

July 1996

STATISTICAL AGENCIES

Statutory Requirements Affecting Government Policies and Programs



General Government Division

B-262121

July 17, 1996

The Honorable John R. Kasich
Chairman, Committee on the Budget
House of Representatives

The Honorable Stephen Horn
Chairman, Subcommittee on Government Management,
Information and Technology
Committee on Government Reform and Oversight
House of Representatives

This report responds to your requests for a list of the legislatively mandated reports that statistical agencies are to produce for Congress on a regular basis and the statutory authority for the reports. You requested this information to assist congressional consideration of proposals to consolidate statistical agencies.

This report provides a listing of authorizing statutes establishing the agencies and confidentiality or disclosure provisions for the 11 principal statistical agencies,¹ a listing of these agencies' mandated reporting requirements to Congress, and a listing of uses of the agencies' statistical products in the administration of federal programs.

Background

The federal government is the largest single producer, consumer, custodian, and disseminator of statistical information in the United States. Federal statistics play an important role in public and private decisionmaking—both domestically and internationally. For example, federal statistics are used to monitor the nation's economy and international trade balance; plan the federal budget; guide the distribution of billions of dollars of federal, state, and local government program resources; and measure the well-being of the nation's population. Private sector investment and marketing decisions are often based on demographic, economic, and other data provided by federal statistical programs.

The federal statistical system is highly decentralized, with responsibility and authority divided among about 70 agencies that have funding of at least \$500,000 in a fiscal year for statistical activities. In fiscal year 1995, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) listed 72 agencies that met

¹Throughout this report, we use the generic term "agency" to refer to the organizational entities charged with responsibility for the collection, production, and dissemination of statistical information.

this threshold. Of these agencies, 11 collect, analyze, and produce statistics as their primary mission.² In addition to these purely statistical agencies, in 1995 OMB identified 61 other agencies that had obligations of at least \$500,000 annually for statistical activities.³ The agencies in the federal statistical system requested a total of about \$2.8 billion in direct funding for fiscal year 1996 for statistical activities, such as data collection and dissemination. The 11 principal statistical agencies accounted for about half of this \$2.8 billion total.

Results in Brief

The statutory framework of the federal statistical system is complex. Each of the 11 principal agencies is subject to governmentwide laws (e.g., the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, as amended and recodified in 1995, and the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended). Also, a governmentwide prohibition exists against disclosing confidential information in general.

Agency-specific laws authorize the establishment of each principal statistical agency or authorize the agency to conduct statistical activities. In addition, other agency-specific laws, policies, and regulations protect the confidentiality of respondents or limit the disclosure of information from respondents to each federal statistical agency's data collection efforts.

Another set of statutes requires statistical agencies to report the results of their statistical activities to Congress. These legislatively mandated reporting requirements vary in number and scope among the agencies, with some agencies having several specific reporting requirements and others having few broad reporting requirements. The agencies provided us with lists that identified their legislatively mandated reporting requirements to Congress.

In addition, the 11 principal statistical agencies provided us with agency-identified uses of their agencies' statistical products and, in most cases, the statutory authorizations for these uses. The uses the 11 agencies identified demonstrate how critical many of their statistical products are to the functioning of the nation. To illustrate, the statistical data produced by one of these agencies are used to apportion representation in Congress

²In 1995, OMB identified 10 agencies as the principal statistical agencies. We added the Department of the Treasury's Statistics of Income Division (SOD) because its mission is also primarily statistical. Both OMB's Chief Statistician and principal statistical agency officials agreed with this classification.

³These other agencies, such as the United States Geological Survey and the National Institutes of Health, have statistical programs that support their program planning and evaluation functions or that are an outgrowth of their administrative responsibilities. See OMB, *Statistical Programs of the United States Government: Fiscal Year 1996*, Annual Report of the Statistical Policy Branch (Washington, D.C.: 1996).

among the states. Also, the president, Congress, and the Federal Reserve Board use these data to make decisions on national and international economic policy as well as to allocate billions of dollars in federal funds to state and local governments. The agencies' statistical data also directly affect individuals. For example, under the Internal Revenue Code, income brackets for the federal individual income tax are adjusted to offset the effects of inflation using the Consumer Price Index (CPI) produced by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).⁴ Similarly, the Social Security Act calls for adjusting some Social Security payments to reflect changes in the CPI.⁵ The listings prepared by the statistical agencies include a number of other uses of statistical information in administering many other mission-related government programs.

Objective, Scope, and Methodology

Our objective was to identify the following: (1) the statutory authorizations establishing the 11 agencies or their statistical activities and the confidentiality or disclosure provisions of those agencies, (2) the agencies' legislatively mandated reporting requirements to Congress, and (3) the uses of the agencies' statistical products in the administration of federal programs.

A review of the literature and interviews with experts on the federal statistical system, including the former Commissioner of BLS and senior officials from OMB, identified 11 agencies as being primarily or entirely statistical in the nature of their operations in that they collect, analyze, and produce statistics as their primary mission. The agencies are

- the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) and the Economic Research Service (ERS) in the Department of Agriculture,
- the Bureau of the Census and the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) in the Department of Commerce,
- the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) in the Department of Education,
- the Energy Information Administration (EIA) in the Department of Energy,
- the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) in the Department of Health and Human Services,
- the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) in the Department of Justice,
- the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) in the Department of Labor,
- the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) in the Department of Transportation, and

⁴26 U.S.C. 1(f).

⁵42 U.S.C. 415(i).

-
- the Statistics of Income Division (SOI) of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) in the Department of the Treasury.

In order to identify the legislative mandates, we asked officials from each of these 11 agencies to identify each agency's

- authorization statutes and confidentiality or disclosure provision citations; and
- legislatively mandated reporting requirements to Congress, including the title of the report and U.S. Code or other citations.

We also asked an official from each agency to provide legislative authorizations for the agency's statistics to be used in administering federal programs, including the titles of statistical programs and U.S. Code citations.

We verified the accuracy of the information we received from each of the agencies on its authorization statutes, confidentiality and disclosure provisions, and mandated reporting requirements to Congress by reviewing the relevant U.S. Code and other citations the agencies provided to us. However, we did not verify the completeness of the information provided by the agencies. We also did not verify the accuracy of the legislative citations that the agencies provided with regard to the uses of their statistical products. Thus, additional statutory citations and uses may exist that are not presented in this report.

We provided a draft of the portions of this report that applied to each agency to program officials for review. They provided technical corrections and clarifications, which we adopted as appropriate. In their comments on the material we provided, Census officials identified uses of Census statistics in addition to those they initially provided. Census officials provided the statutory authorization citations for the collection of this information but not for its uses. We included these additional uses in appendix III, although we did not verify them. Several of the agencies also noted that there may be additional uses that were not specifically mandated by statute, but unlike Census they did not provide additional uses. We relied on uses provided by the agencies and, therefore, do not know to what extent additional uses may exist.

