

Federal Statistics in the FY 2006 Budget

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OVERVIEW

Statistics produced by the federal government serve as a base for research in a broad spectrum of scientific disciplines. Population and vital statistics are central to the work of political scientists and demographers; employment, financial, and production data are essential for economists; and information on education and crime is used by sociologists and psychologists. Responsibility for the collection, analysis, and dissemination of federal statistics is spread throughout the departments and independent agencies of the executive branch; each of some 70 agencies and departmental units annually spends \$500,000 or more on statistical activities. Within this decentralized system that generates statistical information, a more limited number of agencies have the creation of statistics as their principal mission. It is these agencies that are responsible for producing statistics on major economic, demographic, and social developments and trends that are the focus of discussion in this chapter. In general, the funding levels for FY 2006 that have been proposed for the principal statistical agencies provide increases over the resources appropriated in FY 2005. For details of the funding history in fiscal years 2004 through 2006 please see Table 1. The balance of this chapter provides further details on FY 2006 programs.

BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

The Bureau of the Census collects, compiles, and publishes a broad range of statistics on the population and the economy. Budget authority for the Census Bureau is provided in two appropriations: one covers current programs, including demographic surveys, international programs and data on construction, manufacturing, retail and wholesale trade, services, foreign trade, and state and local government finances and employment; the other covers periodic programs, including the

decennial census of population; and the quinquennial economic censuses and the census of governments.

Table 1: Principal Federal Statistical Agencies
(total direct funding in millions - includes R&D and non-R&D components)

	FY 2004 Actual	FY 2005 Estimate	FY 2006 Request
Bureau of the Census: Current Programs	\$192.8	\$196.1	\$220.0
-Periodic Programs	416.1	548.7	657.4
-Survey of Program Dynamics	10.0	10.0	10.0
- Children's Health Insurance Program	10.0	10.0	10.0
Bureau of Labor Statistics	518.5	529.0	542.5
Bureau of Economic Analysis	67.1	72.6	81.3
Statistics of Income, IRS	37.3	40.3	40.5
National Agricultural Statistics Service	103.1	106.0	116.1
- Census of Agriculture	25.1	22.4	29.1
Economic Research Service, USDA	71.4	74.8	80.7
Energy Information Administration	81.1	83.8	85.9
National Center for Health Statistics 1/, 2/	90.1	109.0	109.0
National Center for Education Statistics 2/	91.0	91.0	91.0
Bureau of Justice Statistics	31.7	33.7	62.7
Bureau of Transportation Statistics	30.2	30.0	32.9
Science Resources Statistics, NSF 2/	31.0	32.0	32.0

Notes: 1/ All funds are from the 1% Public Health Service Evaluation Funds.
2/ Funding levels shown from NCHS, NCES, and SRS do not include Salaries and Expenses (S&E) funding from other departmental sources.

For FY 2006, funding is requested for the Census Bureau's economic and demographic programs, and for a reengineered 2010 Census. For the Census Bureau's economic and demographic programs, funding is requested to (1) plan for the 2007 Economic Census, (2) plan and implement the organizational phase of the 2007 Census of Governments and plan for the employment and finance phases, (3) improve measurement of services by expanding key source data for critical quarterly and annual estimates of our nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), (4) support improved coverage and electronic reporting of trade statistics, (5) support the development of a database infrastructure to integrate state administrative data and Census Bureau data products in order to fill critical data gaps at the state and local levels, (6) continue efforts begun in 2003 to eliminate data gaps by measuring migration

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across U.S. borders, and (7) purchase furniture and relocate operations and employees to the new headquarters facility to avoid disruption of mission-critical operations necessary for the successful completion of Census Bureau surveys. For 2010 Census planning, funding is requested to continue to (1) conduct planning, testing, and development activities to support a re-engineered 2010 Census; (2) complete map feature accuracy within 7.6 meters of true GPS location for 700 of the nation's counties; and (3) continue to conduct the American Community Survey program to provide data on an ongoing basis rather than waiting for once-a-decade censuses.

BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS (BLS)

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), the principal fact-finding agency in the federal government in the field of labor economics, has a dual mission: to provide general purpose statistics that support the formulation of economic and social policy decisions in the business and labor communities, in legislation, and other programs affecting labor; and to serve the program needs of the Department of Labor and other federal agencies that use the BLS data and research findings to administer and evaluate on-going programs, develop legislative proposals, and analyze economic and social problems. To meet these objectives, BLS collects, processes, analyzes, and disseminates data on employment and unemployment, projections of economic growth, the labor force, and employment by industry and occupation, prices and cost of living, consumer expenditures, wages and employee benefits, occupational injuries and illnesses, collective bargaining activities, and productivity and technological change in U.S. industries.

For FY 2006, funding is requested to support program operations to measure the economy through producing, disseminating, and improving BLS economic measures, including (1) modernizing the computing systems for monthly processing of the Producer Price Index (PPI) and U.S. Import and Export Price Indexes (IPP), and producing new data outputs, such as indexes based on the North American Industry Classification System for the IPP; (2) maintaining continuous updating of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) by updating the expenditure and population weights biennially, the superlative index annually, outlet samples on a four-year cycle, and item samples in key categories on a two-year cycle; and (3) releasing the 2004–2014 Employment

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Projections and publishing the 2006–2007 edition of the Occupational Outlook Handbook.

BUREAU OF ECONOMIC ANALYSIS (BEA)

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) in the Department of Commerce provides a picture of the United States economy through the preparation, development and interpretation of the economic accounts. These accounts consist of the national income and product accounts, summarized by the gross domestic product (GDP); the wealth accounts that show the business and other components of national wealth; the input-output accounts that trace interrelationships among industrial markets; state and regional income and product accounts; and the United States balance of payments and associated international investment accounts. These economic accounts provide key information on economic growth, regional development, and the nation's position in the world economy. These data are vital ingredients in major decisions affecting such areas as monetary and fiscal policy, Social Security projections, and business planning and investment.

For FY 2006, funding is requested to (1) make selected improvements to the timeliness and comprehensiveness of the nation's international statistics on multinational corporations and trade in services; (2) complete work to accelerate the release of gross state product, metropolitan personal income, and county-level personal income; (3) enhance the accuracy of BEA statistics by acquiring and incorporating real-time data into core BEA accounts; (4) improve data on international financial transactions by working with the Department of the Treasury and the Federal Reserve Board to incorporate newly developed estimates of derivatives and other financial instruments; and (5) produce up-to-date, annual estimates of business investment spending by industry in order to more accurately discern where high-tech and other investments are being made in the manufacturing and service sectors.

STATISTICS OF INCOME, INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE (SOI)

The Statistics of Income Division (SOI) program provides for compilation of annual income, financial, and tax data from samples of tax returns filed by individuals, corporations, partnerships, sole proprietors and tax-exempt organizations. SOI also provides periodic data based on other returns, such as those filed by estates, for estimating

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wealth 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.

For FY 2006 funding is requested to (1) maintain and modernize core data collection systems, including several major statistical programs for the Department of the Treasury, the Congressional Joint Committee on Taxation, the Bureau of Economic Analysis, and SOI's many other customers; (2) implement a databank repository for SOI and IRS population file data to more efficiently build longitudinal databases and enable sub-national estimates; (3) examine means to more effectively mask individual records to minimize the possibility of identification in the Individual Public Use sample files; and (4) modernize and expedite dissemination of data and publications, including a re-engineered Internet website.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE (NASS)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) published its first crop report in 1863, and further strengthened this responsibility in 1905 by creating the Crop Reporting Board (now the Agricultural Statistics Board). The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) has the responsibility for collecting and publishing current national, state and county agricultural statistics. NASS collects and reports data on a wide range of production, inventories, prices paid and received by farmers, costs of production, farm labor usage and wage rates, agricultural chemical use, and other agricultural statistics. Beginning in FY 1997, NASS is responsible for the Census of Agriculture program, which provides comprehensive data every 5 years on all aspects of the agricultural economy down to the county level.

