

THE PHILIPPINE STATISTICAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR FY 1975 TO 1978 *

I. THE NEED FOR SOUND STATISTICS IN ECONOMIC PLANNING

Statistics on a wide variety of subjects are essential to coordinated national efforts for economic and social development. The statistics collected, to be meaningful and useful, must reflect the nature of the country's economy, its stage of development and its institutional structure. Stressing the urgency of undertaking statistical development as a primary requisite for planning, the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (now the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific) emphasized the need for formulating statistical projects in detail and to include them in the national plans for economic and social development.

In determining the basic requirements for statistics in programs of economic and social development, the features which in general are common to such programs must be taken into consideration. For example, these programs have to be based on quantitative information relating to (a) the basic economic and social structure, (b) the current economic and social conditions, and (c) the available resources and their use. The statistical system must, therefore, provide up-to-date and reliable data on the magnitude and characteristics of the population and labor force, the character and level of production and living conditions, the supply and demand for goods and services, external finances, etc. Furthermore, in order to permit the setting of consistent targets for the various sectors of the economy, well-coordinated data are needed showing the inter-relationships between the inputs of materials, energy and labor and the outputs of goods and services in the various sectors, and between production, incomes, consumption and

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savings. Finally, to assess the progress in the execution of the program and to identify the problems and obstacles standing in the way towards the fulfillment of program goals, the statistical system should be able to provide measures for determining changes in the economic and social conditions.

In the following paragraphs are presented: (a) an appraisal of the statistical system and its problems; and (b) overall objective and specific areas of statistical development activities.

II. THE PHILIPPINE STATISTICAL SYSTEM AND ITS PROBLEMS

1. The Philippine Statistical System

The Philippine Statistical System is a decentralized system with a number of agencies engaged in major statistical operations and services and a central coordinating authority.

The bulk of the statistics produced by the government is collected by the following agencies: (1) the National Census and Statistics Office, the major statistical operating agency, which is responsible for the conduct of all censuses and the collection, summarization and dissemination of general purpose statistics, as well as civil registration; (2) the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, which has responsibility for research and production of current information relating to the agricultural search of the economy; (3) the Department of Economic Research of the Central Bank of the Philippines, which has responsibility for the production of data on money and banking and related statistics; (4) the Labor Statistics and Information Service, which has responsibility for labor statistics and data on labor market, wage rates, collective bargaining agreements, and related operational labor information; and (5) the Disease Intelligence Center, which by virtue of its surveillance and disease intelligence functions, has responsibility for current information on the health conditions and health services in the country. In addition, there exist more than one hundred fifty other units in the various government departments, bureaus, offices, agencies and instrumentalities that produce statistics as by-products of their administrative and regulatory functions.

Training of statistical manpower for the various statistical and research offices, both government and private, is a primary activity of the University of the Philippines Statistical Center

(UPSC), while the integration of EDP operations in the Government is a responsibility of the National Computer Center (NCC).

As the central coordinating body, the Statistics Office of the National Economic and Development Authority has the following functions and responsibilities: serves as the liaison between the various statistical entities comprising the system, develops an overall program of statistical production, allocates statistical activities among the agencies, prescribes statistical standards, reviews and clears reporting forms, and assesses the current situation in the system for the necessary remedial measures. Aside from its coordinating functions, the Statistics Office, is also responsible for the estimation and analysis of the national income and product developing new techniques and data required in economic planning and analysis.

2. The Present State of Statistics

An appraisal of existing statistics in the country show the following deficiencies and inadequacies:

(a) The lack of more detailed statistics; inadequacy of statistics for smaller geographical areas

The bulk of statistics currently collected and compiled is mainly of the aggregative type and lacks the necessary detail as well as scope to permit more detailed analysis of the structure and workings of the economy. For example, there is very scanty quantitative information on the quantity and value of production, distribution and consumption of goods at the commodity level as well as on finer breakdown of production costs. There is likewise an inadequacy of statistics on important characteristics of the population and economic activities at smaller geographic levels. The accelerated tempo of economic and social development efforts has brought about an urgent need for a much wider range of statistical detail in the body of statistics collected by government agencies. The current stress on regional planning and the preparation of national income accounts and inter-industry tables which should provide a more comprehensive picture of the country's economic structure require the collection and organization of much more basic information in greater detail and finer geographic coverage than what are currently available.

(b) A wealth of data collected by government agencies as by-products of administrative and regulatory functions remain unprocessed

There exist in the files and records of government offices substantial useful quantitative information which remain unprocessed for lack of processing facilities, technical know-how, or simply due to lack of interest on the part of officials concerned. Such data could provide a wealth of information useful in economic planning, economic analysis and policy decisions. To properly process and put such data in usable form, there is need to create and/or strengthen the statistical units in various government agencies.

(c) The need for more effective planning programming and implementation of government statistical activities

There is still much to be desired regarding the present system of allocating scarce resources for carrying out important statistical activities. Despite the substantial increase in budgetary appropriations for major operating statistical agencies of the government, serious gaps still exist in the statistical information in such areas as construction, services, transportation, warehousing, and non-profit institutions. The data requirements of the land reform program, a rational foreign investment program, industry studies for wage administration and a host of other problems with significant economic implications need to be met.

Furthermore, there is still some duplication of efforts in the collection and processing of statistics in such areas as prices, production and employment in non-agricultural establishments, etc. This resulted in an increased reluctance on the part of respondents, particularly industrial establishments and other business elements, in providing desired statistical information. The business and industrial sectors have often complained about too many forms to fill and too many government agencies collecting the same type if not the same information.

(d) The need for training and career development of government statistical personnel

The increasing demand for more and highly specialized type of quantitative information has correspondingly increased

the need for training of professional statistical manpower as well as those of primary and intermediate level statistical workers.

To help foster career development of statistical personnel, there is need to intensify and expand the program for recruitment and training of new statistical workers at all levels, to continuously up-grade government statisticians through workshops, seminars and fellowships, and to expand and strengthen facilities and resources for academic programs in statistics.