We provided a complete draft of this report to the Director of OMB for review. On June 4, 1996, we met with the Chief Statistician and a senior

economist in OMB's Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs. The officials agreed with our presentation of the information in this report.

We performed our work in Washington, D.C., from June 1995 through April 1996 in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards.

Current Legislative Authorities for 11 Statistical Agencies

The statutory framework of the federal statistical system is complex. The federal statistical system is subject to governmentwide and agency-specific authorizing legislation. Laws such as the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, as amended and recodified in 1995,⁶ and the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended,⁷ establish governmentwide policies for the coordination of information policy or the disclosure of information from respondents to the federal government's requests for statistical information. Also, a governmentwide prohibition exists against disclosing confidential information in general.⁸ Agency-specific laws authorize the establishment of each statistical agency or authorize the agency to conduct statistical activities. In addition, other agency-specific laws, policies, or regulations protect the confidentiality of respondents or limit disclosure of information from respondents to each federal statistical agency's data collection efforts.

Confidentiality refers broadly to an obligation on the part of a federal statistical agency not to transmit information it has received to an unauthorized party. Some of the agency-specific laws that govern the confidentiality of statistical data prohibit or severely limit interagency sharing of data for statistical purposes.⁹ The issue of data sharing among federal agencies for statistical purposes has been a long-standing and complicated one.¹⁰ Agency confidentiality provisions that permit data to be seen only by the employees of a single agency present a formidable barrier to the sharing of data among agencies and cause duplication of work

⁶P.L. 104-13, 44 U.S.C. 3501-3520.

⁷5 U.S.C. 552a.

⁸18 U.S.C. 1905.

⁹For example, the statutory protection of statistical information collected by the Census Bureau under 13 U.S.C. 9 is extremely rigorous. The confidentiality provision (20 U.S.C. 9007) governing data gathered by NCES is patterned after the Census provision. For more information, see George T. Duncan et al., *Private Lives and Public Policies: Confidentiality and Accessibility of Government Statistics* (Washington, D.C.: National Academy Press, 1993).

¹⁰See *After Six Years, Legal Obstacles Continue to Restrict Government Use of the Standard Statistical Establishment List* (GAO/GGD-79-17, May 25, 1979).

among agencies. For example, NASS has had to compile its own list of farms because it does not have access to the list of farms compiled by Census for conducting the agricultural census.¹¹ In addition, because of provisions limiting access to Census records, other statistical agencies at times have had only limited access to data the agencies paid Census to collect.

In April 1996, OMB sent to Congress proposed legislation to permit limited data sharing among selected agencies. In June 1996, the Department of the Treasury sent to Congress proposed complementary legislation that would permit limited sharing of tax information among designated statistical agencies for statistical purposes, subject to procedural safeguards contained in the proposal. Table 1 shows the authorizing statutes that establish the agencies and confidentiality or disclosure provisions for the 11 statistical agencies.

¹¹The President's fiscal year 1997 budget proposes that the 1997 Census of Agriculture be conducted by NASS instead of Census.

Table 1: Agency-Specific Authorizing Statutes and Confidentiality or Disclosure Provisions for the 11 Principal Statistical Agencies

Department/agency	Authorizing statute(s)	Confidentiality or disclosure provision(s)
Agriculture		
NASS	7 U.S.C. 2204	7 U.S.C. 2276 18 U.S.C. 1902 ^a
ERS	7 U.S.C. 1622	7 U.S.C. 2276 18 U.S.C. 1902 ^a
Commerce		
BEA ^b	15 U.S.C. 171, 176	15 U.S.C. 176a 22 U.S.C. 3104, 3144
Census	13 U.S.C. 1, 2, 4	13 U.S.C. 9, 214, and 301 et seq.
Education		
NCES	20 U.S.C. 9001, 9002	20 U.S.C. 9007
Energy		
EIA	15 U.S.C. 7135(a)(1)	15 U.S.C. 771 15 U.S.C. 773 15 U.S.C. 790h 15 U.S.C. 7135(f) 42 U.S.C. 7177(a)
Administrator of EIA	15 U.S.C. 7135(a)(1) ^c	
Health and Human Services		
NCHS	42 U.S.C. 242k	42 U.S.C. 242 m(d)
Justice		
BJS	42 U.S.C. 3731	42 U.S.C. 3789g
Labor		
BLS	29 U.S.C. 1	Commissioner's order ^d
Transportation		
BTS	49 U.S.C. 111	49 U.S.C. 111(e)
Treasury		
SOI	26 U.S.C. 6108	26 U.S.C. 6103(j), (f), (n)

Note: In addition, all 11 agencies are subject to a governmentwide prohibition against disclosing confidential information in general (18 U.S.C. 1905).

^aThis statute is a prohibition against disclosure of crop information by any U.S. employee.

^bBEA was formerly known as the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

^cProvides specific authorization to the Administrator to perform certain statistical functions.

^dThe order provides specific detail on how data are to be safeguarded. BLS sought legislation in 1990 to codify certain confidentiality protections, but Congress did not act on the legislation.

Source: Principal statistical agencies.

Legislatively Mandated Reports to Congress

Under legislatively mandated reporting requirements, the principal statistical agencies are to report to Congress on their activities or specific subjects of interest. The legislation often, but not always, mentions that the report is to Congress, without mentioning which congressional committee has jurisdiction. For example, NASS is required to send reports on the use of agricultural pesticides to Congress.¹²

Congress uses the information it receives from such reports to monitor the performance of federal agencies as they implement legislation, to exercise appropriate control over the budget, and to formulate policies for federal programs and other legislative initiatives. Appendix I contains a listing of the agencies' legislatively mandated reporting requirements to Congress that the 11 statistical agencies provided to us.

Uses of Statistical Products

The development and revision of numerous government policies, as well as the administration of many federal programs, depend on the statistics produced by the 11 principal statistical agencies. The executive branch and Congress use statistics produced by these agencies as a basis for measuring the results of government programs. Some laws require the use of specific statistical products for the administration of programs. The following are examples that the agencies provided of uses of statistical products, including some specifically required by law:

- Census' Decennial Census of Population and Housing is the basis on which representation in Congress is apportioned among the states. It also is the basis for state legislatures to draw state and congressional legislative districts.
- Census data are used to determine the need for bilingual education requirements.
- BEA's measures of real gross domestic product (GDP) and national income are used in planning national economic policy by Congress, the president, the Federal Reserve Board, and other federal statistical agencies. For example, these measures are used in formulating the president's budget submission to Congress and in econometric models constructed by the Congressional Budget Office, the Economic Report of the President, and the Federal Reserve Board Chairman's semiannual testimony to Congress on inflation and unemployment.
- BEA and Census compile international economic statistics. BEA compiles the balance of payments, which is a framework for estimating the flow of goods, services, capital, and other transfers between the United States and

¹²⁷ U.S.C. 136i-1.

other countries. Census compiles statistics on merchandise trade that are drawn from import and export documents collected by the U.S. Customs Service. These statistics are used by policymakers in a variety of ways, ranging from trade negotiations and assessment of international macroeconomic conditions to the administration of trade agreements, programs, and damage determinations.

