
Departmental Overview

The mission of the Department of Commerce is to help make American businesses more innovative at home and more competitive abroad. The Department helps American businesses achieve economic growth and job creation by fostering innovation, entrepreneurship, and competitiveness. We accomplish our mission through direct assistance to businesses and communities, targeted investment in world-class research, science, technology, and more. The Secretary of Commerce leads the Department and its 12 bureaus with a budget of about \$8.0 billion and nearly 47,000 employees worldwide.

In today's challenging budget climate, Commerce is deeply committed to reducing its administrative costs by identifying savings and efficiencies. This helps us act as responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars, but it also ensures that the important programs that support Commerce's primary mission will continue despite current and future budget reductions.

The Department of Commerce helps American businesses drive economic growth and job creation in a number of critical areas:

- Critical programs at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) support innovation and cutting-edge manufacturers which in turn create good-paying jobs.
- Through protecting the intellectual property that sustains innovation, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) contributes directly to strengthening America's leadership in manufacturing. USPTO is currently implementing patent reform legislation that will help modernize the U.S. patent system.
- The Economic Development Administration (EDA) invests in competitive, job-creating, advanced manufacturing projects and regional innovation clusters.
- The Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) supports the competitiveness of minority-owned firms.
- By connecting U.S. businesses with opportunities abroad, the International Trade Administration (ITA) advances the goals of the National Export Initiative, works to remove trade barriers and promotes new business investment in the United States from foreign and domestic companies.
- The Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) improves our economic security through efforts to reform our outdated export control laws.
- Critical to our competitiveness, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) expands broadband Internet access and ensures the Internet remains an engine for innovation and economic growth.
- The Economics and Statistics Administration (ESA), including the Census Bureau and Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), provide the economic and demographic data to evaluate growth, understand markets, and help American businesses make decisions for the future.
- By providing data that supports marine commerce, sustainable use of ocean resources, and accurate weather and climate forecasting, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) supports sustainable communities and economies.

Build It Here – Sell It Everywhere

The Commerce Department has a major role at this critical time to support job creation here at home. Secretary of Commerce John Bryson has made this imperative his priority:

We need to help American businesses build it here and sell it everywhere.

Building it here and selling it everywhere is how the United States became the world's greatest economic power in the 20th century. Here in the 21st century, the competition has changed, the circumstances have changed and America itself has changed. But the ingredients for a strong economy that creates good jobs have not. We must be able to build things, and we must be able to sell them competitively – not only at home – but in markets around the world. To help businesses build it here and sell it everywhere, the Commerce Department is currently focusing on three critical areas in the months ahead:

- **Supporting Advanced Manufacturing**

A strong manufacturing base creates good jobs to sustain a strong middle class and a strong country. Manufacturing is also the biggest source of innovation in our economy. This is why the President's Budget proposes \$157 million for NIST to focus research efforts in advanced manufacturing to introduce product innovations that will support future U.S. manufacturing market growth and competitiveness, and the creation and retention of high skill, well-paying jobs.

- **Increasing U.S. Exports**

In addition to helping American companies build their product, we want to help them take the next step to sell their product and services to the 95 percent of the world's consumers who live beyond our borders. Despite many opportunities, U.S. businesses are not exporting nearly as much as they could. Many companies would like to export, but are unsure how to start. Small businesses in particular often face big challenges getting export financing, building relationships with foreign suppliers, or dealing with unfamiliar foreign rules and regulations. Commerce resources provide solutions to these challenges and President Obama's National Export Initiative (NEI) is designed to help businesses overcome these hurdles. The initiative has already helped U.S. businesses expand 17 percent in 2010 and an additional 17 percent in 2011. The FY 2013 Budget requests \$517 million for the International Trade Administration, which will strengthen the efforts of the NEI to meet the President's goal of doubling U.S. exports by the end of 2014.

- **Attracting more investment to America from all over the world**

This Administration maintains a deep commitment to ensuring that the United States remains the most open economy in the world. America is already the number one destination for foreign direct investment, and foreign companies support more than 5 million jobs across the United States. However, until the recent launch of SelectUSA, there has not been a high-level Federal program designed to work in partnership with state and local economic development agencies and help businesses navigate the web of Federal resources to encourage them to make these types of investments in America.

SelectUSA is the first coordinated Federal effort to aggressively pursue and win new businesses' investment in the United States from foreign and domestic companies. The FY 2013 President's Budget proposes \$13 million for SelectUSA in FY 2013 to encourage, facilitate, and accelerate foreign direct investment in the United States to create jobs and spur economic growth.

