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The Department of Commerce encourages, serves, and promotes the Nation's international trade, economic growth, and technological advancement. The Department provides a wide variety of programs through the competitive free enterprise system. It offers assistance and information to increase America's competitiveness in the world economy; administers programs to prevent unfair foreign trade competition; provides social and economic statistics and analyses for business and government planners; provides research and support for the increased use of scientific, engineering, and technological development; works to improve our understanding and benefits of the Earth's physical environment and oceanic resources; grants patents and registers trademarks; develops policies and conducts research on telecommunications; provides assistance to promote domestic economic development; and assists in the growth of minority businesses.

The Department was designated as such by act of March 4, 1913 (15 U.S.C. 1501), which reorganized the Department of Commerce and Labor, created by act of February 14, 1903 (15 U.S.C. 1501), by transferring all labor activities into a new, separate Department of Labor. The Department of Commerce (DOC) is composed of the Office of the Secretary and the operating units.

Office of the Secretary

Secretary The Secretary is responsible for the administration of all functions and authorities assigned to the Department of Commerce and for advising the President on Federal policy and programs affecting the industrial and commercial segments of the national economy. The Secretary is served by the offices of Deputy Secretary, Inspector General, General Counsel, and the Assistant Secretaries of Administration, Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, and Public Affairs. Other offices whose public purposes are widely administered are detailed below.

Business Liaison This office develops and promotes a cooperative working relationship and ensures effective communication between the Department of Commerce and the business community. The Office's objectives are to keep the business community aware of Department and administration resources, policies, and programs, and to keep Department and administration officials aware of issues of concern to business. The Office also promotes business involvement in departmental policymaking and program development, and provides technical assistance to businesses that desire help in dealing with the Government.

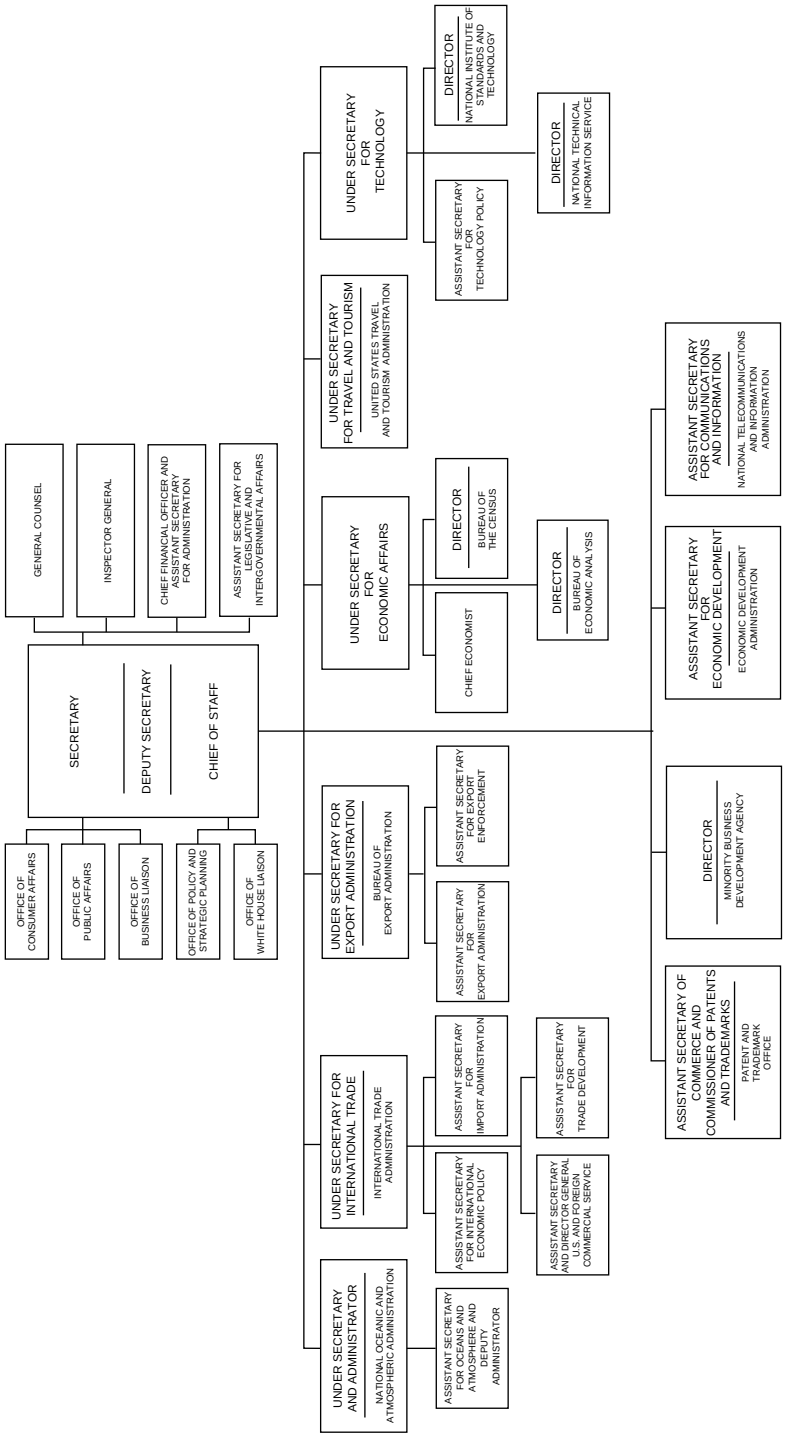
For further information, call 202–482–3942.

