmental transfers.

**Table 2. Estimated Agency Reimbursements for Statistical Activities, FY 2007**

(In millions of dollars)

Agency	Direct Funding	Reim-bursable Program	State/ local Govern-ments	Private Sector	Other Federal Agencies
Census Bureau.....	898.2	246.5	12.6	5.5	228.4
US Geological Survey.....	73.5	129.8	87.5	3.3	39.0
National Center for Health Statistics.....	109.0	59.1	0.2	2.6	56.3
National Center for Education Evaluation.....	1.4	25.9	0.0	0.0	25.9
National Agricultural Statistics Service.....	152.6	17.3	2.9	0.5	13.9
Forest Service.....	56.0	15.0	10.0	0.0	5.0
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.....	132.3	10.7	0.0	0.0	10.7
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (w/out NCHS).....	359.4	8.8	0.0	0.0	8.8
Natural Resources Conservation Service.....	140.4	8.1	3.2	0.2	4.7
National Center for Education Statistics.....	263.0	7.2	0.0	0.0	7.2
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration...	81.8	6.2	0.2	3.6	2.4
Bureau of Labor Statistics.....	563.3	5.0	0.0	1.0	4.0
Federal Highway Administration.....	30.3	5.0	0.0	5.0	0.0
Bureau of Transportation Statistics.....	27.5	4.7	0.0	0.0	4.7
Economics and Statistics Administration.....	4.0	3.3	0.0	0.0	3.3
Office of Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development.....	48.0	3.3	0.0	0.0	3.3
Consumer Product Safety Commission.....	12.0	3.0	0.0	0.0	3.0
NSF Science Resources Statistics.....	35.1	2.2	0.0	0.0	2.2
Foreign Agricultural Service.....	43.4	2.0	0.0	0.0	2.0
Bureau of Justice Statistics.....	59.8	2.0	0.0	0.0	2.0
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation.....	25.3	2.0	0.0	0.0	2.0
Statistics of Income Division (Internal Revenue Service).....	41.5	1.8	0.0	0.1	1.7
International Trade Administration.....	6.1	1.3	0.2	0.1	1.1
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry...	4.0	1.2	0.0	0.0	1.2
National Science Foundation (without SRS).....	91.3	1.1	0.0	0.0	1.1
Bureau of Economic Analysis.....	76.5	0.9	0.0	0.2	0.7
Employment and Training Administration.....	31.1	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.5
Health Resources and Services Administration.....	16.2	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.5
Energy Information Administration.....	89.8	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.4
Economic Research Service.....	82.5	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.3
Federal Railroad Administration.....	3.9	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.3
National Institutes of Health.....	851.3	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.2
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.....	52.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.2
SSA Office of Research, Evaluation, and Statistics ...	17.0	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.1

**Table 2. Estimated Agency Reimbursements for Statistical Activities, FY 2007**

(In millions of dollars)

Agency	Direct Funding	Reim-bursable Program	State/local Govern-ments	Private Sector	Other Federal Agencies
Administration for Children and Families.....	74.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1
Agricultural Research Service.....	4.7	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1
Environmental Protection Agency.....	117.6	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1
Indian Health Service.....	4.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>4,680.3</b>	<b>576.3</b>	<b>116.8</b>	<b>22.2</b>	<b>437.3</b>

Note: Table presents agencies that expect to perform at least \$100,000 of statistical work on a reimbursable basis, ranked by the estimated size of the reimbursable program. Reimbursements from the private sector also include funds received from foreign governments [Census (\$0.9 million) and NOAA (\$0.2 million)]. Components may not add to stated totals because of rounding.

For FY 2007, the Census Bureau has the largest reimbursable program, estimated at \$246.5 million. Most of this work (\$228.4 million) involves data collection and preparation of tabulations for other Federal agencies. In particular, the Census Bureau expects to perform approximately \$80.1 million of reimbursable work for the Department of Labor to collect labor force, consumer expenditure, and work experience data for the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Examples of reimbursable work that the Census Bureau expects to perform for other Federal agencies include the Schools and Staffing Survey, the Private Schools Survey, and the Teacher Follow-up Survey for the National Center for Education Statistics; the National Health Interview Survey, the National Alcohol Survey, the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey-Insurance Component, the Ambulatory Medical Care Survey, and the National Long Term Care Survey for the Department of Health and Human Services; the American Housing Survey and the Housing Sales Survey for the Department of Housing and Urban Development; the National Crime Victimization Survey, the Stalking Victimization Survey, and the National Prisoner Statistics Program for the Bureau of Justice Statistics; and the National Survey of College Graduates for the National Science Foundation. In addition, the Census Bureau receives funds from the Agency for International Development, other U.S. and foreign government agencies, and international organizations such as the United Nations to conduct demographic, geographic, and socioeconomic studies and strengthen statistical development around the world through technical assistance, training, and software products.

The Water Resources Discipline in the United States Geological Survey (USGS) has the second largest reimbursable program, estimated at \$129.8 million. Among the Federal agencies, USGS performs the largest amount (\$87.5 million) of work for the states through a Federal-state cooperative program. This program provides for hydrologic data collection and analysis, water resources appraisals, and special analytical and interpretive studies. The Water Resources Discipline also expects to

perform substantial statistical work for Federal agencies (\$39.0 million), including hydrologic data collections and analyses for other agencies in the Department of the Interior; the Departments of Defense, Agriculture, Commerce, Energy, Homeland Security, State, and Transportation; the Environmental Protection Agency; and the Tennessee Valley Authority.

A large portion of the reimbursable work in Health and Human Services (HHS) is done within the department and is conducted through the use of grants, contracts, and interagency agreements. Most of the reimbursable statistical work performed by NCHS (\$59.1 million)—ranked third among the agencies with reimbursements for statistical activities—is done for other agencies within HHS (\$48.3 million), in particular, for other parts of its parent organization, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the National Institutes of Health. The National Death Index will continue to receive reimbursement from both CDC and non-Federal sources. Reimbursable work funded by non-Federal entities will also support the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey and the National Health Interview Survey.

Intradepartmental transfers support most of the reimbursable work shown in Table 2 for the National Center for Education Evaluation and the National Center for Education Statistics. All \$25.9 million of NCEE reimbursable work will be done for other agencies in the Department of Education. Notably, NCEE will receive from the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education \$8.5 million to conduct the Reading First Impact Study and \$5.9 million for impact evaluation of reading comprehension interventions. NCES will be reimbursed a total of \$4.9 million for surveys conducted on behalf of seven other offices within the Department. Intradepartmental transfers also support much of the reimbursable work of the Department of Agriculture (USDA) agencies. Approximately \$13.0 million of NASS's reimbursable work is done for other agencies in USDA. In particular, NASS will receive \$6.5 million from the Economic Research Service for the Agricultural Resource Management Survey. Other USDA agencies reimbursing NASS will be the USDA's Farm Service Agency for providing feed grain county estimates (\$2.6 million), the Natural Resources Conservation Service for collecting data used to analyze the impact of environmental programs (\$2.0 million), and the Risk Management Agency for county estimates of commodity production and yield (\$0.9 million). Funds will also be received from the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) for providing training and technical assistance in statistics (\$0.8 million).

## **Purchases of Statistical Services**

Agencies contract for statistical services with other Federal agencies, state and local governments, or private sector organizations. Table 3 shows the agencies that have total purchases of at least \$1.0 million, ranked by total purchases; information on agencies with smaller estimated purchases is provided in Appendix A.

When a contract is a transfer of funds to another Federal agency, the contract is a direct program obligation in the budget of the purchasing agency and is part of the reimbursable program of the agency providing the service. Examples of these kinds of purchases of statistical services were given above in the section on reimbursable

programs. Agencies such as the National Center for Education Evaluation, for example, can purchase more than their direct funding for statistics allows, because they receive the difference from other Federal agencies under their reimbursable programs.

The five largest purchasers of statistical services are the National Institutes of Health (\$347.4 million), the National Center for Education Statistics (\$257.4 million), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (without NCHS, \$224.9 million), the Bureau of Labor Statistics (\$194.0 million), and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (\$125.1 million). During FY 2007, Federal agencies covered by this report will purchase an estimated \$2,168.1 million in statistical services, as shown in Appendix A. More than half of these services will be purchased from the private sector.

The largest purchasers of statistical services from the state and local governments are the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (without NCHS, \$127.3 million), Bureau of Labor Statistics (\$96.0 million), National Center for Education Statistics (\$61.6 million), the National Agricultural Statistics Service (\$27.2 million), and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (\$25.3 million). CDC funds reimburse localities for their cooperation in the reporting of diseases. BLS funds support the cooperative labor force statistics program. NCES provides funds to state educational agencies that support development and implementation of systems for collecting and reporting education data, including statewide longitudinal data systems. NASS funds are used for data collection services provided by the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture. SAMHSA funds are used for the National Outcomes Initiative which provides the states and SAMHSA with outcome measurements of mental health services and substance abuse prevention and treatment programs.

**Table 3. Estimated Agency Purchases of Statistical Services, FY 2007**

(In millions of dollars)

Agency	Direct Funding	Total Purchases	State/local Governments	Private Sector	Other Federal Agencies
National Institutes of Health	851.3	347.4	0.0	319.0	28.4
National Center for Education Statistics.....	263.0	257.4	61.6	180.2	15.6
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (without NCHS) ..	359.4	224.9	127.3	84.8	12.8
Bureau of Labor Statistics .....	563.3	194.0	96.0	18.0	80.0
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration ..	132.3	125.1	25.3	99.5	0.4
National Science Foundation (without SRS) .....	91.3	92.5	0.0	92.4	0.0
National Center for Health Statistics .....	109.0	89.0	18.5	44.6	25.9
Administration for Children and Families .....	74.1	72.4	13.9	51.6	6.9
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.....	160.3	69.7	0.0	61.3	8.4
Bureau of Justice Statistics.....	59.8	46.9	5.0	7.8	34.2
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.....	52.1	41.0	9.5	27.4	4.0
Office of Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development .....	48.0	38.3	0.0	38.3	0.0
Energy Information Administration.....	89.8	34.4	0.3	34.1	0.0



**Table 3. Estimated Agency Purchases of Statistical Services, FY 2007**

(In millions of dollars)

Agency	Direct Funding	Total Purchases	State/local Governments	Private Sector	Other Federal Agencies
Program Evaluation, Data Collection, and Analysis.....	34.1	34.1	0.0	0.0	34.1
Federal Highway Administration.....	30.3	32.2	0.0	32.1	0.1
NSF Science Resources Statistics.....	35.1	31.9	0.0	25.4	6.5
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration .....	81.8	31.1	19.2	11.9	0.0
National Agricultural Statistics Service.....	152.6	27.4	27.2	0.0	0.2
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy Development & Research .....	27.3	27.3	0.0	2.0	25.3
Employment and Training Administration .....	31.1	26.9	24.8	2.1	0.0
National Center for Education Evaluation.....	1.4	25.9	0.0	25.9	0.0
Bureau of Customs and Border Protection .....	39.2	24.5	0.0	24.5	0.0
Office of Public and Indian Housing.....	21.9	21.9	0.0	21.9	0.0
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services .....	18.9	18.4	0.0	18.4	0.0
Economic Research Service .....	82.5	18.2	4.9	3.7	9.6
Environmental Protection Agency.....	117.6	17.4	1.0	15.2	1.2
Social Security Administration (without ORES) .....	18.9	17.3	0.0	16.6	0.7
Agency for International Development .....	16.5	16.5	0.0	9.9	6.6
Food and Nutrition Service.....	12.0	12.0	0.0	12.0	0.0
Natural Resources Conservation Service.....	140.4	11.8	2.4	7.3	2.1
Broadcasting Board of Governors .....	11.3	10.8	0.0	10.8	0.0
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.....	13.5	10.2	3.0	0.0	7.2
Federal Emergency Management Agency (was EP&R).....	10.2	9.2	0.0	9.2	0.0
Bureau of Transportation Statistics.....	27.5	7.6	0.0	0.0	7.6
Bureau of Prisons .....	10.3	7.3	7.3	0.0	0.0
Federal Aviation Administration .....	8.4	6.5	0.0	0.0	6.5
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation..	25.3	6.0	0.0	0.0	6.0
Federal Transit Administration.....	5.4	5.1	0.0	3.5	1.6
Defense Manpower Data Center.....	9.8	5.1	0.0	5.1	0.0
Bureau of Economic Analysis .....	76.5	4.7	0.0	1.5	3.2
Bureau of Reclamation .....	4.9	4.6	0.0	0.0	4.6
Institute of Museum and Library Services.....	4.6	4.6	2.0	2.6	0.0
Health Resources and Services Administration .....	16.2	4.5	0.0	1.1	3.4
US Fish and Wildlife Service .....	8.8	4.1	0.4	0.3	3.5
Consumer Product Safety Commission .....	12.0	4.0	0.0	4.0	0.0
SSA Office of Research, Evaluation, and Statistics.....	17.0	4.0	0.0	0.5	3.5
International Trade Administration .....	6.1	3.9	0.0	1.6	2.3
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration .....	6.9	3.8	0.0	3.6	0.2
Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight .....	11.0	3.0	0.0	3.0	0.0
Administration on Aging .....	2.6	2.6	0.8	1.6	0.3
Office of Environment, Safety, and Health.....	16.9	2.5	0.0	0.0	2.5
Federal Railroad Administration .....	3.9	2.4	0.0	2.4	0.0
National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research .....	2.4	2.4	0.0	2.4	0.0
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.....	4.0	2.1	2.0	0.1	0.0
Agricultural Research Service .....	4.7	2.1	0.0	0.0	2.1
Census Bureau.....	898.2	2.1	0.0	0.0	2.1
Mine Safety and Health Administration .....	5.9	2.1	0.0	2.1	0.0
Office of Policy, Planning, and Preparedness.....	7.2	1.5	0.0	1.5	0.0

**Table 3. Estimated Agency Purchases of Statistical Services, FY 2007**

(In millions of dollars)

Agency	Direct Funding	Total Purchases	State/local Government	Private Sector	Other Federal Agencies
Employment Standards Administration.....	3.9	1.3	0.9	0.4	0.0
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Housing .....	3.7	1.2	0.0	1.2	0.0
Veterans Benefits Administration.....	1.5	1.1	0.0	1.1	0.0
Small Business Administration.....	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.9	0.2
Foreign Agricultural Service .....	43.4	1.0	0.0	0.0	1.0
Office of Population Affairs .....	4.9	1.0	0.0	0.0	1.0
Occupational Safety and Health Administration.....	33.0	1.0	0.0	1.0	0.0
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>5,038.4</b>	<b>2,164.3</b>	<b>453.1</b>	<b>1,349.5</b>	<b>361.7</b>

Note: Table presents agencies that expect to have purchases of at least \$1.0 million, ranked by estimated total purchases. Reimbursements from the private sector also include funds received from foreign governments [CDC \$20.8 million) and NCES (\$1.0 million)]. Components may not add to stated totals because of rounding.

Appendix A presents estimates of direct funding, reimbursements, and purchases for FY 2007, as reported by each of the agencies covered in this report. Based on that information, the agencies reported that they expect to purchase an estimated \$1341.2 million in statistical services from the private sector during FY 2007. Of that total, approximately \$845.9 million (or about 63 percent) in purchases from the private sector are made by the following five agencies: National Institutes of Health (\$319.0 million); National Center for Education Statistics (\$180.2 million); Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, including National Center for Health Statistics (\$129.4 million total); the National Science Foundation, including Science Resources Statistics (\$117.8 total); and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (\$99.5 million). The private sector provides a variety of services, such as survey design, data collection and processing, analysis, program evaluation, preparation of reports, data dissemination, computer services, and methodological research and development.

## **CHAPTER 2: Programs and Program Changes**

This chapter presents brief descriptions of the statistical activities of the agencies covered in this report. The chapter highlights program changes for Federal statistical activities for FY 2007 as proposed in the President's budget. Hence, the focus is not on base program activities that continue to be supported by budget requests, but rather on new activities, improvements, or reductions in the existing base programs, or any other important changes that affect an agency's statistical program.

For purposes of this discussion, the statistical programs are divided into the following categories: Health and Safety Statistics; Social and Demographic Statistics; Natural Resources, Energy, and Environment Statistics; and Economic Statistics.

### **Health and Safety Statistics**

#### **Health**

The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is the principal agency that produces general-purpose health data. NCHS is responsible for the collection, maintenance, analysis, and dissemination of statistics on the nature and extent of the health, illness, and disability of the U.S. population; the impact of illness and disability on the economy; the effects of environmental, social, and other health hazards; health care costs and financing; family formation, growth, and dissolution; and vital events (i.e., births and deaths). CDC provides data on morbidity, epidemiologic surveillance of infectious diseases, chronic diseases, occupational diseases and injuries, vaccine efficacy, and safety.

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) in the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) produces and disseminates information about the cost, quality, access, and medical effectiveness of health care. AHRQ's Medical Expenditure Panel Surveys provide public and private sector decision makers with timely national estimates of health care use and expenditures; private and public health insurance coverage; and the availability, costs, and scope of private health insurance benefits among the U.S. population. AHRQ prepares analyses of changes in behavior as a result of market forces or policy changes on health care use, expenditures, and insurance coverage; develops cost/savings estimates of proposed changes in policy; and identifies the impact of changes in policy for key groups in the population.

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) in HHS conducts public health assessments, health studies, and health surveillance for those exposed to hazardous materials, and maintains exposure and disease registries for long-term follow-up or specific scientific studies. ATSDR analyzes the statistical significance of human disease, biomarkers, and other health outcomes in the presence of

environmental contamination to establish possible relationships between exposure and health.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in HHS collect administrative data associated with oversight of the Medicare and Medicaid programs; study the quality of care delivered by those programs; and sponsor a survey of current Medicare beneficiaries to obtain data on health care utilization and expenditures, including expenditures not covered by Medicare, the sources of health care coverage and payment, and the assets, income, health, functional status, work history, and family support systems of the Medicare population.

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) in HHS collects data on general health services, the health professions workforce, and resource issues related to access, equity, quality, and cost of care. HRSA maintains the Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients and the National Bone Marrow Donor Registry.

The Indian Health Service (IHS) in HHS provides vital event, demographic, social, and economic statistics on American Indians and Alaska Natives living in IHS service areas, as well as patient care and morbidity information for those who use IHS services.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) in HHS support the design and implementation of epidemiological studies, clinical trials, biomedical and biostatistical research, and laboratory investigations conducted by the various institutes as described below. NIH also supports data collections on health and health-related topics by Federal agencies, industry, state and local governments, and private nonprofit organizations.

