

COPAFS News

Trump names Michael Kratsios as OSTP Director

On 22 December, Trump said he would nominate technologist Michael Kratsios to be director of OSTP and an assistant to the president for science and technology. Computer scientist Lynne Parker was named counselor to Kratsios, a new position, and executive director of the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST).

For the past 3 years, Kratsios has been managing director of Scale AI, an AI infrastructure company. Parker retired in May after more than 2 decades as a faculty member and senior administrator at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville (UTK).

Kratsios must be confirmed by the Senate as director of OSTP, whose 100-plus member staff—many on loan from other federal agencies—belies its tiny, \$10 million budget. [Full article](#)

[Statspolicy.gov](#) is now LIVE on LinkedIn!

It is hosted by the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy (ICSP) as a go-to destination designed to further motivate the Council's vision: To operate as a seamless system, working together to provide strategic vision and robust implementation in support of the U.S. Federal statistical system's critical longstanding — and expanding — role for supporting evidence-based decision-making.

Stay up to date on:

- Community events, announcements, initiatives, and programs
- Priorities or updates relating to the Federal statistical system
- Awareness and spotlights on the community
- Job postings
- And more!



Upcoming Events

COPAFS Quarterly Meeting: March 7

The next Quarterly Meeting will be held on **Friday, March 7, 2025**. The meeting will be held at the AERA Convening Center (1430 K St, NW) with a virtual option available. The agenda will be posted in February.

Mark your calendars for subsequent Quarterly Meetings in 2025:

- Friday, June 6
- Friday, September 5
- Friday, December 5

A friendly reminder that you can download the presentations from our Quarterly Meetings at <https://copafs.org/meetings-events/quarterly-meetings/>. You can also view the recordings of past Quarterly Meetings on the Members Only [site](#).

Census 2025 Indigenous Data Sovereignty Symposium – Feb 12

The U.S. Census Bureau is hosting a 2025 Indigenous Data Sovereignty Symposium on February 12, 2025, that will showcase world-renowned Indigenous scholars and researchers to speak on the topics of Indigenous Tribal Sovereignty and Indigenous Data Governance. The Census Bureau will also inform participants on our tribal consultation practices—ensuring tribal sovereignty is recognized upfront in our work in improving the collection of tribal data, creating new data sources, and producing new data-driven research projects with tribes.

More information and registration to attend the symposium here: [Census Bureau Indigenous Data Sovereignty Symposium - Splash](#)

The morning session (10 a.m.–12 p.m.) will be moderated by Dr. Randy Akee, chair of the American Indian Studies Department at UCLA. Invited speakers include:

- Brandon Alkire – Speaking on state-tribal Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) work and efforts in Minnesota.
- Dr. Jane Anderson – Speaking on the importance of data provenance, meta-data, and the importance of national and international standards.
- Dr. Stephanie Russo Carroll – Speaking on the governance of data and the CARE Principles.
- Dr. Lydia Jennings – Speaking on the importance of non-socioeconomic data (physical sciences data sources).
- Dr. Desi Small-Rodriguez – Speaking on the use of data in governance.

2025 FCSM Research & Policy Conference: October 21-23

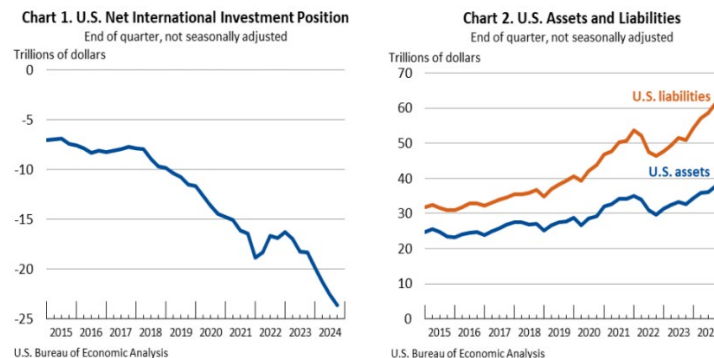
Save the Date! The 2025 FCSM Conference will be held at the College Park Marriott Hotel and Conference Center. The Call for Abstracts will be issued in February. Please visit www.fcsmconf.org for details as they become available.



