



COPAFS

Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics

ANALYSIS OF THE FY 2019 FEDERAL BUDGET

The FY 2019 budget was finalized February 14th, with the final omnibus package being a mixed bag for the federal statistical agencies.

While some agencies received moderate increases, others still face flat funding. For agencies that are already struggling to recover from the effects of the shutdown, their funding situation becomes more and more dire.

Highlights:

- \$1 billion increase for the Census Bureau
- Language that slows the USDA's plans to relocate the Economic Research Service

Agency	2018 Omnibus Bill	Administration FY2019 Request	Congress			Change from FY 2018
			House	Senate	Final	
Bureau of Economic Analysis	\$ 99.0	\$ 100.9	\$ 99.00	\$ 102.00	\$ 101.00	\$ 2.00
Bureau of Justice Statistics	\$ 45.0	\$ 48.0	\$ 50.00	\$ 48.00	\$ 43.00	\$ (2.00)
Bureau of Labor Statistics	\$ 612.0	\$ 609.3	\$ 612.00	\$ 612	\$ 615.00	\$ 3.00
Bureau of Transportation Statistics	\$ 26.0	\$ 26			\$ 26.00	\$ -
Census Bureau*	\$ 2,814.0	\$ 3,816.9	\$ 4,799.70	\$ 3,812.00	\$ 3,821.39	\$1,007.39
Total Current Surveys and	\$ 270.0	\$ 269.1	\$ 270	\$ 270.00	\$ 270.00	\$ -
Total Periodic Censuses and Pro	\$ 2,544.0	\$ 3,547.0	\$ 4,529.70	\$ 3,551.00	\$ 3,551.39	\$1,007.39
Economic Research Service	\$ 86.8	\$ 45.0	\$ 86.80	\$ 86.76	\$ 86.76	\$ (0.04)
Energy Information Administration	\$ 125.0	\$ 115.0	\$ 125.00	\$ 125.00	\$ 125.00	\$ -
National Agricultural Statistics Service	\$ 191.7	\$ 165.0	\$ 173.00	\$ 174.70	\$ 175.52	\$ (16.18)
National Center for Education Statistics	\$ 266.2	\$ 299.0	\$ 266.25	\$ 268.20	\$ 268.20	\$ 2.00
Statistics	\$ 109.5	\$ 123.3	\$ 109.50	\$ 109.50	\$ 109.50	\$ -
Assessment	\$ 149.0	\$ 149.0	\$ 149.00	150.955		
Assessment Governing Board	\$ 7.7	\$ 7.7	\$ 7.75	7.74		
National Center for Health Statistics	\$ 160.4	\$ 155.0	\$ 160.40	161.39	\$ 160.40	\$ -
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics	\$ 57.0	\$ 60.0				
Office of Research, Evaluation, and Statistics, SSA	\$ 32.0	\$ 31.0				
Statistics of Income, IRS	\$ 33.7	\$ 35.2				

AGENCIES IN-DEPTH

Census Bureau

The Census Bureau received an increase of \$1 billion over FY 2018 for 2020 Census preparation, giving the Bureau a total of \$3.8 billion in FY 2019.

The agreement also instructs to the Bureau to enhance communications and partnership efforts in hard-to-count communities and to maximize self-response.

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Department of Agriculture

Both ERS and NASS received relatively stable funding from FY 2018, with a decrease in funding for NASS reflecting the completion of the 2017 Census of Agriculture.

	FY 2018 Enacted	FY 2019 Request	FY 2019 House	FY 2019 Senate	FY 2019 Enacted	FY 2019 vs. FY 2018
Economic Research Service	86.8	45.0	86.8	86.8	86.8	0.0%
National Agricultural Statistics Service	191.7	165.0	173.7	174.8	174.5	-9.0%
Census of Agriculture	63.4	45.3	45.4	45.3	45.3	-28.5%

The agreement reached in the appropriations bill stops the USDA from moving the Economic Research Service out of the Research, Education and Economics mission area, and requires more information on the costs associated with moving the agency out of the Washington, DC area.

The conferees are concerned about the unknown costs associated with the proposed move of the National Institutes of Food and Agriculture and the Economic Research Service to a new location outside of the National Capital Region. In submitting the fiscal year 2020 budget justification, the Department is directed to include all cost estimates for the proposed move of the two agencies, as well as a detailed analysis of any research benefits of their relocation. There is an expectation that this process will be followed in the future for any other potential proposed agency relocations by the Department.

AND

“The conferees support an indefinite delay in the proposed transfer of ERS to the Office of the Chief Economist. At this time, the conferees find it appropriate for ERS to remain under the Research, Education and Economics mission area. The conferees take this position as several questions remain about the merits of the proposed transfer as well as the proposed relocation of ERS outside of the National Capital Region. Insufficient information and justification relating to the reorganization and relocation make moving forward on these proposals premature at this time.”

This language is a major victory for the stakeholder community and is the result of concerting efforts to educate members of Congress and Hill staffers on the importance of ERS, outreach to media, as well as mobilization from former agency heads, administration officials, and experts in the field.

Bureau of Justice Statistics

BJS received \$2 million less in direct appropriations in FY 2019 over FY 2018, with \$5 million of its funds to be dedicated to implementation of the National Crime Statistic Exchange (NCS-X). The motivation for this cut is unclear as neither the House nor the Senate requested a cut.

WHAT TO EXPECT IN FISCAL YEAR 2020

With the passage of the final FY 2019 spending package, work on the FY 2020 spending bills has begun in earnest, with Appropriators eager to see what will happen to their top-line budget caps. This year, because of the Budget Control Act of 2011, lawmakers must settle on a new budget caps that are currently in place for discretionary spending. Without a new budget that agrees to lift discretionary caps, there will be major reductions in discretionary spending, which includes the PSAs.

While lawmakers on both sides of the aisle agree the reductions would be too severe, Democrats will be seeking parity between defense and non-defense spending, and with their control over the House, it is widely expected they will push hard for their priorities. Negotiations between the two sides, as well as the two chambers, will likely delay the spending packages, and we expect to see FY 2020 being with Continuing Resolutions.

The Administration's Requests is expected to be released the week of March 11th. While it will have almost no bearing on the funding debates in Congress, it could hold some key insights into the Administration's plans for statistical agencies, including potential re-organizations for the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Economic Research Service, and the Bureau of Transportation Statistics.

Thanks to COSSA for use of their USDA budget chart. To read COSSA's analysis of scientific agencies, [click here](#).

The American Statistical Association also tracks budget issues. Read their analysis [here](#).