- National Cancer Institute (NCI) conducts extensive surveillance research on cancer incidence, mortality, morbidity, survival, patterns of cancer care, cancer risk factors and health practices, cost of care, health systems operations applied to cancer control, and progress against cancer.
- National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM) supports research on complementary and alternative medicine (CAM), trains researchers in CAM, and disseminates information to the public and professionals on which CAM modalities work, which do not, and why.
- National Eye Institute (NEI) carries out studies of the causation, prevention, and treatment of eye diseases and vision disorders.
- National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI) conducts basic epidemiological research related to heart, lung, and blood diseases, as well as research in theoretical statistics and biometric methods.
- National Institute on Aging (NIA) conducts research on aging and age-associated diseases and conditions using population-based epidemiological and biometric methods.

- National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) maintains the Alcohol Epidemiology Data System, a national repository of alcohol-related databases; sponsors a longitudinal survey of alcohol use, abuse, and dependence; and makes available information on alcohol-related policies adopted by state governments.
- National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) coordinates a multi-centered clinical trial of a comprehensive intervention program to reduce asthma morbidity in inner city children; creates databases containing chemical structures and biological data in order to monitor and analyze developments in the chemotherapy of HIV and opportunistic infections; makes available information on clinical trials that evaluate experimental drug treatments; and supports training activities that include statistical and clinical research training on AIDS and emerging infectious diseases, as well as training in biostatistical and data management and methods for analysis of HIV vaccine trials.
- National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS) provides support to NCHS for the inclusion of a dermatologic component and to perform body composition examinations and laboratory tests for Bone Alkaline Phosphates in the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey. The Institute also provides support for the arthritis component of the National Health Interview Survey.
- National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB) fosters, conducts, supports, and administers research and training programs in Bioinformatics, Image Processing, and Computational Modeling.
- National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) directs an epidemiological and statistical program that includes research on risk factors of adverse pregnancy outcomes, coordinates clinical trials for the evaluation of strategies of obstetric management and neonatal intensive care, and analyzes data to understand recent trends in indicators of maternal and child health.
- National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD) conducts epidemiologic studies related to deafness and other communication disorders, and maintains a data system to facilitate the monitoring of levels and analysis of trends in relevant health problems.
- National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) studies the impact of sociodemographic and economic trends on oral health, surveys oral health knowledge and practices of health providers, and investigates the oral health status of populations. The Institute also provides support to NCHS for the inclusion of an oral health component in the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey.
- National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) studies recipients of human growth hormones; the epidemiology of diabetes

and its complications; digestive diseases and their complications; and major chronic kidney, urologic, and hematologic diseases.

- National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) supports research on the nature, patterns, extent, causes, consequences, prevention, and treatment of drug abuse and works with state, Federal, and international governmental agencies to develop drug abuse surveillance capability through the establishment of epidemiology networks.
- National Institute of Environmental and Health Sciences (NIEHS) conducts a variety of activities such as the design and analysis of animal carcinogenicity experiments; statistical studies in genetic toxicology, mathematical modeling of molecular phenomena, and risk assessment methodology development; and a training program and consulting service, including efforts focusing on bioinformatics and the tools needed to analyze and interpret microarray data.
- National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) provides biostatistical analysis and data management for studies in support of its mission to reduce the burden of mental illness and behavioral disorders through research on mind, brain, and behavior.
- Office of the Director in NIH supports data collections and analyses examining populations training for and participating in medical research as well as biological and medical sciences instrumentation and research facilities, and maintains a database on characteristics of America's medical school faculties.

The National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) in the Department of Education supports national data centers that coordinate data collection activities of burn injury, traumatic brain injury, and spinal cord injury model systems program grantees and provide technical assistance on data collection methodology. In addition, NIDRR funds a Rehabilitation Research Training Center on demographics and statistics and funds a small number of field-initiated projects that conduct secondary analyses on existing data sets.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) in HHS provides information on health problems related to the use and abuse of drugs and alcohol (the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention); substance abuse treatment (the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment); the mental health condition of the population (the Center for Mental Health Services); and the prevalence and incidence of substance abuse and its medical impact (the Office of Applied Studies).

The Office of Environment, Safety, and Health (EH) in the Department of Energy (DOE) conducts epidemiological studies of the health effects of exposure to radiation and other hazardous substances. The Epidemiologic Surveillance Program monitors the safety and health of current DOE contract workers and evaluates the potential impact of DOE operations on these individuals. The office's two Former Worker Medical Surveillance programs provide medical screening to help ensure

the continuing health and safety of former workers who were exposed to hazards while they worked at DOE facilities. EH also works in conjunction with the Radiation Effects Research Foundation to conduct epidemiologic studies of atomic bomb survivors and gathers health effects information.

The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) performs health services and medical research, including studies on veterans' care in VA health care facilities.

The Agency for International Development (AID) helps developing countries in their efforts to create demographic and health information systems and to improve decision making by identifying emerging problems and better understanding trends across countries. AID statistical activities include measuring the impact of immunizations, HIV/AIDS, and other infectious diseases, and studying methodological approaches to collecting the core data needed for program planning, monitoring, surveillance, and evaluation.

Major program changes and new activities in health statistics planned for FY 2007 are:

- The budget request for CDC provides funds to:
  - continue development of approaches for statistical and mathematical modeling of sexually transmitted disease (STD) data and for detection of STD outbreaks and development of new data visualization methods;
  - support the initial implementation of the National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NEDSS) which will provide state and local health departments an electronic platform for routine and syndromic disease surveillance that enables rapid analysis of public health events, and;
  - provide the Environmental Public Health Tracking Program (EPHT) to up to 15 state and local health departments to conduct network implementation activities toward realizing the National EPHT Network.
- The budget request for ATSDR will provide increased funds to local health departments to allow them to more fully collect and analyze their data.
- The budget request for CDC includes expansion of the analytic capacity and the provision of additional technical assistance to state and local STD control programs as they transition to new STD prevention information systems.
- The NHLBI budget request will support the development of a multi-center epidemiological study in Hispanic populations to identify risk factors playing a protective or harmful role in disease in Hispanic populations, and to determine a role of acculturation in the prevalence and development of these diseases.
- The budget request for NIEHS will support expanded epidemiology efforts, most notably the Sister Study of environmental factors in the development of breast cancer.

- NIDA plans to expand the secondary analysis of data from prior drug abuse studies, which provides a cost-effective way of addressing important drug abuse issues without collecting new data. Commensurate with this and with policy at the NIH level, NIDA will encourage extramural investigators to share data to promote secondary analysis to benefit the drug abuse research field.

## **Safety**

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) collects and reports data on the occurrence of work-related injuries and illnesses in private industry and on work-related fatal injuries in private and public-sector establishments, including the self-employed.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) in the Department of Labor (DOL) has overall responsibility for the national injury and illness recordkeeping system, based on employer records, which is used to determine the cases that are included in the annual BLS Occupational Safety and Health Survey. OSHA also maintains the Integrated Management Information System that includes summary data on occupational injuries and illnesses from construction firms with 20 or more employees.

The Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) in DOL collects and analyzes current information on employment and production, as well as on accidents, injuries, and illnesses in the mining industry. The data provide current accident, injury, and illness information to MSHA's enforcement personnel, and to engineering, education, and training staff. Statistics on accident causes are published and available to the mining industry and the general public at MSHA's web site.

The Preparedness Directorate (PD) in the Department of Homeland Security collects statistical data on: terrorist and natural threats, community vulnerability, regional and local preparedness capability information, fire related injury data, first responder capabilities and gaps, and critical infrastructure geospatial information. These data and analyses are used in multiple programs to include: identifying infrastructure regarded as critical/key resource, developing and assessing performance metrics to identify programs contributing to broader national preparedness efforts, researching and procuring biodefense countermeasures for the Strategic National Stockpile, allocating the award of Federal funds through risk-based formula methodologies, processing statistical data for sharing and joint analysis in biosurveillance, researching statistical data for publication related to all-hazard and terrorism emergencies.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provides direct support to families and individuals recovering from disasters, and evaluates disaster victims' satisfaction with services received and manner in which they were provided. FEMA also analyzes data from the National Incident Management System (NIMS) to help track compliance and implementation nationwide, to identify incident management and emergency related standards for potential adoption as NIMS standards for State and local government in compliance, and to test and evaluate the system.



The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) conducts data collection, analysis, and dissemination activities on consumer product-related hazards and potential hazards. As part of its statistical program, CPSC maintains the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS) that provides national consumer product-related injury statistics based on the reporting of a sample of hospital emergency rooms. CPSC also collects data on non-consumer product-related injuries.

Major program changes and new activities in safety statistics planned for FY 2007 are:

- The budget request for OSHA will support the development of a new Occupational Safety and Health Information System to replace the outdated Integrated Management Information System, which no longer meets the agency's needs.

## **Social and Demographic Statistics**

### **Periodic Demographic Statistics**

The U.S. Census Bureau is the principal source of periodic demographic data; major programs include the Census of Population and Housing (decennial census) and the Intercensal Demographic Estimates.

***The Census of Population and Housing:*** The Census of Population and Housing provides the population counts for the apportionment of seats in the U.S. House of Representatives and for the states to define the boundaries of the districts for those seats, as well as data on small areas and population groups that Federal agencies need to implement legally mandated programs. The Census Bureau has developed a multi-year effort to reengineer the 2010 Census, which includes three highly interrelated components: implementation of the American Community Survey (ACS) to replace the Census long-form, collection and correction of the locations of streets and other geographic information through the Master Address File/Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing system (MAF/TIGER) Enhancements Program, and a fully tested, redesigned plan for a short-form only 2010 Census. All three elements must occur for the Census Bureau to achieve its long-range performance goals for the 2010 Census of Population and Housing—improving the relevance and timeliness of census long-form data, maintaining or reducing net differential undercounts (compared to Census 2000) without using statistical adjustment, reducing operational risk, and containing full cycle costs.

***Intercensal Demographic Estimates:*** This program develops updated population estimates in years between decennial censuses for areas such as states, counties, metropolitan statistical areas and functioning governmental units. These estimates have various uses in funding and planning, including the distribution of Federal program funds, as denominators for various Federal time series, as population controls for major household surveys, and for planning local transportation and health care services.

Major program changes and new activities in periodic demographic statistics for FY 2007 are:

- The budget request provides funding for three key components of the re-engineering effort for the 2010 Census of Population and Housing, enabling the Census Bureau to continue:
  - full ACS survey implementation and data dissemination;
  - enhancing the geographic database and associated address list system known as MAF/TIGER to bring an additional 690 counties into alignment with the Global Positioning System coordinates; and
  - the multiyear program of integrated planning, development, and testing to transition to a short-form only census in 2010. Key areas of activity include completing analysis of the 2005 National Census Test, completing and analyzing the 2006 Census Test, finishing preparations and continuing early operations for the 2008 Census Dress Rehearsal, and making final decisions on questionnaire content.

### **Current Demographic Statistics**

The Census Bureau's current demographic statistics program provides information on the number, geographic distribution, and social and economic characteristics of the population, including official estimates of income and poverty, estimates of health insurance coverage and homeownership rates, and a quarterly indicator of housing vacancies. The program also supports tests of new approaches and concepts for demographic surveys.

The Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) maintains the largest archive of personnel, manpower, and training data in the Department of Defense (DOD). DMDC's statistical activities include the personnel survey program, an enlistment testing program to support screening of military applicants, and a client support program to provide statistical support to the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

The Administration on Aging (AoA) in HHS collects data to assess the quality and impact of supportive services to the elderly and to measure the effectiveness of programs for the aging. AoA also compiles demographic and social data on the elderly from Federal surveys for the purpose of research on the needs of the elderly.

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) in HHS collects information to evaluate its programs for children and youth, such as Head Start, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, child support enforcement, adoption assistance, foster care, child care, and child abuse programs.

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) in the Department of Agriculture (USDA) conducts surveys, program evaluations, and studies to evaluate the Food Stamp, Child Nutrition, and other food assistance programs it administers.

The Agricultural Research Service (ARS) in USDA monitors and assesses food consumption and related behavior of the U.S. population by conducting surveys and providing information for food and nutrition-related programs and public policy decisions.

The Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (OASPE) funds studies to improve data on outcome measurement, including indicators of the health and welfare of both broad populations and special populations served by HHS programs.

The Office of Population Affairs in HHS supports research in the area of societal influences on adolescent sexual activity and adolescent pregnancy, evaluation of innovative strategies for preventing adolescent pregnancy, the characteristics of the population in need of family planning services, issues related to the improvement of family planning service delivery, and data collection efforts related to fertility and reproductive health.

The Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) oversees and coordinates the research and statistical functions for all broadcasting entities under its purview, including the Voice of America, Office of Cuba Broadcasting, Radio Free Asia, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, and Middle East Broadcasting Networks. The BBG consolidates its research function into a centralized International Audience Research Project so that all entities and broadcasters can be assured of current, reliable and statistically valid market and audience research on a periodic basis. In addition, the BBG oversees a priority schedule of research projects and monitors the individual research projects to ensure that they adhere to high professional standards and utilize the latest and most appropriate research and statistical methodologies.

The Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) National Cemetery Administration (NCA) analyzes projections of the veteran population for capacity and construction planning for future VA burial sites. The Office of Policy, Planning, and Preparedness (OPP) develops estimates and projections of the veteran population, collects information on the socioeconomic characteristics of veterans, surveys users and non-users of VA benefit programs, evaluates VA programs, and conducts actuarial studies. The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) supports continuing and new surveys of veterans and beneficiaries who receive VBA benefits and use its services. The surveys cover VA compensation and pension, education, loan guaranty, vocational rehabilitation and employment services, and insurance programs.

The Agency for International Development (AID) collects and analyzes data to assist developing countries in planning and evaluating population and health programs and programs for socioeconomic development, and to understand trends across countries and emerging problems.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) collects workforce composition data from public and private employers and membership composition data from union and labor organizations, by sex, race, and ethnicity. These data are used to carry out EEOC's enforcement activities under Title VII of the Civil Rights

Act of 1964, and are also used by other Federal, state, and local agencies charged with enforcement of equal employment opportunity laws. The EEOC also collects and compiles data for the annual Federal Equal Employment Opportunity Statistical Report of Discrimination Complaints.

The Division of Science Resources Statistics (SRS) in the National Science Foundation (NSF) conducts surveys that measure the number and demographic characteristics of individuals trained as, or working as, scientists and engineers, and participates in international collaborations to yield comparable measures of the same items. In addition, other components of NSF provide funding in support of biological sciences research databases and social science research and studies, such as the Panel Study of Income Dynamics, the General Social Survey, and the National Election Studies, as well as surveys and data collection methodologies to assess the state of U.S. education.

The Office of Research, Evaluation and Statistics (ORES) in the Social Security Administration (SSA) collects, tabulates, and publishes data on the Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance and the Supplemental Security Income programs and their beneficiary populations. SSA also performs demographic and socioeconomic research to assess the impact of program changes or alternatives.

The Major program changes and new activities in current demographic statistics planned for FY 2007 are:

- The Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) will be re-engineered through the design of a new data collection system on the dynamics of economic well-being. The new system will improve measurement of individual and household income and program participation, will provide both longitudinal and cross-sectional data, and will take advantage of new technologies permitting use of administrative data where feasible. The new design will enable policymakers to address most of the same issues that were examined using SIPP, but in a more timely manner, at reduced cost, and with less respondent burden.
- The budget increase for ACF will support research and evaluation on healthy marriage, abstinence education, and Head Start.
- The EEOC will implement the OMB standards for race and ethnicity data in its collection programs starting in 2007.
- The budget increase for FNS data collection and analysis will support Performance Measurement and Improvement and Food Stamp Program Delivery Models.
- The BBG 2007 budget request includes funds to expand international audience research beyond traditional broadcasting to ensure the most up-to-date understanding of development in the Internet, podcasting, blogging, SMS messaging, satellite transmission, and other new media in different media environments throughout the world.

- The SSA budget request includes funding support for a number of demonstrations (Accelerated Benefits, Benefit Offset, Mental Health Treatment Study, and Youth Transition Demonstration) that will test different employment supports as part of returning individuals with disabilities to work.

## **Crime and Justice Statistics**

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) in the Department of Justice (DOJ) collects, analyzes, publishes, and disseminates statistical information on crime, criminal offenders, victims of crime, and the operation of justice systems at all levels of government. BJS provides technical and financial support to state governments in developing capabilities in criminal justice statistics and improving their criminal history records and information systems.

The Bureau of Prisons (BoP) in DOJ conducts studies on topics such as population projection models; inmate classification; the association of inmate participation in education, training, and industry programs to post-release employment; staff and inmate perceptions of social climate in institutions; the effectiveness of drug and sex offender treatment programs; the impact of religious experience on prison adjustment; the prevalence of mental health conditions among the inmate population; privatization; and inmate and staff misconduct. The National Institute of Corrections within BoP focuses its research on areas of emerging interest and concern to corrections practitioners.

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) in DOJ produces data related to the enforcement of Federal drug laws.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Uniform Crime Reporting program collects data on the incidence of criminal acts as reported by 17,000 local law enforcement agencies nationwide and includes the following statistical programs: the National Incident-Based Reporting System, Federal Crime Reporting, Hate Crime Statistics Collection, and Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted. Data are collected on the following categories that comprise the Crime Index: murder, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. Statistical information on arrests, property loss, and other factors relevant to criminal activity is also produced by the FBI.

The Office of Immigration Statistics (OIS) within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) provides data on immigrants, refugees, temporary visitors (nonimmigrants), persons naturalized, and aliens apprehended and removed.

Major program changes and new activities in crime and justice statistics planned for FY 2007 are:

- The BJS budget requests funding for:
  - rebuilding the National Crime Victimization Survey sample to improve the quality of national estimates; and

- methodological research to improve efficiencies and methods to modify survey questions to address evolving crime issues such as identity theft, hate crime, and victim descriptions of the response of the justice system.
- The OIS budget request includes funding to continue to explore the feasibility of developing new surveys on immigrant populations to gain more in-depth information on immigrants by category of admission. OIS will also continue to develop new reports and estimates of various immigrant populations, for example an annual series of estimates on the number of unauthorized persons resident in the United States.

### **Education Statistics**

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) in the Department of Education is the principal Federal agency that collects and analyzes data on education in the United States. NCES maintains a survey program that provides information on children's health, early care, and early school experiences; on the condition of public and private education; and on libraries and information centers. It conducts studies of student financial aid, postsecondary faculty, and doctoral degree recipients, as well as transcript studies and various longitudinal studies. NCES collects and reports information on the academic performance of students as well as the literacy level of the adult population. The National Assessment of Educational Progress is NCES's primary tool for assessing what American elementary/secondary students know and can do in academic subjects. NCES also administers the Statewide Data Systems program, which provides grants to the states for the management and analysis of individual student data to improve student academic performance and close achievement gaps.