- Local area unemployment, income, and poverty statistics from Census, BLS, and BEA are used in formula programs that allocate billions of dollars in federal funds to state and local governments.
- Statistics on changes in prices are required by law to be linked to billions of dollars in federal spending and tax receipts. Changes in prices are commonly measured by BLS' CPI, to which many federal benefits and individual income taxes are tied in order to offset the effects of inflation.
- The Farm Service Agency uses agricultural statistics produced by NASS on prices received by farmers to administer programs that determine the deficiency payment rates and state commodity loan rates for feed grains, wheat, cotton, and rice.
- The Department of Labor uses NASS' Quarterly Agriculture Labor Survey to allocate federal funds for migrant and seasonal farm worker programs.

Other statistics, such as health statistics, may be used to assess public policy by providing data on the cost and delivery of government programs. Appendix II contains a listing of most of the uses of the statistical products of the 11 principal statistical agencies as reported by those agencies, including the relevant program titles and legal citations. As the appendix notes, these uses include some that are statutorily required as well as a number of others that are authorized by statute. Appendix III contains a listing of additional agency-identified uses of Census' statistical products and includes the legal citations that authorize Census to collect the information for those products.

We are sending copies of this report to the Secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce, Education, Energy, Health and Human Services, Labor, Transportation, and the Treasury; the Attorney General; the heads of the 11 principal statistical agencies; the Director of OMB; and other interested parties. Copies will also be made available to others on request.

If you have any questions concerning this report, please call me on (202) 512-4232. Major contributors to this report are listed in appendix IV.



Bernard L. Ungar
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and Workforce Issues

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Abbreviations

BEA	Bureau of Economic Analysis
BJS	Bureau of Justice Statistics
BLS	Bureau of Labor Statistics
BTS	Bureau of Transportation Statistics
CPI	Consumer Price Index
EIA	Energy Information Administration
ERS	Economic Research Service
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
IRS	Internal Revenue Service
NASS	National Agricultural Statistics Service
NCES	National Center for Education Statistics
NCHS	National Center for Health Statistics
OMB	Office of Management and Budget
SOI	Statistics of Income Division

Legislatively Mandated Reporting Requirements for the 11 Principal Statistical Agencies

Department/agency	Nature of report	Reporting required by
Agriculture ^a		
National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)	Agricultural and nonagricultural pesticide use	7 U.S.C. 136i-1
Economic Research Service (ERS)	Annual report on family farms	7 U.S.C. 2266
	Cost of production study	7 U.S.C. 1441a
	Foreign ownership of U.S. agricultural land	7 U.S.C. 3504
	Price spreads and marketing data	7 U.S.C. 1622(g)
	Nutrition monitoring	7 U.S.C. 5312
Commerce		
Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA)	International investment and trade in services surveys	22 U.S.C. 3103 ^b
	Annual report on foreign direct investment in the United States	22 U.S.C. 3142 ^c
Census ^d	Decennial census report	13 U.S.C. 141 (b), (f)
	Report to Congress only if unable to provide current data on total population for local governments	13 U.S.C. 181
	Proposed topics of the next decennial census	13 U.S.C. 141(f)(1)
	Proposed questions to be included in the next decennial census	13 U.S.C. 141(f)(2)
Education		
National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)	Report on the condition and progress of education	20 U.S.C. 9005
	Statistical reports	20 U.S.C. 9005
	Special reports	20 U.S.C. 9005
	National assessment of educational progress	20 U.S.C. 9010

(continued)

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Requirements for the 11 Principal Statistical
Agencies**

Department/agency	Nature of report	Reporting required by
Energy		
Energy Information Administration (EIA)	Annual report to Congress	15 U.S.C. 790f(a)(2)
	Performance profiles of major energy producers	42 U.S.C. 7135(h)(1)(a)
	Quarterly U.S. coal imports status report	42 U.S.C. 7277(a)
	Quarterly short-term energy outlook	15 U.S.C. 790f(a)(2)
	Annual energy outlook	15 U.S.C. 790f
	Annual energy review	15 U.S.C. 790f
	Profiles of foreign direct investment in U.S. energy	42 U.S.C. 7267(8)
	Uranium purchases report	42 U.S.C. 2296b-5
	Report on studies of transportation rate impacts of Clean Air Act	42 U.S.C. 13369
	Emissions of greenhouse gases in the United States	42 U.S.C. 13385
Health and Human Services		
National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS)	National disease prevention data profile	42 U.S.C. 242p(a)
	Health status, costs, resources, and utilization of services	42 U.S.C. 242m(a)(1)
Justice		
Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS)	Information on justice statistics	42 U.S.C. 3732(c)(10)
	National baseline study on campus sexual assault ^e	42 U.S.C. 14012
	Data on use of excessive force	42 U.S.C. 14142
Labor		
Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)	Expenditures by BLS	29 U.S.C. 6
	Employment status of disabled and Vietnam veterans	P.L. 100-323
Transportation		
Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS)	Transportation statistics annual report	49 U.S.C. 111 (f)

(continued)

**Appendix I
Legislatively Mandated Reporting
Requirements for the 11 Principal Statistical
Agencies**

Department/agency	Nature of report	Reporting required by
Treasury		
Statistics of Income Division (SOI)	None	None

Note: Several agencies also noted that there may be additional uses that were not specifically mandated by statute.

^aStatutes impose reporting requirement on the Secretary of Agriculture, but the reports are done by ERS and NASS.

^bThe statute imposes the requirement on the president, although the reports are done by BEA.

^cThe Economic and Statistics Administration has been delegated responsibility for preparing the report; BEA provides most of the data used and has made major contributions to the analysis in the report.

^dThe president is to report decennial census data as the basis for reapportionment of representatives in Congress under 2 U.S.C. 2a(a).

^eThis report is to be issued in consultation with the Secretary of Education.