(e) Time-lag between data collection and publication of results still a problem

The increase in the data processing capabilities of government agencies has considerably shortened the gap between data collection and publication of results of censuses and surveys conducted by them. However, the time-lag remains to be a problem. For instance, while preliminary results from the 1970 census of population and housing became available within a year after enumeration date, inadequacy of technical manpower, equipment and other needed resources has delayed for as long as three years the availability of detailed analysis tables. Similarly, the results of the 1971 agricultural census have yet to be released.

III. OBJECTIVES AND SPECIFIC AREAS OF STATISTICAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

1. The Overall Objective

The long-term objective is to raise the overall performance of the Philippine Statistical System and, thus, provide at all times a set of integrated statistics useful for socio-economic planning and development.

2. Specific Objectives

The program of statistical development activities are intended to attain the following specific objectives:

(a) To bring about a more effective planning, programming, and implementation of the statistical activities of the government and thus bring about a balanced and orderly development of the country's national statistical services;

(b) To increase both the coverage and detail of existing socio-economic statistics in the country and organize basic data required in new techniques in economic analysis and planning;

(c) To create and/or increase the capability of statistical units in various administrative and regulatory agencies of government, both on the national and local levels, so that statistics they collect as by-product of their administrative and regulatory functions can be put in proper form and made available to users;

(d) To initiate the production of new statistical series to meet the growing demand for varied socio-economic information;

(e) To accelerate the training and development of statistical manpower in the country.

(f) To regulate, through the institutions of effective control procedures and the possible integration of field operations and data processing activities, the collection and processing of information from business, industry, government, and the general public; and

(g) To eliminate within the shortest time possible the backlog in the processing and releasing of results of statistical surveys and related inquiries.

3. Specific Areas of Statistical Development Activities

Keeping the objectives in mind, a program of statistical development activities was prepared after an initial assessment of the responsibilities and proposed activities of the various government agencies as well as the available resources, problems, and needs of the statistical entities concerned.

Statistical projects or activities programmed over the period from FY 1975 to FY 1978 for which the detailed activity and cost breakdowns by agency and by fiscal year are shown in the attached tables have been categorized into the following according to the major objectives:

a. Undertaking Quinquennial and/or Decennial Census Operations

Includes all censuses of population, housing, agriculture,

fishery, forestry and other economic activities. A census operation ranges from major preparatory activities to publication and dissemination of census results. Post enumeration surveys and other activities undertaken to check the final tables are included.

b. Improvement of Existing Statistical Activities

Includes all on-going, continuing and regular activities for the production (collection, processing, interpretation and dissemination) of statistics by an agency or an identifiable statistical unit of the agency. In the listing of these activities to (a) the expansion of area coverage or increase in geographic and characteristic detail of the statistics compiled, (b) the shortening of time lag between data collection to publication or release of results with speed in data processing, (c) the improvement of the quality of information, and (d) the improvement of operational efficiency such as reduction of duplicating efforts, integration of field operations and related activities.

c. Initiation of New Statistical Activities

Includes all new projects or activities began during the current year and proposed projects or activities for the next year or later years. Of course, the objective or purpose for undertaking such new activities may generally be to improve existing series or to fill up gaps between available statistics and data needed for planning. A new statistical activity means that the agency or unit concerned has not been engaged in it during the recent past. Census taking which is done every five years or so is included under Census Operations.

d. Strengthening of Statistical Capability of Other Government Agencies

Includes projects and/or activities directed towards increasing the capability of government agencies that collect data not as their major function but merely as by-projects of their administrative and/or regulatory activities. Technical assistance activities to achieve this objective may involve the creation of a statistical unit in the assisted agency where none exists or the provision of additional statistical personnel and equipment to an existing unit. A number of government agencies such as the SEC, Bureau of Transportation, Bureau of Public Schools, Bureau of Private Schools, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Philippine National Railways, Bureau of

Internal Revenue, etc. collect a mass of data in the performance of their regular functions. Assistance to these agencies could maximize the usefulness of their data compilations for themselves and other users.

Also includes statistical assistance to local governments by the expansion of agency field operations to include the installation of more statistical workers or municipal census officers.

e. Training and Development of Statistical Manpower

Includes all activities of government agencies directed towards the provision of statistical training and the development of manpower for statistical services. The faculty development program, academic program and in-service-training programs of the University of the Philippines Statistical Center (UPSC), the only government institution offering formal courses in statistics, are included here.

Seminars, workshops and other training programs in statistics undertaken by government agencies such as the NCSO, BAEcon, DER-CB, LSIS-DOL, SO-NEDA, and the others should also be included. Statistical training and fellowships of government personnel obtained abroad are likewise included.

f. Improvement of Statistical Coordination and Standards

Includes all the regular activities of the Statistics Office, NEDA, as well as those of the Statistical Advisory Board. These activities involve the development of an overall statistical program, a periodic survey and assessment of government statistical services, revision and/or development of standard classification systems, various inter-agency committee activities, and review and clearance of statistical forms by the Statistical Coordination Staff (SCS). Preparation of the national income accounts and periodic input-output tables by the National Accounts Staff (NAS) and the national food balance sheets by the SCS are classified under improvement of existing statistical series. Of course, these systems serve as useful framework for coordination rather than to the other categories.

4. Selected Major Projects or Activities Included in the Program

Some of the more important projects or activities included

in the program under each of the above objective categories are described as follows:

a. Quinquennial and Decennial Census Operations

(1) The 1975 Integrated Census of Population and Economic Activities

With this operation, the NCSO embarks on a program of collecting every five years massive basic data on the population and its characteristics on a more frequent basis than the usual ten years interval. The last population census was taken on May 1, 1970. The Integrated Census is planned for enumeration on May 1, 1975. Although less comprehensive than its predecessor, the Integrated Census shall integrate the personal characteristics of the population with their production and income from such economic activities engaged in as farming or backyard gardening, livestock and poultry raising, fishing, manufacturing, processing or repair of goods, and others including own account activities. The results of this census shall provide information not only on the population size and distribution in the country but also on their relationships with the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of individuals and households. Based on experience in the last census, the Post Enumeration Survey for the 1975 Integrated Census will feature improvements in (a) concepts and definitions, (b) sample design and (c) procedures and techniques.