The National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance (NCEE), which is part of the Institute of Education Sciences within the Department of Education, conducts studies that assess the impact of education programs on academic achievement, particularly in the areas of reading, mathematics, and science. NCEE also reviews selected evaluation work supported by others outside the department to assess the quality of studies and the significance of such evaluations for improving education.

The Office of Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development (OPEPD) in the Department of Education conducts evaluations to describe program operations and outcomes to promote program improvement.

The Division of Science Resources Statistics (SRS) in the National Science Foundation (NSF) collects, publishes, and analyzes statistics on the Nation's science and engineering higher education system and those who participate in it. SRS measures science and engineering and health enrollments and degrees and develops information on other aspects of higher education. The NSF's Directorate for Education and Human Resources supports international assessments of student knowledge and curriculum, as well as contextual studies and indicators that monitor progress under NSF educational programs.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services, through grants, contracts and cooperative agreements, supports the collection and analysis of data about how the public uses libraries, museums and online resources to support learning throughout the lifetime. Recent topics explored include an analysis of the health information seeking behaviors of seniors, the long and short term impacts of museum and zoo visitation, an exploration of query behaviors of users of online information, and the role of public libraries and community technology centers in providing online government information.

Major program changes in education statistics planned for FY 2007 are:

- The budget request for NCES includes:
  - an increase to allow the initiation of a longitudinal study of the educational experiences of middle and high school students and their eventual transitions to post-secondary studies and work;
  - continued support for the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), which measures and reports on the status of and trends in student learning over time, on a subject-by-subject basis;
  - an increase to allow the implementation of state-level assessments in reading and mathematics in the 12<sup>th</sup> grade in 2009; and
  - an increase to support the development and implementation of systems for accurate reporting of high school graduation rates and dropout data.
- The budget request for SRS includes support for feasibility and potential pilot activities for new data collection efforts about individuals in postdoctorate positions, including those with foreign doctoral degrees. The request also includes support for design and initial implementation of a major redesign of the Survey of Graduate Students and Postdoctorates in Science and Engineering.

### **Transportation Statistics**

The Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) in the Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA) in the Department of Transportation (DOT) compiles, analyzes, and makes accessible information on the Nation's transportation systems; collects information on intermodal transportation and other areas; and enhances the quality and effectiveness of DOT's statistical programs through research, development of guidelines, and promotion of improvements in data acquisition and use.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in DOT collects data on aviation safety.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in DOT collects, analyzes, and disseminates data on the Nation's highway system, including financing, travel, fuel

consumption, vehicle registrations, highway system extent and safety, drivers licenses, and personal travel characteristics.

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) in DOT collects and analyzes data on motor carriers, and on commercial vehicle drivers and crashes.

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) in DOT collects and disseminates data on the Nation's railroad system, including traffic, safety, and accident reports, such as intermodal safety data for the geographic information system, and information on grade crossings and inspections.

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) in DOT maintains the primary database for statistics on the transit industry, known as the National Transit Database. These data, which must be reported by every FTA formula grant recipient, are used to report to the Congress on the performance of the transit industry, to make transit service and investment planning decisions, and to apportion FTA formula funds. The FTA also collects and analyzes data related to safety and security, including drug and alcohol testing results of safety sensitive personnel.

The Maritime Administration (MARAD) in DOT collects, maintains, and disseminates data on domestic and international transportation, vessel characteristics and itineraries, port facilities, shipbuilding and repair, ship values, financial reports and vessels' operating expenses, shipping activities, and maritime employment. MARAD also publishes reports on marine transportation and cruise passenger statistics, and conducts research on maritime issues.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) in DOT collects information on motor vehicle related accidents and fatalities and highway safety.

The Office of the Secretary of Transportation (OST) collects, analyzes, and publishes data in support of the department's programs and policy initiatives. Statistical activities include monitoring competition in the airline and maritime industries, supporting international negotiations on aviation matters, and maintaining systems to provide grant information and financial assistance awards for DOT.

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) in DOT collects data to monitor transportation of hazardous materials.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) in the Department of Defense collects and publishes statistical data on waterborne commerce and vessel operations in waterways, ports, and harbors of the United States, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The Waterborne Commerce Statistics Center maintains a database to respond to special requests for data and to produce monthly, quarterly, and annual products including the annual five-volume *Waterborne Commerce of the U.S.* that summarizes trips and tonnage by ports and waterways.

Major program changes and new activities in transportation statistics planned for FY 2007 are:



- The budget request for BTS provides support for the Commodity Flow Program.
- Beginning with calendar year 2006 data, the Corps, instead of MARAD will produce the vessel movement file to which the manifest-based cargo data and trade-based cargo data are matched to improve geographic accuracy.
- The FAA budget request includes funds for data collection and studies to support forecasting and performance reporting—including flight delays, finances, and traffic—to estimate airspace system requirements and allocate resources.
- The budget request for FHWA includes funds to:
  - continue data collection in support of the Long-Term Pavement Performance Program; and
  - implement the Intelligent Transportation Infrastructure Program (ITIP), which collects traffic data for dissemination to travelers and the DOT, in additional cities.

## **Natural Resources, Energy, and Environment Statistics**

### **Environment**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) monitors the quality of the air; drinking, surface, and ground water; ecosystem status; and the use and release of toxic or hazardous substances. EPA conducts research and studies to provide baseline data and to evaluate and support environmental monitoring systems. Projects include state and local programs to report ambient air quality levels of pollutants and estimated emissions of pollutants from major stationary sources, and projection of future air quality levels through models that take into account past air quality monitoring data and emissions data. Other statistical activities develop methods to document the distribution and determinants of exposure to pollutants experienced by the U.S. population, and methods to measure exposure to and the potential effects of pollutants on human health and ecosystems.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in the Department of Commerce gathers worldwide environmental data about the oceans, earth, air, space, and sun and their interactions to describe and predict the state of the physical environment. In fulfillment of this mission, the National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS) maintains national data centers that preserve and disseminate the agency's climatic, oceanographic, and geophysical data and selected environmental information collected by other agencies.

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) in the Department of the Interior (DOI) collects and maintains data on the quality, availability, and use of the Nation's water, including streamflow data for flood forecasting; streamflow data

that help determine water allocations for agriculture, industry, and domestic supply; streamflow data for hydropower, navigation, instream habitat, engineering design of bridges and flood control structures, and other purposes; water quality data used by EPA and the states for compliance with the Clean Water Act and other regulations; and data on the availability and quality of ground water that help determine sustainability of supplies for the future.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) collects remotely-sensed data to improve our understanding of and contribute to improved predictive capability for climate, weather, and natural hazards. Research and satellite programs study atmospheric chemistry and ozone, ocean surface height and winds as well as biological productivity, precipitation and the global hydrological cycle, the global carbon cycle and land surface and vegetation and ecosystems, and solid earth geophysics. Data assimilation is used to provide accurate and consistent estimates of the global distribution of a broad range of environmental parameters and to initialize forecast models.

Major program changes and new activities in environmental statistics planned for FY 2007 include:

- The EPA budget request includes:
  - funding to continue efforts of the Office of Radiation and Indoor Air to revise the cancer risk coefficients for radionuclides in response to the National Academy of Sciences report, Biological Effects of Ionizing Radiation Report VII (BEIR VII);
  - funding to support the Office of Air and Radiation's development of technologies to help states formulate multiple pollutant control strategies to reduce the burden on state and local agencies in controlling multiple pollutants;
  - funding to support the development of preliminary risk assessment methods and approaches for biological agents by National Homeland Security Research Center (NHSRC) within the Office of Research and Development. NHSRC is also developing a computer model for drinking water distribution systems to simulate contamination scenarios and reactions in pipe networks;
  - funding to complete the Office of Water's data analysis of microbial contaminants and disinfection byproducts in drinking water, including occurrence and treatment data;
  - reduced funding for regional data collection and analysis activities by the Office of Air and Radiation; and
  - reduced funding for work related to the characterization of pollutant exposures by the Office of Research and Development.

- Within NOAA, the NESDIS request would restore funding for Data Center activities that was cut in FY 2006.
- The USGS budget request includes an increase for the National Streamflow Information Program, which supports the national streamgaging system. However, the proposed budget eliminates several congressional earmarks including participation in the Long-term Estuary Assessment Group, water-quality data collection activities at Lake Champlain, ground-water monitoring in Hawaii, and monitoring the impacts of coalbed methane extraction in Montana.

### **Energy and Minerals**

The Energy Information Administration (EIA) within the Department of Energy (DOE) collects and disseminates information on energy reserves, production, consumption, distribution, prices, technology, and related international, economic, and financial matters. EIA's programs include data on coal, petroleum, natural gas, and electric and nuclear energy. EIA maintains a comprehensive energy database, disseminates energy data and analyses for a wide variety of customers in the public and private sectors, maintains the National Energy Modeling System for mid-term energy markets analysis and forecasting, maintains the Short-Term Integrated Forecasting System for near-term energy market analysis and forecasting, conducts customer forums and surveys to maintain an up-to-date product and service mix, and maintains systems supporting the electronic dissemination of energy data.

The Office of Environment, Safety, and Health (EH) in DOE supports projects associated with epidemiologic and worker medical surveillance, the United States Transuranium and Uranium Registries, and the Russian health effects studies. The United States Transuranium and Uranium Registries analyze the distribution of radioactive elements in the body to ensure that radiological protection standards and workplace control measures for occupational exposures to plutonium, uranium, and other long-lived radioactive materials are protective of worker health. The Russian Health Effects Studies are a joint effort by the United States and Russia to conduct epidemiologic studies on the health effects of exposure to radiation.

The Minerals Management Service (MMS) in the Department of the Interior collects data on oil, gas, and minerals activities occurring on Federal and American Indian lands. This information is collected as a part of MMS's responsibility for the management of both the Outer Continental Shelf Lands and Minerals Revenue Management programs. The Minerals Management Service is responsible for resource evaluation and classification; lease management activities; and the collection, auditing, and distribution of revenues and production data from mineral leasing on Federal and Indian lands.

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) in DOI collects data on nonfuel minerals and materials, including mineral resources, production, demand, use, recycling, and trade.

Major program changes and new activities in energy statistics planned for FY 2007 are:

- The EIA budget request includes funding to:
  - increase global oil and gas markets data and modeling capabilities;
  - redesign key petroleum and natural gas surveys to improve data reliability and accuracy; and
  - begin scoping activities for design requirements for the next-generation U.S. model to replace the current National Energy Model System.
- The EH budget request reflects decreased funding for the Worker and Community Health Studies Program. In addition, DOE would need to postpone and delay several public health statistical activities.

#### **Soil, Forest, Fish, Wildlife, and Public Lands**

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in the Department of Agriculture (USDA) conducts soil surveys and maintains and updates a national soils computerized database containing physical land facts; administers water supply and snow surveys used in water supply forecasts to manage seasonal use of water for irrigation, flood control, fish and wildlife, recreation, power generation, municipal and industrial water supply, and water quality management; and conducts a national resources inventory using both remote sensing and on-site investigation, providing data on the status and condition of natural resources on non-Federal lands.

The Forest Service (FS) in USDA conducts renewable resource inventories of forest lands and collects statistics on forest products. These data are used to identify trends in the extent, condition, ownership, quantity, and quality of timber and other forest resources.

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) focuses on domestic commercial and recreational fisheries, fishery management monitoring, and stock assessments of the health of living marine resources. NMFS is responsible for data on the volume and value of commercial fish and shellfish landings, the catch by recreational fishermen, employment of people and craft in the fisheries, number of recreational fishermen, production of manufactured fishery products, and fishery prices.

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) in the Department of the Interior (DOI) conducts annual surveys to monitor the fish and migratory bird populations, track diseases of cultured and wild fish, measure the changing status of waterfowl and game bird populations, and evaluate harvests by fishermen and hunters. It also conducts surveys of fish and wildlife associated recreation by the U.S. public and satisfaction surveys of visitors to the National Wildlife Refuge System.

The National Park Service (NPS) in DOI supports research on water quality assessment in nationally owned public lands and natural resources, including studies of flood hazards, forest geomorphology, and ground water of campground areas. NPS's Public Use Statistics Program gathers, compiles, and issues public use data for forecasting future demand for services, planning for resource mitigation activities, and initiating marketing strategies. The Social Science Program conducts research on recreation and other visits to units of the National Park System, recreation demand and associated impacts on park resources, diversity of park visitors, non-visitors, employees and local communities, needs of special populations, visitor use management, and visitor satisfaction. NPS also conducts surveys to monitor the condition of key natural resources in parks to inform park managers of changes in resource conditions and the effectiveness of management actions.

The Bureau of Reclamation (BoR) in DOI collects and analyzes data to characterize the water quality of reservoirs and streams affected by reclamation facility operations in high priority watersheds in the western part of the United States.

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) in DOI, through its Biological Resources Discipline, collects and analyzes data on birds and fish to determine trends in environmental contamination, tracks species and their habitats, and studies migratory game and nongame birds. Data from the annual breeding bird survey are used to identify species whose populations are declining and which may eventually become candidates for listing under the Endangered Species Act.

Major program changes and new activities in statistics concerning soil, forest, fish, wildlife, and public lands planned for FY 2007 are:

- The FS budget request includes funding that will maintain the inventory cycle of renewable resource inventories cycle at seven years in the East and reduce the cycle from 12 years to about 10 years in the West. The long-range plans are to reduce the forest inventory cycle to five years for all states.
- The NRCS budget request includes funding for Resources Inventory and Assessment, including the National Resources Inventory program and the Conservation Effects Assessment Project, and will support collection, statistical processing, and analysis of data on natural resources.
- The NMFS budget request includes an increase for enhancements to data collection and research on fishing communities and economics, including enhancements to commercial and recreational fisheries data collections and fisheries information management.

## **Economic Statistics**

### **Periodic Economic Statistics**

The Census Bureau is the principal source of periodic economic statistics; it conducts several periodic censuses every five years, covering the years ending in two and seven. The Economic Census covers manufacturing, mineral industries, construction industries, retail and wholesale trade, service industries, and transportation and other businesses. Statistics on businesses without paid employees, on businesses owned by minorities and women, and Puerto Rican businesses in the island areas are also provided. The Census of Governments collects state and local data on public finance, public employment, and governmental organization.

Major program changes and new activities in periodic economic statistics activities planned for FY 2007 are:

- FY 2007 is the third year of the six-year 2007 Economic Census funding cycle. The Census Bureau will focus on the development of the collection instruments and processing systems to be used in the 2007 Economic Census. The FY 2007 budget proposes to end the Vehicle Inventory and Use Survey, a component of the Economic Census.
- FY 2007 is the third year in the five-year cycle of the 2007 Census of Governments. Key activities include data collection and processing in the organization phase; data preparation and initiation of data collection and processing in the employment phase; and preparation for and start of finance phase data collection and processing.

### **Current Economic Statistics**

The current economic statistics program of the Census Bureau provides information on retail and wholesale trade and selected service industries; construction activity, such as housing permits and starts, the value of new construction, residential alterations and repairs, and quarterly price indices for single-family houses; quantity and value of industrial output, such as manufacturing activities; shipments, inventories, and orders; capital expenditures; e-commerce sales; foreign trade, including imports, exports, and trade monitoring; health insurance coverage; and state and local government activities. The Census Bureau also maintains the Business Register, which is used for statistical sampling frames and the production of aggregate data on County Business Patterns and Statistics of U.S. Businesses.

The Economics and Statistics Administration (ESA) in the Department of Commerce (DOC) carries out congressionally-mandated studies, such as the annual assessment of foreign direct investment in the United States. ESA disseminates current economic statistics through a subscription-based electronic system known as STAT-USA.

The International Trade Administration (ITA) in DOC collects and disseminates data on imports, exports, production, prices, and foreign direct investment in the United States, as well as other economic data to analyze domestic and foreign market situations. ITA also tracks data on tourism industries and international travel to and from the United States for many private sector firms. The Office of Travel and Tourism Industries in ITA maintains a web site to provide current statistical data to U.S. companies on international travel to and from the United States; provides projections of international arrivals to the United States; and conducts the In-Flight Survey of International Air Travelers, partially funded by states, cities, and the private sector.

The Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) in DOC compiles statistical information on patent activity by geographic origin, technological subject matter, ownership, and other characteristics; samples patent and trademark cases to measure quality aspects in the processing of applications; and undertakes customer survey activities.

The Statistical Information Analysis Division of the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) collects DOD contract information in support of national economic indicators and the Small Business Competitiveness Demonstration Program. DMDC also produces statistics on DOD purchases from educational and nonprofit institutions and from state and local governments.

The Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (CBP) in the Department of Homeland Security collects and verifies tariff and trade data that are tabulated, analyzed, and disseminated by the Census Bureau. Additionally, CBP collects entry data on aliens entering the United States and denied admission, and produces statistical measures used to address trade compliance issues, identify questionable import activity, and identify importers for audit purposes.

The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Housing (Housing) in the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) maintains and analyzes statistics on housing and property improvement loans and on housing or property insured or rehabilitated under HUD mortgage insurance programs, including the inventory of HUD-held mortgages or HUD-owned properties.

The Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight (OFHEO) in HUD is responsible for oversight of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac (the Enterprises); its statistical programs provide analyses of the primary and secondary mortgage markets in support of the OFHEO regulatory mission.

The Office of Policy Development and Research (PD&R) in HUD provides data on the volume, characteristics, price, quality, and suitability of housing in the United States; on the construction and permanent financing required to achieve a smoothly functioning housing market; and on the status of the existing housing stock.

The Office of Public and Indian Housing (P&IH) in HUD conducts data collection and analysis projects in support of its mission to administer and monitor public housing and housing assistance programs, and to provide accurate information on fair market rents to families eligible to receive assistance.

The Division of Science Resources Statistics (SRS) in the National Science Foundation (NSF) collects, publishes, and analyzes data on the size and health of U.S. research and development enterprises. Four annual surveys provide information on research and development funded and performed by government, industry, and universities, and a periodic survey provides comparable information on the nonprofit sector. The division also conducts a biennial survey on academic and biomedical research facilities, including aspects of cyber-infrastructure, and has begun design work on an information collection on instrumentation in science and engineering facilities. The division participates in international collaborations to develop internationally comparable measures of research and development.

