

Additionally, the Appropriations Committees reiterate the concern expressed in both the House and Senate reports about the Native American Business Enterprise Centers (NABECs). The Committees oppose any action to reduce the current number of NABECs and it is hoped that MBDA can continue to support at least eight centers nationwide.

ECONOMIC AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The amended bill provides \$81,075,000 for this account, instead of \$86,500,000 as proposed by the House and \$85,000,000 as proposed by the Senate.

Expansion of Regional Data. — An additional \$1,175,000 is provided to the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) to expand and improve timeliness of regional data to benefit state and local officials and economic development organizations. This funding will enable BEA to develop and publish gross metropolitan product data and accelerate the availability of county-level income data. BEA is directed to report on the status of this effort on a quarterly basis during fiscal year 2008.

Offshoring. — As stated in the House Report, there is concern with government's lack of adequate statistics on the effects of offshoring and outsourcing on U.S. jobs. There is evidence that the phenomenon is growing, and increasingly is displacing jobs of U.S. workers. Recent reports have suggested that the volume of imports may be underestimated and that this may cause estimates of growth in U.S. manufacturing production to be overestimated by as much as 40 percent. The 20 to 1 gap between data from India showing \$8,700,000,000 in sales of business, professional and technical services to the U.S. and its companies and BEA data identifying only \$420,000,000 in imports of such services raises additional questions. Even if new BEA initiatives narrow the dollar gap in services trade somewhat, it will still leave unanswered key questions about the effects of imported goods and services on U.S. blue collar and white collar jobs. The BEA is directed to work with other agencies as appropriate, to submit a report not later than April 1, 2008, which examines the effect of both offshoring work abroad and outsourcing of imported labor in the future. The report should examine the following: 1) how best to estimate the effects of offshoring on U.S. production and jobs; and 2) how companies doing the most offshoring in either absolute or relative terms have changed a) the size or occupational structure of their jobs in the U.S., b) the companies' purchases from other U.S. suppliers, c) growth of their R&D expenditures either domestically or abroad, d) their rates of profitability, and e) the trend in these companies' use of H-1B and L-1 visas. The report should consider the effects of offshoring on both blue-collar workers and white-collar workers.

Intangible Assets. — Within funds provided the Bureau of Economic Analysis is directed to enter into an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences to conduct a study relating to the investment of intangible assets. This study shall recommend steps to improve the measurement of intangible assets and their incorporation in the National Income and Product Accounts; identify and estimate the size of the Federal Government's investment in intangible assets; survey other countries' efforts to measure and promote investments in intangible assets; and recommend policies to increase investment in intangible assets.

Accurately Reflecting Economic Conditions. — Within funds provided the BEA is directed to enter into an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences to conduct a study on methods for collecting data regarding the status of the U. S. economy and determine whether the current data results in an overstatement of economic growth, domestic manufacturing output, and productivity.

BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

The amended bill includes a total operating level of \$1,230,244,000 for the Bureau of the Census, instead of \$1,222,244,000 as proposed by the House and \$1,246,644,000 as proposed by the Senate.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

The amended bill provides \$202,838,000 for this account instead of \$196,838,000 as proposed by the House and \$226,238,000 as proposed by the Senate.

The amended bill provides \$24,000,000 for the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP). The amended bill does not include language contained in the Senate Report on improved service sector measurements and instead directs the \$8,000,000 from the service sector measurements toward revitalization of the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP).

PERIODIC CENSUSES AND PROGRAMS

The amended bill provides \$1,027,406,000 for this account instead of \$1,025,406,000 as proposed by the House and \$1,020,406,000 as proposed by the Senate. The amended bill includes \$797,114,000 for expenses related to the 2010 decennial census. The amended bill does not include \$5,500,000 for the American Community Survey (ACS) Methods Panel. As in the Senate Report, this funding is directed to higher priority programs because a recent review by the Government Accountability Office revealed that Census officials were not able to provide detailed action plans or costs associated with aspects of this program. The amended bill also does not include \$3,600,000 for the Master Address File (MAF). It should be noted that this reduction will have minimal impact as the Census Bureau will conduct a 100 percent address canvas in fiscal year 2009.

Partnerships. -The amended bill includes an additional \$9,100,000 for the Bureau of the Census to support partnership and outreach efforts in preparation for the 2010 Decennial Census with specific focus being placed on hard to reach populations. These funds should be used to hire additional personnel who have expertise in developing partnerships for the 2010 census, provide other support for Regional Partnership and Data Services Programs, and not less than \$1,000,000 for a national partnership program administered from Census headquarters. The census partnership program, which was not included in the budget request, is a vital component of the effort to obtain the most accurate decennial census count possible. The funding provided for the program will help enlist community leaders to encourage their constituencies to fill out their census forms, emphasizing the importance of the census to their local community and education system. This outreach is particularly important in communities that are difficult to count.

NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION