

Statistical Programs of the Federal Government

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Outline

- Overview of the US Statistical System
- Organization of the U.S. Census Bureau
- Programs of the U.S. Census Bureau
- Programs of the Bureau of Labor Statistics
- Census of Agriculture
- The Census of Employment and Wages
- The National Income and Product Accounts
- Employment, Price, and Productivity Statistics
- Health Statistics
- Education Statistics
- Crime Statistics
- Standards for Reporting, Confidentiality, and Methodology

Overview of the US Statistical System

- Review from lecture 1b
- Office of Management and Budget
 - Office of the Chief Statistician
- Agencies of the federal government
 - Field operations (Census and BLS have the biggest field operations)
 - Statistical programs (varied and spread all over the government)

Organization of the U.S. Census Bureau

- See the organization chart and executive staff
 - <http://www.census.gov/main/www/m-img/orgchart.jpg>
 - <http://www.census.gov/acsd/www/bc245.pdf>
- Major Programmatic Directorates
 - Decennial
 - Economic
 - Demographic
 - Methods and Standards

Key Divisions for RDC Users

- Office of the Chief Economist (Center for Economic Studies; research use of most economic data)
- Demographic Surveys (LEHD Program; all demographic surveys)
- Economic Planning and Coordination (Business Register; Economic Censuses)
- Planning, Research and Evaluation (administrative data)
- American Community Survey Office (ACS)
- Housing and Household Economic Statistics (AHS, SIPP and CPS analysis)
- Policy Office (Memoranda of understanding)

Programs of the Census Bureau

- The Decennial Census of Population and Housing
- Other Demographic Surveys
- The Quinquennial Economic Censuses
- Other Economic Surveys

The Decennial Census of Population and Housing

- Brief history
 - Established under the Constitution (Article I)
 - <http://www.law.cornell.edu/constitution/constitution.text.html>
 - First conducted in 1790
 - Required to be an “enumeration” of the population
 - Last conducted in 2000 (at an approximate cost of \$6 billion)

Decennial Census

- Conducted every 10 years
- Historically separated into
 - Short form (enumeration)
 - Long form (1/6 household survey)
- Beginning in 2010
 - Enumeration only
 - Long form replaced by American Community Survey
- <http://www.census.gov/main/www/cen2000.html>

Quinquennial Economic Censuses

- Conducted in the 2 and 7 years by the Bureau of the Census
- Since 1997, excludes agriculture
- Separate Census of Government conducted on the same schedule
- <http://www.census.gov/epcd/www/econ97.html>

Census Bureau Surveys

- <http://www.census.gov/main/www/surveys.html>
- Main demographic surveys
 - American Community Survey
 - American Housing Survey
 - Current Population Survey (joint with BLS)
 - Survey of Income and Program Participation

Census Bureau Surveys

- <http://www.census.gov/main/www/surveys.html>
- Main economic surveys
 - [Sectors covered in overview](#)
 - Survey of Business Owners
 - Annual Capital Expenditure Survey
 - Business Expenditure Survey
 - Annual Survey of Manufactures
 - Annual Retail and Wholesale Trade Surveys
 - Service Annual Survey

Quinquennial Census of Agriculture

- Conducted by the Department of Agriculture (since 1997) on the 2 and 7 years
- <http://www.nass.usda.gov/census/>

Bureau of Labor Statistics Programs

- Handbook of methods
- <http://www.bls.gov/bls/descriptions.htm>
- <http://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homtoc.htm>

Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

- Conducted quarterly by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in collaboration with state departments of employment security
- Provides the basic sampling frame for all BLS business surveys
- The Census Business Register and the BLS QCEW are maintained as two independent establishment frames
- Formerly known as the ES-202
- <http://www.bls.gov/cew/home.htm>

BLS Statistical Programs

- Household statistics from the CPS and specialized longitudinal surveys
- Industry statistics from the Current Employment Statistics program
- [Catalogue](#)

Health Statistics

- Collected by a variety of agencies
- Main responsibility: National Center for Health Statistics
- Vital Statistics
 - Birth, death, marriage and divorce
 - <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss.htm>
- Survey programs
 - <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhcs.htm>

Education Statistics

- Provided by the National Center for Education Statistics
- Survey programs use educational institutions as the sampling frame
- <http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/>

Crime Statistics

- Provided by the Bureau of Justice Statistics
- Variety of statistical programs based on the Uniform Crime Reports
 - <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/cvict.htm>
- Conviction and sentencing data based on the National Judicial Reporting Program
 - <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/stssent.htm>

Social Security Statistics

- Published by the Office of Policy in SSA
- <http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/supplement/2004/index.html>
- Based on administrative data collected by SSA

Tax Statistics

- Published by the Statistics of Income Division of the IRS.
- <http://www.irs.gov/taxstats/>

U.S. Statistical Standards

- Provided by the Office of Management and Budget
- Overview:
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/inforeg/03statprog.pdf>
- Methods and Standards:
<http://www.fedstats.gov/policy/>