(2) The 1976 Census of Establishments

Censuses of all establishments engaged in economic activities have been undertaken by the NCSO in 1961, 1967 and 1972 at intervals of about five years. The 1976 Census continues and updates the established periodic series. It shall provide integrated data on the eight major fields of economic activities such as logging, mining and quarrying; manufacturing; construction; electricity, gas and water; commerce; transportation, communication, storage and warehousing; and services. Basic statistics on physical location, ownership, employment, compensation, fixed assets and capital expenditures, inventories, receipts and costs shall be gathered. More detailed information particularly on small manufacturing establishments will be gathered this time than in the past censuses. These data will provide much needed bases for planning. The results are also expected to be used in the preparation of national income and input-output accounts, and the listing of large and small estab-

Establishments shall provide a frame for planning and designing subsequent economic surveys.

b. Improvement of Existing Statistical Activities

(1) The System of National Accounts by Statistics Office, NEDA

Since its inception, the system of national accounts (SNA) of the Philippines has undergone a continuing process of improvement in quality, frequency, and details in presentation in response to the ever-increasing demands of development planning. An overall revision of the national income series in 1968 resulted from the integration of all previous studies on improvement of the estimates. In 1971, the publication of a national accounts manual, **Sources and Methods of Estimation for the National Accounts of the Philippines** and the hosting by the National Economic Council of the National Accounts Workshop seminar triggered off a redoubling of improvement efforts. The seminar provided the forum for discussion by academicians, basic data producers, and users of national accounts of the major problem areas and deficiencies in the basic data and methodology used in national income estimation. The availability of the results of the 1967 Economic Censuses, the 1970 Population Census, and annual and quarterly surveys of establishments initiated in 1968 and 1969 was a much needed boost to the improvement programs.

For the first time, semestral estimates of the gross national product by industrial origin and by expenditure shares were initiated in September 1971, shifting to quarterly estimation in September 1974. Updating the national accounts on an annual, semestral, and quarterly basis is a continuing activity of the NEDA Statistics Office.

Undertaken as a joint venture between the NEDA Statistics Office and the NCSO, the 1969 Interindustry Relations Tables for the Philippines has just been completed at the 201-sector level of disaggregation. Reduction of these tables to a 120 x 120 and 60 x 60 sector matrices is programmed to be completed before the end of this year. Meanwhile, preliminary activities are underway for the preparation of the 1973 input-output tables.

(2) NCSO Annual and Quarterly Surveys of Establishments

Surveys of large and small establishments in almost all

economic fields (manufacturing, mining, quarrying, electricity, gas, water, construction and services) are regularly conducted every year and every quarter by the NCSO for the purpose of providing up-to-date information on the current situation and trends in the level of economic activity of the country. Each survey is actually an improvement over previous ones in terms of expansion in scope and coverage, increase in detail, and integration of questionnaires and field operations.

Improvements on annual surveys of establishments is primarily directed to cutting drastically the current time lag of 2-3 years to a minimum of 6-8 months while providing the vehicle for the collection, processing and tabulation of principal establishment characteristics useful for estimation and improvement of the system of national accounts. Special tabulation programs were run to present results for calendar years 1967 and 1971 at the regional level to meet the requirements of regional income accounts. Special runs for 1972 and 1973, also at the regional level are programmed for completion by the end of 1974.

The annual and quarterly surveys of manufacturing, will have expanded coverage to include all sizes of employment and a breakdown for size 10-19 persons engaged in large establishments. In mining and quarrying, the surveys will have a complete coverage of all establishments to include those with employment of less than 5 workers. In wholesale and retail trade, a new set of samples for the annual survey was selected by computer from the 1972 Economic Census and from the quarterly surveys a new base (the year 1973 instead of the quarter) will be used. Quarterly surveys on output of selected manufactured goods shall include additional commodities. Surveys of construction projects of local government shall increase in frequency from once to twice a year and the data collection for both the public and private sectors shall be integrated. The surveys of local government employment and payroll shall continue on a quarterly basis rather than only two times a year.

In early 1970, the NCSO in response to the need for more reliable basis for monthly indicators of growth in non-agricultural sectors of the economy, launched its quarterly surveys of establishments (QSE). Prior to this, the only available series on physical volume of industrial production, gross sales, employment and wage rates were based on a small sample of co-operating establishments reporting quarterly to the Central Bank. It was the consensus that the series was inadequate

in terms of reflecting actual growth trends. The QSE initially covered some 35,000 sample establishments designed to provide monthly data on gross receipts, employment and payroll even at provincial levels. Beset by problems of follow-up, the non-response rate increased, bringing about problems of estimation.

Early in 1974, the NCSO in cooperation with the NEDA Statistics Office gave priority to the updating and improvement of current sample surveys to make them more responsive to the requirements of planning and policy formulation. Matched samples were subjected to intensified field follow-up and data processing speeded up cutting the time lag of data availability to a mere six weeks after the last month of the subject quarter. This made possible the initiation of quarterly national income estimation in September of 1974.

The QSE questionnaire and sampling design are presently undergoing revision. The overall sample of less than 10,000 establishments will be reduced to effect more efficiency in field operation, reduce non-response and shorten further the time lag to less than 5 weeks. A nationwide listing of all establishments will be undertaken by the end of 1974 with the help of barangays to update the sampling frame and collect ancillary information which could provide a better basis for a more efficient sample design and more reliable estimates of levels and trends.

(3) NCSO Quarterly Surveys of Households

Statistical surveys of households are a continuing activity of the NCSO to collect data on the principal characteristics of the labor force, employment, underemployment and unemployment. Occasionally, additional data on family income and expenditure, demographic and socio-economic characteristics of households are collected through these surveys. Bi-annual surveys have been regularly conducted since 1956. Increased frequency to quarterly was initiated in March 1971 when improvements of sample design based on the 1970 Population Census results were made. While these surveys continue, each succeeding round reflects increased operational efficiency from experience gained in previous surveys.

