

Budget, Staffing, and Budget-to-Staff Ratio

For the federal statistical agency budget and staffing data reported in the Findings section of the report and the agency profiles in Supporting Materials: I, we provide an overview of the federal sources that we used in those sections. We also describe how we estimated the budget-to-staff ratios for Bureau of Justice (BJS), Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS), and National Center for Education Statistics.

Fiscal year budget levels are from the budget justifications (for Congress) that accompany the annual president's budget requests for the parent agencies, enacted congressional appropriations agreements, and the federal statistical system chapter of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) *Analytical Perspectives* volume of the president's budget request, generally in that order. The budget justifications report the final enacted level for the fiscal year two years before the year of the budget request. For example, the FY 2025 budget justifications include the final FY 2023 levels for the agencies. As one goes back more than 10 to 15 years, it may be harder to find the budget justifications, there may be a discrepancy among sources or, in the case of some of the smaller statistical agencies, the parent-agency budget documents may not include information on the statistical agency. In those cases, we used the levels in the *Analytical Perspectives*.

The enacted budget levels for the 13 agencies can be found in the following Google Sheet back to 2000: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1xt8oI2neZyTwaZvtyQOtujzuHnjemZPwPuYVsEELr0/edit#gid=0> (Pierson et al., 2024). The budget request levels back to FY 2001 are also included there.

The agencies' staffing levels are from the OMB publication, *Statistical Programs of the United States Government*. We compile the staffing levels from 2016 to 2022 in the following Google Sheet, along with the budget levels and the budget-to-staff ratios: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Byy5Mc2Z8W4kwP4YCiS5-D8oOscjplCRaJRnAeR3IU/edit#gid=0> (Pierson, 2024). Table 4 of this report, which shows this information for FY 2021 and FY 2022, is extracted from this Google sheet, and reproduced here, labeled as Table L-1.

TABLE L-1.**Budgets, In-House Staffing Levels, and Budget-to-Staff Ratios, Principal Federal Statistical Agencies, Average of FY 2021–FY 2022**

| AGENCY | BUDGET \$M | | STAFF SIZE (AUTHORIZED) | | FY21 FY22 | |
|--|------------|--------|-------------------------|--------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | FY21 | FY22 | FY21 | FY22 | RATIO OF BUDGET (\$M) TO STAFF** | RATIO NORMALIZED TO RATIO MEDIAN |
| | | | | | | |
| Bureau of Economic Analysis | 108.4 | 111.7 | 472 | 472 | 0.23 | 0.66 |
| Bureau of Justice Statistics | 76.1 | 72.6 | 52 | 52 | 1.43 | 4.03 |
| Bureau of Labor Statistics | 642.0 | 659.5 | 1,890 | 2,000 | 0.33 | 0.94 |
| Bureau of Transportation Statistics | 35 | 35 | 59 | 77 | 0.51 | 1.45 |
| U.S. Census Bureau | 1,106.6 | 1354.0 | 8,519 | 7,377 | 0.15 | 0.44 |
| Energy Information Administration | 126.8 | 129.1 | 357 | 364 | 0.35 | 1.00 |
| Economic Research Service | 85.5 | 87.8 | 249 | 329 | 0.30 | 0.84 |
| National Agricultural Statistics Service | 183.9 | 190.2 | 843 | 862 | 0.22 | 0.62 |
| National Center for Education Statistics | 288.0 | 304.9 | 74 | 84 | 3.75 | 10.57 |
| National Center for Health Statistics | 175.4 | 180.5 | 476 | 474 | 0.37 | 1.06 |
| National Center for Science & Engineering Statistics | 66.7 | 67.7 | 51 | 51 | 1.32 | 3.71 |
| Office of Research, Evaluation & Statistics | 35.7 | 39.4 | 67 | 66 | 0.56 | 1.59 |
| Statistics of Income Division | 40 | 40.7 | 140 | 136 | 0.29 | 0.82 |
| | | | Median | 0.355 | | |

The budget-to-staff ratio column is the mean of the budgets for FY 2021 and FY 2022 divided by the mean of the staff levels for those years. The last row of that column is the median of the ratio for the 13 agencies. The last column is the ratio of the agency’s budget to staff ratio divided by the median.

For a more accurate comparison between these agencies, we took into account that the BJS and NCES budget levels do not include their staffing levels, which are provided out of a parent agency account. (NCSES’s staffing is also out of a parent agency account, but the NCSES reported budget includes the staffing amounts.) To estimate the amount of BJS’s and NCES’s staffing, we took the staffing expenses for FTE employees for BEA and EIA and found an average employee staffing cost of \$155,100 and \$159,300 for FY 2021 and FY 2022, respectively (Pierson, 2024). As a result, for example, we added \$13.4 million to NCES’s FY 2022 budget of \$291.5 million to obtain the value of

\$304.9 million for NCES in FY 2022 in the table above. We performed a comparable calculation for BJS.

For BJS and BTS, we accounted for additional funding to their appropriations-line budget. For BJS, it typically receives 1% of Justice Assistance grants for the fiscal year out of the Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of Justice Programs. The so-called “set-aside” started in FY 2012 and is shown in our budgets Google Sheet as a sub-line of BJS. The FY 2021 and FY 2022 amounts are \$23.0 million and \$24.3 million, respectively. For BTS, we used approximate values of the amount it receives annually from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund (AATF) for its flight statistics work and the funding through interagency agreements with the Department of Transportation (DOT) agencies and other federal agencies for statistical work. For FY 2021 and FY 2022, we estimate \$4 million from the AATF and \$5 million from the interagency agreements.