The Small Business Administration (SBA) funds and supports databases on small businesses including the Business Information Tracking Series, conducts policy studies and economic and statistical research on issues of concern to small business, and publishes data on small business characteristics and contributions.

Major program changes for current economic statistics anticipated in FY 2007 are:

- The budget for ITA includes funding to develop destination and industry detail on services trade data needed for U.S. trade negotiations and regulatory analysis.
- The budget for PD&R would restore funding to previous levels for the American Housing Survey. (Given lower funding in 2006, the AHS had been scaled back, with the measurement of metropolitan areas cut in number, sample size, and, for some areas, frequency.)
- The budget for SRS would provide funding for SRS's contribution to the Science of Science Policy initiative, supporting enhancements to current surveys of research and development (R&D), the science and engineering workforce, and the education of scientists and engineers, as well as efforts to improve the comparability, scope, and availability of international data. As part of these activities, SRS will continue long-term efforts to devise data collection instruments that more accurately measure the economic output of R&D, including innovation, than is presently captured in the Industry Research and Development Expenditures Survey.

### **National Accounts**

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) in the Department of Commerce has primary responsibility for the preparation, development, and interpretation of the National Income and Product Accounts. BEA programs include the Gross Domestic Product (GDP); the wealth accounts, which show the business and other components of national wealth; the input-output accounts, which trace the interrelationships among industrial markets; personal income and related economic series by geographic area; and the U.S. balance of payments accounts and associated foreign investment accounts.



Major program changes or new activities in national accounts planned in FY 2007 are:

- The BEA budget request will provide funding to:
  - publish the final Research and Development (R&D) satellite account, and continue research into the feasibility of creating industry-level R&D satellite accounts;
  - release prototype estimates of metropolitan area disposable personal income;
  - incorporate newly developed survey techniques into services trade estimates; and
  - begin to incorporate services based on the new North American Product Classification System (NAPCS) into personal consumption expenditures estimates.

### **Statistics of Income**

The Statistics of Income (SOI) Division in the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) provides annual income, financial, and tax data, based for the most part on individual and corporate tax returns and on returns filed by most tax-exempt organizations. SOI also provides periodic data based on other returns, such as those filed by estates, for estimating assets of the living top wealth holders, as well as on various other tax and information returns and schedules, for producing such estimates as U.S. investments abroad, foreign investments in the United States, and gains or losses from sales of capital assets.

Major program changes and new activities in statistics of income planned for FY 2007 are:

- The SOI budget request will provide funding support to:
  - continue acquisition and installation of hardware that will provide the capability to load the SOI population files online to provide for longitudinal analysis of individual and corporate income tax returns;
  - acquire hardware to support statistical processing of electronically filed returns;
  - continue expansion of SOI's imaging programs for use both in statistical and economic research as well as by selected IRS operating divisions to reduce time required to complete tax audits of large corporations; and
  - continue expansion of the amount of data available for electronic dissemination through the IRS Internet home page.

## **Labor Statistics**

Three agencies in the Department of Labor are responsible for various aspects of labor statistics:

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) produces statistics on employment and unemployment; projections of the labor force and employment by industry and occupation; consumer expenditures; prices and inflation at various levels of the economy; wages and employee benefits; collective bargaining; occupational injury and illnesses; and productivity and technological changes in U.S. industries.

The Employment Standards Administration (ESA) supports surveys of occupational wages in selected industries that are used to determine prevailing wage rates and fringe benefits for service occupations in Federal procurement activity.

The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) supports the collection and dissemination of local, state, and national occupational, wage, and other labor market information, as well as the production of Unemployment Insurance (UI) information, for administration of employment, training, and UI programs. ETA also conducts the annual National Agricultural Workers Survey (NAWS) that provides data on wage and migration history, type of crops worked, unemployment, benefits, housing, health care, and use of public programs. NAWS data are used in the formula to calculate resource allocations for the Workforce Investment Act section 167 Migrant and Seasonal Farm workers program.

Major program changes and new activities in labor statistics planned for FY 2007 are:

- The budget request for BLS provides funds to begin implementing a more representative and current sample of geographic areas, as well as a continuously updated housing sample in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). These activities will continue the program's conversion to updating the CPI on a continuous basis and improve the accuracy and timeliness of the CPI. In addition, the initiative will increase the accuracy of the CPI by eliminating small sample bias.
- The budget request for ETA reflects a program decrease and eliminates funding for America's Job Bank due to the advent of state job banks and a wide variety of private sector job banks that are free to job seekers.

## **Agriculture Statistics**

The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) in the Department of Agriculture (USDA) collects, summarizes, analyzes, and publishes agricultural production and marketing data on a wide range of items including number of farms and land in farms; acreage, yield, production, and stocks of grains, hay, oilseeds, cotton, potatoes, tobacco, fruits, selected vegetables, floriculture, and selected specialty crops; inventories and production of hogs, cattle, sheep and wool, goats

and mohair, mink, catfish, trout, poultry, eggs, and dairy products; prices received by farmers for products, prices paid for commodities and services, and related indexes; cold storage supplies; agricultural chemical use; and related areas of the agricultural economy. The Census of Agriculture is conducted by NASS every five years to collect information on the number of farms; land use; production expenses; value of land, buildings, and farm products; farm size; characteristics of farm operators; market value of agricultural production sold; acreage of major crops; inventory of livestock and poultry; and farm irrigation practices. The census provides national, state, and county data as well as selected data for Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Agricultural Research Service (ARS) in USDA conducts research and provides information to ensure safe food and other agricultural products, assess the nutritional needs of Americans, sustain a competitive agricultural economy, enhance the natural resource base and the environment, and provide economic opportunities for rural citizens, communities, and society as a whole.

The Economic Research Service (ERS) in USDA conducts research, commodity market projections, and outlook analyses, and develops economic and statistical indicators in the following areas: farming and farm households, commodity markets, agricultural trade, food and consumer economics, nutrition and feeding programs, natural resources and the environment, and the domestic rural economy.

The Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) in USDA maintains a worldwide agricultural market intelligence and commodity reporting service to provide U.S. farmers and traders with information on world agricultural production and trade for use in adjusting to changes in world demand for U.S. agricultural products. Reporting includes data on foreign government policies, analysis of supply and demand conditions, commercial trade relationships, and market opportunities. In addition to survey data, crop condition assessment relies heavily on computerized analyses of satellite, meteorological, agricultural, and related data. The FAS program serves as the analytical foundation for USDA's export programs and is an important source of information in trade policy efforts.

Major program changes and new activities in agriculture statistics planned for FY 2007 are:

- The budget request for NASS includes program increases to restore and modernize its core survey and estimation program, and increases to conduct cyclical activities associated with the Census of Agriculture that is conducted every five years.
- The budget request for ERS includes program increases to continue funding the development of the Consumer Data and Information System to monitor, track, and identify changes in food supply and consumption patterns, and to develop and implement the Agricultural Rural Development Information System, a comprehensive data collection and research program to monitor the changing economic health and well-being of farm and non-farm households in rural areas.



## **CHAPTER 3: Long Range Plans**

This chapter describes selected ongoing and new initiatives to improve the performance of Federal statistical programs.

### **Interagency Council on Statistical Policy**

An explicit statutory basis for OMB's council of statistical agency heads was provided in 1995 by the Paperwork Reduction Act reauthorization (44 U.S.C. 3504(e)(8)). Known as the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy (ICSP), this group enables OMB to obtain more direct participation from the agencies in planning and coordinating Federal statistical activities. The members of the ICSP currently include the heads of the principal statistical agencies, plus the heads of the statistical units in the Environmental Protection Agency, the Internal Revenue Service, the National Science Foundation, and the Social Security Administration. Because the members have management responsibility for statistical programs in their respective agencies, their advice and cooperation are essential for effective implementation of OMB statistical policy decisions and for planning improvements in Federal statistical programs.

The ICSP is a vehicle for coordinating statistical work, particularly when activities and issues cut across agencies; for exchanging information about agency programs and activities; and for providing advice and counsel to OMB on statistical matters. In the past year, agenda topics included, among others, advising OMB's Chief Statistician on the revision of core standards for statistical surveys; developing guidance to implement broad new legislative safeguards for the confidentiality of statistical information; collaborating with the international statistical community on guidelines for access to microdata; developing standards for the release and dissemination of statistical series not covered by provisions governing Principal Economic Indicators; enhancing the operations, and thus the usefulness, of the *FedStats* web site; furthering the role of the statistical agencies in the Key National Indicators Initiative; extending collaboration on the implementation of the Program Assessment and Rating Tool (PART) for statistical programs; and enhancing the statistical literacy of the public. In addition, the ICSP member agencies exchanged experiences, solutions and proposals with respect to numerous topics of mutual interest and concern, such as exploring new approaches to budgeting for periodic statistical programs, assessing the strengths and weaknesses of various methods used to measure household income, establishing an interagency initiative to improve data used to analyze food and nutrition policies, and capitalizing on the use of the American Community Survey for demographic surveys sample redesign. In the wake of the gulf hurricanes, the ICSP played a key role initially in assessing the effects of the storms on data collection operations and data quality, and subsequently in producing special products that are contributing to the Nation's understanding of the longer term effects of the hurricanes.

## Statistical Confidentiality and Data Sharing

The Congress has recognized that a confidential relationship between statistical agencies and their respondents is essential. In 2002, Congress passed the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002 (CIPSEA) as Title V of the E-Government Act (Public Law 107-347). This legislation establishes a uniform set of safeguards to protect the confidentiality of individually identifiable information acquired from the public for statistical purposes, and strong criminal penalties for inappropriate disclosure of such information. The legislation reaffirms that pledges of confidentiality will be honored and gives additional weight and stature to policies that statistical agencies have pursued for decades, assuring respondents who provide statistical information that their responses will be held in confidence and will not be used against them in any government action. CIPSEA also authorizes the sharing of business data among the Bureau of Economic Analysis, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and the Bureau of the Census. Thus it provides a framework to enhance the efficiency of the Federal statistical system by reducing reporting burden on the public and strengthening the quality and usefulness of the Nation's Federal statistics.

A companion legislative proposal would make complementary changes to provisions set forth in the "Statistical Use" section of the Internal Revenue Code. These changes would represent the first major revision of these policies in more than 20 years, reducing the amount of sensitive tax information that will change hands to support statistical programs while substantially increasing the effectiveness of that support. This objective would be achieved by carefully defining statistical needs and taking advantage of the efficiencies that can be achieved by modern sampling methods. The complementary proposal has been endorsed by the Treasury Department and submitted to the Congress.

To assist agencies in implementing the confidentiality provisions of the new legislation, OMB has prepared draft implementation guidance with the assistance of representatives from the agencies on the ICSP. OMB will publish the proposed guidance in the *Federal Register* to request public comments before issuing final guidance. The proposed guidance will be available on OMB's web site at [www.whitehouse.gov/omb](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb) (go to Statistical Policy and Programs).

BEA, BLS, and Census are currently working to implement the data sharing provisions of CIPSEA. Prior to sharing business data that were collected under a legal requirement to supply the information—without informing the respondents that the data would be shared with the other designated statistical agencies—agencies are required to publish a notice of any proposed data sharing activity in the *Federal Register*. Such notices must specify the business data to be shared and the statistical purposes for which the business data are to be used, and must allow a minimum of 60 days for public comment. These agencies are also required to enter into a written agreement before sharing any business data. The written agreement must specify the business data to be shared; the statistical purposes for which the business data are to be used; the officers, employees, and agents authorized to examine the business data to be shared; and the appropriate security procedures to safeguard the confidentiality of the business data.

Results from the first formal project for data sharing under CIPSEA were released in the summer of 2005. About two years earlier, the Division of Science Resources Statistics (SRS) of the National Science Foundation (NSF) proposed and funded a feasibility study to determine whether an integrated data set on U.S. research and development (R&D) performance and funding, including domestic and foreign ownership detail and related international R&D activities, could be created by linking Census Bureau data on the R&D activity of all U.S. companies with Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) data on the R&D activity of U.S. and foreign multinational companies (MNCs). Specifically, BEA and the Census Bureau entered into an arrangement to match data from BEA's surveys of Foreign Direct Investment in the United States and U.S. Direct Investment Abroad with data from the SRS-Census sponsored Survey of Industrial Research and Development (SIRD). The study demonstrated that it is feasible to link companies covered in the BEA MNC surveys with those covered by the Census Bureau SIRD. It also resulted in improvements in Census Bureau sample frames. The project confirmed that, for the most part, the data reported to the Census Bureau and BEA are comparable. Currently, the Census Bureau, BEA, and SRS are in discussions to repeat the linking exercise using more recent data.

BLS and BEA entered into an agreement in November 2005 for the collaborative development of experimental inter-area price indexes. At present there are no officially published statistics which permit comparison of price levels across geographic areas. The proposed project will enable both agencies to assess the feasibility of calculating inter-area price measures using Consumer Price Index (CPI) data, and the project will assist BEA in developing some experimental real personal income measures for select metropolitan areas. By collaborating on this project, both agencies will be able to build expertise to produce sets of experimental indexes with a consistent methodology that will improve understanding and measurement of the U.S. economy.

BLS and BEA also entered into an agreement in June 2006 to share information (as authorized under CIPSEA and the International Trade and Services Survey Act) from the BLS business list and various BLS establishment-level surveys (including Mass Layoff Statistics and Occupational Employment Statistics survey data) and information from BEA's surveys of foreign-owned companies in the United States, U.S. owned companies abroad, and U.S. international trade in services. Such a linking project could provide meaningful statistics for a variety of purposes, such as to examine the employment trends and the occupational staffing patterns of multinational firms. BLS also continues to collaborate with BEA by providing Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages data for use by BEA in developing the wage and salary component of the National Personal Income and Gross Domestic Product statistics.

The Census Bureau and BLS are currently conducting research on identifying differences in their business establishment lists. The work involves matching files and profiling differences, particularly with respect to industry codes, an area long identified as crucial. The Memorandum of Understanding governing this project received IRS concurrence in September 2004.

BLS and Census also have an agreement for Census to share monthly NET export files and names and addresses from the Census annual survey of exporters and commodities with BLS. BLS will use these files to assemble sampling frames for its export price index series. The Census Bureau also plans to share with BLS natural gas import files for use by BLS to assemble sampling frames for its import price survey.

Several other projects are in various stages of planning. For example, the Census Bureau and BLS are planning to share data on multi-unit establishments for the purpose of reconciling differences between the BLS Business Establishment List and the Census Business Register. BLS is planning to share the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages data with Census to produce Local Employment Dynamics, as well as for research, analysis, and other authorized statistical activities, and Census will share the Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics data with BLS for research and program development purposes.

To promote better communication among Federal agencies on confidentiality issues, in 1995 the Interagency Confidentiality and Data Access Committee (CDAC) was established under the auspices of the Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology. This interagency group includes representatives from 26 Federal agencies who consider common technical and non-technical issues involving data access, confidentiality, and disclosure limitation. The committee recently updated and revised Statistical Working Paper 22, which provides an overview of disclosure limitation and best practices. The group has several products that are available on its web site ([www.fcs.gov/committees/cdac/cdac.html](http://www.fcs.gov/committees/cdac/cdac.html)), including generalized software for auditing suppression patterns in tables. CDAC sponsors seminars and members conduct tutorials on confidentiality under the auspices of the Washington Statistical Society and other organizations to promote discussion of techniques and issues related to the protection of confidential data.

## **One-Stop Shopping for Federal Statistical Data**

*FedStats*, an interagency web site ([www.fedstats.gov](http://www.fedstats.gov)) developed under the auspices of the Interagency Council of Statistical Policy, permits easy access via an initial point of entry to the wide array of Federal statistics available to the public. *FedStats* provides a centralized set of links to the Internet sites that individual agencies have developed for disseminating Federal statistics. The site's primary objective is to help users find the information they need without having to know and understand in advance how the decentralized Federal statistical system is organized or which agency or agencies may produce the data they are seeking.

*FedStats* has logged nearly 22 million user sessions since its release to the public in 1997. The site has also garnered enthusiastic public support and been well received by various media publications, such as *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, the *Associated Press* wire service, *Federal Computer Week*, and *USA TODAY Online*. *Time* magazine has listed *FedStats* as one of the "50 Coolest Websites" in the category "News and Information," and *FedStats* has been a past recipient of the "People's Voice" award in the category of "Government and Law" from the



International Academy of Digital Arts and Sciences. *PC Magazine* has listed the *FedStats* site as one of the "Top 100 Classic" web sites as well as one of the "Top 101 Incredibly Useful Sites on the Internet." *FedStats* also has been awarded an Excellence.Gov finalist award from the Industry Advisory Council's (IAC) eGov Shared Interest group, in partnership with the Federal CIO Council and the E-Gov organization. The Federal Chief Information Officers council has presented an award for the MapStats section of *FedStats* in recognition of making statistical information more accessible to the general public.

The ICSP's Task Force on One-Stop Shopping for Federal Statistics continues to upgrade and expand *FedStats'* coverage of the government's statistical sources. A "MapStats for Kids" section was developed and made available to the public to facilitate the improvement of statistical literacy for young children. The addition to the MapStats section of the site of statistical information for cities with populations of 25,000 or more has been well received by the public, and provides links to the Department of Housing and Urban Development's State of the Cities web site for more in-depth statistical information for a locality. FedStats plans to refresh the basic MapStats data during the coming year. Search capabilities continue to be enhanced by indexing the statistics available on nearly all the *FedStats* agency web sites, and exploratory work in the use of the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) protocol to facilitate updates to information on the site is being conducted.

The ICSP task force continues to respond to user requests for a broader scope of subjects, more detailed data on those subjects, and easier overall access to the data, and plans to further improve the public's access to statistical information through revision of the current set of "Topics A-Z" displayed on the site.

## **Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology**

The Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology (FCSM), established in 1975, is dedicated to improving the quality of Federal statistics and the efficiency and effectiveness of statistical practice among Federal agencies. Members are selected by OMB and include Executive Branch statisticians, economists, and managers. Approximately two dozen individuals from a dozen agencies currently serve on the FCSM. The mission of the FCSM is to:

- Inform and advise OMB and the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy on methodological and statistical issues that affect the quality of Federal data;
- Compile, assess, and disseminate information on statistical or survey methods and practices for Federal statistical agencies;
- Provide recommendations on issues of statistical methodology such as measurement, analysis, survey methods, survey errors, data collection methods and technologies, record linkage, disclosure limitation, and dissemination of information that affect Federal statistical programs and

improve data quality, including timeliness, accuracy, relevance, utility, accessibility, and cost effectiveness;

- Provide a forum for statisticians in different Federal agencies to discuss issues affecting Federal statistical programs; and
- Promote and support cooperative research across agencies on issues relevant to Federal statistics.