Agency Releases

Bureau of Economic Analysis (DOC)

- Dec 27 - [U.S. International Investment Position, 3rd Quarter 2024](#). The U.S. net international investment position, the difference between U.S. residents' foreign financial assets and liabilities, was $-\$23.60$ trillion at the end of the third quarter of 2024. Assets totaled $\$37.86$ trillion, and liabilities were $\$61.46$ trillion. At the end of the second quarter, the net investment position was $-\$22.55$ trillion (revised).



- Dec 18 - [U.S. Current-Account Deficit Widens in 3rd Quarter 2024](#). The U.S. current-account deficit, which reflects the combined balances on trade in goods and services and income flows between U.S. residents and residents of other countries, widened by $\$35.9$ billion, or 13.1 percent, to $\$310.9$ billion in the third quarter of 2024. The widening reflected expanded deficits on secondary income, on primary income, and on goods. The third-quarter deficit was 4.2 percent of current-dollar gross domestic product, up from 3.8 percent in the second quarter.

Bureau of Justice Statistics (DOJ)

- Dec 31 - [Prisons Report Series: Preliminary Data Release, 2023](#). The U.S. prison population was 1,254,200 at yearend 2023, a 2% increase from 2022 (1,230,100). At yearend 2023, persons sentenced to more than 1 year under the legal authority of state and federal correctional authorities accounted for 96% (1,210,300) of the total U.S. prison population. There were 1,124,400 males sentenced to more than 1 year in state or federal prison at yearend 2023 (93% of the U.S. prison population sentenced to more than 1 year). This represents an increase of 2% from yearend 2022 (1,103,200) but a decrease of 21% from 2013 (1,416,100).
- Dec 30 - [Human Trafficking Incidents Reported by Law Enforcement, 2022 – Statistical Tables](#). U.S. law enforcement agencies reported an estimated 2,950 human trafficking incidents, of which 81% were incidents of sex trafficking and 19% were incidents of labor trafficking. About 70% of both sex and labor trafficking incidents involved a single victim. Two-thirds of sex trafficking (66%) and labor trafficking (68%) incidents were not cleared by law enforcement, meaning the incidents did not result in an arrest or exceptional clearance.



Bureau of Labor Statistics (DOL)

- Dec 20 – [State Employment and Unemployment – November 2024](#). Unemployment rates were higher in November in 6 states, lower in 1 state, and stable in 43 states and the District of Columbia. Twenty-five states and the District had jobless rate increases from a year earlier, 6 states had decreases, and 19 states had little change. The national unemployment rate changed little over the month at 4.2 percent but was 0.5 percentage point higher than in November 2023.
- Dec 18 – [Work Experience of the Population – 2023](#). There were 13.7 million people who experienced unemployment at some point during 2023, up by 747,000 from 2022. The proportion of the civilian noninstitutional population age 16 and over who worked at some time during the year increased by 0.4 percentage point to 64.2 percent in 2023.

Bureau of Transportation Statistics (DOT)

- Dec 18 – [US Airlines gained \\$2.1 billion in third quarter 2024](#). U.S. scheduled passenger airlines reported a third-quarter 2024 after-tax net gain of \$2.1 billion and a pre-tax operating profit of \$3.1 billion. One year earlier, in the third quarter of 2023, the airlines reported an after-tax net gain of \$1.6 billion and a pre-tax operating gain of \$3.3 billion.
- Dec 11 – [Air Travel Consumer Report: September 2024 Numbers and 3rd Quarter Numbers](#). For September 2024, 0.6% of flights were cancelled, lower than the 1.2% cancellation rate for September 2023. For the first nine months of 2024, 1.6% of flights have been cancelled, equal to the rate posted during same period in 2023 and lower than the 2.2% cancellation rate posted for the first nine months of pre-pandemic 2019. DOT expects that airlines will operate flights as scheduled. DOT's Office of Aviation Consumer Protection (OACP) routinely monitors airlines' operations to ensure that airlines are not engaging in unrealistic scheduling of flights. The Department is currently pursuing enforcement action against several domestic airlines for unrealistic scheduling of flights.

Census Bureau (DOC)

- Dec 19 – [Business Trends and Outlook Survey Data Release](#). BTOS measures business conditions and projections on an ongoing basis. The BTOS includes data for multiunit/multilocation businesses. BTOS will continue to collect data complementary to key items found on other Economic surveys, such as revenues, employees, hours, and inventories. Additional details on [artificial intelligence](#) use and types used were added for one cycle and released March 28, 2024.
- Dec 17 – [Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates for States, Counties and School Districts](#). The median estimated poverty rate of children ages 5 to 17 in U.S. school districts in 2023 was 13.4%. The new data come from the 2023 [Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates](#) (SAIPE), which provide the only single-year income and poverty statistics for the nation's 3,143 counties and 13,137 school districts.

