

however, if I did not point out once more that different types of analyses require somewhat different conceptual frameworks and ideal comparability among series for all purposes is not possible. Comparability for the recognized important uses can, however, be improved and this is what we try to do.

*"II. The coordination among users and producers of data.*

Q. 1. How do the Office of Statistical Standards and the various agencies weigh the needs of users?"

A. 1. The Office of Statistical Standards and the major statistical agencies of the Federal Government attempt to stay alert to the changing needs of users through formal and informal devices. Among these are the establishment of standing advisory groups representing different user interests, the creation of *ad hoc* committees or panels on specific questions, staff participation in professional societies which represent major users of economic or social data produced by the Government, and consultation with experts within and outside the Federal Government. We give great weight to the recommendations of the Joint Economic Committee and the Council of Economic Advisers for improvements needed in the Federal statistical system in order to make it responsive to the needs of economic analysts.

The Office of Statistical Standards has the following standing committees representing non-Federal groups:

Advisory Council on Federal Reports, which provides advice of business enterprises;

Labor Advisory Committee, which reflects needs of labor union research directors for data;

American Statistical Association Advisory Committee on Statistical Policy, which reflects the views of outstanding statisticians on general needs and appropriate methodologies.

Examples of more specialized advisory groups on the needs of users are:

Federal Agency Council on the 1970 Censuses—specifically appointed to collate and coordinate Federal agency needs for information from this source;

Petroleum Statistics Study Group, which reflects the needs of a particular industry;

Review Committee for Balance of Payments Statistics, which assessed needed improvements in a subject field;

Interagency Committee on Foreign Trade Statistics, a standing committee which reviews needs for improved data in this area;

Technical Committee on Standard Industrial Classification, an interagency committee which reflects Federal agency needs in the development, revision and application of the Standard Industrial Classification;

Committee on Labor Supply, Employment and Unemployment Statistics, an interagency committee which provides the Office of Statistical Standards with technical advice on all aspects of employment and unemployment statistics and acts as a clearing house for Federal agencies producing and using such statistics;

Occupational Classification Committee, an interagency committee now working on the development of a standard occupational classification to meet Federal needs;