Uses of Statistical Products of the 11 Principal Statistical Agencies

This appendix presents alphabetically, by department, agency-identified uses of the 11 agencies' statistical products and the statutory authorizations for these uses. The principal statistical agencies provided the information in this appendix, and we did not independently verify it. The agencies provided us with lists that describe a wide range of uses of their statistical products; some lists were more extensive than others. In some cases, these uses are statutorily required. For example, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is required by the Internal Revenue Code to use the Bureau of Labor Statistics' (BLS) Consumer Price Index (CPI) to adjust income brackets for individual taxpayers to offset the effects of inflation.¹

In other cases, the uses refer to statutes that enable the agencies or their parent departments to operate or that establish the agencies' missions. However, these statutes do not always provide explicit direction on the way the agencies' statistical products are to be used. For example, the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) uses the Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service (ERS) farm sector data in BEA's National Income and Product Accounts. This use is not explicitly cited in the statute BEA provided.²

Department of Agriculture

Economic Research Service (ERS)

ERS is a research-oriented agency that provides economic and other social science information and analysis on agriculture, food, natural resources, and rural America. Through its research and analysis program, ERS produces economic information related to supply, demand, and performance of domestic and international food and agriculture markets; indicators of food and consumer issues; economic and environmental indicators of agriculture production and resource use; and socioeconomic indicators of the status and performance of the farm sector and the rural economy. Table II.1 shows uses of ERS' statistical products.

¹26 U.S.C. 1(f).

²15 U.S.C. 171.

**Appendix II
Uses of Statistical Products of the 11
Principal Statistical Agencies**

Table II.1: Agency-Identified Uses of ERS Statistics

Use	Statutory authorization, as provided by agency
Farm sector data for BEA's National Income and Product Accounts	15 U.S.C. 171
Net farm income for Council of Economic Advisers	P.L. 81-120, Ch. 237, 63 Stat. 264 (1949)
Tobacco price support levels	7 U.S.C. 1445
Peanut price support levels	7 U.S.C. 1445C-3
Derivation of equivalent U.S. cotton price	7 U.S.C. 1444
Effectiveness of dairy product promotion	7 U.S.C. 6407(m)

National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)

NASS is responsible for undertaking surveys by mail, telephone, personal interviews, and field observations to obtain data on the production, price, and supply of crops and livestock; farm wages and employment; and general farm and crop-growing conditions. NASS' statistical products include reports on estimates for livestock inventories, farm numbers and acreage, and farm labor. Table II.2 shows selected uses for agricultural statistical products.

Table II.2: Agency-Identified Uses for Agricultural Statistics

Use	Statutory authorization, as provided by agency
Content of monthly crop report	7 U.S.C. 1421d
Monthly cotton report issuance	7 U.S.C. 475
Cotton acreage reports for July and August	7 U.S.C. 476
Prohibition of forecasts of cotton prices	12 U.S.C. 1141j(d)
Restriction of apple production estimates to the "commercial" crop	7 U.S.C. 411b
Monthly peanut stock reports	7 U.S.C. 951, 953
Cotton ginning report for Commerce	13 U.S.C. 42

Uses of Economic Statistics

NASS' economic statistics are used by policymakers to administer a number of federal programs. NASS' economic statistics include prices received by farmers, prices paid by farmers, parity prices, farm numbers and land in farms, grazing fee policy, farm workers and wage rates, and farm production expenditures. For example, the Farm Service Agency uses prices received by farmers to administer a number of its legislated farm programs, such as the determination of deficiency payment rates and state commodity loan rates for programs on feed grains, wheat, cotton, and rice. Other federal departments use NASS' statistics as well. For example, the

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Department of Labor uses NASS' Quarterly Agriculture Labor Survey to allocate federal funds for migrant and seasonal farm worker programs, and BEA uses NASS' statistics for the agricultural portion of the National Income and Product Accounts.

State Requirements

In NASS' organizational structure, federal and state agricultural statistical programs have been merged through cooperative agreements providing for joint funding and staffing. As part of the cooperative agreements, extra statistics or publications are created that would not exist if federal funding were relied on exclusively. Some of these statistics or publications are in response to state statutes or Department of Agriculture regulations. Examples include statistics on Florida citrus production, dairy products in Wisconsin, tobacco sales in Virginia, assessment of agricultural land in Iowa, and annual farm censuses in Kansas and West Virginia.

Department of
Commerce

Bureau of Economic
Analysis (BEA)

BEA is a research-oriented statistical agency that prepares, develops, interprets, and publishes the U.S. economic accounts. BEA integrates large volumes of monthly, quarterly, and annual economic statistics—ranging from construction spending to retail sales—gathered or compiled by other government agencies and trade sources to produce a picture of the national economy and its regional and international dimensions. Table II.3 shows selected uses of national statistical products.³

³According to BEA, there may be additional uses that were not specifically mandated by statute.

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Table II.3: Agency-Identified Uses of National Statistics

Use	Statutory authorization, as provided by agency
Full Employment and Balanced Growth Act of 1978	15 U.S.C. 3101
Employment Act of 1946; Economic Report of President	15 U.S.C. 1021, 1022
Budget Enforcement Act of 1990	2 U.S.C. 900, 901, 907
Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985	P.L. 99-177
Congressional Budget Act of 1974	P.L. 93-344
Annual adoption of concurrent resolution on the budget	2 U.S.C. 632
Social Security Act	42 U.S.C. 1395rr
Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988	P.L. 100-418
Trade Act of 1974	19 U.S.C. 2464
Tariff Act of 1930	19 U.S.C. 1677
Annual adjustments to pay schedules	5 U.S.C. 5303
Foreign assistance	22 U.S.C. 2394
Emergency Petroleum Allocation Act of 1975	15 U.S.C. 757
Conversion mechanism to standby authorities	15 U.S.C. 760a
Natural Gas Policy Act of 1978	15 U.S.C. 3311
Federal Energy Administration Act of 1974	15 U.S.C. 777
Compact of Free Association; Trust Territory of Pacific	48 U.S.C. 1681
North American Free Trade Agreement	19 U.S.C. 3462
Public Health Service Act, Retirement Income Security	42 U.S.C. 300bb-4, 29 U.S.C. 1163
Rail Services Planning Office	49 U.S.C. 10362
Railroads: Capital Needs Study	45 U.S.C. 824
Cotton classification and fees for services	7 U.S.C. 473a

Table II.4 shows selected uses of international statistical products.

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Principal Statistical Agencies**

Table II.4: Agency-Identified Uses of International Statistics

Use	Statutory authorization, as provided by agency
Bretton Woods Agreement Act, Article VII, section 7(a), and Article VIII, section 5	22 U.S.C. 286
International Investment and Trade in Services Survey	22 U.S.C. 3101
Exchange of data with Census and BLS	22 U.S.C. 3104
Foreign Direct Investment and International Financial Data	22 U.S.C. 3141
Employment Act of 1946; Economic Report of President	15 U.S.C. 1021, 1022
Full Employment and Balanced Growth Act of 1978	15 U.S.C. 3101
Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988	P.L. 100-418
North American Free Trade Agreement	19 U.S.C. 3462
National Trade Data Bank	15 U.S.C. 4906
Annual adoption of concurrent resolution on the budget	2 U.S.C. 632
Trade Act of 1974	19 U.S.C. 2464
Trade Agreements Act of 1979	19 U.S.C. 2512

Table II.5 shows a selected use of regional statistical products.