Economic Research Service (USDA)

- Dec 19 - [Trends in U.S. Fruit Consumption Relative to Recommendations in the Dietary Guidelines for Americans](#). a stable share of the U.S. population—about 23 percent of children and 15 percent of adults—has been consuming enough fruit to satisfy Federal dietary recommendations since at least the mid-2000s. However, a growing share of the population is consuming below a quarter of the recommended amount. This group totaled almost 29 percent of children and 40 percent of adults at the beginning of the 2020s.



- Dec 17 – [The Economics of Cellular Agriculture](#). Cellular agriculture is the production of animal products, such as meat, seafood, milk, and eggs, with no or minimal use of animals. This report introduces the economics of cell-cultured and precision fermentation foods and documents the growth in the sector. Areas of emphasis are market drivers, structural aspects of the industry, the U.S. regulatory environment, government research funding, and market challenges as of 2023.

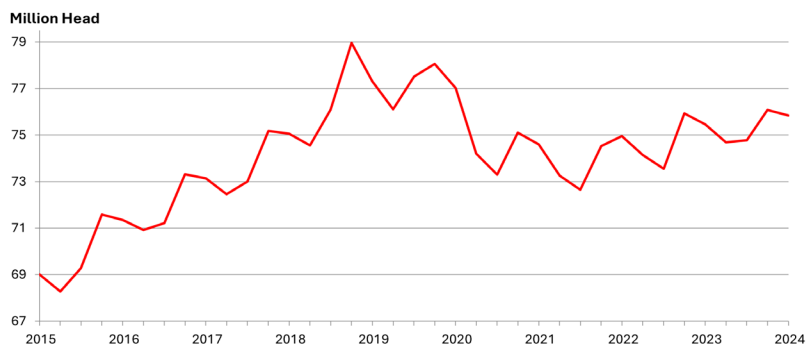
Energy Information Administration (DOE)

- Dec 10 – [Higher natural gas prices predicted, even with robust inventories through winter](#). It is expected that the average price of natural gas for the remainder of the winter heating season to be about 40% higher than the November spot price, despite expectations that U.S. natural gas inventories will remain higher than average throughout the winter. Although the price increase is notable, recent U.S. natural gas prices have been at near or record lows, and the increase will keep prices in line with previous end-of-winter prices. The United States started the winter season with 6% more natural gas in storage than average, and EIA forecasts in its December *Short-Term Energy Outlook* (STEO) that natural gas inventories will remain 2% above the five-year average at the end winter.

National Agricultural Statistics Service (USDA)

- Dec 23 - [United States Hog Inventory Up 1%](#). As of Dec. 1, there were 75.8 million hogs and pigs on U.S. farms, up 1% from December 2023, but down slightly from Sept. 1, 2024, according to the Quarterly Hogs and Pigs report.

**Quarterly Hogs and Pigs Inventory - United States:
December 1**



- Dec 16 – [2023 Census of Aquaculture Results](#). Total sales of aquaculture products in 2023 were \$1.9 billion, an increase of 26% from 2018, according to the 2023 Census of Aquaculture released today by USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service. In 2023, there were 3,453 aquaculture farms with sales in the United States, up 18% from 2018. Five states – Mississippi, Washington, Louisiana, Florida and Alabama – accounted for 55% of aquaculture sales and 49% of aquaculture farms in 2023. Food fish and mollusks were the largest product categories for sales, with catfish and oysters the top species.



National Center for Education Statistics (IES)

- Dec 20 – [Registration is open for NCES Data Users Conference](#). The DUC will bring together data users, members of the research community, and policy makers to share about and learn from research and findings that use NCES's data sets, and to discuss strategies for analysis, data linking, data visualization, and reporting and applying federal statistics. The conference theme, *Responding to the "New Normal,"* will provide an opportunity to highlight research that addresses difficult district, state, and federal education decisions and for researchers to learn more about the on-the-ground education topics that policy makers would most like to learn more about. The event is virtual and will take place on February 11-13, 2025. The window for proposal submissions is closed and those who submitted a proposal have been notified.
- Dec 19 - [2022–23 Common Core of Data \(CCD\) Graduates/Completers Public-Use Data Files, version 1a](#). These data files are the product of the CCD data collection for the 2022–23 school year. The unduplicated number of graduates/completers are reported at state, district, and school levels for the 12-month period from October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2023. The state- and district-level data are released as restricted-use (RUD) and public-use (PUB) files, while the school-level data are only released as a RUD file.