BUDGET IN CONTEXT

The FY 2013 Budget for the Department of Commerce meets the need for fiscal responsibility and the need to promote innovation, entrepreneurship and competitiveness, which will allow us to build it here and sell it everywhere, and put Americans back to work. The FY 2013 President's Budget for the Department of Commerce includes \$8.0 billion in discretionary funding, which is a 5 percent increase from the FY 2012 Enacted level. The Budget also requests \$2.3 billion in mandatory funding for new programs. This Budget invests in priorities to create jobs, fuel economic growth, drive innovation and strengthen national security and public safety. It targets efforts to build a 21st Century infrastructure, promote exports and foreign direct investment, support environmental sustainability, and strengthen science and information.

The Department of Commerce made tough choices in compiling this Budget. In designing the FY 2013 Budget, the Department scrutinized core programs, seeking to make them as efficient and effective as possible without diminishing mission-critical functions. We avoided widely distributed reductions, concentrating instead on specific programs and projects that, while performing important work and generating value, are lower priorities. Overall, the Commerce Budget eliminates 16 programs, saving over \$50 million. These terminations and reductions occur in programs that are either similar to programs in other agencies or not central to the Department's mission. In addition, this Budget finds \$176 million in administrative savings.

Overall, this Budget reflects a commitment to three core values of the Commerce Department:

- **Supporting U.S. Businesses and Communities**, with direct assistance in areas such as consulting on production efficiencies and building public-private partnerships;
- **Advancing the Frontiers of Innovation**, with targeted investments in world-class research, science and technology; and
- **Stewarding Taxpayer Dollars**, building on the most effective Commerce Department programs while making tough decisions on less-impactful programs.

SUPPORTING U.S. BUSINESS AND COMMUNITIES

The Commerce Department serves as the voice of American business and works directly with small businesses and manufacturers to support job creation and enhance our economic competitiveness. The Commerce Department also supports communities through targeted investments, by sustainably managing our Nation's oceans and coasts, and by providing daily weather forecasts and severe storm warnings.

Fostering economic development and growth in partnership with local communities and businesses. The Department assists in developing communities, especially in disadvantaged or distressed areas, through private job creation. The President's Budget provides \$182 million for EDA's Economic Development Assistance Programs to drive 21st-century

development in a dynamic cluster-based approach that leverages regional assets to foster economic growth. EDA's budget invests \$25 million in the Regional Innovation Strategies Program and \$60 million in Economic Adjustment Assistance to stimulate entrepreneurship and high-growth business formation. The Budget provides \$29 million for the MBDA, through their network of Minority Business Enterprise Centers, to support the ability of minority businesses to grow and participate in the global economy. Within NIST, \$128 million is provided for the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) to improve the competitiveness of small and medium sized firms in manufacturing and service industries through custom consulting and product testing.

Creating jobs through export growth and foreign direct investment. While our direct assistance helps companies build it here, Commerce strives to improve U.S. global competitiveness and foster job growth through exports and foreign direct investment. The Budget proposes \$517 million for the International Trade Administration (ITA), continuing support for the National Export Initiative and the Administration's goal of doubling U.S. exports by the end of 2014. The ITA budget requests an additional \$30 million to strengthen trade promotion by placing Foreign Commercial Service Officers and the equivalent of 90 locally engaged staff in high-growth markets such as China, India, and Brazil. An expansion of these NEI priority markets will enable identification of more export opportunities for U.S. companies, more rapid and timely business counseling, and enhanced commercial diplomacy and advocacy support. The ITA budget also includes \$13 million for SelectUSA to promote foreign direct investment in the U.S. SelectUSA makes the Federal government a partner with states and local communities that are competing with overseas locations for major new facility investments by foreign and domestic companies.

Supporting national security missions and public safety. The Bureau of Industry and Security advances U.S. national security, foreign policy, and economic objectives by ensuring an effective export control and treaty compliance system and promoting continued U.S. strategic technology leadership. The President's FY 2013 Budget recognizes the important role of BIS programs to ensuring technologies are not exported to regimes where they may fall into the wrong hands with a request of \$102 million. Within this request, \$6 million is provided for the Administration's Export Control Reform initiative that will advance national security and overall economic competitiveness by utilizing the more flexible Commerce dual-use system to control military items of less significance.