Consumer Affairs This office seeks to promote a better understanding between businesses and consumers, to help business improve the quality of their services, to educate consumers to make wise purchasing decisions, and to provide the consumer viewpoint in the development of economic policy. Through a variety of programs, the Office works with businesses, consumers, Government agencies, and international organizations to develop innovative ways to encourage American businesses to become more competitive both in the United States and in the global marketplace.

For further information, contact the Office of Consumer Affairs, U.S. Department of Commerce, Room H5718, Washington, DC 20230. Phone, 202–482–5001. Fax, 202–482–6007. Fax–on–demand, 202–501–1191. E-mail, caffairs@doc.gov. Internet, http://www.doc.gov/.

Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization The Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) serves as the principal departmental advocate for small, minority, and women business owners. It assures that small firms fully participate

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



in Commerce programs and receive the maximum amount of Commerce contract and subcontract dollars.

The Office is the focal point of the Department's constant efforts to increase awards to small firms by searching for opportunities to match with the capabilities of small, minority, and women-owned firms.

It informs the small business community about Commerce opportunities by publishing the *Annual Forecast of Contracts,* by individual counseling, and by participating with other Federal agencies and trade associations at procurement fairs.

The Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization was established by the Small Business Act, as amended (15 U.S.C. 644).

For further information, call 202–482–1472.

Economics and Statistics Administration

The Under Secretary for Economic Affairs advises the Secretary and other Government officials on matters relating to economic developments and forecasts and on the development of macroeconomic and microeconomic policy. The Under Secretary, as Administrator of the Economics and Statistics Administration, exercises general supervision over the Bureau of the Census and the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Current economic data are available to the public through the National Trade Data Bank and the Economic Bulletin Board.

For further information, call 202–482–1986.

Bureau of the Census

[For the Bureau of the Census statement of organization, see the *Federal Register* of Sept. 16, 1975, 40 FR 42765]

The Bureau of the Census was established as a permanent office by act of March 6, 1902 (32 Stat. 51). The major functions of the Bureau are authorized by the Constitution, which provides that a census of population shall be taken every 10 years, and by laws codified as title 13 of the United States Code. The law also provides that the information collected by the Bureau from individual persons, households, or establishments be kept strictly confidential and be used only for statistical purposes.

The principal functions of the Bureau include:

—decennial censuses of population and housing;

—quinquennial censuses of agriculture, State and local governments, manufacturers, mineral industries, distributive trades, construction industries, and transportation;

—current surveys that provide information on many of the subjects covered in the censuses at monthly, quarterly, annual, or other intervals;

—compilation of current statistics on U.S. foreign trade, including data on imports, exports, and shipping;

—special censuses at the request and expense of States and local government units;

—publication of estimates and projections of the population;

—publication of current data on population and housing characteristics; and

—current reports on manufacturing, retail and wholesale trade, services, construction, imports and exports, State and local government finances and employment, and other subjects.

The Bureau makes available statistical results of its censuses, surveys, and other programs to the public through printed reports, computer tape, CD–ROM's, the