Table II.5: Agency-Identified Use of Regional Statistics

Use	Statutory authorization, as provided by agency
National Assessment of Vocational Education Programs	20 U.S.C. 2403

Census Bureau

The Census Bureau is a general purpose statistical agency that collects, tabulates, and publishes a large volume and wide variety of statistics about the people, housing, and economy of the United States. These statistics provide the basic “yardsticks” needed to measure, understand, anticipate, and respond to changes in our society and economy. They are used extensively throughout the public and private sectors, including routine uses by legislators, program officials, business people, university researchers, and national and local news media representatives. Among its many tasks, the Census Bureau compiles

- censuses of the U.S. population and housing every 10 years;
- censuses of U.S. businesses, farms, and governments every 5 years;
- scores of current demographic and economic data; and

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- reports detailing all U.S. merchandise trade shipments each month.

In addition to directly funded programs, the Census Bureau provides substantial data collection, special tabulation, and related services to statistical agencies and other organizations on a reimbursable basis. Reimbursable data collections include special censuses conducted at the request of state and local governments. Other reimbursable program customers include diverse federal social, economic, natural resource, and other program agencies.

Table II.6 shows selected uses of decennial population statistical products, including household economic statistics.

Table II.6: Agency-Identified Selected Uses of Decennial Population Statistics, Including Household Economic Statistics

Use	Statutory authorization, as provided by agency
Women's, Infants, and Children's Program	42 U.S.C. 1786
Educational Consolidation and Improvement Act	20 U.S.C. 2711(c)
Federal affirmative action plans	5 U.S.C. 7201 (a)(1)
Report on the Condition of Education in the United States	20 U.S.C. 1221e-1(g)(6)
Collection of vital, social, and health statistics	42 U.S.C. 242k
Evaluation of affirmative action programs	42 U.S.C. 2000e
Voting rights	42 U.S.C. 1973aa-1a
Civil rights protection	42 U.S.C. 1975c 2000c-2, d, f
Equal employment opportunity protection	42 U.S.C. 2000e
Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980	42 U.S.C. 628
Native American Program Act of 1972	42 U.S.C. 2992
Housing Improvement Program (Snyder Act)	25 U.S.C. 13
Home Mortgage Disclosure Act of 1975	12 U.S.C. 2809(a)
Department of Veterans Affairs, Minority Affairs Officer	38 U.S.C. 317
Allocation of funds for postsecondary education	20 U.S.C. 1011-3
Allocation of funds for low- interest student loans	20 U.S.C. 1072(b)
Educational opportunity for handicapped children	20 U.S.C. 1412
Older Americans Act of 1965	42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.
Juvenile justice and delinquency prevention	42 U.S.C. 5632
Americans of Hispanic origin statistics	15 U.S.C. 1516a
Research to estimate Hispanic undercount in census	13 U.S.C. 141 note
Public Health Service Act	42 U.S.C. 254c(b)(3) and (4), 254e(b) and (d)

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Use	Statutory authorization, as provided by agency
Low-Income Housing Tax Credit	26 U.S.C. 42(d)(5)(A)
Mortgage Revenue Bonds	26 U.S.C. 143(j), (k)
Community Development Block Grant evaluation	42 U.S.C. 12701
Immigration Act of 1990	8 U.S.C. 1182 note and 1182(a)(5)(A)
Basic Skills Demonstration Assistance	20 U.S.C. 3262,3266
Homeless Program	42 U.S.C. 11421
Report on education by school district	20 U.S.C. 1221e-1(g)(6)
Migratory children education	20 U.S.C. 2781
Bilingual education	20 U.S.C. 3283, 3291(part a), 3301(part b), 3321(part c)
Vocational and applied technology education	20 U.S.C. 2421
Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986	8 U.S.C. 1364
Refugee Education Assistance Act	8 U.S.C. 1521-3
Vocational and applied technology education	20 U.S.C. 2421
Higher education to serve adult learners	20 U.S.C. 1002, 1011
Adult Education Act	20 U.S.C. 1201 as amended by P.L. 102-7
Emergency Immigrant Education Act	20 U.S.C. 3121
Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990	42 U.S.C. 12143
Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategies	42 U.S.C. 12701
President's National Urban Policy Report	42 U.S.C. 4501
School dropout program	20 U.S.C. 3241, 3261
State literacy initiatives	42 U.S.C. 11421
Veteran population projections by state	38 U.S.C. 8131(1)
Estimates of nursing home care needs by state (for veterans)	38 U.S.C. 8134(a)(1)
Veterans employment and training	38 U.S.C. 4103(a) et seq.
Disabled veterans outreach program	38 U.S.C. 4103A(a)(1) and (b)(2)
Job Training Partnership Act	29 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.
Toxic Substances Control Act	15 U.S.C. 2601 et seq.
Federal aid for highways metropolitan planning	23 U.S.C. 134(a), (c), and (g)(3)
Federal aid for highways statewide planning	23 U.S.C. 135(b), and (f)(3)
Federal aid for highways— economic growth center development highways	23 U.S.C. 143(f)(1) and (2)
Bureau of Transportation Statistics	49 U.S.C. 111(f)
Intermodal transportation database	49 U.S.C. 301 note, (c)(4) and (c)(4)(B)
Clean Air Act	42 U.S.C. 7408(e) et seq.
Federal Transit Administration grant program	49 U.S.C. 1604(a)(1) and (2)

(continued)

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Use	Statutory authorization, as provided by agency
Federal Transit Administration metropolitan planning	49 U.S.C. App. 1607(a), (c), (g)(3), and q
Federal Transit Administration Section 9 Program	49 U.S.C. 1607a(c), (d), (k), and (s)
Federal Transit Administration planning and research program	49 U.S.C. 1622(a)(2)(A)
Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990	42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.
Emergency community water assistance grant program	7 U.S.C. 1926a(e)(1) and 1926b(e)
Section 306 waste water disposal loan and grant program	7 U.S.C. 1926c
Repayment period and interest rate	7 U.S.C. 1927a(3)(A)
Housing income limits	42 U.S.C. 1439
Section 8 public housing	42 U.S.C. 1437
Older Americans Act	42 U.S.C. 3002, 3026(a)(1), 3027(a)(8)
Community Services Block Grant Act	42 U.S.C. 9902(2), section 673(2)
Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program	42 U.S.C. 8622, 8623, 8629
Head Start Act	42 U.S.C. 9835, section 640(a)(3)(B)(ii)
Compensatory education for the disadvantaged	20 U.S.C. 2711(c)(2)(A)-(C)
Home Mortgage Disclosure Act of 1975	12 U.S.C. 2809(a)

Table II.7 shows selected uses of decennial housing statistical products.