National Center for Health Statistics (CDC)

- Dec 19 - [Drug Overdose Deaths in the United States, 2003–2023](#). The age-adjusted rate of drug overdose deaths increased from 8.9 deaths per 100,000 standard population in 2003 to 32.6 in 2022; however, the rate decreased to 31.3 in 2023. Rates decreased between 2022 and 2023 for people ages 15–54 and increased for adults age 55 and older. From 2022 to 2023, rates decreased for White non-Hispanic people, while rates for other race and Hispanic-origin groups generally stayed the same or increased.
- Dec 17 - [Emergency Department Visits With an Influenza Test Ordered or Provided: United States, 2013-2022](#). The percentage of annual emergency department (ED) visits with an influenza test ordered or provided increased from 2.5% in 2013 to 10.9% in 2022. ED visits by children ages 0–5 years had the highest percentage of influenza tests ordered or provided in 2013 (8.6%) and 2022 (23.1%). Fever and cough were the most frequent first-listed reasons for ED visits with an influenza test ordered or provided in both 2013 and 2022.

National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NSF)

- Dec 17 - [Artificial Intelligence in the Business Sector: R&D, Use, and Impact on Employees](#). The Annual Business Survey (ABS) collects indicators of AI research and development (R&D) activity (i.e., companies that report performing or funding AI R&D), AI usage, and AI impacts from domestic businesses with one or more employees. The Business Enterprise Research and Development (BERD) Survey estimates the amount of AI R&D performed by businesses with at least 10 employees. Overall, according to the ABS, 1% of businesses with at least one employee reported AI R&D activity for 2021. Within the manufacturing sector, the computer and electronics products subsector (North American Industry Classification System [NAICS] code 334) had one of the highest percentages of companies active in AI R&D at 6%.
- Dec 2 – [2023 Doctorate Recipients from U.S. Universities](#). The number of doctorate recipients from U.S. universities increased from 57,448 in 2022 to 57,862 in 2023. This small increase contrasted with the sharp 1-year increase (10%) in 2022, which followed 2 years of



decline due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This suggests that the number of doctorate recipients from U.S. universities may have stabilized following the onset of the pandemic. Between 2022 and 2023, the number of U.S. citizen and permanent resident doctorate recipients increased by 1% to 35,566. The number of doctorate recipients who were temporary visa holders decreased by 1% to 19,393 due to a decline in their numbers in S&E fields.

Statistics of Income (IRS)

- Dec 5 - [Partnership returns line item estimates \(Publication 5035\)](#). The Partnership Returns Line Item Estimates (Publication 5035) presents estimates of frequencies of taxpayer entries recorded on the applicable lines of the forms and schedules filed with partnership returns. This publication also contains corresponding population estimates of dollar amounts recorded on those lines (as applicable). 2010 was the first year of availability for this data.



Federal Register Notices

There were 34 federal register notices posted by federal statistical agencies from November 26, 2024 to December 25, 2024. Links to each of these notices are organized by agency below.

Bureau of Economic Analysis (DOC) – No New Notices

Bureau of Justice Statistics (DOJ) – 11 New Notices

<i>Date</i>	<i>Notice</i>
Dec 17	Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed eCollection eComments Requested; Extension Without Change of a Currently Approved Collection: Grants Management System (JustGrants System)
Dec 2	Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed eCollection eComments Requested; Extension of a Previously Approved Collection; Semiannual Progress Report for Enhanced Training and Services To End Abuse in Later Life Program (Abuse in Later Life Program)
Dec 2	Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed eCollection eComments Requested; Extension of a Previously Approved Collection; Semi Annual Progress Report for Education, Training and Enhanced Services To End Violence Against and Abuse of Women With Disabilities Grant Program (Disability Grant Program)
Dec 2	Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed eCollection eComments Requested; Extension of a Previously Approved Collection
Dec 2	Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed eCollection eComments Requested; Revision of a Currently Approved Collection: Survey of State Criminal History Information Systems (SSCHIS)
Nov 27	Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed eCollection eComments Requested; Extension of a Previously Approved Collection; Private Industry Feedback Survey
Nov 27	Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed eCollection eComments Requested; Reinstatement, With Change, of a Previously Approved Collection for Which Approval Has Expired: Census of Publicly Funded Forensic Crime Laboratories (CPFFCL)
Nov 26	Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed eCollection eComments Requested; Reinstatement, With Change, of a Previously Approved Collection for Which Approval Has Expired: Census of Public Defender Offices
Nov 26	Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed eCollection eComments Requested; Revision Without Change of a Previously Approved Collection Recordkeeping for Electronic Prescriptions for Controlled Substances
Nov 26	Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed eCollection eComments Requested; Extension of a Currently Approved Collection; Comments Requested: Generic Clearance for Cognitive, Pilot and Field Studies for Bureau of Justice Statistics Data Collection Activities
Nov 26	Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed eCollection eComments Requested; Extension Without Change of a Previously Approved Collection; The National Forensics Laboratory Information System Collection of Analysis Data