The survey designs of the NCSO quarterly household surveys and the BAEcon Integrated Agricultural Surveys is presently under study by an inter-agency team for the purpose of integrating their sampling designs to effect economy and effi-

ciency in the use of field personnel and data processing facilities. The survey design will attempt to phase and integrate data collecting activities of the two agencies in both farm and non-farm households all over the country. The master sample design is expected to be completed and operational in 1975.

(4) NCSO Monthly Surveys of Establishments

Monthly surveys of output of commodities, private building construction and prices of commodities and services are planned by the NCSO to be continued. Coverage of the survey of construction will be expanded to cover other important trade and business areas in addition to chartered cities and provincial capitals presently covered. The surveys of prices will include additional commodity items and cover all municipalities with census officers aside from Manila and suburbs and provincial capitals. Consumer price indices constructed from these price data collections shall be based on a later year 1971 instead of 1966 and shall have wider scope and more extensive coverage.

(5) Other NCSO Activities

The NCSO plans to continue and improve on such other on-going activities as the compilation of statistics on international trade and domestic shipping; production of vital and social statistics and civil registration; input-output studies and economic researches, mapping, charting and geographic activities; electronic data processing activities; publication; and statistical information; while statistical training and staff development activities and expansion of field operations will also be continued, these are included under another category.

(6) BAEcon Integrated Agricultural Survey (IAS)

The quarterly Integrated Agricultural Surveys constitute a major continuing activity of the BAEcon undertaken in October, April, January and June every year. The first three rounds are for forecasting crop production and for collecting data on farm prices and wages. The June round provides final estimates on total crop production and on livestock and poultry numbers for small farms. The estimates of livestock and poultry population for large farms are obtained from the January survey of large commercial livestock and poultry farms. Additional information collected in this round are prices, wages, data on utilization of farm inputs, and on palay and corn stock disposition. Since 1973, the January and June IAS became

major rounds, the former providing estimates of crop production for July to December as well as livestock and poultry inventory as of January 1st and the latter collecting information on crop estimates for January to June.

Improvements planned for the IAS include increasing the sample size in order to obtain provincial instead of regional estimates, and the application of objective yield measurements on crops by area sampling and by the use of aerial photographs and maps in sampling.

(7) BAEcon Surveys of Large Commercial Livestock and Poultry Farms

Tied up with the final round of the IAS, which gathers information from small farms, this activity helps determine the population from small farms, this activity helps determine the population and slaughter data on livestock and poultry. To improve statistics obtained from this survey, it is proposed to collect data quarterly and semestraly on population and slaughters by FY 1975. The survey will now use an updated frame and more efficient sample design in quarterly rounds. There are also plans to conduct a joint survey with the Bureau of Animal Industry for the collection of slaughter data from municipal slaughterhouses which are neither covered by this survey nor the IAS.

(8) BAEcon Monthly and Quarterly Surveys on Palay and Corn Stocks

This monthly activity of the BAEcon which determine palay and corn stocks from warehouses is programmed to be a bi-monthly activity. By FY 1975, the survey will expand in coverage as it will collect information on stocks held by retailers and wholesalers and it will determine the normal level of rice or palay stocks which do not enter commercial channels.

(9) BAEcon Monthly Price Surveys

This monthly survey on prices paid and received by farmers for the different regions is scheduled to be conducted bi-monthly by FY 1975. The main improvement of this survey is the use of a better survey questionnaire.

(10) BAEcon Survey of Farm Wages

This survey which is done quarterly to gather data on daily farm wage rates for the different regions will be replaced by farm labor survey by FY 1975. This new survey will be conducted bi-monthly.

(11) LSIS-DOL Survey of Non-Agricultural Establishments

This is a regular sample survey activity of the Department of Labor to collect data on employment, hours worked and earnings in non-agricultural establishments. While previous surveys were only for the Manila Labor Market Area, operations beginning FY 1975 will extend to other labor market areas in the country. Additional labor information such as turnover, absenteeism, unionism, training and related data will also be collected. Increased frequency to a quarterly basis is likewise planned.

(12) DER-CB Revision of Statistical Series on Labor, Manufacturing Production and Prices

The continuing series on employment, wages and earnings of the Central Bank from a survey of 536 sample corporations with 1965 as base year is programmed to be revised to cover a wider scope and to have a more recent base year 1971. The index of manufacturing production is also being revised to cover all industry groups up to 4-digit level and use 1971 as base year. For all of its price statistics series similar revisions of base year to 1971 as well as commodity and outlet coverage are planned. The 1949 to 1975 series of Consumer, wholesale and retail price indices (1971 = 100) will be recomputed on a monthly and yearly basis.

(13) DIC-DH Mortality, Natality and Morbidity Statistics

The mechanism for reporting to the Disease Intelligence Center of data on mortality and natality has been established and will be continued. Morbidity surveys are planned to be undertaken for other areas within commuting distance of Greater Manila Area.

(14) Wage Commission Surveys on Base Compensation of Key Industrial Classes

Surveys of key industries such as banking and insurance; textile industry; paints, varnishes and lacquer industry; and drugs and pharmaceutical industry have recently been conducted by the Wage Commission to collect information on basic salaries, supplementary compensation and personnel practices currently existing in them as guides to its wage fixing function. Surveys of this type are planned to be expanded to cover other industries and to include all regions of the country.

(15) National Manpower and Youth Council (NMYC) Manpower Assessment Surveys

A comprehensive sample survey of the manpower situation was conducted by the NMYC in 1972 which covered the nine major sectors of the economy by region. Results of the survey serve as bases for determining future manpower requirements of these sectors. The NMYC expects to improve and update the survey every two years.