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Table II.7: Agency-Identified Selected Uses of Decennial Housing Statistics

Use	Statutory authorization, as provided by agency
Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program	42 U.S.C. 8629
Community Development Block Grant	42 U.S.C. 5302(a)
Public Housing/Section 8 Certificate and Voucher Program	42 U.S.C. 1437f
HUD Section 202 Grants	12 U.S.C. 1701q, 42 U.S.C. 1439
Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategies/Plans	42 U.S.C. 12701
Mortgage Revenue Bonds	26 U.S.C. 143(j), (k)
Section 8, Fair Market Rents	42 U.S.C. 1437
National Urban Policy Report	42 U.S.C. 4501
Low-Income Housing Tax Credits	26 U.S.C. 42(d)(5)(C)
Federal aid for highways—metropolitan planning	23 U.S.C. 134(a), (c), (a)(3)
Federal aid for highways—economic growth center development highways	23 U.S.C. 143(f)(1) and (2)
Clean Air Act	42 U.S.C. 7408(e) et seq.
Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS)	49 U.S.C. 111(f)
Intermodal transportation database	49 U.S.C. 301 note, (c)(4) and (c)(4)(B)
Federal Transit Administration Grant Program	49 U.S.C. 1604(a)(1) and (2)
Federal Transit Administration metropolitan planning	49 U.S.C. App. 1607(a), (c), (g)(3), (q)
Federal Transit Administration Section 9 Program	49 U.S.C. 1607(a)(c), (d), (k), (s)
Federal Transit Administration Planning and Research Program	49 U.S.C. 1622(a)(2)(A)
Federal Energy Administration Act of 1974	15 U.S.C. 764(a) and (b), 772(b), 790a(a)
Energy Policy Act of 1992	42 U.S.C. 7135(j), 13381, 13384
Fair Market Rent	42 U.S.C. 1437
Home Mortgage Disclosure Act of 1975	12 U.S.C. 2809
Census of Agriculture	13 U.S.C. 142(a)
Smith-Lever Act	7 U.S.C. 343(c)(2)

Department of Education

National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)

NCES collects, analyzes, and disseminates statistics on education in the United States and other nations. NCES produces reports on institutions, staff, students, and schools at all levels of education and disseminates information on a wide range of topics, such as social and economic status of children residing in local school districts, high school completions and dropouts, student progress and achievement, school safety, education finance, postsecondary-student aid, and the characteristics of the education workplace. NCES also undertakes educational assessments and longitudinal education studies. Table II.8 shows selected uses of education statistical products.

Table II.8: Agency-Identified Selected Uses of Education Statistics

Use	Statutory authorization, as provided by agency
Duties of the center	20 U.S.C. 9003
Model data system	20 U.S.C. 9009
Dissemination of data	20 U.S.C. 9008
National Assessment of Educational Progress	20 U.S.C. 9010
Vocational, educational and occupational information data	Perkins Education Act of 1990 sec. 421(a)(3)
Assessment of international competitiveness	Perkins Education Act of 1990 sec. 421(d)
Department of Education Organization Act	20 U.S.C. 3401
Equal Employment Opportunity Commission data on staffing	42 U.S.C. 2000e

Department of Energy

Energy Information Administration (EIA)

EIA is an independent statistical/analytical agency with two principal roles. Its primary responsibility is to conduct the functions required by statute. This consists of the development and maintenance of a comprehensive energy database and the publication of reports and analyses for a wide variety of customers in the public and private sectors. Second, EIA satisfies inquiries for energy information. The primary customers of EIA services are public policymakers in the Department of Energy and Congress. Other

customers include other federal agencies, state and local governments, the energy industry, educational institutions, the news media, and the public. There are no statutes, however, that specifically require the use of EIA statistics.

Department of Health and Human Services

National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS)

NCHS monitors the nation's health and use of health services, and explores the relationships between risk factors and disease. Data sources include the nation's vital statistics system (on which NCHS works closely with the states) and surveys involving personal interviews, physical examinations, and laboratory testing, as well as information from health care providers. NCHS also contracts with Census and private companies for data collection. NCHS' statistical programs are directed toward collecting and analyzing information that policymakers, researchers, and members of the health community will find useful for identifying health problems and designing public health interventions. There are no statutes, however, that specifically require the use of NCHS' statistics.

Department of Justice

Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS)

BJS collects, analyzes, and publishes statistics on crime, its perpetrators and victims, and the operation of justice systems at all levels of government. BJS also assists states in developing and improving the statistical capabilities and record systems of state criminal justice systems. Examples of BJS data collection programs include the National Crime Victimization Survey and various statistical series covering populations under correctional supervision, federal and state court case processing, and administration of law enforcement agencies and correctional facilities. However, no statutes specify the collection or use of BJS statistics beyond BJS' own authorizing legislation. In fact, BJS' authorizing legislation states that:

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“Data collected by the Bureau shall be used only for statistical and research purposes, and shall be gathered in a manner that precludes their use for law enforcement or any purpose relating to a particular individual other than statistical or research purposes.”⁴

Department of Labor

Bureau of Labor Statistics
(BLS)

BLS is the principal U.S. data-gathering agency in the field of general labor economics. BLS collects, analyzes, and disseminates statistics on employment, prices, consumer expenditures, wages and compensation, productivity and economic growth, and employment projections. Most of the statistics are collected by BLS, by Census on a reimbursable contract basis, or on a cooperative basis with state agencies. Table II.9 shows selected uses of labor force statistical products.

⁴42 U.S.C. 3733.

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Table II.9: Agency-Identified Uses of Labor Force Statistics

Use	Statutory authorization, as provided by agency
Job Training Partnership Act	29 U.S.C. 1501, 1752
Longshoremen's and Harborworker's Compensation Act	33 U.S.C. 906
Department of Education analysis of career trends	20 U.S.C. 2505
Department of Commerce allocation of funds for various programs in areas of high unemployment	42 U.S.C. 3121
Department of Labor extended unemployment compensation	26 U.S.C. 3304
Emergency Unemployment Compensation Act of 1991	P.L. 102-164
Wagner-Peyser Act to allocate funds to states for public employment offices	19 U.S.C. 49 et seq.
Federal Emergency Management Agency allocation of funds to areas of high unemployment	P.L. 100-418
Economic Dislocation and Worker Adjustment Assistance Act	P.L. 100-418
Designation of Labor Surplus Areas for preference in seeking federal procurement contracts	P.L. 95-89
Department of Housing and Urban Development's Emergency Shelter Grants Program	P.L. 98-8
Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Act	P.L. 100-435
Department of Defense employment of resident workers in Hawaii and Alaska	P.L. 99-190
Vocational Education Act	P.L. 88-210
Report on Direct Foreign Investment in the United States	P.L. 101-533
Foreign Direct Investment and International Data Improvements Act	22 U.S.C. 3142
Emergency Food Act to distribute surplus commodities	7 U.S.C. 612c

Table II.10 shows selected uses of statistical products concerning prices and living conditions, including products that are used to set payments or benefits, compute fees and penalties, and regulate water resources and air pollution.

