

Federal Statistics in the FY 2007 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 2007 that have been proposed for the principal statistical agencies provide increases over the resources appropriated in FY 2006. For details of the funding history in fiscal years 2005 through 2007 please see Table 1. The balance of this chapter provides further details on FY 2007 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 2005 Actual | FY 2006 Estimate | FY 2007 Request |
|--|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Bureau of the Census: Current Programs | \$196.1 | \$195.5 | \$184.1 |
| -Periodic Programs | 548.7 | 606.4 | 694.1 |
| Bureau of Labor Statistics | 529.0 | 537.1 | 563.3 |
| Bureau of Economic Analysis | 72.6 | 75.3 | 76.5 |
| Statistics of Income, IRS | 38.5 | 40.5 | 41.5 |
| National Agricultural Statistics Service | 106.0 | 110.2 | 116.0 |
| - Census of Agriculture | 22.4 | 29.1 | 36.6 |
| Economic Research Service, USDA | 74.2 | 75.2 | 82.5 |
| Energy Information Administration | 83.8 | 85.3 | 89.8 |
| National Center for Health Statistics 1/, 2/ | 109.0 | 109.0 | 109.0 |
| National Center for Education Statistics 2/ | 90.9 | 90.0 | 93.0 |
| Bureau of Justice Statistics | 46.7 | 46.2 | 59.8 |
| Bureau of Transportation Statistics | 26.3 | 26.7 | 27.5 |
| Science Resources Statistics, NSF | 31.0 | 33.0 | 36.0 |

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

For FY 2007, funding is requested for the Census Bureau's ongoing economic and demographic programs and for a re-engineered 2010 Census. For the Census Bureau's economic and demographic programs, funding is requested to: (1) develop the collection instruments and processing systems for the 2007 Economic Census; (2) collect and process data in the organization phase of the Census of Governments, prepare and initiate data collection and processing in the employment phase, and collect and process data for the start of the finance phase; and (3) design a new data collection system on income and wealth dynamics that will meet the policy and operational needs of the country and replace the Survey of Income and Program Participation. 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) improve the accuracy of map feature locations for an additional 690 counties; and (3) continue to conduct the American

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Community Survey program to provide small area demographic 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 2007, funding is requested to support program operations to measure the economy through producing, disseminating, and improving BLS economic measures, including activities to: (1) begin updating continuously the housing and geographic area samples in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which will improve the accuracy and timeliness of the CPI; (2) continue to modernize the computing systems for monthly processing of the Producer Price Index (PPI) and U.S. Import and Export Price Indexes (IPP); and (3) expand the Business Employment Dynamics data within the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages to cover State level measures of gross job gains and gross job losses.

BUREAU OF ECONOMIC ANALYSIS (BEA)

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) 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

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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 2007, funding is requested to: (1) complete BEA's five-year program to improve the accuracy and timeliness of the National Income and Product Accounts, including acquiring and incorporating real-time data into the accounts to provide more current and reliable estimates and accelerating the release of gross state product and metropolitan personal income; (2) augment the scope of the international economic accounts by improving the comprehensiveness of international service statistics; (3) continue to update the input-output accounts and industry estimates; and (4) improve and enhance regional economic statistics.

STATISTICS OF INCOME, INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE (IRS)

The Statistics of Income (SOI) Division 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 the 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 2007, funding is requested to: (1) maintain and modernize tax data collection systems, including developing interfaces with modern electronic tax return filing systems; (2) implement a data bank 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 enhancement of products and features on the [www.irs.gov Taxstats](http://www.irs.gov/Taxstats) website.

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NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE (NASS)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture 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.

FY 2007 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; and (2) finalize preparations for data collection associated with the 2007 Census of Agriculture, including collection of data to measure coverage of the mailing list and the preparation of all materials for data collection in 2008.

ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE (ERS)

The Economic Research Service (ERS) 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 2007, funding is requested to: (1) implement an Agricultural and Rural Development Information System, a comprehensive data collection and research program to ensure that sufficient data will consistently be available to monitor the changing economic health and structure of the farm and rural economies and to assess the economic well-being of farm and non-farm households in rural areas; and (2) extend ERS' integrated and comprehensive data and analysis framework,

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the Consumer Data and Information System, to include data on the consumption of food away from home, which will improve the ability of policy officials to understand, monitor, track, and identify changes in food supply and consumption patterns.

ENERGY INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION (EIA)

The 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 the Department of Energy (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 2007, funding is requested to: 1) fully fund EIA's three quadrennial Energy Consumption Surveys, 2) maintain on-going core energy data programs and forecasting systems needed to provide accurate, reliable, and timely data, analysis, and forecasts. In addition, the request will: 1) increase global oil and gas data and modeling capabilities; 2) redesign key petroleum and natural gas surveys to improve data reliability and statistical accuracy; and 3) begin scoping and redesign activities on a next-generation U.S. energy model to replace the current National Energy Model System, to improve the ability to assess and forecast supply, demand, and technology trends impacting U.S. and world energy markets. To provide the resources needed for these priorities, EIA will discontinue operation of the EIA-767, Steam-Electric Plant Operation and Design Report, which collects design parameters and annual operations data on steam-electric plant boilers, generators, and cooling systems.

NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS (NCHS)

The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) 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

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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 2007, funding is requested to: (1) continue data collection, analysis, and release for key national health data systems including the National Vital Statistics System, National Health Interview Survey, National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, and National Health Care Survey; (2) continue gains in timeliness by implementing systems improvements in data collection and processing; (3) complete efforts to expand the content of surveys, particularly those addressing the health care delivery system; (4) implement the sample redesign for the National Health Interview Survey, NCHS' largest population survey; and (5) 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) 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 2007, funding is requested to support: (1) on-going longitudinal studies, including the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study of Birth and Kindergarten Cohorts and the Educational Longitudinal Study of 2002; (2) the Common Core of Data, which collects information on enrollment, completions, and finances from public elementary and secondary institutions; (3) the Integrated Education Postsecondary Data System, which collects information on enrollment, completions, and finances from postsecondary institutions; (4) the National Postsecondary Student Aid Survey, a comprehensive study that examines how students and their families pay for postsecondary education; (5) U.S. participation in

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international assessments that compare educational achievement in the United States with that in other countries; (6) the Schools and Staffing Survey, which provides information on public and private schools, the principals who head these schools, and the teachers who work in them; (7) a new longitudinal study that will follow an eighth grade cohort through the year following timely high school completion, and (8) expansion of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), the only nationally representative and continuing assessment of what American students know and can do, to produce State estimates for grade 12. (For more on NCES, see Chapter 20.)

BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS (BJS)

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) 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 2007, funding is requested to provide for BJS's core statistical programs, including: (1) sample restoration for the National Crime Victimization Survey to support estimates of annual rates of change in most types of violent crime; (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; and (6) data on correctional populations and facilities from federal, state, and local governments.

BUREAU OF TRANSPORTATION STATISTICS (BTS)

The Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) legislative mandate covers: 1) The Intermodal Transportation Database; 2) The National Transportation Atlas Database; 3) The National Ferry Database; 4) The National Transportation Library; 5) The Transportation Statistics Annual Report; 6) Statistical guidelines, standards, and research; 7) The

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Advisory Council on Transportation Statistics; and 8) An information needs study by the National Research Council (due in 2007). BTS is now within the Research and Innovation Technology Administration (RITA) of the Department of Transportation (DOT).

For FY 2007, funding is requested to: (1) conduct the Commodity Flow Survey, a major national benchmark survey of shippers; (2) release monthly trade statistics on the commodities and mode of transportation used with our largest trading partners; (3) produce a core set of economic data and indicators including the Government Transportation Financial Report, multi-factor productivity measures, the State Transit Expenditure Survey, the Transportation Services Index, and the Air Travel Price Index; (4) produce and release the National Transportation Atlas Data Base, a compendium of national geospatial transportation data; (5) provide statistics in reference reports such as the Annual Report to Congress, the Pocket Guide to Transportation, the National Transportation Statistics Report, and the Transportation Services Index; and (6) carry out a national transportation information needs assessment, a new Congressional mandate to prioritize transportation data needs and data collections, and estimate their implementation costs.

SCIENCES RESOURCE STATISTICS, NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

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 2007, funding is requested for: SRS's participation in a new NSF initiative on science metrics. This initiative will develop the data, tools, and knowledge needed to develop a new science of science policy with

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the goal of reaching a point where the nation's public and private sectors are able to evaluate reliably the returns they have received from past research and development (R&D) investments and to forecast, within tolerable margins of error, likely returns from future investments. The SRS component of this NSF initiative will involve enhancements and additions to current SRS surveys of R&D and the S&E workforce and will include improving the comparability, scope, and availability of international data, coordinating with efforts in other nations and international agencies (such as the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) to deal with similar concerns and with an eye to the globalization of science and technology. As part of these efforts, SRS will pursue activities to address a major gap on S&E personnel, which is information about those in post-doctorate positions, who play multiple roles within the U.S. research infrastructure.

Other improvement activities in FY 2007 include continuing activities related to the Survey of Graduate Students and Post-doctorates in Science and Engineering that will lead to ongoing implementation of redesigned components of the survey on a flow basis after significant pilot and testing activities. SRS will continue activities examining the present taxonomies in place for describing fields of study/science. SRS is leading a cross-agency effort to update the 1978 OMB Directive No. 16 - Standard Classification of Fields of Science and Engineering. Of major concern are developing crosswalks between existing taxonomies and any potential new taxonomy, developing methods to better include cross-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary fields. SRS will continue to collect and disseminate breakthrough data on the characteristics of cyber infrastructure in the nation's academic and biomedical facilities.