(16) Food and Nutrition Research Center (FNRC) Food Consumption Surveys

Food consumption surveys have been regularly conducted by the FNRC for selected regions of the country. A survey of Greater Manila and Luzon was conducted in 1974. Extension of the survey to cover the Visayas and then Mindanao are programmed by the Center. In all these surveys one day food consumption data are collected by means of the food weighing technique.

(17) Improvement of Statistical Activities in Other Agencies

A number of government agencies (about twenty eight of them with identifiable statistical units are included in the program) carry on with increasing interest statistical activities such as collecting primary and secondary data principally for their own use in planning implementation of their main functions and responsibilities.

For example, (1) the Bureau of Fisheries compiles and publishes current fish production statistics, (2) the Bureau of Mines collects statistics on mineral production, (3) the Bu-

reau of Forest Development compiles Philippine forestry statistics, (4) the Department of Social Welfare gathers performance statistics and undertakes research projects on social welfare, (5) the Child and Youth Research Center undertakes surveys of Filipino children and youth as well as related ongoing projects, (6) the National Food and Agriculture Council conduct surveys on the marketing aspects of various foods and collect statistics on agricultural food programs and related data, and (7) the Bureau of Public Works compiles statistics on construction and improvement of public buildings and projects.

c. Initiation of New Statistical Activities

(1) Regional Income Accounts by the Statistics Office, NEDA

The Regional Income Accounts Project of the NEDA Statistics Office was set up in April 1974 to develop a regional dimension for the National Income Accounts. It recently came out with first estimates of the CY 1967 gross domestic product by industrial origin for each of the eleven regions of the country. Regional estimates for CY 1971, 1972 and 1973 are expected to be completed by FY 1975. To ensure the regular annual compilation of the regional accounts, the project is planned for integration into the National Accounts Staff in FY 1976. Preparation of regional input-output tables will next be considered when basic data required become available.

(2) NEDA-CB Flow-of-Funds Accounts Project

A joint project between the NEDA Statistics Office and the CB Department of Economic Research is being developed for the preparation of a flow-of-funds accounts for the Philippines. Together with the national income and input-output accounts, the flow-of-funds accounts is planned to provide the missing link for a fully integrated system of economic accounts called for by the revised UN System of National Accounts.

(3) Regional Surveys on Data Gaps by the Statistics Office, NEDA

Sample surveys of private construction, fishpond sustenance fishing, land transportation and professionals by the NEDA Statistics Office in collaboration with the NCSO are planned to be undertaken for the principal purpose of filling basic data gaps for regional income estimation.

(4) NCSO Annual and Quarterly Surveys of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing Establishments

A first national sample survey of establishments engaged in agriculture, forestry and fishing is planned to be undertaken by the NCSO in 1975. Data on employment, payrolls and gross receipts will be collected. From the annual survey, the list of establishments will be updated for purposes of the quarterly survey.

(5) NCSO Population Research Project

A two-year project on population research for FY 1975 and FY 1976 is being undertaken by the NCSO with funding from UNFPA. Its major objective is to strengthen population research at the NCSO, including research on population projections and migration.

(6) NEDA-BAEcon-PCAR Survey of Capital Formation in Agriculture

This national sample survey project for FY 1975 to 1976, jointly funded by NEDA, BAEcon and the Philippine Council for Agricultural Research, aims to update the information gathered in the 1956 Survey of Capital Formation in Agriculture. The sampling design will be multi-stage with a sample size of about 11,500 farm households to be drawn from 1,800 barrios enumerated in the first and third rounds and a sub-sample of about 4,500 households in the second round. Data field collection by personal interview will be done in these full-month rounds at intervals of six months. Related additional information on the social and educational conditions of the farmers will be collected to enable evaluation of the social benefits derived from capital accumulation.

(7) BAEcon Quarterly Analysis of Family Income and Expenditures in Agriculture

This one year project proposed for FY 1975 seeks to measure the levels of consumption and expenditures of the various income groups in the rural areas and determine the effects of income variations on consumption. The survey is intended to serve as a frame of reference for more comprehensive household surveys in the future. It will cover only 65 sample bar-

rios where information will be gathered by direct interviews on a quarterly basis. This will make possible the transformation from the static model to a dynamic one by considering quarterly changes. It will also look into the factors affecting expenditures on the family market basket of goods. Income sensitivity and income and price elasticities for certain products will be determined from data in the household budget by income class.

(8) NEDA-BAEcon-PCAR Study of Agricultural Commodity Balance Sheets in the Philippines

This project will establish benchmark information for selected agricultural commodities as to their values and quantity of production at the national and regional levels. Estimates of household consumption and also intermediate consumption levels for these agricultural commodity items by industrial sector and by other users will be determined. The interest will also focus on the mark-up coefficients as these agricultural commodities move from producers to users.

This study is scheduled to be in operation by January 1975 and it will last for one year. The results of the commodity balance sheet project are expected to lend valuable support to the validity of the input-output tables of benchmark years. It can also serve as a check on the corresponding figures entered in the Food Balance Sheet which is an important source document of the nation's food consumption and nutritional intake levels. The commodity balance sheets reflect the country's per capita consumption of a given commodity or group of commodities, the extent of dependence on exports and/or imports, and stock of these commodity levels, which information are useful to macro-and micro-level planners in the formulation of interrelated statistics and in the evaluation of statistics from the viewpoint of reality, deficiency of classification, gaps, etc.

Collection of data will be done through interviews of sample households at the barrio level by employing a two-stage sampling scheme with the barrio as the first stage and the household as the second stage.

(9) UE-PCAR Project on Family Income and Expenditure Patterns for the Philippines

The project will deal with the income and expenditure pattern of families by means of the record keeping made by them.

over a specified period of time. The survey covers 35,000 families distributed according to area (rural and urban); type of family (farm and non-farm); income level (twenty different income levels); occupation; and education. The project will attempt to cover all commodities that enter into the consumer's budget and come out with a weekly pattern of income and expenditures for the Philippines by provinces and regions.

The project will be conducted for one and a half years to specifically determine the following: (a) the expenditure patterns of the different income levels of the Philippine society; (b) the patterns and trends in the expenditure for food, clothings, etc. by provinces; (c) the variables that will be a good indicator for consumption of food items; and (d) to establish a benchmark for future small surveys in the country.

This study is a project of the University of the East and the PCAR. Thus, the cooperators in this undertaking are the UE faculty members and students, while the group cooperating are the college supervisors, faculty supervisors, faculty cooperators (faculty-in-charge of classes) and student's families, relatives and friends.

(10) BAEcon Project for Improvement of Methodology in Agricultural Data Collection

This project is intended to form the basis for an improved sampling survey design and procedures adequate for the estimation of various agricultural parameters at the provincial level. Area sampling survey scheme developed for two pilot provinces will be applied to eleven others in FY 1975. Based on this experience expansion of the program to cover all the '71 provinces is planned.

(11) Wage Commission Regional Surveys on Levels of Living of Minimum-Wage Families

In FY 1974, the Wage Commission completed a survey on levels of living for Greater Manila. This project for FY 1976 is an extension of the previous one to cover all regions of the country.

(12) NMYC Studies of High Level Manpower and Wage Differentials

These studies proposed by the National Manpower and Youth Council for FY 1975 are for the purposes of ascertaining

the supply of high-level manpower and its characteristics for planning training programs, and determining wage structure by occupation and by sector at the regional level for establishing wage policies.

(13) Planning and Development Office-Department of Public Works, Transportation and Communication Transport Survey

The Metro Manila Transport Survey covering bus operators was conducted by the Department of Public Works, Transportation and Communication to identify transport problems in the area needing immediate attention. Expansion and extension of the survey to cover the entire country is proposed.

(14) Tourism and Related Surveys by Department of Tourism

The Department of Tourism conducted a survey of outgoing visitors and a domestic tourism survey in 1974 to gather information on the requirement standards and performance of foreign and domestic tourists. Activities relating to these are proposed to continue including a plan to computerize the compilation of tourism statistics by 1976. A survey of hotels in all regions of the country which shall also update the Hotel Directory of the Philippines is proposed for FY 1975.

(15) Department of Social Welfare National Survey on Social Welfare Needs and Resources

For the improvement of social statistics, the Department of Social Welfare in cooperation with the NCSO and USAID plans to undertake a national survey on social welfare needs and resources in FY 1975. Analysis and interpretation of the survey results is expected to run until FY 1976. Conducting similar surveys every five years is being considered.

d. Strengthening of Statistical Capability of Other Government Agencies

One of the important activities that the NEDA Statistics Office has initiated is the Statistical Assistance Project to selected agencies which was envisioned to create statistical units in some agencies of government or increase the capabilities of those already existing. Essentially, the Project is a joint activity of the two offices concerned to improve and

develop methods for turning into statistical uses for planning and economic analyses the information which agencies accumulate as by-products of their regulatory and administrative functions. In addition to technical assistance, the NEDA provides financial support up to a period of at least one year. One such project that was launched in early fiscal year 1975 is the Statistical Assistance Project for the Securities and Exchange Commission. After its termination, the Project will be turned over to the SEC and integrated in its regular budget so as to carry on the system of organized statistical activities which the Project will have set up. Similar projects are envisioned in the future to extend assistance to selected government offices at the rate of about two or three agencies a year.

On the local government level, the program includes the expansion of field operations of the National Census and Statistics Office (NCSO) to effect the collection of data from the lowest political subdivision of the country. As of June 30, 1974, the NCSO created positions for 62 provincial census officers and 287 municipal census assistants to man its field offices. The collection of accomplished questionnaire is expected to be intensified and extensive personal follow-up of reports from respondents will be implemented for the annual and quarterly surveys and the economic census. Data pertaining to conditions in the local areas will be tabulated in the field offices and be made available to local users of statistics, including the regional planning bodies.

e. Training and Development of Statistical Manpower

One principal requisite for statistical development is the training and career development of statistical manpower. This calls for the intensification and expansion of the program for recruitment and training of new statistical workers at all levels, the continuous up-grading of government statisticians through workshops, seminars and fellowships, and the expansion and strengthening of facilities and resources for academic programs in statistics.

The U.P. Statistical Center currently carries out an academic program for both undergraduate and graduate professional training in statistics offering courses leading to Bachelor of Science in Statistics, Master of Statistics and Master of Science in Statistics.

In-service training programs provide training in basic statistics, research methods and statistical personnel. Presently, the U.P. Statistical Center, in cooperation with the National Manpower and Youth Council (NMYC) and the National Census and Statistics Office (NCSO) is conducting the first Statistical Manpower Training for intermediate level statisticians. The course will run for a period of five (5) months. There are two groups of trainees undergoing this program. One group is composed of those who passed the open competitive mathematics examination given by the NCSO and who will eventually be absorbed by the said office while the other group is composed of employees from various statistical agencies of the government. This training program will be conducted twice a year to fill in the needs of the various government agencies for statistically trained people.

The training of statisticians in the Philippines is also conducted through separate agency training program. The NCSO, for instance, in its desire to improve technical skills of field statisticians in data collection is conducting the Second Field Statistician Course for one month right after the Statistician Training at the U.P. Statistical Center in January 1975. In addition, periodic training programs on related matters are conducted to increase knowledge, develop skills and improve attitudes of NCSO personnel.

The NEDA Statistics Office also conducts from time to time seminars in statistical techniques to promote efficiency in the service and to enhance the professional capacity of the staff members. Presently, a Seminar on the System of National Accounts is being conducted to acquaint the participants in the methodology and sources of the SNA.

In order to integrate the training and development of statistical manpower in the country, the establishment of a Philippine Statistical Institute to handle non-degree and work-oriented training on a larger scale than what regular schools can offer is being considered.

In addition to local training programs for advancing the development and maintenance of a high degree of efficiency in the statistical services of the government, staff members of the different statistical agencies are afforded the opportunity to acquire specialized training abroad through fellowship or scholarship grants in various statistical fields. The U.P. Statistical Center is also currently undertaking a faculty de-

velopment program wherein faculty members are trained abroad both in the theoretical and applied fields of statistics under the sponsorship of UNESCO. Further, in order to foster the development of a career group of professional and auxiliary statistical workers in the government service, the Civil Service Commission gives civil service examinations for Statisticians and Statistical Aides. Examination for Statistical Aides was given last September 1974 and preparations are underway for the conduct of the third Civil Service examination for Statisticians. The first examination was given in 1959 and the second in 1966.

f. Improvement of Statistical Coordination and Standards

The reorganization of the Philippine Statistical System was the most significant measure adopted by the Government to bring about an integrated and more rapid development of statistics in the country. The Statistical Advisory Board (SAB) of NEDA composed of heads of major statistical agencies was set up to provide advise on matters of statistical policy. The Statistics Office of NEDA was established to implement its function to coordinate all statistical activities of government agencies and the National Census and Statistics Office was attached to NEDA to link up its vast statistical operations in support of economic development planning.

(1) Planning for Statistical Development

An over-all integrated statistical development program is a potent instrument for carrying out coordination work among agencies concerned with the production and use of statistics. The initial four-year program presented here is simply a partial compilation of individual agency plans and budgetary requirements of their statistical activities up to FY 1978. The on-going 1974 Survey of Statistical Services of the Philippine Government provided most of the information for the program. This program is proposed to be reviewed, revised and updated yearly by the NEDA Statistics Office and the Statistical Advisory Board to make it more comprehensive and useful.

(2) Integration of Statistical Classification Systems

Pursuant to one of its important functions, the NEDA Statistics Office almost immediately after its organization initiated work toward a revision of the Standard Commodity Classification of the Philippines (SCCP). Significant changes

in technology and trade practices over the past decade have brought about corresponding changes in the organization of economic activities and in the characteristics of the Philippine economy. International classification systems such as the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) and the Brussels Tariff Nomenclature (BTN) were also in the process of finalizing revisions.

The NEDA constituted an inter-agency committee composed of representatives from various government agencies to produce one common classification scheme to be adopted by all agencies of the government and do away with the different classification systems presently being used by several agencies. Initial revision work started in January 1974. Problem areas were studied to resolve differences in the assignment of tariff headings for certain commodities. Actual revision has been going on since July 1974 to continue until June 1975 when the revised classification with corresponding tariff headings for commodity groups together with the alphabetical index of commodities is expected to be completed.

Activities planned for succeeding years include the revision of the Philippine Standard Industrial Classification (PSIC) and the setting up of a standard occupational classification. The PSIC, which has been in use since 1970, will be revised in 1976 based on the UN ISIC Revision 2 version. This revision will form the basis for the classification of commodities by industrial origin.

(3) Statistical Forms Review and Clearance

The control and review of statistical reporting forms, a practical measure for promoting general coordination, is an activity of the NEDA Statistics Office which is inherent in its functions and responsibilities. During the last half of FY 1974, forms in current use by the major government statistical agencies were collected and an initial inventory was made. The inventory process, involving the classification, indexing and analysis of forms and the development of the items-analysis-records file, will be a continuing activity. Forms also in current use in other data-gathering agencies of the government will likewise be collected, classified and analyzed. A central file of statistical forms is envisioned and the items-analysis-records file to be developed is expected to serve as an effective tool in searching for duplications in the collection, processing, and publication phases of the statistical process.

(4) A Specialized Central Library for Statistics

One of the activities proposed for implementation by the NEDA Statistics Office is the establishment of a Central Statistical Library, the project proposal for which was favorably considered by the Statistical Advisory Board in its 5th regular meeting on May 16, 1974. Designed primarily as an instrument for the identification and possible elimination of duplicative statistical publications and/or statistical series produced by government agencies, the library is to operate under the administrative and technical supervision of the Statistics Office. The activities for the first year of operation, which is proposed to start January 1, 1975, will be devoted to the acquisition, inventory and classification of current publications obtainable from different government agencies. A filing system for publications and their statistical series contents will be developed during the succeeding phases of operation and a systematic inventory of library users will be made.

IV. BUDGETARY REQUIREMENTS FOR STATISTICAL DEVELOPMENT

Expansion of current statistical activities is envisioned for the next four-years of the program primarily to improve the collection and dissemination of a number of existing series and the initiation of new series to fill the gaps brought about by increased data needs for planning the development of our growing economy.

The estimated expenditure for current statistical services of the government in FY 1974 was approximately P77.8 million. More will be required annually from FY 1975 through FY 1978 to carry out the contemplated program of expanding activities. Reasonable increases in the budgets of statistical agencies must be provided for the maintenance of on-going projects to ensure operational improvement and speed up the publication of results. Additional budgetary support must likewise be provided for new projects to fill up the gaps in our statistical production. The creation and/or strengthening of statistical units in more government agencies for optimizing the usefulness of their administrative statistics and the training of statisticians particularly at the intermediate level should be given adequate financial support.

A summary of initial estimates of the budgetary requirements of the program of statistics development activities for

the four-year period from FY 1975 to FY 1978 is shown in Table I.

Based on agency reports so far compiled, the overall cost of the program amounts to a total of about P397.2 million. Of this total, the censuses account for P82.7 million or about 20.8% of the total estimated statistical expenditure and other on-going or proposed statistical activities for the balance. The budgetary requirement for on-going projects for the improvement of existing statistical activities amounts to P232.5 million or 58.5% of the total amount. About P36.2 million or 9.1% is required for new projects involving the initiation of new statistical activities planned during the 4-year period, whereas P38.4 million or 9.7% is needed to strengthen the statistical capability of other government agencies. Training and development of statistical manpower requires about P4.9 million or 1.2%, while P2.5 million or 0.6% is needed to improve statistical coordination and standards.

The Program¹ requires a budgetary outlay of P104.2 million for the first year (FY 1974-75), P91.6 million for the second year (FY 1975-76), P94.7 million for the third year (FY 1976-77) and P106.8 million for the fourth year (FY 1977-78). The sizeable amount for the first year is due to the 1975 Integrated Census of Population and Economic Activity which is proposed to be conducted within the period.