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Table II.10: Agency-Identified Uses of Statistical Products Concerning Prices and Living Conditions

Use	Statutory authorization, as provided by agency
Setting payments or benefits	
Federal income tax brackets	26 U.S.C. 1(f)
Social Security payments	42 U.S.C. 415
Nutrition program for the elderly	42 U.S.C. 3030
Parity for sugar prices	7 U.S.C. 1111
Children's milk program	42 U.S.C. 1772
Higher education resources and student assistance programs	20 U.S.C. 1070a-5 et seq.
Veterans' benefits	38 U.S.C. 1415
Computing fees and penalties	
Patent and trademark fees	15 U.S.C. 113 and 35 U.S.C. 41
Penalties related to flammable fabrics and hazardous substances	15 U.S.C. 1194, 1264, 2069
Oil pollution compensation and monitoring	33 U.S.C. 2704, 2732
Regulating water resources and air pollution	
Regulation of water power and resources	12 U.S.C. 1843
Air pollution prevention and control	42 U.S.C. 7511a, 7651, 766
Other uses	
Clean Air Act and Noise Control Act to set costs and values of equipment	42 U.S.C. 4905, 7541
Humphrey-Hawkins Act report to Congress	15 U.S.C. 1022
Job Training Partnership Act living standard income	P.L. 97-300 sec. 4
Federal Election Commission limits on expenditures	2 U.S.C. 441(a)
Motor Vehicle Information and Cost Savings Act	P.L. 98-547 sec. 604a
Setting of grants to states for the handicapped	29 U.S.C. 720
Social Security Act Title XX scholarship grants	42 U.S.C. 10901-3

Table II.11 shows selected uses of statistical products concerning compensation and working conditions.

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Table II.11: Agency-Identified Uses of Compensation and Working Conditions Statistics

Use	Statutory authorization, as provided by agency
Locality pay for federal white-collar workers	5 U.S.C. 5301-4
Merchant Marine Act subsidies to ships' crews	46 U.S.C. 1173
Annual pay adjustment for Congress, federal judges, and top government officials	5 U.S.C. 5318 and P.L. 101-194
Department of Veterans Affairs health care personnel pay	38 U.S.C. 7451
Federal Employee Pay Comparability Act of 1990	P.L. 101-509

Department of Transportation

Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS)

BTS compiles, analyzes, and makes accessible information on the nation's transportation systems, including intermodal transportation, and enhances the Department of Transportation's statistical programs through research and the promotion of guidelines and improvements in data acquisition and use. However, no statutes specify the collection or use of BTS' statistics beyond BTS' own authorizing legislation.

Department of the Treasury

Statistics of Income Division (SOI)

SOI, a part of IRS, compiles and publishes statistics on the basis of samples of yearly tax returns. It provides statistics to the Department of the Treasury and Congress on income, financial, and tax issues; its data are also used by BEA in estimating the National Income and Product Accounts. Table II.12 shows selected uses of income statistical products.

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**Table II.12: Agency-Identified Uses of
Income Statistics**

Use	Statutory authorization, as provided by agency
Individual and other statistical data for use by Treasury's Office of Tax Analysis	26 U.S.C. 6103(b)(4)(A)(ii)
Business, individual, and other statistical data for use by Joint Committee on Taxation	26 U.S.C. 8022
Corporate statistical data for use by BEA	15 U.S.C. 171, 1501
Business, individual, and other statistical data for use by Census	13 U.S.C. 3, 5
Survey of Consumer Finances for use by Treasury's Office of Tax Analysis	26 U.S.C. 6103(b)(4)(A)(ii)
Survey of Consumer Finances for use by Federal Reserve	12 U.S.C. 225a
Business, financial, and employment data for use by Health Care Financing Administration	42 U.S.C. 1396b
Environmental tax tables used for Superfund by Environmental Protection Agency	42 U.S.C. 9601-75

Additional Uses of Census Statistics

In commenting on a draft of this report, Census Bureau officials identified other selected uses of Census statistical products that they believed to be important and asked us to include them in our final report. They also provided the statutory citations authorizing Census to collect the information for those products. However, they did not provide the statutory references for the uses of those products. This appendix includes the selected uses identified by Census officials, which they divided into four broad areas, as follows.

Uses of Quinquennial Economic Statistics

These data are from the most recent quinquennial censuses that covered calendar year 1992 and were authorized under 13 U.S.C. 131, 142, 161, and 193. According to Census officials, these censuses included all sectors of the U.S. economy and reported statistics for 10 major industry groups—agriculture; construction; finance, insurance, and real estate; governments; manufacturing; mining; retail trade; services; transportation, communications, and utilities; and wholesale trade. These censuses provide detailed information about how the nation’s economy is structured and how it functions. Table III.1 shows selected federal uses of Census Bureau quinquennial economic statistics.

Table III.1: Agency-Identified Uses of Quinquennial Economic Statistics

Agency or department	Use
Agriculture	Estimate production costs and farm income; evaluate and administer programs. Analyze irrigation usage; model water use; assess local land ownership patterns. Assess wholesale and retail sales of agricultural products; evaluate markets.
BEA (Commerce)	Benchmark historical gross domestic product (GDP) estimates by industry. Prepare and update comprehensive tables of manufacturing industry inputs and outputs. Benchmark and update information on U.S. regional economic performance.
BLS (Labor)	Benchmark and update producer price and productivity indexes by industry. Analyze industries, employment, and outputs; develop programs and policies.
Defense	Assess manufacturers' shipments to federal agencies for mobilization planning.

(continued)

**Appendix III
Additional Uses of Census Statistics**

Agency or department	Use
Environmental Protection Agency	Analyze occupational and groundwater risks from agricultural chemical use. Assess and estimate truck emissions, fuel economy, usage, and other practices.
Farm Credit Administration	Evaluate farm loan programs; analyze local-area debts, assets, and cash returns.
Federal Emergency Management Agency	Assess natural disaster damage and recovery for U.S. and outlying areas.
Federal Reserve Board	Benchmark and prepare indexes of industrial production by industry. Benchmark, update, and assess state and local government finances and practices.
Health and Human Services	Analyze business expenditures; determine and forecast medical costs.
Minority Business Development Agency (Commerce)	Analyze women- and minority-owned businesses by industry and area; administer development and assistance programs.
Small Business Administration	Determine companywide size standards by industry; evaluate small business programs. Analyze women- and minority-owned businesses by industry and area; administer development and assistance programs.
Transportation	Analyze commercial and private vehicle cost, operation, safety, technology, and road use; recommend programs and policies.

