

This PDF is a selection from an out-of-print volume from the National Bureau of Economic Research

Volume Title: The Statistical Agencies of the Federal Government: A Report to the Commission on Organization of the Executive Branch of the Government

Volume Author/Editor: Frederick C. Mills and Clarence D. Long

Volume Publisher: NBER

Volume ISBN: 0-87014-049-3

Volume URL: <http://www.nber.org/books/mill49-1>

Publication Date: 1949

Chapter Title: Appendix D: Expenditures on Statistics and Related Research, Analysis, and Service, Federal Civilian Agencies, Fiscal 1948

Chapter Author: Frederick C. Mills, Clarence D. Long

Chapter URL: <http://www.nber.org/chapters/c6657>

Chapter pages in book: (p. 195 - 199)

APPENDIX D

Expenditures on Statistics and Related Research, Analysis, and Service, Federal Civilian Agencies Year ended June 30, 1948

AGENCY (1)	EXP. ON STATISTICS (INCL. PRINTING) (2)	STAT. EXP.		EXP. ON PRINTING AND BINDING ^b (4)	PRINTING EXP. AS % OF STAT. EXP. (5)
		AS % OF TOTAL AGENCY BUDGET ^a (3)	AS % OF AGENCY BUDGET ^a (3)		
<i>All civilian agencies</i>	\$42,039,510	0.7		\$1,211,369	2.9
Public purpose collection agencies	21,053,297	—		485,231	2.3
Analysis & service agencies	4,985,092	—		166,300	3.3
Administrative & regulatory agencies	15,593,121	0.5		559,838	3.6
Coordinating agency (Div. of Stat. Standards)	373,000	—		—	—
Stat. methods agency (Stat. Engineering Lab., Nat. Bur. of Standards)	35,000	—		—	—
<i>Primarily public purpose collection</i>	21,053,297 ^c	—		485,231	2.3
Bur. of Census (Commerce)	9,805,506 ^d	—		164,000	1.7
Bur. of Agr. Econ. (Agriculture)	5,229,701 ^e	—		107,000	2.0
Bur. of Labor Stat. (Labor)	4,277,904 ^f	—		119,681	2.8
Nat. Off. Vital Stat. (Public Health Serv.)	1,005,386	—		39,750	4.0
Bur. of Mines (Interior)	734,800	—		54,800	7.5
<i>Primarily analysis & service</i>	4,985,092	—		166,300	3.3
Off. of Internat. Trade (Commerce)	1,786,420 ^g	—		108,700	6.1
Off. of Bus. Econ. (Commerce)	1,103,865	—		38,000	3.4
Div. of Res. & Stat. (Fed. Res. Bd.)	773,210 ^h	—		—	—
Off. of Dom. Com. (Commerce)	625,000 ⁱ	—		11,000	1.8
Council of Economic Advisers	350,000	—		8,600	2.5
Fiscal Div. (Bur. of Budget)	295,997	—		—	—
Off. of Technical Staff (Treasury)	45,000 ^j	—		—	—
Div. of Tax Res. (Treasury)	5,600 ^k	—		—	—
<i>Primarily administrative & regulatory</i>	15,593,121 ^l	—		559,838	3.6
Prod. & Mktg. Adm. (Agriculture)	2,718,102	9.3		7,985	0.3
Weather Bureau (Commerce)	1,617,000	7.6		110,000	6.8
Public Health Serv. (Fed. Sec. Agcy.)	1,449,718 ^m	2.4		46,700	3.2
Bur. of Internal Rev. (Treasury)	1,285,554 ⁿ	0.7		20,211	1.6
Soc. Sec. Adm. (Fed. Sec. Agcy.)	1,262,808	3.5		43,424	3.4
Forest Service (Agriculture)	899,628	1.6		9,000	1.0
Interstate Commerce Commission	692,784 ^o	6.5		69,417	10.0
Housing & Home Finance Agcy.	688,000	1.9		50,000	7.3
Corps of Engineers (Army)	675,324	0.6		—	—
Agr. Res. Adm. (Agriculture)	511,418 ^p	0.9		18,316	3.6
Railroad Retirement Board	323,000 ^q	3.1		—	—
Employment Serv. (Soc. Sec. Adm.)	299,715	8.1		20,000	6.7
Tariff Commission	257,700 ^r	22.4		9,500	3.7
Federal Works Agency	232,700	0.04		—	—
Federal Power Commission	227,750	5.8		39,657	17.4

APPENDIX D (cont.)