An orderly and efficient development of statistics through integrated planning, programming, implementation and evaluation of all statistical activities of the government would require, among others, the establishment of a **Statistical Development Fund** from which funds needed for carrying out priority statistical projects may be drawn anytime during the program period. Exclusive of the outlays needed for censuses and for maintenance of continuing essential statistical services, the Fund may initially be set up at P25 million for the four-year period from FY 1975 to FY 1978. Administration of this Fund is proposed to be by NEDA to insure that only projects within the framework of the Statistical Development Program are supported.

¹ Excludes statistical expenditures of other agencies without definite statistical units and whose statistical activities are imbedded in their regular functions.

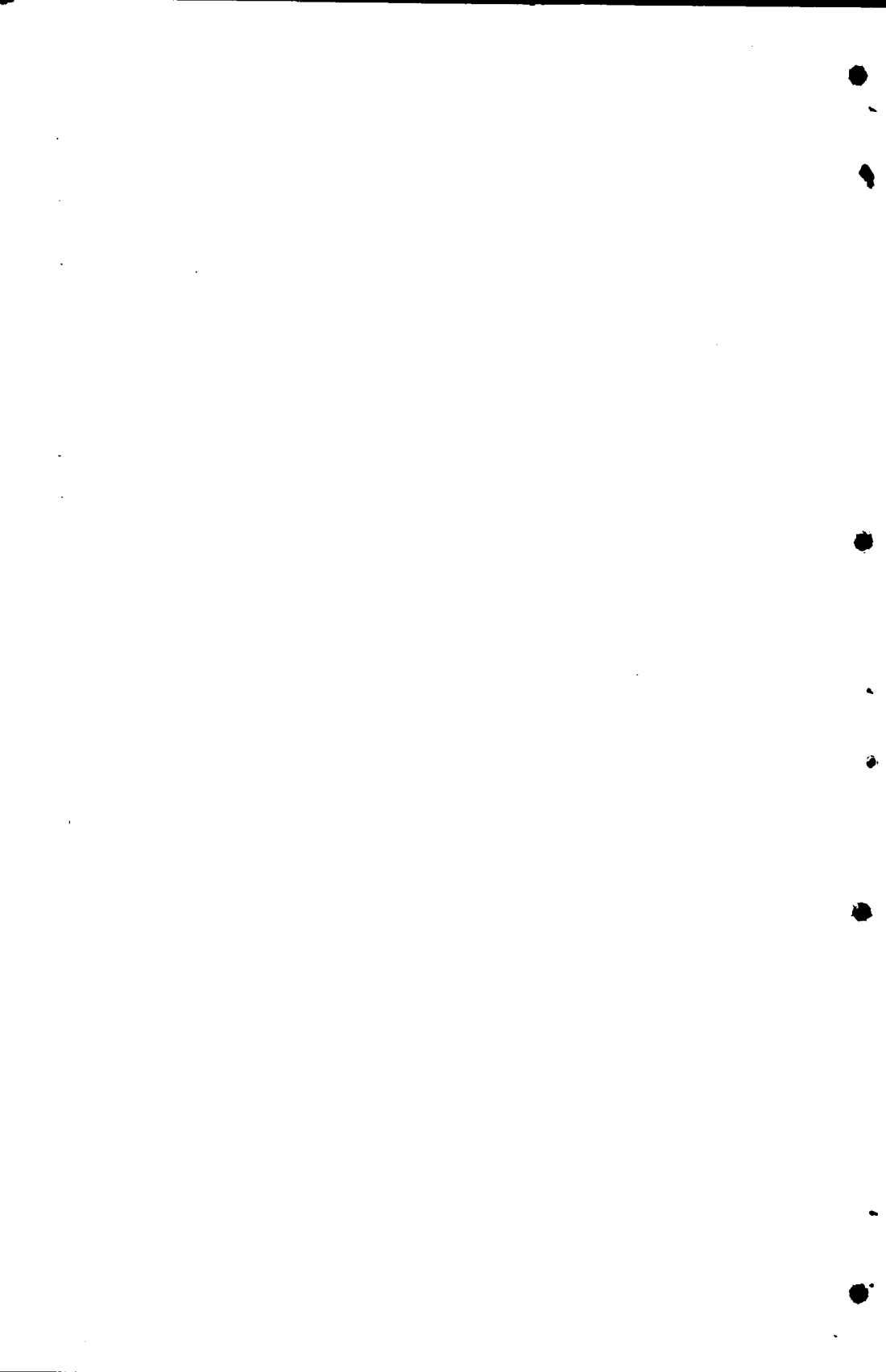


Table I. Budgetary Requirements for Statistical Activities of National Government Agencies Classified by Major Objective, FY 1974 to FY 1978

Major Objective	FY 73-74	FY 74-75	FY 75-76	FY 77-78	FY 77-78	Total (FY 75-78)	Percentage
A. Undertaking Quinquennial and Decennial Census Operations	2,670,165	40,341,450	22,195,740	10,932,146	9,236,309	82,705,645	20.8
B. Improvement of Existing Statistical Activities	28,305,066	46,170,366	48,124,920	61,992,920	76,187,910	232,476,116	58.5
C. Initiation of New Statistical Activities	4,668,000	6,847,000	10,649,000	9,201,000	9,548,000	36,245,000	9.1
D. Strengthening of Statistical Capability of Government Agencies	2,970,000	9,245,000	8,800,000	10,415,000	9,930,000	38,390,000	9.7
E. Training and Development of Statistical Manpower	407,000	985,000	1,182,000	1,519,000	1,219,000	4,905,000	1.2
F. Improvement of Statistical Coordination and Standards	191,000	568,000	648,000	648,000	648,000	2,512,000	0.6
TOTAL	39,211,231	104,156,816	91,599,660	94,708,066	106,769,219	397,233,761	100.0