The FCSM carries out a broad agenda of activities and has spawned three permanent working groups: the Confidentiality and Data Access Committee, the Household Survey Nonresponse Working Group, and the Interagency Group on Establishment Nonresponse.

Recently, the FCSM sponsored a subcommittee to assist OMB in its ongoing review of statistical standards. The Subcommittee on Standards for Statistical Surveys carefully reviewed and proposed revisions to the core standards for statistical surveys and for the publication of statistics. The subcommittee's recommendations were reviewed by the ICSP and were published in the *Federal Register* for public comment. OMB considered the recommendations from the subcommittee as well as public comments and issued revised standards in July 2006. The revised standards and OMB's response to the public comments are available on the OMB website ([www.whitehouse.gov/omb](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb)—go to "Statistical Programs and Standards").

Over the longer term, the FCSM has published 39 Statistical Policy Working Papers that present the final reports of subcommittees, as well as proceedings from FCSM seminars and conferences. The papers are available through the FCSM's web site ([www.fcsm.gov](http://www.fcsm.gov)). In November 2005, the FCSM held its fourth Research Conference. In November 2006, the FCSM will hold its eighth Statistical Policy Seminar on "Keeping Current: What We Know—What We Need to Learn." The FCSM's statistical policy seminars alternate with the biennial research conferences.

## **Collaborative Research on Survey Methodology**

Basic research on survey measurement issues, data collection procedures, and statistical issues related to survey design has substantial potential to benefit the Federal statistical system as it prepares to meet future challenges in gathering relevant and reliable data. The National Science Foundation's Division of Social and Economic Sciences, in collaboration with a consortium of Federal statistical agencies, initially supported a special competition for three years (FY 1999, FY 2001 and FY 2002) for research that furthers the development of new and innovative approaches to surveys. The consortium of Federal statistical agencies is continuing to fund this initiative.

Although proposals submitted for this competition can address any aspect of survey or statistical methodology, priority is given to basic research proposals that have broad implications for the field in general and the greatest potential for creating fundamental knowledge of value for the Federal statistical system. Because

methodological problems often require knowledge and expertise from multiple disciplines, this funding opportunity encourages collaborations among the relevant sciences, including the social, behavioral, and economic sciences, statistics, and computer science.

FY 2005 projects at least partially funded under this program included examining the effects of using animated agents in user interfaces for survey data collection, developing nonparametric estimators for population size estimation, and developing and evaluating new approaches to measuring spatial segregation. The awards for the FY 2006 competition are expected to be announced in fall 2006.

To facilitate the sharing of the results from these projects and promote interaction between funded investigators and the Federal statistical community, the Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology organizes seminars jointly with the Washington Statistical Society. These seminars feature one or more previously funded investigators describing the results from their projects with one or more discussants from Federal agencies.

## **Decennial Census**

The President's 2007 budget request will sustain efforts to build on the Census Bureau's accomplishments so far this decade in re-engineering the 2010 Decennial Census Program. Those efforts and successes in turn are built on experience and lessons learned from prior censuses, a decade of research for the American Community Survey (ACS), and more than two decades of experience in building, maintaining, and improving the bureau's geographic reference files.

Ongoing support for the ACS will allow the Census Bureau to publish detailed social and economic data every year for all households in places with a population of 65,000 or more starting in summer 2006. Group quarters data and data from the Puerto Rico Community Survey, first gathered in 2006, will be available in summer 2007. Year-to-year changes will be available beginning in 2008 (for differences between 2006 and 2007) and every year thereafter. After three years of data collection, beginning in 2008 and continuing every year thereafter, accumulated data will be available to make such annual estimates for all places of size 20,000 or more. After five years of data collection, beginning in 2010 and continuing every year thereafter, accumulated data will be available to make annual estimates for all places and tracts (small statistical subdivisions of counties or county equivalents). The 2011 data release will be the first to include five-year accumulations of both housing unit and group quarters data for every year in the release and, therefore, will produce information comparable in content and reliability to the decennial long-form data.

The Master Address File/Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing (MAF/TIGER) Accuracy Improvement Project will be completed for an additional 690 (21.3 percent) counties by the end of FY 2007, by which point a total of 2,865 counties (approximately 89 percent of all counties in the United States

and Puerto Rico) will be in alignment with global positioning system (GPS) coordinates.

For the research, testing, and development of a re-engineered "short-form only" 2010 Census, efforts in FY 2007 will build on FY 2003-2006 research and testing. The Census Bureau will complete operations and evaluations for the 2006 Census Test, which will help inform final requirements for the field infrastructure, hand held computer hardware design, coverage improvement, data quality, and telecommunications for the 2008 Dress Rehearsal and the 2010 Census. The Census Bureau will also complete evaluations from the 2005 National Census Test, analyze data from the 2006 Census Test, shift to more intensive preparations and begin early operations for the 2008 Census Dress Rehearsal, and continue the overall management and integration of planning, testing, development, and implementation efforts for the 2010 Census.

### **Sample Redesign for Demographic Surveys**

The Demographic Surveys Sample Redesign program provides new, updated, and coordinated samples following each decennial census for major ongoing household surveys. In close collaboration with other Federal statistical agencies, the Census Bureau selects new samples for the ongoing household surveys to reflect shifts in the location and characteristics of people based on the most recent information about the population.

Recently, the Census Bureau began to shift the next sample redesign toward using a continually updated Master Address File (MAF) and American Community Survey (ACS) data to select household survey samples, rather than rely on the once-a-decade availability of census data. In FY 2007, the Demographic Surveys Sample Redesign program will continue efforts to build an infrastructure to allow the Census Bureau to select samples of areas and housing units to respond quickly to changing information needs of the Federal Government. This infrastructure will rely on a continually updated MAF and annual data from the ACS.

### **Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics**

In 1994, the Office of Management and Budget joined six agencies in creating the Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics. The forum, which now has participants from 20 Federal agencies as well as partners in private research organizations, fosters coordination, collaboration, and integration of Federal data on child and family issues and conditions. In April 1997, the forum was formally established through Executive Order No. 13045 to develop priorities for collecting enhanced data on children and youth, improve the reporting and dissemination of information on the status of children to the policy community and the general public, and produce more complete data on children at the state and local levels.

Since 1997, the forum has published an annual report that provides information on the well-being of children and families. The forum alternates publishing a detailed

report, *America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being*, with a condensed version. In July 2006, the forum issued its condensed report, *America's Children in Brief: Key National Indicators of Well-Being*, which highlights selected indicators. All data are updated annually on the forum's web site ([www.childstats.gov](http://www.childstats.gov)).

The 2006 report presents 26 key indicators on important aspects of children's lives. These indicators are easy to understand by broad audiences, objectively based on substantial research connecting them to reliable data on child well-being, balanced so that no single area of children's lives dominates the report, measured regularly so that they can be updated to show trends over time, and representative of large segments of the population rather than one particular group. In 2006, parental reports of emotional and behavioral difficulties, first presented as a special feature in the 2005 report, become an annual indicator.

The first section of *America's Children in Brief: Key National Indicators of Well-Being, 2006* presents measures that describe the changing population, family characteristics, and context in which children are living. The four sections that follow—economic security, health, behavior and social environment, and education—highlight improvements in children's well-being as well as areas where there has been less progress. The 2006 *Brief* highlights selected information displayed in previous reports, and fills an important gap in children's mental health data.

In 2006, the Forum members established an executive planning group charged with reviewing various aspects of *America's Children*. The group outlined a conceptual framework to assist in guiding the selection of broad domains and indicators to include in the report, examining the current criteria for indicator selection, and determining which data sets are relevant to include in the report. The upcoming 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary issue of *America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being, 2007* will likely encompass an expansion of the current sections from four to five as well as several new key indicators.

To further the reach of its efforts, the forum's web site, [www.childstats.gov](http://www.childstats.gov), responds to thousands of requests for data on child and family well-being that cut across the domains of its member agencies. The site includes previous *America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being* reports and their related links, other forum reports, and information about the overall structure of the forum. Links to related sites provide additional data on child well-being, and the search feature of the related sites page allows users to search for data resources by agency, level of geography, and subject.

## **Interagency Forum on Aging-Related Statistics**

The Federal Interagency Forum on Aging-Related Statistics, established in 1986 by the National Institute on Aging in cooperation with the National Center for Health Statistics and the Census Bureau, fosters collaboration among Federal agencies that produce or use statistical data on the older population. The forum played a key role

in improving aging-related data by encouraging cooperation and data sharing among agencies, furthering professional collaboration across disciplines, and compiling aging-related statistical data in a centralized location. The meetings of the forum helped to promote a number of important developments, including the establishment of the Health and Retirement Study and the Survey of Assets and Health Dynamics Among the Oldest Old; the addition of questions on aging to existing surveys such as the Survey of Income and Program Participation, the Longitudinal Studies of Aging, and the Panel Study of Income Dynamics; the acceptance of more standardized age categories; and the collection and presentation of statistics on more narrowly defined age and race categories.

The forum was reorganized in 1998, and expanded to include several new members. In addition to the original three core agencies—Census Bureau, National Center for Health Statistics, and National Institute on Aging—the members of the forum now include senior officials from the Administration on Aging, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Veterans Affairs, Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Management and Budget, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation in the Department of Health and Human Services, Social Security Administration, and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

In July 2006, the forum released its third chartbook *Older Americans Update 2006: Key Indicators of Well-Being (Older Americans)*. This report is a brief update of the forum's second *Older Americans* report which was released in 2004. The newly released report continues to monitor the health and well-being of older Americans through a broad range of indicators in five important areas: population, economics, health status, health risks and behaviors, and health care. It provides data on 37 key indicators carefully selected by the forum to portray important aspects of the lives of older Americans and their families. The brief 2006 report differs from the full, more detailed 2000 and 2004 versions in that indicators are updated based on data availability. Out of a total of 37 indicators, 30 are updated. The remaining 7 indicators are shown as they appeared in *Older Americans 2004*. In addition, the descriptive text that appears below the charts in the full versions of *Older Americans 2000* and *2004* has been replaced with the data tables used to create the charts. Supporting data for each indicator, including complete tables, PowerPoint slides, and data source descriptions, can be found on the forum's web site [www.agingstats.gov](http://www.agingstats.gov).

The forum has also updated its periodic report *Data Base News in Aging*. This report highlights the contents of government-sponsored surveys, data collection efforts, and products containing statistical information about the older population. The report has been renamed *Data Sources on Older Americans 2006*, and can be found on the forum's web site.

Finally, the forum is working on a new report that contrasts the well-being of near retirees (people age 55-64) to previous cohorts of the same age. The report will focus on issues relevant to this age group such as planning for retirement and for future long-term care needs.

## **Establishing Internationally Comparable Measures of Disability**

Internationally comparable general disability measures are being developed by the Washington Group on Disability Statistics, a "city group" established by and operating under the aegis of the United Nations Statistical Commission. The Washington Group was established in response to the United Nations International Seminar on the Measurement of Disability held in June 2001 to develop questions and instruments that could be used in national surveys and censuses to measure disability among a variety of populations. It is a cooperative effort among national statistical offices of developed and developing countries, international statistical organizations, and international organizations representing persons with disabilities.

The primary objective of the Washington Group is to promote and coordinate international cooperation in the area of disability statistics, focusing on measures that will provide basic, necessary, and more comparable information on disability throughout the world. Activities include the development of a small set of general disability measures suitable for use in censuses, sample surveys, or other statistical formats; the design of one or more extended sets of survey items intended to be used as components of population surveys or as supplements to specialty surveys; and the conduct of methodological studies.

In keeping with its purpose, the Washington Group has developed a small set of questions on disability (to be used primarily in census formats) that address the issue of assessing equalization of opportunity. In developing these questions, special attention was directed to international comparability of the resulting data. Both cognitive and field tests were planned to determine how well the Washington Group questions perform across different countries and cultures. The Washington Group has held two regional workshops in Africa (June 2005) and Latin America (September 2005) to inform countries about the questions and the planned pre-testing. At these workshops, the Washington Group also sought country feedback on the questions and the testing protocols. To date, 14 countries have received funding from a grant awarded to the Washington Group by the World Bank to support pre-testing activities. Results of pre-tests in these countries were expected by June 2006. Several other countries are conducting pre-tests using their own resources, and their results are expected by the end of 2006.

Immediately following the second regional workshop, the fifth annual meeting of the Washington Group was held in Rio de Janeiro. Key outcomes of this meeting included suggested revisions to the short set of questions on disability, the accompanying rationale, and the test implementation documents; a recommendation to develop a plan (blueprint) for extended question sets, formulation of options for adding domains to the first extended set, and initiation of development of an extended set on the environment; and formation of a new workgroup on analysis to evaluate pre-test results.

A major component of the sixth annual Washington Group meeting will be presentation and analysis of pre-test results. In addition, the five existing workgroups will provide progress reports and the group will discuss strategic issues. The sixth meeting is scheduled for October 2006 in Uganda. All papers and

products of the Washington Group are available at [www.cdc.gov/nchs/citygroup.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/citygroup.htm).

## **Improving Data Systems on Health and Health Care**

Increasingly complex public health and health policy issues require more sophisticated statistical systems to ensure that the right information is provided at the right time, in a form that can be used for decision making. To remain effective, data systems must meet the challenge of maintaining current operations while retooling to meet new data needs and utilize more fully new technology and methods. Collectively, these mechanisms gather information that people can provide in interviews; information that people do not know or cannot describe adequately, but that can be obtained through examinations and medical records; and information on the circumstances of significant health events that can be obtained through birth and death records and the compilation of data on medical encounters.

The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is the principal statistical agency for health. NCHS is pursuing a number of significant efforts to upgrade data systems to meet new challenges:

*Preserving and modernizing the Nation's vital statistics system:* NCHS is continuing to work with partners in states and Federal agencies to build a re-engineered, web-based vital statistics system that will involve initial recording of birth and death certificates via electronic systems in hospitals and funeral homes, with secure Internet transmission to state authorities and NCHS for translation into aggregate statistics. These steps will ultimately result in more rapid release of data for decision making. Equally important are new initiatives to improve the security of birth certificates, mandated by the Intelligence Reform Act of 2005. This act requires the development of Federal regulations to improve the security and integrity of vital records processing. Implementation of the revisions will build electronic systems, an important source of vital statistics data, and provide improved and more timely data.

*Maintaining and redesigning systems for tracking the health care delivery system:* NCHS is in the process of redesigning the National Hospital Discharge Survey (NHDS). The NHDS, conducted continuously since 1965, provides data on the use of inpatient services and has been used to profile changes in utilization, the prevalence of conditions resulting in hospitalization, disparities in utilization, and diffusion of new technologies. The redesign effort involves consultation with a broad range of Federal partners, public and private sector organizations, researchers, accrediting organizations, and others to identify key issues that will be of interest to policymakers in the future and approaches for capturing data to address these issues. Among the critical policy areas identified thus far are cost, the efficiency of health care delivery, quality of care and patient safety, disparities in access to and the delivery of care, public health surveillance, and the impact of globalization of health care delivery. NCHS seeks to implement new methods to take better advantage of



existing records systems—especially electronic systems—and incorporate a wider range of data items such as prescription drugs and clinical quality measures.

## **Strengthening Economic Statistics**

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) strives to provide the Nation with relevant, accurate, and timely economic data in an objective and cost-effective manner. To achieve these goals, BEA annually updates its five-year Strategic Plan, which establishes goals and milestones for continual improvement in the statistics that inform important decisions, such as U.S. fiscal and monetary policy, trade negotiations, business planning, and personal savings and investment.

During FY 2005, BEA incorporated data from the Census Bureau's new Quarterly Services Survey in the estimates of personal consumption expenditures and of investment in software; improved the quarterly estimates of banking services, thereby providing more reliable information on the price index for personal consumption expenditures; completed a prototype of an integrated set of accounts that would combine information from BEA's national income and product accounts with the Federal Reserve Board's flow of funds accounts, providing a consolidated and consistent view of the Nation's saving and investment; published preliminary benchmark gross output and accelerated the release of benchmark output estimates by more than two years; released backcast Gross Domestic Product by industry estimates on a North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) basis for 1987-1997; introduced KLEMS, a new set of estimates that provides greater detail on the types of inputs that are consumed by industries in the production of goods and services; developed satellite research and development (R&D) accounts to show the impact on the national accounts of capitalizing R&D expenditures; substantially improved estimates of trade in services by incorporating results of new quarterly surveys of trade in services into the balance of payments, conducting a redesigned benchmark survey of financial services transactions, and improving estimates of private remittances, travel to Mexico, education payments, and medical services payments; incorporated information from the Treasury Department's 2003 annual surveys of securities claims and of securities liabilities, the revised 2001 benchmark survey of securities claims, and the 2004 benchmark survey of securities liabilities, as well as improved data on foreign commercial paper in the United States; prepared special analyses related to the offshoring trend; accelerated the release of total gross state product (GSP) by 12 months—from 18 to 6 months after the reference year—in June 2005, and released GSP on a NAICS basis for the first time in December 2004; released the inaugural estimates of local area compensation by industry in January 2005, marking an acceleration of four months—from 17 to 13 months after the reference year—in the availability of any BEA series of local area estimates by industry; and accelerated the release of quarterly state personal income by an additional week and the release of preliminary annual state personal income by one month.

In FY 2006, BEA expects to strengthen its international statistics by collecting more comprehensive data on multinational companies and by improving estimates of the types of service exports and imports that are most affected by offshoring through

improved sample frames, improved and expanded surveys, outreach to respondents, and improved estimation methodologies; develop better data on origin of goods and services by using BEA's input-output accounts; accelerate the release of metropolitan area personal income and gross state product estimates; acquire and incorporate real-time data to fill gaps in coverage for gross domestic product; and increase the percentage of quarterly personal consumption expenditure services that will be based on the Census Bureau's Quarterly Services Survey from 6 percent to 17 percent in order to improve BEA measures on services. In FY 2007, BEA plans to continue to work toward meeting its challenges of measuring a changing economy and integrating Federal economic accounts. BEA's plans include publishing the final satellite research and development (R&D) account, and continuing research into the feasibility of creating industry-level R&D satellite accounts; developing regional estimates by releasing prototype estimates of metropolitan area disposable personal income; improving trade statistics by incorporating newly developed survey techniques into services trade estimates; and beginning the incorporation of services data based on the North American Product Classification System (NAPCS) into personal consumption expenditures estimates.