This Budget also supports U.S. businesses and communities by investing in critical satellite operations that will provide businesses and individuals with the data and information necessary to plan for changing weather and climatic conditions. These satellites also provide advanced warning of severe storms so that actions can be taken to protect lives and property. The FY 2013 Budget invests \$1.8 billion in NOAA satellites, including \$916 million for the NOAA Joint Polar Satellite System (JPSS). Weather satellites, including JPSS, are critical to our Nation's infrastructure and economy and provide 93 percent of the input to the nation's weather prediction models. Funding JPSS is required to ensure public safety and homeland security. This funding will maintain a calendar year 2017 launch date for JPSS to minimize any potential gap in polar satellite coverage and to ensure that the next generation of geostationary satellites remains on schedule. In October 2011, NOAA and NASA successfully launched the Suomi National Polar-orbiting Partnership (Suomi-NPP). Suomi-NPP will bridge the gap between NOAA's last polar satellite and JPSS. Suomi-NPP's five-year design life will carry the program to the first quarter of FY 2017. JPSS is scheduled to launch in the second quarter of 2017. Full funding is required to avoid any additional schedule slip and to minimize the gap between missions.

Providing information to the Nation. The Commerce Department focuses on generating and providing timely data and analysis to support effective decision-making for the public and private sectors. NOAA's environmental data and services support commerce throughout the country. NOAA provides weather information that drives safe and efficient transportation,; drought, and water data that informs agricultural decisions; space weather warnings needed to protect

the national energy grid and worldwide communications from solar storms; and climate services that support adaptation decisions for business and communities. Nearly 80 percent of U.S. import and export freight is transported through seaports, and by 2020, the value of all freight coming through U.S. ports will increase by more than 40 percent. The FY 2013 President's Budget requests \$150 million to support navigational services nationwide, including mapping and charting and real-time observations and forecasts of water levels, tides, and currents. The Budget also provides \$973 million for weather, drought, and flood forecasting. NOAA is also engaging with specific industries to provide information that will aid in sector growth, such as helping to grow renewable energy generation through a number of research projects in partnership with other agencies and the energy industry.

The Economics and Statistics Administration (ESA) provides the tools to identify the drivers of growth and fluctuations, and to measure the long-term health and sustainability of U.S. economic activity. One of the valuable services the Department provides both the business community and policymakers is timely, accurate, and reliable economic data to inform their decision-making. The FY 2013 President's Budget requests \$100 million for ESA and \$970 million for the Census Bureau. The FY 2013 Budget for Census also sustains critical economic and household data collection activities, such as the 2012 Economic Census that provides businesses with key statistics by industry, and the American Community Survey that yields data to inform community decision-making on everything from school lunch programs to new hospitals.

Ensuring long-term economic opportunities through resource stewardship. Healthy coastal economies rely on a healthy ocean ecosystem. Sustainably managing our Nation's oceans and coasts will promote economic sustainability and will ensure that future generations also have the ability to enjoy and benefit from those same resources. Rebuilding our Nation's fisheries is essential to preserving the livelihood of fishermen, the economies of our coastal communities, and a sustainable supply of healthy seafood. The FY 2013 President's Budget requests \$880 million for the National Marine Fisheries Service, funding fisheries science, management, and conservation. Additionally, effective stewardship of coastal zone management, national marine sanctuaries, national estuarine research reserves, and other coastal resources, provide both immediate and long term economic benefits. For example, our beaches, coral reefs, estuaries and other coastal areas are essential drivers of tourism and recreation, contributing significantly to local and national economies.

ADVANCING THE FRONTIERS OF INNOVATION

Innovation is critical to our economy; it generates American jobs today and will certainly drive the jobs of the future. Businesses are the primary source of new ideas, from concept to commercialization, but the government plays a key role in this effort. Even in times of fiscal austerity, the Federal government has a responsibility to advance scientific and technological frontiers, building the foundations for a secure future. The Commerce Department has set clear budget priorities for where Departmental work can be done in this area.

Building future economic growth through innovation and 21st Century infrastructure. The Department is responsible for providing the tools, policies, and technologies that will enable U.S. businesses to maintain advantage in world markets. The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) facilitates the generation of innovative and commercially viable processes and products, while protecting the intellectual property rights of the investor. The FY 2013 Budget supports full access to fees for USPTO to accelerate patent processing and improve patent quality as outlined in the America Invents Act. NIST and NOAA provide support for cutting edge research and technology that fosters innovation and the FY 2013 Budget provides \$1.3 billion to these agencies in Research and Development dollars to improve the information on which communities, businesses, and government decision-makers rely. The proposed \$182

million in grants to be administered by EDA in FY 2013 plays a large role in supporting the innovation ecosystem that is required to foster economic development across the U.S., and particularly in distressed communities.

