

**1 Federal Statistics in the FY 2011 Budget**  
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**Overview**

Statistics produced by the federal government serve as a base for research in a broad spectrum of scientific disciplines. Population and vital statistics are central to the work of political scientists and demographers; employment, financial, and production data are essential for economists; and information on education and crime is used by sociologists and psychologists. Responsibility for the collection, analysis, and dissemination of federal statistics is spread throughout the departments and independent agencies of the executive branch; each of some 70 agencies and departmental units annually spends \$500,000 or more on statistical activities. Within this decentralized system that generates statistical information, a more limited number of agencies have the creation of statistics as their principal mission. It is these agencies that are responsible for producing statistics on major economic, demographic, and social developments and trends that are the focus of discussion in this chapter. The funding levels for FY 2011 that have been proposed for the principal statistical agencies provide, for the very most part, increases over the resources appropriated in FY 2010. For details of the funding history in fiscal years 2009 through 2011 please see table 1. The balance of this chapter provides further details on FY 2011 programs.

**Bureau of the Census**

The Bureau of the Census collects, compiles, and publishes a broad range of statistics on the population and the economy. Budget authority for the Census Bureau is provided in two appropriations: one covers current programs, including demographic surveys, international programs and data on construction, manufacturing, retail and wholesale trade, services, foreign trade, and state and local government finances and employment; the other covers periodic programs, including the decennial census of population; and the quinquennial economic censuses and the census of governments.

For FY 2011, funding is requested for the Census Bureau's ongoing economic and demographic programs and for the 2010 Census. For the 2010 Census program, funding is requested to: (1) compile and deliver State-level population totals from the 2010 Census to the President for the apportionment of seats in the U.S. House of Representatives by December 31, 2010, as well as to deliver data to the States for use in redistricting by March 31, 2011; (2) provide data used for the distribution of Federal funds and for other purposes; (3) complete fieldwork for the Coverage Measurement Program which gathers additional information to identify reasons for differences between pre-census listing operations and post-census records; and (4) conduct evaluations of the 2010 Census. For the Census Bureau's other economic and demographic programs, funding is requested for: (1) the Geographic Support program for improved address coverage, continual update of road and other special data, and enhanced quality measures of the geographic programs; (2) the American Community Survey program to expand the sample size to increase the reliability of small area estimates, to enhance field and telephone center data collection, to conduct a 100 percent non-response follow-up operation in Remote Alaska and small American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian Homeland areas, and for additional review of three-year and five-year data; (3) expansion of research and production capacities in order to complement the official poverty measures with annual supplementary measures of poverty from the Current Population Survey; (4) using administrative records to simulate the 2010 Census in order to thoroughly examine and document the coverage and quality of major governmental and commercial administrative record sets.

**Bureau of Labor Statistics**

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), the principal fact-finding agency in the federal government in the field of labor economics, has a dual mission: to provide general purpose statistics that support the formulation of economic and social policy decisions in the business and labor communities, in legislation, and other programs affecting labor; and to serve the program needs of the Department of Labor and other

federal agencies that use the BLS data and research findings to administer and evaluate on-going programs, develop legislative proposals, and analyze economic and social problems. To meet these objectives, BLS collects, processes, analyzes, and disseminates data on employment and unemployment, projections of economic growth, the labor force, and employment by industry and occupation, prices and cost of living, consumer expenditures, wages and employee benefits, occupational injuries and illnesses, collective bargaining activities, and productivity and technological change in U.S. industries.

For FY 2011, funding is requested to provide support for ongoing BLS programs, and to: (1) continue development of the new “green-collar” jobs data series; (2) expand the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) sample to include annual data from a subset of establishments, allowing year-to-year comparisons of occupational trends in employment and wages; (3) modernize the Consumer Expenditure (CE) survey, improving the quality of data generated by the survey and the accuracy of its inputs into the Consumer Price Index (CPI); (4) reduce the variance of the CPI by increasing by 50 percent the number of CPI commodity and services price quotes collected; (5) research how to improve or replace the current survey for identifying the sample of retail outlets that is used to initiate and re-price items in the CPI; (6) modify the CE survey to support the Census Bureau in its development of a supplemental statistical poverty measure; and (7) restructure the way in which the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program produces State and metropolitan area data estimates and improve the program’s response rates for both preliminary and final estimates, thereby reducing the statistical error on the estimates.