The FY 2006 funding is requested to (1) continue restoration and modernization of the agricultural estimates program to ensure state, regional, and national level agricultural estimates of sufficient precision, quality, and detail to meet the needs of a broad customer base; (2) continue development and implementation of a locality-based agricultural county and small area estimation program; and (3) continue preparations for the 2007 Census of Agriculture.

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ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE (ERS)

The Economic Research Service (ERS), also in USDA, is a research-oriented statistical agency that provides economic and other social science information and analysis related to the supply, demand and performance of domestic and international food and agricultural markets; indicators of food and consumer issues; economic and environmental indicators of agriculture production and resource use; and socio-economic indicators of the status and performance of the farm sector and the rural economy.

For FY 2006, funding is requested to support ongoing programs and to continue the development of an integrated and comprehensive data and analysis framework of the food system beyond the farm gate to provide a basis for understanding, monitoring, tracking, and identifying changes in the food supply and consumption patterns.

ENERGY INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION (EIA)

The Department of Energy's (DOE) Energy Information Administration (EIA) collects, analyzes, and disseminates information on energy resources, production, distribution, consumption, technology, and related international, economic, and financial matters. EIA produces reports with statistical time series, projections of future energy trends, analyses of topical energy issues, and supports the energy information requirements of DOE and other federal agencies. The primary customers of EIA services are public policy makers in DOE and the Congress. Other customers include other federal agencies, state and local governments, the energy industry, educational institutions, the news media, and the public.

For FY 2006, funding is requested to continue ongoing operations, with a focus on (1) improving petroleum and natural gas data security, reliability, and quality; (2) conducting the commercial, manufacturing, and residential energy consumption surveys; (3) implementing the enhanced Voluntary Reporting of Greenhouse Gases program to support the President's Climate Change Initiative; and (4) developing a program performance prototype to assess EIA's data collection and operations costs at a more disaggregated level.

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NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS (NCHS)

The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) monitors the nation's health and use of health services and explores the relationship between risk factors and disease. Data sources include the nation's vital statistics system and surveys involving personal interviews, physical examinations and laboratory testing, and information from health care providers. The mission of NCHS is to provide statistical information that will guide actions and policies to improve the health of the American people. Data from NCHS include the use of hospitals, nursing homes, physician services, financial and non-financial barriers to health care access; the health of racial and ethnic population groups; infant mortality, access to prenatal care; death from diseases such as cancer, heart disease, HIV/AIDS; health insurance coverage, immunization status, and other measures used to help design and monitor the impact of programs and policies that affect health and the health care system.

For FY 2006, funding is requested to (1) increase timeliness by upgrading electronic systems for data collection and processing; (2) expand the content of surveys, particularly those addressing the health care delivery system; (3) redesign the sample for the National Health Interview Survey, NCHS' largest population survey; and (4) work collaboratively with states and other agencies on upgrading the technology for collecting data from state birth and death certificates.

NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS (NCES)

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) in the Department of Education collects, analyzes and reports statistics on education in the United States, and conducts studies on comparisons of international education statistics. NCES also provides leadership in developing and promoting the use of standardized terminology and definitions for the collection of education statistics.

In FY 2006, funding is requested to (1) support the ongoing data collection and analysis of the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study Birth and Kindergarten Cohorts, which provide data to inform child development practices and early education; (2) continue the Integrated Education Postsecondary Data System, which collects information on enrollment, completions, and finances from postsecondary institutions;

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(3) sustain the ongoing data collection efforts for the Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study; (4) maintain U.S. participation in international assessments that compare educational achievement in the United States with that in other countries; and (5) continue the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) program, including funding to support the expansion of State NAEP to grade 12.

BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS (BJS)

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) in the Department of Justice is responsible for the collection, analysis, and publication of statistical information on crime, criminal offenders, victims of crime, and the operations of justice systems at all levels of government and internationally. The mission of the Bureau is to provide accurate and timely justice data and to support the emerging capacity of state and local governments in the use of these data for their justice programs.

For FY 2006, funding is requested to provide for the maintenance of BJS's core statistical programs, including (1) the National Crime Victimization Survey, the Nation's primary source of information on criminal victimization; (2) cybercrime statistics on the incidence, magnitude, and consequences of electronic and computer crime to households and businesses; (3) law enforcement data from over 3,000 agencies on the organization and administration of police and sheriffs' departments; (4) nationally representative prosecution data on resources, policies, and practices of local prosecutors; (5) court and sentencing statistics, including federal and state case processing data; (6) data on correctional populations and facilities from federal, state, and local governments; and (7) the Felony Arrestee Drug Use Reporting program (previously funded as the Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring program within the National Institute of Justice).

BUREAU OF TRANSPORTATION STATISTICS (BTS)

The Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) legislative mandate covers four key areas: 1) compiling, analyzing, and publishing a comprehensive set of transportation statistics; 2) making statistics readily accessible; 3) implementing a long term data collection program; and 4) improving transportation data and advancing its effective use in public and private decision making. BTS was mandated by the Intermodal Surface

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Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) of 1992 and implemented in December 1992 as a new operating administration within the Department of Transportation (DOT). In 1998, BTS was re-authorized in the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21).

For FY 2006, funding is requested to (1) enhance the Freight Data Program, a continuous source of data from shippers, carriers, and receivers, to replace the current Commodity Flow Survey; (2) move the Air Transportation Price Index, an input to GDP and CPI indices, from experimental to production mode; and (3) develop more timely and comprehensive local and long-distance travel data.

NSF SCIENCE RESOURCES STATISTICS (SRS)

The legislative mandate for Science Resource Statistics (SRS), as stated in the National Science Foundation Act of 1950, as amended, is, "...to provide a central clearinghouse for the collection, interpretation, and analysis of data on scientific and engineering resources and to provide a source of information for policy formulation by other agencies of the federal Government...." To meet this mandate, SRS provides policymakers, researchers and other decision makers with high quality data and analysis for making informed decisions about the nation's science, engineering, and technology enterprise. The work of SRS involves survey development, data collection, analysis, information compilation, dissemination, and customer service to meet the statistical demands of a diverse user community, as well as preparation of the biennial reports *Science and Engineering Indicators* and *Women and Minorities and Persons with Disabilities in Science and Engineering*.

For FY 2006, funding is requested to (1) continue to implement the results of prior methodological, analytical, and planning activities directed toward improving the relevance, accuracy, timeliness, and accessibility of SRS products, including the suite of Research and Development surveys and the Survey of Graduate Students and Post-doctorates in Science and Engineering; and (2) lead a cross-agency effort to examine and revise current taxonomies used for classifying academic fields of study, including the development of crosswalks between existing taxonomies and any potential new taxonomy, as well as strengthen methods to enhance the identification and description of cross-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary fields. SRS will continue research and methodological activities begun in FY 2005 to improve the

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relevance and quality of data collected on the conduct of research and development (R&D). SRS is engaged in a long-term effort to devise collection instruments that more accurately measure the economic output of R&D than is presently captured in the Industry Research and Development Expenditures Survey. Activities include: methodological research on how best to capture R&D activities in the service sector, the role of innovation, new forms of conducting R&D, and the globalization of R&D. SRS will continue to collect and disseminate breakthrough data on the characteristics of cyber infrastructure in the nation's academic and biomedical facilities, for which first-time data were collected in FY 2004 and published in FY 2005. The pace of change with respect to cyber infrastructure is so rapid that the survey instrument will have to be updated prior to each biennial fielding, with the next survey conducted in FY 2006. (For more on NSF SRS, see Chapter 5 and Chapter 20.)