Bureau of Labor Statistics (DOL) – 2 New Notices

<i>Date</i>	<i>Notice</i>
Dec 23	Information Collection Activities; Comment Request - Proposed reinstatement with change of the “Contingent Work Supplement (CWS) to the Current Population Survey (CPS)” to be conducted in May 2025
Dec 12	Technical Advisory Committee; Request for Nominations

Bureau of Transportation Statistics (DOT) – No New Notices

Census Bureau (DOC) – 8 New Notices

<i>Date</i>	<i>Notice</i>
Dec 18	Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; 2025 National Household Food Acquisition and Purchase Survey (FoodAPS) Pilot Test
Dec 18	Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Business Trends and Outlook Survey (BTOS)
Dec 16	Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Military Panel Topical 4 Operation
Dec 16	Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Military Panel Topical 4 Operation
Dec 9	Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; High-Frequency Surveys Program/Household Trends and Outlook Pulse Survey (HTOPS)
Dec 6	Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Decennial Census Temporary, Intermittent Applicant Information Collection
Dec 3	Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Spatial, Address, and Imagery Data Program
Nov 26	Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Generic Clearance for 2030 Census Small-Scale Tests, Evaluations, and Database Updates

Economic Research Service (USDA) – 1 New Notice

<i>Date</i>	<i>Notice</i>
Dec 19	Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request - Generic Clearance for Survey Research Studies



Energy Information Administration (DOE) – 2 New Notices

Date	Notice
Dec 18	Agency Information Collection Extension - Form NWPA-830G “Appendix G—Standard Remittance Advice for Payment of Fees”
Dec 6	Agency Information Collection Proposed Extension - EIA-882T, <i>Generic Clearance for Questionnaire Testing, Evaluation, and Research</i>

National Agricultural Statistics Service (USDA) – 1 New Notice

Date	Notice
Nov 29	Notice of Intent To Request Revision and Extension of a Currently Approved Information Collection - Cold Storage Survey.

National Center for Education Statistics (DOEd) – 5 New Notices

Date	Notice
Dec 19	Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request; High School Longitudinal Study of 2009 (HSLS:09)-Third Follow-Up
Dec 17	Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Private School Universe Survey (PSS) 2025-26 and 2027-28 Data Collections, and 2027-28 PSS Frame Development Activities
Dec 13	Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Comment Request; School Pulse Panel 2024-25 Data Collection
Nov 27	Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Comment Request; School Pulse Panel 2025-26 and 2026-27 (SPP 2025-26, SPP 2026-27) Preliminary Field Activities
Nov 27	Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request; EDFacts Data Collection School Years 2025-26, 2026-27, and 2027-28 (With 2024-25 Continuation)

National Center for Health Statistics (HHS) – 3 New Notices

Date	Notice
Dec 20	Agency Forms Undergoing Paperwork Reduction Act Review - The National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NAMCS)
Dec 3	Proposed Data Collection Submitted for Public Comment and Recommendations - Research Data Center (RDC) Proposal for Access to Confidential Data
Dec 3	Agency Forms Undergoing Paperwork Reduction Act Review - Rapid Surveys System (RSS)

National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NSF) – No New Notices

Office of Research, Evaluation & Statistics (SSA) – No New Notices



Statistics of Income Division (IRS) – 1 New Notice

<i>Date</i>	<i>Notice</i>
Nov 26	Disclosures of Return Information Reflected on Returns to Officers and Employees of the Department of Commerce, Including the Bureau of the Census, for Certain Statistical Purposes and Related Activities