## **Measuring the Service and Construction Sectors**

Improved measurement of services enhances the relevance, accuracy, and timeliness of key Federal economic statistics such as Gross Domestic Product (GDP), prices, and productivity while augmenting Federal statistics' coverage of the services sector. It also leverages strategic alliances forged among the Bureau of Economic Analysis, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), the Census Bureau, the Economics and Statistics Administration, and the Federal Reserve Board to improve the quality of Federal economic statistics. Several programs of the Census Bureau and Bureau of Labor Statistics profile service industries and continue to expand their coverage.

For nonfarm businesses with employees, the Economic Census collects information on employment, payroll, revenues, and products. The 2002 Economic Census covered 13 service sectors, including 390 individual industries that account for 55 percent of GDP, and recorded 2002 service industry revenues of more than \$8 trillion. The Census also produced export services data for approximately 180 service industries, and for the first time collected service product information (i.e., revenue by kind of service sold) for 80 service industries. The 2007 Economic Census will collect several new measures of the economy, including information on employers' contributions for pension plans and health insurance, measures of franchise operations for over 80 industries, as well as detailed information on over 2,000 products of service industries.

The Services Annual Survey (SAS) provides full or partial coverage of 10 of the 13 service sectors; it has not yet been extended to the three remaining service sectors due to funding constraints. The 10 sectors covered by the survey produce national data for over 200 individual service industries with total revenues of \$5.2 trillion, accounting for 30 percent of GDP. Service industries not yet covered in SAS account for 25 percent of GDP. Beside revenue estimates, the 2004 SAS provided data on more than 12 purchased services, and product or source of revenue data for

Information Sector industries. Results from the 2005 SAS, to be published at the end of 2006, will include exported services data for about 140 service industries, a substantial increase over 2004. The 2005 SAS results will also include first time information on employer contributions for pensions and health care.

The Quarterly Services Survey (QSS) continues to expand coverage to new sectors. In 2006, the Census Bureau added Trucking and Warehousing. In 2007 the Census Bureau plans to include Rental and Leasing; the remainder of Health Care and Social Assistance; Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation; and Other Services, increasing coverage to 27 percent of GDP. This expansion is being funded with existing resources and does not cover security dealers. (Food Services, part of the service sector, continues to be covered in the monthly retail survey and accounts for another 1.8 percent of GDP.)

Federal and private users of the Producer Price Index (PPI), and of price statistics in general, have stated the need for program coverage to continue to be expanded in the service sector and extended to the construction sector of the U.S. economy. The lack of price indexes for these important production sectors may be compromising the measurement of real growth in the economy.

To address these needs, in FY 2007 BLS will continue work to extend PPI coverage for the first time to the construction sector of the U.S. economy, and enhance the ongoing expansion of PPI coverage of the service sector. As part of this effort, BLS will begin publishing a price index for office construction and for management consulting services. The PPI has increased its coverage of the service sector from 39 percent in 1997 to 76 percent in 2005, and plans to expand coverage to over 77 percent of the output of this sector in FY 2007. In addition, the PPI has increased its coverage of the goods sector from 85 percent in 2004 to 86 percent in 2005, and plans to extend coverage to over 89 percent of the output of this sector in FY 2007. The two expansions will help provide information on price changes for the outputs of service and nonresidential construction sector industries. The International Price Program also will begin publication of Export Travel and Tourism indexes and Export Education indexes in FY 2007. These two new series will increase export services coverage from 9 percent to 43 percent.

BLS also will increase service sector coverage in its productivity statistics. Although the service sector has grown to dominate the U.S. economy, official measures indicate only minimal productivity gains in services. There are difficulties in defining and measuring the real economic outputs of many service-producing activities. Recognition of this problem has led to calls for improvements in official service sector productivity statistics. In response, BLS will continue work in 2007 to develop practical solutions to difficult conceptual issues in the measurement of service sector output and productivity, and to evaluate existing data for possible use in new productivity and unit labor cost measures. The evaluation will identify areas where the existing data collection efforts could be refined or augmented in order to improve the measures.

In addition, BLS will publish measures of industry labor productivity and unit labor cost for two additional service-producing industries. These measures will supply fresh insights on technological progress in the service sector and its contribution to

aggregate productivity trends. The new unit labor cost measures will furnish valuable information on cost structures and competitiveness that can be used to study price inflation in the economy.

## **Improving Foreign Trade Statistics**

Official U.S. import and export statistics record the physical movement of merchandise between the United States and foreign countries. Foreign trade statistics are used to develop the merchandise trade figures in balance of payments accounts; to appraise and analyze major movements and trends (commodity and geographic) in international trade; to evaluate and plan such programs as export expansion and agricultural development and assistance programs; and to measure the impact of tariff and trade concessions under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the Generalized System of Preferences. The foreign trade data are also used extensively as the statistical base to implement and analyze operations under various other international agreements, such as the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Foreign trade statistics face two challenges—their timeliness and the coverage of exports. In addition, for a number of reasons largely related to changing trade practices, the statistics on exports of goods understate the value of the exports in the range of three to seven percent. Correction of this shortfall needs to be addressed as efforts proceed to make trade statistics more timely. The Census Bureau is continuing to pursue implementation of mandatory export filing through the Automated Export System.

For a period of six months, the Census Bureau released preliminary trade statistics reports for the Gulf Region affected by Hurricane Katrina. The report, *U.S. Goods Trade for the Gulf Region*, was first issued with the September 2005 statistics and the last report covered the February 2006 statistics.

Beginning February 2006, online detailed import and export trade data were made available for approximately 400 U.S. ports coast-to-coast showing value, method of transportation (air and vessel), and the shipping weight of cargo with each of 240 trading partners of the United States. The data cover some 3,000 six-digit Harmonized System commodity codes and are available beginning with 2003 data. Also, beginning with the January 2006 trade statistics release, state export goods data based on the reported zip code of the United States Principal Party in Interest were made available. The decision to release state export data based on zip code is due to increased accuracy in reporting of the zip code that indicates the origin of movement of goods.

## **Updating the Consumer Price Index**

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is the principal source of information concerning trends in consumer prices and inflation in the United States. Both the private and public sectors use this measure extensively for economic analysis and policy

formulation as well as to escalate contract values between individuals and organizations. The CPI also has a significant impact on the finances of the Federal Government because it is used to adjust payments to Social Security recipients, to civilian and military retirees, and for a number of entitlement programs such as food stamps and school lunches. In addition, the CPI is used to adjust individual income tax brackets and other tax parameters for changes due to inflation.

In FY 2007, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) will begin work on the next biennial CPI relative weight update scheduled for January 2008. BLS also will begin a new initiative to update continuously the housing and geographic area samples in the CPI. In the past, new geographic area samples and housing samples have been updated about every ten years. In 2007, work will begin to introduce a new area sample based on the 2000 Decennial Census of Population. The new area sample has 75 geographic areas, of which 55 are continuing from the previous sample and 20 are new. For the continuing areas, work will begin to create new housing samples. For the new geographic areas, new samples for both housing and all other components of consumer spending also will begin. Continuous updating of the housing and geographic area samples will increase the accuracy and relevance of the index by reducing the average age of the housing sample, improving the representation of new construction, reducing the effect of attrition, and more accurately reflecting the locations where consumers live and shop.

## **Modernizing the Producer Price Index and the International Price Programs and Systems**

The Producer Price Index (PPI) is the principal source of information on price change in the business sector of the United States. The PPI measures price change from the first link of a long chain of transactions that lead to final (i.e., consumer) demand in the U.S. economy. The PPI is used extensively by businesses to adjust billions of dollars worth of long-term sales and purchase contracts for the effects of inflation. In addition to supporting business and governmental decision making, PPI data are critical inputs to the development of other sensitive economic indicators, including estimates of Gross Domestic Product and industrial productivity.

The International Price Program (IPP) is the principal source of information on price change in the international sector of the U.S. economy. The Bureau of Economic Analysis uses the U.S. Import and Export Price Indexes to adjust for inflation in its quarterly National Income and Product Accounts. In addition, the Census Bureau uses the IPP indexes to adjust the goods portion of monthly international trade figures. Price-adjusted estimates of internationally traded goods and services and of the U.S. trade position allow users to obtain comparable measures of the U.S. trade deficit and support critical economic policy decisions related to both international trade issues and analysis of domestic inflation.

In FY 2007, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) will continue its efforts to replace older PPI computer subsystems, some of which are nearly 25 years old, with new ones based on a more secure, stable, and expandable computing platform.

Furthermore, BLS will continue to make important improvements to both the PPI and IPP programs, including research on experimental Producer Price Indexes for goods and services that will provide the first economy-wide measures of changes in producer prices. In 2007, BLS also will continue to expand use of internet-based data collection applications by offering them to 95 percent of active IPP respondents.

## **Enhancing the Employment Cost Index Component of the National Compensation Survey**

The Employment Cost Index (ECI) is the principal indicator that provides the Nation's most comprehensive measure of changes in employer costs for total compensation (including wages, salaries, and employer-provided benefits). The index is used widely by wage and salary administrators to monitor and adjust wages and benefits. Both employers and employees use the ECI to track changes in labor compensation costs. Policymakers, particularly at the Federal Reserve Board, as well as analysts in both the private and public sectors, increasingly have turned to the ECI as a measure of trends in labor costs and, therefore, of inflationary pressures. As a result, users of the ECI have demanded survey data of greater precision, so that labor cost trends can be more accurately measured and significant trends recognized more quickly.

In FY 2007, the Bureau of Labor Statistics will continue its work to expand the ECI sample to improve the measurement of changes in compensation; increase the industry, occupational, and geographic detail of published data; and enhance the capacity to link data on the costs, prevalence, and features of employee benefit plans. The expansion will allow BLS to produce more precise indices of the changes in employer wage and benefit costs by major industry and occupational groups, and to produce better quarterly estimates of employer compensation cost levels.

## **North American Industry Classification System**

The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) represents a continuing international effort by Statistics Canada; the Instituto Nacional de Estadística, Geografía e Informática (INEGI) of Mexico; and the United States, through the Office of Management and Budget's Economic Classification Policy Committee (ECPC), to foster comparability in the industrial statistics produced by the three countries. NAICS reflects, in an explicit way, the enormous changes in technology and the growth and diversification of services that have marked recent decades. In 1997, NAICS replaced the 1987 Standard Industrial Classification; it has been adopted by Federal statistical agencies that collect or publish data by industry. Like its predecessor, NAICS also is widely used by State agencies, trade associations, businesses, and other organizations.

Although the initial implementation of NAICS was not completed until 2004, (see [www.census.gov/epcd/www/naicsfed.htm](http://www.census.gov/epcd/www/naicsfed.htm) for the implementation schedule), the

revision of the classification is based on a five-year cycle. Periodic reviews have been scheduled to keep the classification up to date and replace extensive reorganizations of the classification with more modest updates each five years. In 2002, NAICS was revised by Canada, Mexico, and the United States to address changes in the information sector and to increase detailed comparability in the construction sector within North America. In addition, the United States made changes to its own national NAICS industries to account for changes in the wholesale trade and retail trade sectors.

The review and revision of NAICS for 2007 began in late 2002 with the publication of a *Federal Register* Notice soliciting comments and proposals for changes to NAICS. OMB published the ECPC recommendations based on those comments and proposals in March 2005 in the *Federal Register*. In the notice, OMB's ECPC recommended a revision of NAICS to modify the structure and detail for telecommunications industries based on changes that have occurred and are anticipated to occur in the future. The ECPC also recommended the creation of a new national industry for biotechnology research and development to reflect the growing importance of this activity in the economy. Additional changes were recommended to align more adequately the activities of producers in agriculture; manufacturing; and professional, technical, and scientific services.

Final decisions on changes to NAICS for 2007 were published in May 2006. In addition to adopting the ECPC recommendations, these final decisions responded to comments received on the ECPC recommendations. OMB instituted a classification change for Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) that deletes NAICS 525390, Real Estate Investment Trusts and reclassifies equity REITs in the Real Estate Subsector and mortgage REITs in the Finance Sector. Moreover, OMB changed the title of NAICS industry 561422, "Telemarketing Bureaus", to "Telemarketing Bureaus and Other Contact Centers" to reflect more accurately the content of the industry.

Statistics Canada, INEGI, and OMB have put in place a process to ensure that the implementation of NAICS is comparable across all three countries. In addition, the three countries are reviewing and updating NAICS continuously to ensure that new activities are promptly recognized and added to the electronic lists of products and services that result from economic activity changes in North America. Up-to-date materials resulting from rulings and interpretations and a complete list of the final changes for 2007 are available at [www.census.gov/naics](http://www.census.gov/naics).

Just as NAICS has facilitated comparisons of economic activity among its North American partners, there is also significant value in fostering comparability of industrial statistics from a variety of international, regional, and national classifications. Concordances provide a valuable tool for such comparisons. A working group, including the ECPC, Eurostat, INEGI, Statistics Canada, and the United Nations Statistics Division, developed concordances among NAICS United States 2002, the Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in the European Union (NACE Rev. 1.1), and the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC Rev. 3.1). NAICS, NACE, and ISIC are all scheduled for revisions in 2007 and similar concordance work will be done in the coming years to provide practical guides to comparisons of data using the newly revised systems.

## North American Product Classification System

In recognition that a production-based industry classification system does not meet all of the varying needs of business data users, in 1999 the Office of Management and Budget proposed an initiative to develop a comprehensive classification system for the products produced by the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) industries. Like NAICS, this initiative is a joint effort by Canada, Mexico, and the United States. The long term objective of the North American Product Classification System (NAPCS) is to develop a market-oriented/demand-based system for products that is not industry-of-origin based; can be linked to the NAICS industry structure; is consistent across the three NAICS countries; and promotes improvements in the identification and classification of products across international classification systems, such as the Central Product Classification system of the United Nations.

Given the dynamic and intangible nature of many service products, OMB's Economic Classification Policy Committee anticipated that conceptual and data collection issues involved in developing applicable measures for them would require innovative, comprehensive efforts to ensure that the resulting classifications are conceptually sound, feasible to implement, and relevant. Consequently, the overall initiative is being implemented in several phases. Phase 1, completed in 2001, resulted in product classifications for 121 industries in four NAICS service sectors. Portions of the Phase 1 results were tested in the 2002 Economic Census and the 2001 Service Annual Survey. Phase 2, which continued to target selected service industries, was completed in late 2003. Phase 3 completed the identification and definition of products for the remaining service industries in 2005. The products developed under Phases 1-3 have been assembled into approximately 100 product lists that identify and define the significant products produced by about 370 U.S. service industries. Product lines developed from either final or draft versions of these lists have been incorporated into new product collection forms developed for the 2007 Economic Census, and have been incorporated incrementally into the Services Annual Survey (beginning in 2001).

The Census Bureau, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and the Bureau of Economic Analysis are working together to ensure that product data solicitations in the Economic Census are collectable, meet the needs of business and academic users, and also meet the needs of the producer price program and the national accounts. Plans for extending NAPCS to include the products of industries in NAICS sectors not yet covered (NAICS 11-Agriculture, NAICS 21-Mining, NAICS 23-Utilities, NAICS 23-Construction, NAICS 31-33-Manufacturing, NAICS 42-Wholesale Trade, and NAICS 44-45-Retail Trade) are scheduled for discussion by the three countries. Additional information regarding the NAPCS project is available at [www.census.gov/napcs](http://www.census.gov/napcs).



## Standard Occupational Classification System

The Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) is a system for classifying all occupations in the economy, including private, public, and military occupations, in order to provide a common means to compare occupational data across agencies. It is designed to reflect the current occupational structure in the United States and to cover all occupations in which work is performed for pay or profit.

A revised Standard Occupational Classification was issued by the Office of Management and Budget in September 1999, and the new *Standard Occupational Classification Manual* was published in October 2000. Federal agencies that collect occupational data are using the new system; similarly, State and local government agencies are strongly encouraged to use this national system to promote a common language for categorizing occupations (for an implementation schedule, see [www.bls.gov/soc/socimp.htm](http://www.bls.gov/soc/socimp.htm)).

OMB established the SOC Policy Committee to ensure that the successful efforts of the SOC Revision Policy Committee continue and that the SOC remains relevant and meets the needs of agencies using occupational data. The committee facilitated the transition to the revised SOC and promoted its consistent implementation across Federal agencies.

In May 2006, OMB announced the next major review of the 2000 SOC for possible revision in 2010 and solicited public comment on: (1) the SOC classification principles, (2) corrections to the 2000 SOC Manual, (3) the intention to retain the current SOC Major Group structure, (4) changes to the existing detailed occupations, and (5) new detailed occupations to be added to the 2010 SOC. The due date for comments was July 17, 2006. The SOCPC is reviewing the comments received and will make recommendations to OMB for any revisions. OMB will publish the recommendations in the *Federal Register* for public comment next year. Additional information regarding the SOC review, including the May 16 *Federal Register* notice, is available at [www.bls.gov/soc](http://www.bls.gov/soc).

## Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Area Definitions

On December 5, 2005, the Office of Management and Budget issued Bulletin No. 06-01 that provided an update of the statistical areas based on the Census Bureau's population estimates for 2003 and 2004. The update includes two new Micropolitan Statistical Areas, two new Combined Statistical Areas, the addition of new components to five existing Combined Statistical Areas, and changes to principal cities and titles. The bulletin also provides guidance to Federal agencies that use the definitions of these statistical areas for program administrative and fund allocation purposes (Bulletin No. 06-01 and related materials are available at [www.whitehouse.gov/omb](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb)—go to "Statistical Programs and Standards").

The current statistical areas are defined according to OMB's Standards for Defining Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas that were published in December 2000 (65 FR 82228-82238). The 2000 standards are available at

[www.whitehouse.gov/omb](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb)—go to "Statistical Programs and Standards." The 2000 standards provide for the identification of the following statistical areas in the United States and Puerto Rico: 369 Metropolitan Statistical Areas including 11 Metropolitan Statistical Areas that have a total of 29 Metropolitan Divisions; 582 Micropolitan Statistical Areas; 124 Combined Statistical Areas; 43 New England City and Town Areas; and 10 Combined New England City and Town Areas. (The appendix to the bulletin provides the definitions of these areas.) The classification includes approximately 93 percent of the U.S. population—about 83 percent in Metropolitan Statistical Areas and about 10 percent in Micropolitan Statistical Areas.

Metropolitan Statistical Areas have at least one urbanized area with a population of 50,000 or more, plus adjacent territory that has a high degree of social and economic integration with the core as measured by commuting ties of at least 25 percent. Micropolitan Statistical Areas have at least one urban cluster with a population of at least 10,000 but less than 50,000, plus adjacent territory that has a high degree of social and economic integration with the core as measured by commuting ties of at least 25 percent. Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas are defined in terms of whole counties (or equivalent entities). If specified criteria are met, a Metropolitan Statistical Area containing a single core with a population of 2.5 million or more may be subdivided to form smaller groupings of counties referred to as Metropolitan Divisions. In view of the importance of cities and towns in New England, the 2000 standards also provide for a set of geographic areas that are defined using cities and towns in the six New England states. The New England City and Town Areas (NECTAs) are defined using the same criteria as Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas.