Uses of Current Economic Statistics

The Census Bureau conducts monthly, quarterly, and annual surveys and collects other current economic data, which Census is authorized to collect under 13 U.S.C. 91, 131, 182, 193, and 301. These programs provide measures of national economic performance, cover major domestic business and government activities, and include monthly compilations of merchandise shipments leaving and entering U.S. ports. According to Census Bureau officials, current economic statistics include 12 principal federal economic indicators, two-thirds of the source data needed to update quarterly GDP estimates, domestic production of many trade-sensitive manufactured products, updated information on state and local tax revenues and retirement system holdings, new comprehensive measures of business-fixed capital investment, and coverage of fast-growing service industries. Table III.2 shows selected federal uses of Census Bureau current economic statistics.

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Additional Uses of Census Statistics

Table III.2: Agency-Identified Uses of Current Economic Statistics

Agency or department	Use
BEA (Commerce)	<p>Revise quarterly estimates of GDP; update GDP deflator weights by major industry.</p> <p>Prepare and update detailed National Income and Product Accounts.</p> <p>Assess and prepare source data for leading, lagging, and coincident economic indicators.</p> <p>Analyze business activities by county; update regional economic information.</p>
Bureau of Export Administration (Commerce)	Administer export control programs; assess merchandise trade shipments and trends.
BLS (Labor)	<p>Prepare weights for new components of producer price and productivity indexes.</p> <p>Analyze business capital expenditures; update productivity estimates.</p> <p>Prepare and update price indexes for U.S. merchandise imports and exports.</p> <p>Prepare and update monthly public employment statistics.</p>
Congressional Research Service	Analyze and interpret principal indicator, foreign trade, government finance, county business, and other key data.
Council of Economic Advisers	Analyze and interpret principal indicators and other key data; update economic models, forecasts, and assumptions; develop policy advice.
Defense	<p>Analyze plant capacity utilization and market changes for mobilization planning.</p> <p>Evaluate state and local education finances; administer agency programs and policies.</p>
Federal Emergency Management Agency	Analyze plant capacity utilization and markets for disaster assistance programs.
Federal Reserve Board	<p>Prepare and revise monthly measures of U.S. industrial production, capacity, and capacity utilization.</p> <p>Prepare corporate and government portions of quarterly Flow of Funds Accounts.</p> <p>Prepare and revise retail accounts receivable in measures of consumer credit.</p> <p>Assess private and public economic conditions; prepare and update forecasts.</p>

(continued)

Appendix III
Additional Uses of Census Statistics

Agency or department	Use
Housing and Urban Development	Assess new housing production, availability, and affordability. Evaluate, plan, and administer housing and financial programs and policies. Prepare and update payroll guidelines for selected public housing authorities.
International Trade Administration (Commerce)	Evaluate recent and forecast future performance of major U.S. industries. Evaluate trade flows; administer import restraint and export assistance programs. Analyze and profile successful U.S. exporters and primary export markets. Assess uses of manufacturing technologies and technology effects on competitiveness.
International Trade Commission	Evaluate trade flows; investigate alleged unfair practices; administer trade programs.
Interior	Evaluate and administer Indian education programs and policies.
NCES (Education)	Analyze state and local education finances; develop technical assistance; administer agency programs and policies.
Small Business Administration	Analyze business activities by county; evaluate and administer business programs and policies. Analyze corporate finances and establish loan policies and programs by industry.
Transportation	Analyze motor freight and warehousing to establish policies and administer programs.
Treasury	Assess principal indicators and other key data; determine and revise monetary and fiscal policies. Evaluate business capital expenditures as part of business asset depreciation analyses.

Uses of the Current Population Survey

According to Census Bureau officials, the Current Population Survey, which Census is authorized to conduct under 13 U.S.C. 141, 181, and 182, is the nation's primary source of information on the labor force status of the population; when combined with extensive demographic information, the Survey helps identify social, economic, and demographic changes. Table III.3 shows selected uses of the Current Population Survey.

Table III.3: Agency-Identified Uses of the Current Population Survey

Agency or department	Use
BLS (Labor)	Provide the official government monthly estimates for employment, unemployment, and related data on the characteristics of the labor force. Identify the unemployed population in need of work training.
Congressional Research Service, Congressional Budget Office	Monitor changes in health insurance coverage in the United States.
Council of Economic Advisers, Federal Reserve Board, Congress, other federal agencies	Analyze the status of the U.S. economy and formulate/evaluate economic policy.
Health and Human Services	Set annual income eligibility limits for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program. Evaluate the effectiveness of child support collection enforcement efforts.
NCES (Education)	October supplement provides official estimates of the U.S. high school dropout rate and dropout population. Provide information on the population with or without home computers, what the computers are used for, and estimates of the technical literacy of the population.
NCHS (Health and Human Services)	Benchmark NCHS data (in June supplement) on marriage and divorce registration system.
Immigration and Naturalization Service	Use data to analyze characteristics of the immigrant population, including their social and economic conditions.
Census	Serve as the vehicle for producing the official U.S. statistics on the number of persons and families living in poverty, as well as official estimates of personal and family income.

In addition, academic researchers use current population survey data to examine topics such as family structure and composition, educational attainment, the immigrant population, geographic mobility, poverty population, school enrollment, voting registration patterns, and fertility behavior.

Uses of the Survey of Income and Program Participation

The Survey of Income and Program Participation, which Census is authorized to conduct under 13 U.S.C. 182, provides data on the economic situation of persons and families in the United States. Survey data on sources of money and nonmoney income, taxes, assets, and liabilities help

policymakers (1) analyze the efficiency of federal and state transfer and services programs; (2) estimate future program costs and coverage; and (3) assess the effects of welfare, tax, Social Security, and other proposed policy changes. The survey provides longitudinal data that planners can use to determine the life events that force some persons and families to go on government assistance programs or that permit them to leave such programs. Table III.4 shows selected uses of the Survey of Income and Program Participation.

Table III.4: Agency-Identified Uses of the Survey of Income and Program Participation

Agency or department	Use
Congressional Budget Office and Congressional Research Service	Study the low-income population, the elderly population, and health insurance coverage.
Agriculture	Analyze food stamp and school lunch programs, including the effect of assets on food stamp eligibility.
Labor	Study market-related hardship measures and changes in labor force and dependency status through time.
Social Security Administration	Study social security beneficiaries, by reason, for benefits, levels of income, and demographic/economic characteristics such as asset holdings and pension coverage.
Health and Human Services	Analyze child care patterns and costs, and effects of family child care decisions.
National Center for Health Services Research	Examine the characteristics of the Medicare elderly who also have private health insurance.
Small Business Administration	Study labor force mobility by size of firm.
Office of Child Support Enforcement	Determine the amounts of savings that could be realized if child support were included in the income test for Aid to Families with Dependent Children, food stamps, and Medicaid.

In addition, academic researchers use survey of income and program participation data to examine subjects such as changes in family structure over time, school enrollment, geographic mobility, labor force mobility, poverty duration, characteristics of pensions, characteristics of government program participants, asset levels, changes in marital status, economic returns to education, and school financing patterns.

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Related GAO Products

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