In June 2011, the President announced the Advanced Manufacturing Partnership. The Department of Commerce and in particular, NIST, plays a key role in seeing that the objectives of this government-wide initiative are realized. The Administration will propose legislation that will make \$1 billion available through NIST for a competitive grant program to establish a number of regional institutes for manufacturing innovation that will accelerate technological advancements in the manufacturing environment.

Building a Public Safety Broadband network and Increasing Wireless Access. Recognizing the critical importance of spectrum and state-of-the-art digital infrastructure to America's economic growth, the FY 2013 President's Budget provides \$47 million to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to improve telecommunications performance, increase broadband access, and optimize other Federal agencies' use of spectrum for radars, satellites, weather data, and public safety, to name a few areas. NTIA will continue to work with the Federal Communications Commission to identify and make available 500 MHz (in bandwidth) of Federal spectrum for other purposes, including commercial applications. As proposed in the American Jobs Act, the FY 2013 Budget supports a National Wireless Initiative that would provide \$10 billion in total resources from spectrum auction proceeds to help build an interoperable public safety network. The establishment of the Public Safety Broadband Corporation will ensure the building, deployment, and operation of a secure and resilient nationwide public safety interoperable broadband network in consultation with Federal, State, tribal, and local public safety entities, the Director of NIST, the Commission, and the public safety advisory committee. NTIA's Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) is expanding the access and adoption of high-speed internet throughout America and is providing the tools people need to thrive in the digital economy. BTOP is already delivering results. Across the U.S., new public computer centers are open, free computer classes are underway, and infrastructure projects are under construction. The FY 2013 President's Budget requests \$27 million for NTIA to continue to administer and monitor over \$4 billion in active projects.

Strengthening U.S. competitiveness through innovations in atmospheric and oceanic research. NOAA's atmospheric and ocean, coastal and Great Lakes research and applied science are at the forefront of discovery and a critical component of advancing the goals of the America Competes Reauthorization Act of 2010. The President's FY 2013 Budget requests \$651 million for NOAA Research and Development. The FY 2013 Budget for NOAA continues the necessary investments to improve our climate activities, with a specific focus on research that underpins our understanding of climate processes. Continued development and use of state-of-the-art Earth system models, which help address urgent climate issues, including sea level rise and Arctic climate change, will be supported by an investment of \$8 million.

STEWARDSHIP OF TAXPAYER DOLLARS

Just as businesses across the U.S. strive for efficiencies in hard economic times, the Federal government has a responsibility to maximize results, especially in times of fiscal austerity. The Department of Commerce focuses on crosscutting issues, simplifying and enhancing our interactions within the Federal system and with the public, and adhering to the highest standards of management.

In today's challenging budget climate, Commerce is deeply committed to reducing its administrative costs through savings and efficiencies. In doing so, we are not only acting as responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars, but we are

ensuring that the important programs that support Commerce's primary mission will continue despite current and future budget reductions.

The FY 2013 President's Budget invests in key areas to improve administrative functions throughout the Department. These investments include \$0.4 million for cybersecurity; \$3.9 million to upgrade the financial management and acquisition systems within the Department, and \$2.2 million to migrate from 24 human resource management systems to one.

BusinessUSA. The Department of Commerce continues to support the implementation of a comprehensive customer service experience to better meet the needs of businesses through the BusinessUSA initiative. Consistent with the President's vision, this program ensures that businesses looking for assistance from the Federal Government feel like they are interacting with one entity, rather than a number of separate, albeit linked, components. This means adopting a "No Wrong Door" policy that uses technology to quickly connect businesses to the services and information relevant to them, regardless of which agency's website, call center, or office they go to for help. BusinessUSA links American businesses and entrepreneurs to a portfolio of Commerce and other Federal, state and local partner resources that help them to grow and strengthen their competitiveness in the global economy. These services are provided, faster and more comprehensively, through a coordinated one-stop Federal assistance framework initially consisting of a web-based portal and enhanced call center coordination. The BusinessUSA initiative is an important step toward a new Federal Government service delivery relationship with America's business customers - applying information and customer service standards, processes, and technology, call centers, and field offices in a manner that provides the most useful, accurate, and timely services and information to businesses.