If specified criteria are met, adjacent Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas, in various combinations, may become the components of Combined Statistical Areas. For instance, a Combined Statistical Area may comprise two or more Metropolitan Statistical Areas, a Metropolitan Statistical Area and a Micropolitan Statistical Area, two or more Micropolitan Statistical Areas, or multiple Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas. The geographic components of Combined New England City and Town Areas are individual metropolitan and micropolitan NECTAs, in various combinations. The areas that combine retain their own designations as Metropolitan or Micropolitan Statistical Areas (or NECTAs) within the larger Combined Statistical Area (or Combined NECTAs). Combinations for adjacent areas with an employment interchange of 25 or more are automatic. Combinations for adjacent areas with an employment interchange of at least 15 but less than 25 are based on local opinion as expressed through the Congressional delegations.

## **Classification of Data on Race and Ethnicity**

The Office of Management and Budget's standards for data on race and ethnicity provide a minimum set of categories for use when Federal agencies are collecting and presenting such information for statistical, administrative, or compliance purposes. In October 1997, OMB issued Standards for Maintaining, Collecting, and

Presenting Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity, which superseded the standards originally adopted in 1977 (62 FR 58781–58790).

As a follow-on to the adoption of the 1997 standards, OMB worked with its interagency committee to develop Provisional Guidance on the Implementation of the 1997 Standards for the Collection of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity. This guidance focused on three areas: collecting data using the 1997 standards, tabulating data collected under the 1997 standards, and building bridges to compare data collected under the 1997 standards and the earlier 1977 standards (for a copy of the guidance see [www.whitehouse.gov/omb](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb)—go to "Statistical Programs and Standards").

In response to requests from agencies responsible for monitoring and enforcing civil rights laws, OMB also led an interagency group that developed more specific guidance for agencies that collect or use aggregate data on race. In addition, this guidance addresses the allocation of multiple race responses for use in civil rights monitoring and enforcement (OMB Bulletin No. 00–02, March 9, 2000, is available at [www.whitehouse.gov/omb](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb)—go to "Statistical Programs and Standards"). The guidance in OMB Bulletin No. 00–02 is designed to ensure that agencies can continue to monitor compliance with laws that offer protections for those who historically have experienced discrimination, and that reporting burden is minimized for those reporting aggregate data to Federal agencies.

Most, if not all, of the national population-based surveys and censuses have now implemented the 1997 standards. During the past year, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission implemented the standards in its Employer Information Report, known as the EEO-1 Report, effective for the 2007 survey. The Department of Education has issued proposed guidance on maintaining, collecting and reporting data on race and ethnicity to implement OMB standards in its aggregate administrative record data reported by school districts. OMB continues to monitor implementation of the standards for data on race and ethnicity through its information collection review process.

## **Definition of Income and Poverty**

Measures of income and poverty are important statistics that affect not only public perceptions of well-being in America, but also governmental policies. The current measure of poverty was originally developed in the 1960's as an indicator of the number of individuals with inadequate family resources (defined as before-tax money income) for needed consumption of food and all other goods and services (defined by a dollar threshold). Since then, the poverty measure has been widely used in policy formation, program administration, and analytical research. However, growing concerns about the continued validity and usefulness of the official U.S. poverty measure have led to research and recommendations to improve the current measure.

A working group formed by the Office of Management and Budget under the auspices of the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy has examined available

options for improving the measurement of income and poverty. The working group identified key research needs based on issues raised in a report by the National Research Council's Committee on National Statistics (CNSTAT) in 1995, *Measuring Poverty: A New Approach*. That report recommended that the official U.S. poverty thresholds be changed to comprise a budget for the three basic categories of food, clothing, and shelter (including utilities), and a small additional amount to allow for other needs, such as household supplies, personal care, and non-work-related transportation.

Significant statistical issues have been addressed by the working group. These include the availability, reliability, and timeliness of the data required to implement the CNSTAT recommendations; the recommendation to change the primary vehicle for poverty data collection from the Annual Social and Economic Supplement of the Current Population Survey to the Survey of Income and Program Participation; the coverage of the Consumer Expenditure Survey, which is limited in its applicability to the expenditure patterns of persons in poverty; and the scope of data development work needed to implement the CNSTAT recommendations for making geographic adjustments.

The working group has coordinated closely with the Census Bureau to advise its development of experimental poverty measures that incorporate relevant CNSTAT recommendations. In June 1999, the Census Bureau issued an initial report, *Experimental Poverty Measures, 1991–1997*, presenting alternative experimental poverty measures as a constructive first step in the development of improved measures of income and poverty. A second experimental poverty measures report, *Experimental Poverty Measures, 1999*, which provided additional alternative measures based on accounting for some expenses in the thresholds and using refined expenditure data sources, was released in October 2001. *Supplemental Measures of Material Well-Being: Expenditures, Consumption, and Poverty 1998 to 2001*, issued in September 2003, describes a third new avenue for research—consumption-based measures using expenditures and other indicators of material well-being—that is intended to complement the official income-based measures and the existing series of poverty estimates to expand understanding of the nature of poverty in the United States. In June 2005, the Census Bureau issued *Alternative Poverty Estimates in the United States: 2003*. This report explains how the official poverty measure is computed, how several series of alternative estimates were developed, and how the alternative and official measures offer different profiles of people in poverty. The approaches to measuring poverty examined in the report are: (1) the official poverty measure; (2) measures that use alternative definitions of income to define resources compared with either the same thresholds as the official measure, or with similar thresholds updated for inflation using a different price index; and (3) measures based on recommendations from the NAS panel which use alternative definitions both of resources and of thresholds. (These documents are available on the Census Bureau's web site at [www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/poverty.html](http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/poverty.html)).

To assess progress toward improving the measurement of poverty, OMB asked CNSTAT to convene a June 2004 workshop on Federal research on alternative methods for measuring poverty. The workshop focused on two broad areas. First, it provided a forum for comment on methods developed for key elements of the CNSTAT report's proposals and the degree of support for such methods. These

elements included setting and updating a reference family threshold, the implementation of alternative equivalence scales, and geographic adjustments to thresholds. Second, the workshop focused on other CNSTAT proposals that have inspired alternative approaches requiring further development. These included methods to reflect medical out-of-pocket expenses in the poverty measure and assign work-related expenses (including child care), and to account for home ownership and housing subsidies, as well as the role of the Survey of Income and Program Participation in implementing a revised poverty measure. A report of the workshop's discussions, *Experimental Poverty Measures: Summary of a Workshop*, was released in January 2005. An overview of the report is available at [www.nap.edu/execsumm\\_pdf/11166.pdf](http://www.nap.edu/execsumm_pdf/11166.pdf).

As part of the process of exploring supplements to income-based poverty measures, the Department of Commerce, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the University of Maryland Foundation began a series of seminars on Reconsidering the Federal Poverty Measure in July 2004. The seminars examined a range of well-being/hardship measures, as well as the data and analytical issues that surround them, including the quality of data on family income, consumption, and assets; the role of wealth and assets; the impact of changed living arrangements; and potential adjustments to the equivalence scales used in setting poverty thresholds, in the context of identifying supplemental poverty measures that can provide alternative perspectives on the well-being of the Nation's population.

## **Measuring the Effects of Hurricane Katrina and Other Major Storms**

Hurricane Katrina and other major storms of 2006 resulted in special activity for a number of agencies. Statistical data were necessary to measure effects, assess needs, and design appropriate responses. Some agencies produced or will produce new, additional, or accelerated statistical reports related to the hurricanes. Because of the damage produced by the storms, normal data gathering for some agencies was disrupted and alternative procedures were used.

In early summer 2006, the Census Bureau delivered special American Community Survey data for 2005 for affected areas. The survey data included both "pre-hurricane" and "post-hurricane" periods and consisted of profiles of population and housing characteristics in the affected areas in Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas. The Census Bureau also developed unofficial population data for the Gulf Coast, taking into account population shifts through January 2006 for areas affected by last year's hurricanes. While the Census Bureau could not fully evaluate the accuracy of these estimates, these data may be helpful to state and local governments in assessing hurricane impacts. In addition, the Census Bureau released preliminary reports on U.S. Goods Trade for the Gulf Region affected by Hurricane Katrina beginning with September 2005 data and ceasing with February 2006 data.

The Economics and Statistics Administration (ESA) and the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) both produced special products to help government leaders understand the impact of the storms on the economy. ESA produced reports in

October and December 2005 and in April and July 2006 on the economic impact of the storms and the Gulf Coast recovery for the Department of Commerce, the Gulf Coast Recovery Council, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. ESA plans to issue an updated report every three months until no longer needed. BEA produced Regional Input-Output Multiplier (RIMS) estimates to be used by the Commerce Department and others to understand the broader economic effects of the hurricanes on the Gulf Region. BEA also developed a set of frequently asked questions to help put into perspective the effects of the hurricanes and explain how BEA incorporates them into the Nation's economic accounts. In May 2006, BEA organized an event in Mobile, Alabama to discuss with regional economic development officials how Federal economic statistics could be used to help them understand local effects and plan for recovery.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) has published estimates of the employment status of those who evacuated their homes as a result of Hurricane Katrina for each month since October 2005. To accomplish this, BLS and the Census Bureau added several questions to the Current Population Survey to identify persons who evacuated, even temporarily, due to the hurricane. The questions were asked of CPS sample households throughout the country, since some evacuees relocated far from the storm-affected areas. This information was cross-tabulated with other information collected in the household survey, including employment status. BLS and the Census Bureau plan to ask the Katrina-related questions each month until further notice. In addition, the August 2006 issue of the Monthly Labor Review published by BLS includes several articles describing the effects of Hurricane Katrina on worker mobility, employment and unemployment, industry employment and wages, and the ocean economy in the Gulf region. BLS also issued a report on "Response and findings from the CPS on the effects of Hurricane Katrina."

In addition, portions of the Hurricane Emergency Supplemental Appropriation were used for statistical activities to assess damage and plan and track response. For example, Environmental Protection Agency funding was used by the Leaking Underground Storage Tank program to track and report confirmed releases, awards dispensed, and cleanups initiated and completed in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama.

OMB and the Census Bureau, together with representatives of the Departments of Health and Human Services and Housing and Urban Development, collaborated with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and researchers from the National Institute of Mental Health and Harvard University's Medical School on a longitudinal survey of people affected by Hurricane Katrina. Critical new data items were developed to measure over time the disaster's effects on housing, labor force participation, education, and family well-being. Fielded early in 2006, the survey is reaching a broad cross-section of people affected by the disaster, including separate samples of people who resided in the New Orleans metropolitan area at the time of the hurricane and those who resided in counties or parishes of Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi that were in the path of the hurricane. The initial results discussing the experiences and recovery progress of Hurricane Katrina-affected residents was released in August. The report is available at <http://www.hurricanekatrina.med.harvard.edu/baseline.php>.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) produced a special report on the effects of Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma on the Gulf Coast housing stock in the first quarter 2006 issue of U.S. Housing Market Conditions. Using data from FEMA, the Small Business Administration (SBA), and other agencies, HUD analyzed the number of housing units damaged, the type and severity of damage, tenure, and insurance status. Damaged units also were evaluated for location in relation to FEMA-designated 100-year flood plains. Tables show the extent of damage in the states of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas. County level data are provided for the 12 counties that experienced the most concentrated damage: the parishes of St. Bernard, Cameron, Plaquemines, Orleans, St. Tammany, Jefferson, and Vermilion in Louisiana; and the counties of Hancock, Harrison, Jackson, and Stone in Mississippi.





## Appendices

### Appendix A. Direct Funding, Reimbursable Programs, and Purchases, FY 2007 (Millions of dollars)

Department/ Agency	Direct Funding	Reimbursements			Purchases		
		State/ Local Govt's	Private Sector	Other Federal Agencies	State/ Local Govt's	Private Sector	Other Federal Agencies
<b>AGRICULTURE</b>							
ARS.....	4.7	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	2.1
ERS.....	82.5	0.0	0.0	0.3	4.9	3.7	9.6
FAS.....	43.4	0.0	0.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	1.0
FNS.....	12.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	12.0	0.0
FS.....	56.0	10.0	0.0	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
NASS.....	152.6	2.9	0.5	13.9	27.2	0.0	0.2
NRCS.....	140.4	3.2	0.2	4.7	2.4	7.3	2.1
<b>COMMERCE</b>							
BEA.....	76.5	0.0	0.2	0.7	0.0	1.5	3.2
Census.....	898.2	12.6	5.5	228.4	0.0	0.0	2.1
ESA.....	4.0	0.0	0.0	3.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
ITA.....	6.1	0.2	0.1	1.1	0.0	1.6	2.3
NIST.....	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
NOAA.....	81.8	0.2	3.6	2.4	19.2	11.9	0.0
PTO.....	9.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>DEFENSE</b>							
Corps.....	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.5
DMDC.....	9.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.1	0.0
<b>EDUCATION</b>							
NCEE.....	1.4	0.0	0.0	25.9	0.0	25.9	0.0
NCES.....	263.0	0.0	0.0	7.2	61.6	180.2	15.6
NIDRR.....	2.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.4	0.0
OPEPD.....	48.0	0.0	0.0	3.3	0.0	38.3	0.0
PE.....	34.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	34.1

**Appendix A. Direct Funding, Reimbursable Programs, and Purchases, FY 2007**  
(Millions of dollars)

Department/ Agency	Direct Funding	Reimbursements			Purchases		
		State/ Local Govt's	Private Sector	Other Federal Agencies	State/ Local Govt's	Private Sector	Other Federal Agencies
<b>ENERGY</b>							
EIA.....	89.8	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.3	34.1	0.0
EH.....	16.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.5
<b>HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES</b>							
AoA.....	2.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8	1.6	0.3
ACF.....	74.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	13.9	51.6	6.9
AHRQ.....	160.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	61.3	8.4
ATSDR.....	4.0	0.0	0.0	1.2	2.0	0.1	0.0
CDC (w/o NCHS).....	359.4	0.0	0.0	8.8	127.3	84.8	12.8
CMS.....	18.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	18.4	0.0
HRSA.....	16.2	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	1.1	3.4
IHS.....	4.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
NCHS.....	109.0	0.2	2.6	56.3	18.5	44.6	25.9
NIH.....	851.3	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	319.0	28.4
OASPE.....	25.3	0.0	0.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	6.0
OPA.....	4.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0
SAMHSA.....	132.3	0.0	0.0	10.7	25.3	99.5	0.4
<b>HOMELAND SECURITY</b>							
BCBP.....	39.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	24.5	0.0
FEMA.....	10.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.2	0.0
OIS.....	4.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.4
PD.....	28.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.0
<b>HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT</b>							
Housing.....	3.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.2	0.0
PD&R.....	27.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	25.3
OFHEO.....	11.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.0	0.0
P&IH.....	21.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	21.9	0.0
<b>INTERIOR</b>							
BoR.....	4.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.6

**Appendix A. Direct Funding, Reimbursable Programs, and Purchases, FY 2007**  
(Millions of dollars)

Department/ Agency	Direct Funding	Reimbursements			Purchases		
		State/ Local Govt's	Private Sector	Other Federal Agencies	State/ Local Govt's	Private Sector	Other Federal Agencies
MMS.....	11.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
NPS.....	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
FWS.....	8.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.3	3.5
USGS.....	73.5	87.5	3.3	39.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>JUSTICE</b>							
BJS.....	59.8	0.0	0.0	2.0	5.0	7.8	34.2
BoP.....	10.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.3	0.0	0.0
DEA.....	3.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
FBI.....	7.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>LABOR</b>							
BLS.....	563.3	0.0	1.0	4.0	96.0	18.0	80.0
ESA.....	3.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.4	0.0
ETA.....	31.1	0.0	0.0	0.5	24.8	2.1	0.0
MSHA.....	5.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.1	0.0
OSHA.....	33.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0
<b>STATE</b>							
BBG.....	11.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.8	0.0
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>							
BTS.....	27.5	0.0	0.0	4.7	0.0	0.0	7.6
FAA.....	8.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.5
FHWA.....	30.3	0.0	5.0	0.0	0.0	32.1	0.1
FMCSA.....	13.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.0	0.0	7.2
FRA.....	3.9	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	2.4	0.0
FTA.....	5.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.5	1.6
MARAD.....	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0
NHTSA.....	52.1	0.0	0.0	0.2	9.5	27.4	4.0
OST.....	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
PHMSA.....	6.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.6	0.2

**Appendix A. Direct Funding, Reimbursable Programs, and Purchases, FY 2007**  
(Millions of dollars)

Department/ Agency	Direct Funding	Reimbursements			Purchases		
		State/ Local Govt's	Private Sector	Other Federal Agencies	State/ Local Govt's	Private Sector	Other Federal Agencies
<b>TREASURY</b>							
SOI (IRS).....	41.5	0.0	0.1	1.7	0.0	0.2	0.1
<b>VETERANS AFFAIRS</b>							
BVA.....	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
NCA.....	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0
OPP.....	7.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.5	0.0
VBA.....	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.0
VHA.....	91.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>OTHER AGENCIES</b>							
AID.....	16.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.9	6.6
CPSC.....	12.0	0.0	0.0	3.0	0.0	4.0	0.0
EPA.....	117.6	0.0	0.0	0.1	1.0	15.2	1.2
EEOC.....	2.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.3
IMLS.....	4.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	2.6	0.0
NASA.....	15.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
NSF.....	126.4	0.0	0.0	3.3	0.0	117.8	6.5
SRS.....	35.1	0.0	0.0	2.2	0.0	25.4	6.5
SBA.....	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.2
SSA.....	35.9	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	17.1	4.2
ORES.....	17.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.5	3.5
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>5,402.4</b>	<b>116.8</b>	<b>22.2</b>	<b>437.4</b>	<b>453.1</b>	<b>1352.0</b>	<b>363.1</b>

Note: Components may not sum to totals because of rounding.

