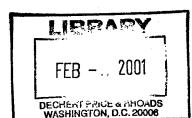
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

NORTH AMERICAN INDUSTRY CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

United States, 1997



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Dedication

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is indebted to the many individuals and organizations whose vision, insights, and energies have made NAICS United States a reality.

This NAICS United States manual is dedicated to the memory of William C. Bennett, Jr., of the Bureau of Labor Statistics who chaired the Business and Personal Services Subcommittee until his death.



Foreword

The contents of this volume mark an important landmark in the history of the statistical offices that made its creation possible. The Instituto Nacional de Estadística, Geografía e Informática (INEGI) of Mexico, Statistics Canada, and the United States Office of Management and Budget, through its Economic Classification Policy Committee, have jointly developed a system of classification of economic activities that will make the industrial statistics produced in the three countries comparable. The new North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) is scheduled to go into effect for reference year 1997 in Canada and the United States, and 1998 in Mexico. It was developed to provide a consistent framework for the collection, analysis and dissemination of industrial statistics used by government policy analysts, by academics and researchers, by the business community, and by the public.

Classifications serve as a lens through which to view the data they classify. NAICS is the first industry classification system that was developed in accordance with a single principle of aggregation, the principle that producing units that use similar production processes should be grouped together. NAICS also reflects, in a much more explicit way, the enormous changes in technology and in the growth and diversification of services that have marked recent decades. Though NAICS differs from other industry classification systems, statistics compiled on NAICS are comparable with statistics compiled according to the latest revision of the United Nations' International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC, Revision 3) for some sixty high level groupings.

The actual classification reveals only the tip of the work carried out by dedicated staff from INEGI, Statistics Canada, and U.S. statistical agencies. It is through their efforts, painstaking analysis, and spirit of accommodation that NAICS has emerged as a harmonized international classification of economic activities.

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Statistics Canada

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