AGENCY (1)	EXP. ON STATISTICS (INCL. PRINTING) (2)	STAT. EXP.		
		AS % OF TOTAL AGENCY BUDGET ^a (3)	EXP. ON PRINTING AND BINDING ^b (4)	PRINTING EXP. AS % OF STAT. EXP. (5)
<i>Primarily administrative & regulatory (concl.)</i>				
Fed. Deposit Insurance Corp.	222,392	3.7	20,600	9.3
Veterans' Administration	222,330 ^a	0.1	22,330	10.0
Securities & Exchange Commission	207,944	3.7	22,880	11.0
Fish & Wildlife Serv. (Interior)	204,815	3.1	2,801	1.4
Maritime Commission	189,489	0.1	nil	0
Fed. Communications Commission	161,831	2.6	5,296	3.3
Off. of For. Agr. Rel. (Agriculture)	152,674	30.4	nil	0
Federal Trade Commission	130,482	3.8	2,514	1.9
Civil Aeronautics Board	122,843	4.0	12,581	10.2
Women's Bureau (Labor)	97,349 ^t	37.0	—	—
Off. of Education (Fed. Sec. Agcy.)	91,054	3.3	7,930	8.7
Comp. of Currency (Treasury)	86,839 ^u	1.5	11,000	12.7
Immig. & Natural. Serv. (Justice)	82,659	0.3	—	—
Fed. Bur. of Investigation (Justice)	78,600	0.2	6,996	8.9
Civil Aeronautics Adm. (Commerce)	69,226 ^v	0.1	—	—
Off. of Foreign Serv. (State)	58,003	0.1	—	—
Bur. of Reclamation (Interior)	50,000	0.04	—	—
Off. of Internat. Fin. (Treasury)	45,195 ^w	4.8	nil	0
Civil Service Commission	42,656 ^x	0.2	—	—
Munitions Board (Nat. Mil. Est.)	30,839	—	700	2.3
Other Agencies	104,700 ^y	0.03	—	—

This table covers the total costs of statistics, research, analysis, and service by civilian agencies of the Federal government, including civilian agencies of the Military Departments. It covers also operating data collected by the agencies to guide in administration, byproduct data gathered as an incident to administration, and data compiled to serve public purposes. Expenditures cover the costs of collecting and editing, tabulating and presenting, analyzing and interpreting, printing and binding. They do not include (a) accounting or other housekeeping data or collection costs when these are inseparable from nonstatistical regulatory or enforcement operations (as in the case of income tax returns); (b) cost of building maintenance in most government owned facilities (provided by appropriations through the Public Buildings Administration); (c) cost of mail for which figures could not be gotten for most agencies and the accounting for which has, since 1948, been placed entirely in the hands of the Post Office Department. (For the Census Bureau in 1948 it was \$151,000, for the BAE it was \$308,000, for the BLS it was \$76,000, or \$535,000 for the three major public purpose collection agencies. For most other agencies it was small, except for the Production and Marketing Administration for which the cost could not be determined. For all statistical agencies the mail cost may have approached \$1,000,000 in fiscal 1948.)

Estimates of expenditures on statistics were obtained from reports of the agencies to the Commission on Organization of the Executive Branch and from personal interviews. Further details on the make-up of the estimates

can be found in the reports and exhibits of the agencies. Total budget figures were obtained from these reports and from 'The Budget of the United States Government' for fiscal years 1949 and 1950.

The figures in this table are not always comparable in the amount of 'analysis' included. It is usually difficult to separate the time technical and administrative staffs spend on statistical analysis from time spent on non statistical duties. Consequently, the percentages in column 3 should be used with caution. The incomparabilities are minor and have a negligible effect on the total estimates; but they sometimes weaken comparisons of particular agencies. In making such comparisons we should note too that the functions of the various agencies entail varying amounts of statistical work.

^a The percentage (0.7) opposite all civilian agencies relates expenditures on statistics to \$6 billion, the sum of the budgets (mainly administrative) of the Departments of State, Commerce, Agriculture, Labor, Interior, Treasury (excluding interest on the public debt and refunds of receipts), Justice, Independent Offices, Executive Office of the President.

The percentage (0.5) opposite administrative and regulatory agencies relates their expenditures on statistics to the sum of their budgets, \$3,124 million.

Grants, subsidies, and other administered funds are excluded from the total budget figures on which the individual agency percentages in column 3 are calculated. The purpose of the figures given in column 3 is to show the percentage spent on statistics by agencies whose main functions are administrative and regulatory. Such figures are not given for the main collection and service agencies since they would not be meaningful for units concerned exclusively with processes of collection and analysis.

^b These are expenditures on statistical publications. Costs of mimeographed publications are included for public purpose collection agencies. When the entire costs of preparing, editing, printing, and binding statistical publications could not be obtained, the figure covers only the Government Printing Office bills for the agencies in question.

^c The total expenditure by the five public purpose collection agencies is larger than the outlay in 1948 given in Table 1 and App. E. This table and Table 4 include all statistical expenditures whereas Table 1 and App. E omit printing and binding expenditures, and in the case of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics include only expenditures for market news services and economic investigations. The figures for the Bureaus of the Census, Agricultural Economics, and Labor Statistics include transferred, reimbursable, and special funds for statistical services rendered to other agencies or to private business.

^d Includes the part of the four million dollars appropriated for the 1947 Census of Manufactures that was allotted to 1948; excludes \$100,000 appropriated for Age and Citizenship Certification, \$81,500 transferred to the Social Security Administration, and \$8,479 transferred to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

^e Only about \$3,819,686 of this total expenditure represents outlay for statistical collection. The rest was spent for economic research conducted on farm management, organization, land use, marketing, and other subjects that do not involve gathering statistics.