## **Appendix B. Principal Statistical Agency Staffing Levels**

This report historically has focused on the budgetary resources Federal agencies devote to statistical activities. To add some perspective, this appendix provides information on the staffing levels of the principal statistical agencies. Each agency was asked to report its total number of staff or appointments, as well as the number of full-time permanent staff, the number of other than full-time permanent staff, and the combined number of statisticians and mathematical statisticians. Agencies were asked to report their actual on-board strength, meaning actual positions or appointments, not their full-time equivalent (FTE) levels. This distinction is important, because one FTE can represent multiple staff positions or appointments. For example, a monthly survey may require one FTE, which could actually represent 12 positions or appointments who each worked one month. (Contractors and consultants are not Federal staff and are not included in the staffing counts.)

Information on staffing levels in the principal statistical agencies is presented below.

### **Appendix B. Principal Statistical Agency Staffing Levels**

Agency	Staff	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
Bureau of the Census*	Total.....	12,321	15,066	14,861
	Full-time permanent.....	5,751	6,596	7,480
	Other than full-time permanent.....	6,570	8,470	7,381
	Statisticians.....	1,676	1,641	1,861
Bureau of Labor Statistics	Total.....	2,510	2,670	2,722
	Full-time permanent.....	2,153	2,256	2,214
	Other than full-time permanent.....	357	414	508
	Statisticians.....	154	168	168
National Agricultural Statistics Service	Total.....	1,139	1,123	1,139
	Full-time permanent.....	1,114	1,123	1,139
	Other than full-time permanent.....	25	0	0
	Statisticians.....	609	609	609

**Appendix B. Principal Statistical Agency Staffing Levels**

Agency	Staff	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
National Center for Health Statistics	Total.....	528	538	540
	Full-time permanent....	462	472	474
	Other than full-time permanent.....	66	66	66
	Statisticians.....	161	167	169
Bureau of Economic Analysis	Total.....	516	529	536
	Full-time permanent....	494	507	514
	Other than full-time permanent.....	22	22	22
	Statisticians.....	4	4	4
Economic Research Service	Total.....	428	439	440
	Full-time permanent....	388	403	404
	Other than full-time permanent.....	40	36	36
	Statisticians.....	4	4	4
Energy Information Administration	Total.....	360	370	378
	Full-time permanent....	349	361	369
	Other than full-time permanent.....	11	9	9
	Statisticians.....	64	69	72
Bureau of Transportation Statistics	Total.....	91	122	122
	Full-time permanent....	90	121	121
	Other than full-time permanent.....	1	1	1
	Statisticians.....	25	21	21
National Center for Education Statistics	Total.....	116	116	116
	Full-time permanent....	115	115	115
	Other than full-time permanent.....	1	1	1
	Statisticians.....	85	85	85

**Appendix B. Principal Statistical Agency Staffing Levels**

Agency	Staff	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
Bureau of Justice Statistics	Total.....	51	56	58
	Full-time permanent.....	49	52	54
	Other than full-time permanent.....	2	4	4
	Statisticians.....	31	33	35

\*Note: Bureau of the Census figures do not include decennial census staffing. In FY 2005, the decennial staff included 1,655 full-time permanent and 3,303 other than full-time permanent employees. In FY 2006 these numbers are 2,328 and 4,271 respectively, and in FY 2007 these levels will be 2,403 and 2,924 respectively.





## **Glossary of Department and Agency Abbreviations**

ACF	Administration for Children and Families (HHS)
AoA	Administration on Aging (HHS)
AHRQ	Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (HHS)
AID	Agency for International Development
ARS	Agricultural Research Service (Agriculture)
ATSDR	Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (HHS)
BCBP	Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (Homeland Security)
BBG	Broadcasting Board of Governors (State)
BEA	Bureau of Economic Analysis (Commerce)
BJS	Bureau of Justice Statistics (Justice)
BLS	Bureau of Labor Statistics (Labor)
BoP	Bureau of Prisons (Justice)
BoR	Bureau of Reclamation (Interior)
BTS	Bureau of Transportation Statistics (Transportation)
BVA	Board of Veterans' Appeals (VA)
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (HHS)
Census	Census Bureau (Commerce)
CMS	Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (HHS)
Corps	Army Corps of Engineers (Defense)
CPSC	Consumer Product Safety Commission
DEA	Drug Enforcement Administration (Justice)
DMDC	Defense Manpower Data Center (Defense)
DOC	Department of Commerce
DOD	Department of Defense
DOE	Department of Energy
DOL	Department of Labor
DOT	Department of Transportation
EEOC	Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
EH	Office of Environment, Safety, and Health (Energy)
EIA	Energy Information Administration (Energy)
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ERS	Economic Research Service (Agriculture)
ESA/DOC	Economics and Statistics Administration (Commerce)
ESA/DOL	Employment Standards Administration (Labor)
ETA	Employment and Training Administration (Labor)
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration (Transportation)
FAS	Foreign Agricultural Service (Agriculture)
FBI	Federal Bureau of Investigation (Justice)
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency (Homeland Security)
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration (Transportation)
FMCSA	Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (Transportation)
FNS	Food and Nutrition Service (Agriculture)
FRA	Federal Railroad Administration (Transportation)
FS	Forest Service (Agriculture)
FTA	Federal Transit Administration (Transportation)
FWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service (Interior)

HHS	Department of Health and Human Services
Housing	Office of the Assistant Secretary for Housing (HUD)
HRSA	Health Resources and Services Administration (HHS)
HUD	Department of Housing and Urban Development
IHS	Indian Health Service (HHS)
IMLS	Institute of Museum and Library Services
IRS	Internal Revenue Service (Treasury)
ITA	International Trade Administration (Commerce)
MARAD	Maritime Administration (Transportation)
MMS	Minerals Management Service (Interior)
MSHA	Mine Safety and Health Administration (Labor)
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NASS	National Agricultural Statistics Service (Agriculture)
NCA	National Cemetery Administration (VA)
NCCAM	National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (HHS)
NCEE	National Center for Education Evaluation (Education)
NCES	National Center for Education Statistics (Education)
NCHS	National Center for Health Statistics (HHS)
NCI	National Cancer Institute (HHS)
NEI	National Eye Institute (HHS)
NESDIS	National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (Commerce)
NHLBI	National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (HHS)
NHTSA	National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (Transportation)
NIA	National Institute on Aging (HHS)
NIAAA	National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (HHS)
NIAID	National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (HHS)
NIAMS	National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (HHS)
NIBIB	National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (HHS)
NICHD	National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (HHS)
NIDA	National Institute on Drug Abuse (HHS)
NIDCD	National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (HHS)
NIDCR	National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (HHS)
NIDDK	National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (HHS)
NIDRR	National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (Education)
NIEHS	National Institute on Environmental Health Sciences (HHS)
NIH	National Institutes of Health (HHS)
NIMH	National Institute of Mental Health (HHS)
NIST	National Institute of Standards and Technology
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service (Commerce)
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (Commerce)
NPS	National Park Service (Interior)
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service (Agriculture)

NSF	National Science Foundation
OASPE	Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (HHS)
OD	Office of the Director, NIH (HHS)
OFHEO	Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight (HUD)
OIS	Office of Immigration Statistics (Homeland Security)
OMB	Office of Management and Budget (Executive Office of the President)
OPA	Office of Population Affairs (HHS)
OPEPD	Office of Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development (Education)
OPP	Office of Policy, Planning, and Preparedness (VA)
ORES	Office of Research, Evaluation, and Statistics (SSA)
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration (Labor)
OST	Office of the Secretary of Transportation (Transportation)
PD	Preparedness Directorate (Homeland Security)
PD&R	Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research (HUD)
PE	Program Evaluation, Data Collection, and Analysis (Education)
P&IH	Office of Public and Indian Housing (HUD)
PTO	Patent and Trademark Office (Commerce)
PHMSA	Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (Transportation)
SAMHSA	Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (HHS)
SBA	Small Business Administration
SOI	Statistics of Income Division (Treasury)
SRS	Division of Science Resources Statistics (NSF)
SSA	Social Security Administration
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USGS	United States Geological Survey (Interior)
VA	Department of Veterans Affairs
VBA	Veterans Benefits Administration (VA)
VHA	Veterans Health Administration (VA)



## **Selected Federal Statistical World Wide Web Sites**

### **FedStats—"One-Stop Shopping"**

[www.fedstats.gov](http://www.fedstats.gov)

### **Executive Office of the President (EOP)**

Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

[www.whitehouse.gov/OMB/](http://www.whitehouse.gov/OMB/)

(Go to "Statistical Programs and Standards")

Federal Statistics Briefing Rooms

[www.whitehouse.gov/news/fsbr.html](http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/fsbr.html)

Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology

[www.fesm.gov/](http://www.fesm.gov/)

### **Department of Agriculture (USDA)**

[www.usda.gov/](http://www.usda.gov/)

ARS—Agricultural Research Service

[www.ars.usda.gov/](http://www.ars.usda.gov/)

Food Survey Research Group

[www.barc.usda.gov/bhnrc/foodsurvey/home.htm](http://www.barc.usda.gov/bhnrc/foodsurvey/home.htm)

ERS—Economic Research Service

[www.ers.usda.gov/](http://www.ers.usda.gov/)

FAS—Foreign Agricultural Service

[www.fas.usda.gov/](http://www.fas.usda.gov/)

FNS—Food and Nutrition Service

[www.fns.usda.gov](http://www.fns.usda.gov)

FS—Forest Service

[www.fs.fed.us/](http://www.fs.fed.us/)

Forest Inventory and Analysis

<http://fia.fs.fed.us/>

NASS—National Agricultural Statistics Service

[www.nass.usda.gov/](http://www.nass.usda.gov/)

NRCS—Natural Resources Conservation Service

[www.nrcs.usda.gov/](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/)

(Go to "Technical Resources")

## **Department of Commerce (DOC)**

[www.doc.gov/](http://www.doc.gov/)

BEA—Bureau of Economic Analysis

[www.bea.gov/](http://www.bea.gov/)

Census Bureau

[www.census.gov/](http://www.census.gov/)

ESA—Economics and Statistics Administration

[www.esa.doc.gov/](http://www.esa.doc.gov/)

ITA—International Trade Administration

[www.ita.doc.gov/](http://www.ita.doc.gov/)

Tourism Industries

<http://tinet.ita.doc.gov/>

Office of Trade and Economic Analysis

[www.ita.doc.gov/td/industry/otea](http://www.ita.doc.gov/td/industry/otea)

NIST—National Institute of Standards and Technology

[www.atp.nist.gov](http://www.atp.nist.gov)

NOAA—National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[www.noaa.gov/](http://www.noaa.gov/)

NMFS—National Marine Fisheries Service

[www.nmfs.noaa.gov/](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/)

Fisheries Statistics and Economics

[www.st.nmfs.gov/](http://www.st.nmfs.gov/)

NESDIS—National Environmental Satellite, Data, and  
Information Service

[www.nesdis.noaa.gov/](http://www.nesdis.noaa.gov/)

USPTO—Patent and Trademark Office

[www.uspto.gov/web/offices/ac/ido/oeip/taf/index.html](http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/ac/ido/oeip/taf/index.html)

## **Department of Defense**

[www.defenselink.mil/](http://www.defenselink.mil/)

Corps—Army Corps of Engineers

[www.iwr.usace.army.mil/ndc/wcsc.htm](http://www.iwr.usace.army.mil/ndc/wcsc.htm)

DMDC—Defense Manpower Data Center

[www.dmdc.osd.mil](http://www.dmdc.osd.mil)

(Go to Public Sites)

<http://siadapp.dior.whs.mil>

(Statistical Information Analysis Division of DMDC uses this Web Site)

## **Department of Education**

[www.ed.gov/](http://www.ed.gov/)

NCES—National Center for Education Statistics

[www.nces.ed.gov/](http://www.nces.ed.gov/)

## **Department of Energy**

[www.energy.gov/](http://www.energy.gov/)

EIA—Energy Information Administration

[www.eia.doe.gov/](http://www.eia.doe.gov/)

EH—Office of Environment, Safety and Health

<http://tis.eh.doe.gov/portal/home.htm>

## **Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)**

[www.dhhs.gov/](http://www.dhhs.gov/)

OASPE—Office of the Secretary

<http://aspe.dhhs.gov/statinfo/>

ACF—Administration for Children and Families

[www.acf.dhhs.gov/](http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/)

AHRQ—Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

[www.ahrq.gov/](http://www.ahrq.gov/)

(Go to "Data & Surveys")

ATSDR—Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/>

CDC—Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[www.cdc.gov/](http://www.cdc.gov/)

(Go to "Data and Statistics")

CMS—Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

[www.cms.gov/](http://www.cms.gov/)

(Go to "Statistics and Data")

HRSA—Health Resources and Services Administration

[www.hrsa.gov](http://www.hrsa.gov/)

(Go to "Data and Statistics")

IHS—Indian Health Service

[www.ihs.gov](http://www.ihs.gov/)

NCHS—National Center for Health Statistics

[www.cdc.gov/nchs/](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/)

NIH—National Institutes of Health

[www.nih.gov/](http://www.nih.gov/)

(Go to "Health Information" or "Scientific Resources")

OPA—Office of Population Affairs

<http://opa.osophs.dhhs.gov/>

SAMHSA—Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

[www.samhsa.gov/](http://www.samhsa.gov/)

(Go to "Statistics & Data")

## **Department of Homeland Security (DHS)**

[www.dhs.gov/](http://www.dhs.gov/)

Bureau of Customs and Border Protection

[www.cbp.gov](http://www.cbp.gov)

FEMA—Federal Emergency Management Agency

[www.fema.gov/](http://www.fema.gov/)

OIS—Office of Immigration Statistics

<http://www.bcis.gov>

(Go to "Immigration Statistics")

## **Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)**

[www.hud.gov/](http://www.hud.gov/)

Housing

[www.hud.gov/offices/hsg/index.cfm](http://www.hud.gov/offices/hsg/index.cfm)

OFHEO—Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight

[www.ofheo.gov](http://www.ofheo.gov)

PD&R—Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research

[www.huduser.org/](http://www.huduser.org/)

P&IH—Office of Public and Indian Housing

[www.hud.gov/offices/pih/index.cfm](http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/index.cfm)

## **Department of the Interior**

[www.doi.gov/](http://www.doi.gov/)

BoR—Bureau of Reclamation

[www.usbr.gov/](http://www.usbr.gov/)

FWS—United States Fish and Wildlife Service

<http://info.fws.gov/databases2.html>

Division of Federal Aid

<http://federalaid.fws.gov/>

MMS—Minerals Management Service

[www.mms.gov](http://www.mms.gov)

(Go to "Library")



NPS—National Park Service

[www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)

(For public use statistics: [www.nature.nps.gov/stats/](http://www.nature.nps.gov/stats/))

USGS—United States Geological Survey

[www.usgs.gov/](http://www.usgs.gov/)

## **Department of Justice**

[www.usdoj.gov/](http://www.usdoj.gov/)

BJS—Bureau of Justice Statistics

[www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/)

BoP—Bureau of Prisons

[www.bop.gov/](http://www.bop.gov/)

DEA—Drug Enforcement Administration

[www.usdoj.gov/dea/](http://www.usdoj.gov/dea/)

(Go to "Statistics")

FBI—Federal Bureau of Investigation

[www.fbi.gov/ucr/ucr.htm](http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/ucr.htm)

## **Department of Labor (DOL)**

[www.dol.gov](http://www.dol.gov)

BLS—Bureau of Labor Statistics

<http://stats.bls.gov/>

ESA—Employment Standards Administration

[www.dol.gov/esa/](http://www.dol.gov/esa/)

ETA—Employment and Training Administration

[www.doleta.gov/](http://www.doleta.gov/)

America's Labor Market Information System

[www.lmi-net.org/](http://www.lmi-net.org/)

MSHA—Mine Safety and Health Administration

[www.msha.gov/](http://www.msha.gov/)

OSHA—Occupational Safety and Health Administration

[www.osha.gov/](http://www.osha.gov/)

(Go to "Statistics")

## **Department of State (State)**

[www.state.gov](http://www.state.gov)

BBG—Broadcasting Board of Governors

[www.bbg.gov](http://www.bbg.gov)

## **Department of Transportation (DOT)**

[www.dot.gov](http://www.dot.gov)

### BTS—Bureau of Transportation Statistics

[www.bts.gov/](http://www.bts.gov/)

National Transportation Library

<http://ntl.bts.gov/>

### FAA—Federal Aviation Administration

[www.faa.gov/](http://www.faa.gov/)

### FHWA—Federal Highway Administration

[www.fhwa.dot.gov](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov)

### FMCSA—Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

[www.fmcsa.dot.gov](http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov)

(Go to "Facts & Figures")

Analysis and Information Online

<http://ai.volpe.dot.gov/>

### FRA—Federal Railroad Administration

[www.fra.dot.gov/](http://www.fra.dot.gov/)

Office of Safety Analysis

<http://safetydata.fra.dot.gov/OfficeofSafety/>

### FTA—Federal Transit Administration

[www.fta.dot.gov/](http://www.fta.dot.gov/)

(Go to "Transit Data and Info")

### MARAD—Maritime Administration

[www.marad.dot.gov/](http://www.marad.dot.gov/)

(Go to "Data & Statistics")

### NHTSA—National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[www.nhtsa.dot.gov](http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov)

National Center for Statistics and Analysis

[www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/departments/nrd-30/ncsa/](http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/departments/nrd-30/ncsa/)

### TSA—Transportation Security Administration

[www.tsa.gov](http://www.tsa.gov)

(Go to "Briefing Room")

## **Department of the Treasury**

[www.ustreas.gov](http://www.ustreas.gov)

### IRS—Internal Revenue Service

[www.irs.ustreas.gov/](http://www.irs.ustreas.gov/)

SOI—Statistics of Income

[www.irs.ustreas.gov/](http://www.irs.ustreas.gov/)

(Go to "Tax Stats")

**Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)**

[www.va.gov/vetdata/](http://www.va.gov/vetdata/)

**Agency for International Development (AID)**

[www.usaid.gov/](http://www.usaid.gov/)

**Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)**

[www.cpsc.gov/about/clarnglse.html](http://www.cpsc.gov/about/clarnglse.html)

**Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**

[www.epa.gov/](http://www.epa.gov/)

(Go to "Information Sources," then go to "Databases & Software")

**Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)**

[www.eeoc.gov](http://www.eeoc.gov)

(Go to "Statistics")

**Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)**

[www.ims.gov](http://www.ims.gov)

**National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)**

[www.nasa.gov/](http://www.nasa.gov/)

**National Science Foundation (NSF)**

[www.nsf.gov/](http://www.nsf.gov/)

(Go to "Statistics")

**Small Business Administration (SBA)**

[www.sba.gov/advo/research/](http://www.sba.gov/advo/research/)

**Social Security Administration (SSA)**

[www.ssa.gov/](http://www.ssa.gov/)

(Go to "Actuarial Resources, History, Research and Data")