

Public Printer's Message

For the Government Printing Office (GPO), FY 1999 began with an avalanche of activity associated with printing and disseminating the various documents produced by Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr, as well as the massive Omnibus Appropriations bill at the end of the 105th Congress, each under tight deadlines. GPO gained widespread recognition from Congress, the industry, and the public for the rapid production and dissemination of these and other high-profile publications throughout the year—such as the Cox Report on China and the Findings of Fact in the Microsoft case—in both print and electronic formats.

FY 1999 saw GPO ranked first among the top 50 in-plant operations in the Nation by a national trade journal for the second consecutive year, and chosen as a top technology innovator by *PC Week* magazine. Our popular Internet information service, *GPO Access*, earned another Hammer Award for innovative and efficient service provision as well as the American Association of Law Libraries first-ever Public Access to Government Information Award.

The year ended with extensive Y2K testing to ensure that GPO's systems were ready for the new millennium. I am pleased to report that GPO managed the transition to the Year 2000 successfully, with no disruptions to the essential systems supporting Congress' information products.

After two consecutive years of year-end net income, GPO completed FY 1999 with an under-recovery of \$5 million on \$765 million in total revenues, a margin of approximately six-tenths of one percent. The under-recovery was financed by retained earnings and did not place GPO in an anti-deficiency position or require additional appropriations.

The primary cause of the under-recovery was in our sales program, which is funded entirely by revenues earned on sales of publications. In a sense, GPO is a victim of its own success. The free availability of publications on *GPO Access* and other Government Web sites has contributed to reduced sales of printed products, although other factors—including reduced agency publishing and competition from other sales organizations, both public and private—have also contributed to reduced revenues.

We also experienced an under-recovery in our printing procurement program. We have made price adjustments in both programs to increase cost recovery in the future, and we are reviewing additional options to restore the sales program to a sound financial basis.

I am pleased to report that an audit of GPO's financial reports and systems for FY 1999 conducted by KPMG LLP, under contract with the General Accounting Office, resulted once again in a clean opinion for GPO.

As always, the achievements of FY 1999 must be attributed to the men and women of GPO. The skilled work of GPO's dedicated employees enables Congress to function smoothly and allows Federal agencies to fulfill their responsibilities effectively. Most importantly, their work makes it possible for the Federal Government to keep America informed. We look forward to continuing to fulfill this important responsibility.



MICHAEL F. DiMARIO
Public Printer
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