APPENDIX D (concl.)

^f Expenditures for the Bureau of Labor Statistics are estimated from appropriations for fiscal 1948 as taken from "The Budget" for fiscal 1950; they include reimbursable, working, and trust funds.

^g The figure for the Office of International Trade represents 80 percent of the total appropriation (exclusive of funds for export control programs).

^h The total budget of the Division of Research and Statistics (for calendar 1947) is included although its work is not entirely statistical. On the other hand, statistical work (which cannot be segregated) of the Division of Bank Operations (total budget \$206,330) is omitted. The nonstatistical expenditures of the Division of Research and Statistics may roughly balance the excluded statistical expenditures of the Division of Bank Operations.

The Division of Research and Statistics is classed with analysis and service agencies because most of its statistical work is for general analytical rather than administrative or regulatory purposes.

ⁱ The cost of statistical work, including analysis, of the Office of Domestic Commerce was estimated to amount to half of the total appropriation of that Office. This estimate was based on interviews with each of the unit chiefs.

^j The Office of Technical Staff has a total budget of \$330,000 devoted mainly to staff and policy work. However, a staff of 3 is assigned to coordinate material for the monthly *Treasury Bulletin*. This activity is here estimated to involve an expenditure of \$12,000. In addition, the Office provides statistical estimates of government receipts for the President's annual budget and intervening budget revisions. It supplies statistics also to Congressional committees. We estimate the cost arbitrarily as \$33,000 or 10 percent of the total agency budget. The Office of Technical Staff regards these as fair allocations.

^k The Division of Tax Research estimates that \$5,600 of its 1948 expenditure, \$200,000, was for study, review, and interpretation of statistical material.

^l Most of these expenditures are for tabulating and presenting data which have been collected as byproducts of administrative and regulatory operations. Full collection costs are here included only for such data as are not collected as an integral part of an administrative or regulatory process. The chief sources of byproduct statistics are the Social Security Administration (where much of the collection is done by State agencies or by the Bureau of Internal Revenue), the Housing and Home Finance Agency, Federal Works Agency, Bureau of Internal Revenue, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Railroad Retirement Board, Comptroller of the Currency, and Veterans' Administration.

^m This includes the Division of Public Health Methods (\$446,018), Division of Nursing (\$22,000), Bureau of Medical Services (\$59,000), Bureau of State Services (\$876,000), and printing and binding (\$46,700). The National Office of Vital Statistics is shown above under collection agencies.

ⁿ This includes the Statistical Division, salary cost (\$1,104,311), machine rental (\$88,822), punch cards (\$11,600), microfilm (\$3,911); Alcohol Tax Unit (\$37,105); Accounts and Collections Unit (\$12,414); Miscellaneous Tax Unit (\$7,180); printing and binding (\$20,211).

° This includes the Bureau of Transport Economics and Statistics (\$609,643), printing and binding (\$69,417), and estimates for statistical work done in the Bureaus of Motor Carriers (\$11,229), Safety (\$227), Locomotive Inspection (\$1,918), Valuation (\$350). The latter estimates do not cover costs of collection that are incidental to administration.

ª Includes all Bureaus of the Agricultural Research Administration except the Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry.

« 85 percent of the total budget of the Office of Director of Research, an estimate made by the Director.

´ \$143,000 of the outlay for statistical analysis and fact finding by the Tariff Commission consists of the salaries of personnel directly engaged in statistical procedures. \$95,200 is an estimate of salary cost of technical personnel when engaged in statistical work (mainly analytical work based partly on statistical data). \$10,000 is an estimate of machine costs. \$9,500 is the cost of printing and binding.

• This figure covers the Research Division but excludes personnel statistics and statistical work scattered through other divisions and field offices, which may amount to an additional \$800,000. The printing estimates include the Agency's Annual Report and the periodic statistical reports of the Research Division and the field offices.

ˆ The total allocation of the Research Division is given here since it is impossible to separate statistical from work that is primarily nonstatistical. A large part of the time of the Research Division is devoted to nonstatistical work.

˜ For calendar 1947.

˘ Federal aid to the airport program is excluded from the budget figure on which the percentage in column 3 is calculated.

˙ Covers the International Statistics Division, whose work is concerned partly with statistics and partly with analyses of international financial problems.

˚ Covers salaries of the Federal Employment Statistics Staff (\$19,614) and statistical expenditures of the Budget and Finance Division.

¸ This estimate, based on interviews and other sources of information, covers the Bureau of Customs (Treasury), War Assets Administration, Bureau of Prisons (Justice), National Labor Relations Board, Office of Selective Service Records, National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Howard University, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (Federal Security Agency), National Park Service (Interior), Panama Canal Authority. In these agencies statistics are of minor importance.

In the following agencies expenditures on statistics for use outside the agency are negligible: Export-Import Bank, Reconstruction Finance Corporation, U. S. Coast Guard (Treasury), National Archives, Atomic Energy Commission, Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, National Security Council, Post Office Department, National Security Resources Board. For the Resources Board statistical expenditures were inconsiderable for fiscal 1948 but may be significant for fiscal 1949.