

Budgetary Resources: The Department’s FY 2008 Combined Statement of Budgetary Resources shows \$37.8 billion in total budgetary resources, an increase of \$1.0 billion from the previous year’s total budgetary resources of \$36.8 billion.

Net Outlays: The Department’s FY 2008 Combined Statement of Budgetary Resources shows \$26.9 billion in net outlays, an increase of \$3.3 billion from the previous year’s total net outlays of \$23.6 billion.

Data Reliability and Validity

The Department views data reliability and validity as critically important in the planning and assessment of its performance. As such, the Department makes every effort to constantly improve the completeness and reliability of its performance information by performing “data scrubs” (routine examination of current and historical data sets, as well as looking toward the future for trends) to ensure the data we rely on to make day-to-day management decisions are as accurate and reliable as possible and targets are ambitious enough given the resources provided. In an effort to communicate our data limitations and commitment to providing accurate data, this document includes a discussion of data validation, verification, and any identified data limitations for each performance measure presented. The Department ensures each reporting component providing data for this report meets the following criteria:

At a minimum, performance data are considered reliable if transactions and other data that support reported performance measures are properly recorded, processed, and summarized to permit the preparation of performance information in accordance with criteria stated by management. Performance data need not be perfect to be reliable, particularly if the cost and effort to secure the best performance data possible will exceed the value of any data so obtained.