The Price Statistics of the Federal Government

REVIEW, APPRAISAL, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A Report to the Office of Statistical Standards
Bureau of the Budget
Prepared by the Price Statistics Review Committee
of the National Bureau of Economic Research

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Together with Twelve Staff Papers

EXTRACT

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7. A copy of this resolution shall, unless otherwise determined by the board be printed in each copy of every National Bureau book.

(Resolution adopted October 25, 1926, as revised February 6, 1938, and February 24, 1941)
Mr. Raymond T. Bowman,
Assistant Director for Statistical Standards,
Bureau of the Budget,
Washington, D.C.


The report has been approved by the Board of Directors of the National Bureau, in accordance with its usual procedure, as meeting the objectives of the National Bureau—"to ascertain and to present to the public important economic facts and their interpretation in a scientific and impartial manner." As the resolution of the Board governing the relation of the Directors to the work and publications of the National Bureau states, approval by the Board does not, however, imply that each member of the Board has read the report, or has passed upon its validity in every detail.

I request that the report be substituted for the preliminary draft transmitted to you on September 30, 1960. The present report is the final report of the Committee, subject only to necessary corrections, before publication, of any typographical or other errors that may have crept in during the final stages of its preparation.

Attached to the report are a number of Staff Papers prepared for the use of the Committee. The papers are not an integral part of the report, and responsibility for their contents rests with their respective authors. However, the papers contain a great deal of useful supplementary information and comment on the price statistics of the federal government and deserve consideration along with the Committee's report.

The price statistics of the federal government are of great importance. They are put to many uses by individuals, business enterprises, trade unions, and other private organizations, as well as by governments. Whatever can be done to improve these statistics and deepen users' understanding of them deserves serious attention. It is the hope of the Committee and of the National Bureau, as I am sure it is of the Bureau of the Budget, that this report will further such improvement and understanding when its contents are studied not only by the Bureau of the Budget and the federal agencies responsible for the price statistics, but also by other governmental agencies and the public at large. If the Bureau of the Budget does not make the report public, the National Bureau will undertake to do so in accord with our discussions.

As is stated in the Introduction to the Committee's report, arrangements between the National Bureau and the Office of Statistical Standards of the Bureau of the Budget for the preparation of the report were concluded on July 2, 1959. We are deeply grateful to the public-spirited members of the Price Statistics Review Committee, all of whom devoted a substantial portion of their time and energy during the year following to the difficult task of preparing the report; and to the many persons inside and outside the federal government who par-
ticipated in the discussions, provided essential information, and re-
viewed drafts of the report. I want to add a special word of thanks
to Professor George J. Stigler of the University of Chicago and the
National Bureau Staff for his direction of the entire enterprise.

On behalf of the National Bureau, I would like to express our
appreciation to the Office of Statistical Standards of the Bureau of
the Budget for this opportunity to be of service.

Sincerely yours,

SOLOMON FABRICANT,
Director of Research.

NATIONAL BUREAU OF ECONOMIC RESEARCH, Inc.,

Mr. Solomon Fabricant,
Director of Research,
National Bureau of Economic Research,
261 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Fabricant: The Price Statistics Review Committee, or-
ganized by the National Bureau of Economic Research, herewith
submits its report as approved by all members of the Committee.
Attached also are the staff papers which are offered on the responsi-
bility of the individual authors.

Sincerely yours,

DOROTHY S. BRADY,
EDWARD F. DENISON,
IRVING B. KRAVIS,
PHILIP J. McCARTHY,
ALBERT REES,
RICHARD RUGGLES,
BORIS C. SWERLING,
GEORGE J. STIGLER, Chairman.
THE PRICE STATISTICS OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Report of the Committee
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