### **Bureau of Economic Analysis**

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) provides a picture of the United States economy through the preparation, development and interpretation of the economic accounts. These accounts consist of the national income and product accounts, summarized by the gross domestic product (GDP); the wealth accounts that show the business and other components of national wealth; the input-output accounts that trace interrelationships among industrial markets; State and regional income and product accounts; and the United States balance of payments and associated international investment accounts. These economic accounts provide key information on economic growth, regional development, and the nation's position in the world economy. These data are vital ingredients in major decisions affecting such areas as monetary and fiscal policy, social security projections, and business planning and investment.

For FY 2011, funding is requested to continue BEA’s core programs, and to: (1) improve Foreign Direct Investment statistics by reexamining the coverage and detail of the data collected on multinational corporations, redesigning surveys to maximize their efficiency, and improving the quantity and usefulness of the resulting data; (2) develop a New Economic Dashboard to expand the statistical coverage of the business and government sectors and to develop new data series that will better serve the statistical and regulatory communities including new measures of GDP by-Industry on a quarterly basis (currently only available on an annual basis) as well as new detail and breakouts of the business sector, with an emphasis on small businesses; (3) produce a new suite of measures of household income distribution, expenses, debt, and savings in “Everyday Economics: The American Household,” which will detail household spending power, debt, and the composition of savings to provide critical tools necessary to identify signs of weakness in the future; and (4) create common BEA-EIA statistics on energy supply, consumption, and price data to provide consistent metrics for discussing energy trends and developing forecast models of energy supply and consumption dynamics.

### **Statistics of Income, Internal Revenue Service**

The Statistics of Income Division (SOI) program provides for compilation of annual income, financial, and tax data from samples of tax returns filed by individuals, corporations, partnerships, sole proprietors and tax-exempt organizations. SOI also provides periodic data based on other returns, such as those filed by estates, for estimating the wealth of the living top wealth holders, as well as on various other tax and

information returns and schedules, for producing such estimates as U.S. investments abroad, foreign investments in the United States, and gains or losses from sales of capital assets.

For FY 2011, funding is requested to continue SOI's core programs, and to: (1) continue to modernize tax data collection systems, particularly to efficiently assimilate into SOI systems data captured from the electronic filing of tax and information returns; (2) examine means to better mask individual data records to minimize the risk of re-identification in the Individual Public-Use cross-section file; (3) expand and improve dissemination of tax data by implementing a table wizard application on [www.irs.gov/taxstats](http://www.irs.gov/taxstats) and making data files available through [www.data.gov](http://www.data.gov); (4) develop statistical techniques to identify outliers and edit data in IRS administrative population files; and (5) provide relevant statistics needed to evaluate and monitor the tax-related provisions of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

### **National Agricultural Statistics Service**

The Department of Agriculture published its first crop report in 1863, and further strengthened this responsibility in 1905 by creating the Crop Reporting Board (now the Agricultural Statistics Board). The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) has the responsibility for collecting and publishing current national, state and county agricultural statistics. NASS collects and reports data on a wide range of production, inventories, prices paid and received by farmers, costs of production, farm labor usage and wage rates, agricultural chemical use, and other agricultural statistics. Beginning in FY 1997, NASS is responsible for the census of agriculture program, which provides comprehensive data every 5 years on all aspects of the agricultural economy down to the county level.

For FY 2011, funding is requested to: (1) improve county estimates of crop production used to administer risk management procedures as key triggers for crop insurance and disaster recovery programs; (2) expand the number of States that have a cropland data layer and provide NASS the ability to collect additional data on crop conditions, soil moisture, and/or drought monitoring, and (3) establish an on-going organic agriculture data series to allow USDA and others to monitor the continued growth, evolution, and understanding of this sector in support of a nutritious domestic and international food supply.

### **Economic Research Service**

The Economic Research Service (ERS) is a research-oriented statistical agency that provides economic and other social science information and analysis related to the supply, demand and performance of domestic and international food and agricultural markets; indicators of food and consumer issues; economic and environmental indicators of agriculture production and resource use; and socio-economic indicators of the status and performance of the farm sector and the rural economy.

