

President Ford today announced publication of the first issue of STATUS, A Monthly Chartbook of Social and Economic Trends.

STATUS is a document of tremendous positive potential, the President said. "It encompasses the output of up to 20,000 Federal statisticians, reduced to chart form, and covering the critical domestic statistics of all aspects of American life -- economic, social and political.

"For the first time, this information will be made available to the American people in one consolidated publication. Up to now, most of this material has been issued through numerous separate departmental and agency publications."

The publication had its origin a year ago when major Federal statistical agencies began to prepare a selection of computer-drawn charts as a briefing reference at the request of the President and the Vice President.

"I was so impressed with the usefulness of the material being produced that I decided, if these facts were available to the American people and distributed throughout the Federal Government on a monthly basis, both the public and the whole Government would mutually benefit," the President said.

"STATUS will encourage ... broader use of statistics by systematically bringing together critical domestic information from all Federal agencies and expressing it in clear and easily understandable chart form," the President added.

Included in the first issue of STATUS are charts covering such standard indicators as the gross national product, employment and unemployment, personal income, and the consumer price index. In addition, there are charts and tables showing U.S. population projections, labor turnover, characteristics of women, housing trends, criminal justice expenditures, and voter participation in elections.

A special 15-page bicentennial feature in the first issue reviews historical U.S. statistics on population, agriculture, employment, and other subjects from Colonial times to the present.

In order to compare developments here with those in other industrialized countries, comparative data on selected items such as unemployment and prices are also being included.

The new magazine has been designed for the general public as well as for a broad audience of decision- and policymakers in all fields. STATUS is not intended for the exclusive use of the professional statistician or economist.

The first three monthly issues available in July, August, and September will be sold as single issues (at \$3.60 each), and may be ordered from Subscriber Services Section (Publications), U.S. Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C. 20233.

Although the Bureau of the Census has the responsibility of preparing the magazine for publication each month, the contents are selected with the aid of two committees -- a technical committee and a smaller editorial committee established by the Office of Management and Budget. The editorial committee consists of representatives from the following Federal agencies:

-- Department of Agriculture: Economic Research Service and Statistical Reporting Service.

-- Department of Commerce: Bureau of the Census and Bureau of Economic Analysis.

-- Department of Health, Education, and Welfare: National Center for Educational Statistics, National Center for Health Statistics, and Social Security Administration.

-- Department of the Interior: Bureau of Mines.

-- Department of Justice: Law Enforcement Assistance Administration.

- Department of Labor: Bureau of Labor Statistics.
- Department of the Treasury: Internal Revenue Service.
- Federal Energy Administration.
- Federal Reserve System.

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