For FY 2011, funding is requested (1) for research on an administrative data project to better understand how nutrition assistance and other government assistance programs work together to provide a social safety net, (2) to better assess how nutrition assistance and health care policy work together to improve dietary and health outcomes. (3) for research to improve user access to statistical data through increased sharing of protocols and tools. ERS would serve as the Program Management Office for a group of voluntary, self-selected principal statistical agencies who choose to improve interoperability of Federal data collections, share common platforms, coding structures, and license procurement in support of [www.data.gov](http://www.data.gov).

### **Energy Information Administration**

The Energy Information Administration (EIA) collects, analyzes, and disseminates information on energy resources, production, distribution, consumption, technology, and related international, economic, and financial matters. EIA produces reports with statistical time series, projections of future energy trends,

analyses of topical energy issues, and supports the energy information requirements of the Department of Energy and other federal agencies. The primary customers of EIA services are public policy makers in the Department of Energy and the Congress. Other customers include other federal agencies, state and local governments, the energy industry, educational institutions, the news media, and the public.

For FY 2011, funding is requested to maintain core energy data, analyses, forecasting programs critical to energy markets and policymakers, and to 1) expand analysis of energy market behavior and data to address the interrelationship of energy and financial markets; 2) improves surveys of energy use in commercial buildings, manufacturing, and homes to provide baseline information critical to understanding energy use and are the basis for benchmarking and performance measurement of energy efficiency programs; 3) continue to upgrade National Energy Model; 4) initiate efforts to track and analyze the adoption of “Smart Grid” technologies and dynamic electricity pricing plans that are made possible by the deployment of smart electricity meters and 5) continue to implement improvements in energy data coverage, quality, and integration.

### **National Center for Health Statistics**

The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) monitors the Nation's health and use of health services and explores the relationship between risk factors and disease. Data sources include the Nation's vital statistics system and surveys involving personal interviews, physical examinations and laboratory testing, and information from health care providers. The mission of NCHS is to provide statistical information that will guide actions and policies to improve the health of the American people. Data from NCHS include the use of hospitals, nursing homes, physician services, financial and non-financial barriers to health care access; the health of racial and ethnic population groups; infant mortality, access to prenatal care; death from diseases such as cancer, heart disease, HIV/AIDS; health insurance coverage, immunization status, and other measures used to help design and monitor the impact of programs and policies that affect health and the health care system.

For FY 2011, funding is requested to continue data collection, analysis, and dissemination activities for NCHS surveys maintain sample sizes at the expanded levels of FY 2010, including the National Vital Statistics System, National Health Interview Survey, National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) and National Health Care Surveys; and to: (1) continue providing timely, accurate estimates of high priority health measures; (2) enhance the quality and usability of data access tools through improved tutorials; (3) fully support electronic birth records in all 50 States in FY 2011, and gradually phase in electronic death records over three years; (4) expand the sample size of the National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey to monitor the characteristics of ambulatory care providers and their patients at the national level and in selected States; (5) continue providing NHANES data on diet and nutrition, blood pressure, chronic diseases, and other health indicators; and (6) enhance the National Health Interview Survey to produce annual estimates for selected States on a broad range of health and health care measures

### **National Center for Education Statistics**

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) collects, analyzes and reports statistics on education in the United States, and conducts studies on comparisons of international education statistics. NCES also provides leadership in developing and promoting the use of standardized terminology and definitions for the collection of education statistics.

In FY 2011, funding is requested to continue NCES' core programs, and to: (1) conduct the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), including administration of 2011 national and State reading and math assessments at grades 4 and 8, a national writing assessment at grades 4, 8, and 12, a State grade 4 writing assessment, and assessments for a small number of urban districts that participate in the Trial Urban District Assessments; (2) participate in the 2011 Trends in International Mathematics and Science

Study (TIMSS), a study of 4th and 8th grade mathematics and science achievement in the United States and other countries; (3) conduct an equating study between NAEP and TIMSS that would allow States to compare their students' 8th grade mathematics achievement to that of students in other countries; (4) conduct the 2011 Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies, an international assessment that will allow the United States to benchmark its adult literacy with that of other countries; and (5) provide support for the development of statewide longitudinal data systems to allow States to improve their data systems, including ensuring that information is available at the pre-school, postsecondary, and workforce levels in addition to kindergarten through grade 12.

### **Bureau of Justice Statistics**

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) is responsible for the collection, analysis, and publication of statistical information on crime, criminal offenders, victims of crime, and the operations of justice systems at all levels of government and internationally. The mission of the Bureau is to provide accurate and timely justice data and to support the emerging capacity of State and local governments in the use of these data for their justice programs.

For FY 2011, funding is requested to: (1) improve BJS' criminal victimization statistics derived from the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) as well as their usefulness by addressing recommendations of the 2008 National Research Council report, *Surveying Victims: Options for Conducting the National Crime Victimization Survey*; (2) respond to recommendations of the 2009 National Research Council report, *Ensuring the Quality, Credibility, and Relevance of U.S. Justice Statistics*; and (3) maintain BJS' core statistical programs that provide law enforcement data from more than 3,000 local agencies on the organization and administration of police and sheriffs' departments; nationally representative prosecution data on resources, policies, and practices of local prosecutors; court and sentencing statistics, including Federal and State case processing data; data on correctional populations and facilities from Federal, State, and local governments; and information about prisoner re-entry and recidivism.

### **Bureau of Transportation Statistics**

The Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) is responsible for developing and disseminating timely, relevant, and high quality transportation data and information for all modes to public and private transportation decision makers. BTS programs include freight and travel statistics, transportation economics, geospatial information systems, statistical methods and performance measurement, and airline transportation statistics. BTS also administers the National Transportation Library. BTS is a component of the Department of Transportation's Research and Innovative Technology Administration.

For FY 2011 funding is requested to support the development and improvement of transportation system performance measures and for the maintenance of BTS' core statistical programs including the Commodity Flow Survey, National Census of Ferry Operators, production of transportation data for enhancing livable communities; monthly statistics on the commodities and modes of transportation used in U.S. international trade, transportation performance indicators including the Transportation Services Index, and the collection, analysis, and dissemination of airline performance data.

### **Sciences Resource Statistics, National Science Foundation**

The legislative mandate for Science Resource Statistics (SRS), as stated in the National Science Foundation Act of 1950, as amended, is, "...to provide a central clearinghouse for the collection, interpretation, and analysis of data on scientific and engineering resources and to provide a source of information for policy formulation by other agencies of the federal government..." To meet this mandate, SRS provides policymakers, researchers and other decision makers with high quality data and analysis for making informed decisions about the nation's science, engineering, and technology

enterprise. The work of SRS involves survey development, data collection, analysis, information compilation, dissemination, and customer service to meet the statistical demands of a diverse user community, as well as preparation of the biennial reports *Science and Engineering Indicators* and *Women and Minorities and Persons with Disabilities in Science and Engineering*.

In FY 2011, funding is requested to implement ongoing programs on the science and engineering enterprise, and to: (1) continue to implement redesign and improvement activities for a broad range of surveys, particularly the sample frame redesign of the National Survey of College Graduates and the suite of research and development surveys; (2) support the Science of Science and Innovation Policy program's efforts to develop the data, tools, and knowledge needed for a new science of science policy by enhancing the comparability, scope, and availability of international data; (3) field a data collection on postdoctoral students based on pilot activities in FY2010; and (4) expand activities to develop improved data on innovation activities by developing an innovation module for the Business R&D and Innovation Survey and continuing the development of a Micro-Business R&D and Innovation Survey, with data collection expected to begin late in 2011.

**Table 1.** Principal Federal Statistical Agencies (Total direct funding in millions)

	FY 2009 Actual	FY 2010 Estimate	FY 2011 Request
Bureau of the Census			
Current Programs	266.6	289.0	<b>310.0</b>
Periodic Programs	2,906.3	7,065.7	<b>986.4</b>
Bureau of Labor Statistics	597.2	611.4	<b>645.4</b>
Bureau of Economic Analysis	86.9	93.4	<b>109.2</b>
Statistics of Income, IRS	42.0	43.0	<b>44.0</b>
National Agricultural Statistics Service	114.1	123.9	<b>131.2</b>
Census of Agriculture	37.3	37.9	<b>33.5</b>
Economic Research Service	79.5	82.5	<b>87.2</b>
Energy Information Administration	110.6	110.6	<b>128.2</b>
National Center for Health Statistics	124.7	138.7	<b>161.9</b>
National Center for Education Statistics	98.5	108.5	<b>117.0</b>
Bureau of Justice Statistics	45.0	60.0	<b>64.2</b>
Bureau of Transportation Statistics	27.0	28.0	<b>30.0</b>
Science Resource Statistics, NSF	38.7	34.6	<b>36.7</b>