Administrative Cost Savings. The Commerce Department has moved aggressively in the past year to reduce our administrative costs as part of the President's Administrative Efficiencies Initiative. In early 2011, we launched the initiative across the Department, and with the participation of all of the Commerce bureaus, we will meet our goal of saving \$143 million by the end of FY 2012 in areas such as acquisition, fleet, human resources and information technology (IT). In FY 2011 we saved approximately \$51 million in administrative costs. In FY 2011 Commerce shut down 80 percent of its 3,200 cellular lines that showed zero usage for three months or more, and optimized rate plans, for an annual savings of \$1.8 million. Another example of an initiative the Department has put in place is to print both less and smarter. On June 14, 2011, the Acting Deputy Secretary issued the Department's first printing policy, calling for double-sided, black and white, and draft quality printing, as well as reduced energy settings. The Department continues each month to show progress, increasing black and white printing from 75 percent to 87 percent, and double sided printing from 11 percent to 50 percent, as well as a reduction of printing by 27 percent. Total annual savings from this initiative is about \$4.2 million.

The FY 2013 President's Budget calls on the Department to achieve \$176 million in administrative cost savings. Consistent with the Executive Order on Effective and Efficient Government, the Department plans to increase cost savings by placing additional focus on reducing travel costs, employee IT devices, printing, fleet operations, management contracts and extraneous promotional items.

Acquisition Reform. The Department of Commerce has taken substantial, concrete steps over the past two years to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of its acquisition operations, including important steps to respond to long-standing issues that led to several high-profile, problematic acquisitions in the past. The Department has a multi-pronged

approach to improve how we make acquisitions in order to deliver greater savings, greater results, and greater efficiencies. Those strategies include:

- Utilizing stronger metrics to measure performance;
- Adopting a new acquisition framework built around milestone reviews to better define and validate requirements;
- Pursuing bulk buying and other purchasing strategies;
- Better identifying and managing high-risk purchases; and
- Creating a new Center of Excellence to provide outstanding customer service to the smaller bureaus.

These efforts will ensure the Department is making lasting, important improvements in acquisition to shrink costs and boost value and efficiency.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR FY 2011

- Through ITA, the Department continued to strengthen the economy by promoting exports and protecting against unfair trade practices. ITA assisted over 20,000 companies with export transactions worth over \$54 billion. Additionally, ITA successfully removed 56 trade barriers in 31 different countries that have directly benefitted U.S. industry and competitiveness, and has issued 268 anti-dumping and countervailing duty determinations covering a variety of products. ITA also continues to assist small and medium-sized businesses to compete in international markets through counseling and innovative programs like the Market Development Cooperator Program. On average, every government dollar invested in this program has generated \$172 of exports.
- EDA led a number of successful efforts to coordinate Federal resources and streamline processes and procedures. EDA championed two interagency funding competitions in FY 2011: the i6 Green challenge and the Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge. The i6 Green Challenge combines the resources of six different agencies in order to encourage and reward innovative approaches to accelerating technology commercialization, new venture formation, job creation, and economic growth across the United States. The Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge leveraged the resources of 16 different Federal agencies to support the development and implementation of locally driven economic development strategies that foster the development of high-growth clusters and accelerate the benefits of regional innovation cluster-based economic development.
- With a focus on measurement science, standards, and technology, the laboratories and programs of NIST provide the tools and infrastructure critical to enable the innovation, development, and deployment of advanced technologies. In the area of healthcare NIST published a set of approved procedures for testing information technology (IT) systems for electronic health records which are necessary to create confidence in and accelerate deployment of the technology. NIST also issued draft recommendations for securely configuring and using technologies for cloud computing. The Federal Chief Information Officer asked NIST to lead government efforts on developing standards for data portability, cloud interoperability, and security. NIST researchers also developed the world's most advanced low-temperature scanning probe microscope with unprecedented energy resolution for uncovering key properties of graphene, which is highly anticipated to play a revolutionary role in the future of devices such as computers and batteries.

- NTIA, in collaboration with the Federal Communications Commission, launched the National Broadband Map on February 17, 2011. This map publicly displays the geographic areas where broadband service is available; the technology used to provide the service; the speeds of the service; and broadband service availability at public schools, libraries, hospitals, colleges, universities, and public buildings.
- In order to strengthen the very infrastructure that marshals new innovation to the marketplace, USPTO undertook a series of initiatives to improve the speed and quality of patent processing, in an ongoing effort to further strengthen its examination capacity. USPTO has also been aggressively re-engineering many systems and processes, including its internal IT systems. USPTO is working toward a 21st century patent system that is smarter, better, faster, and stronger for all stakeholders. For the first time in several years, the number of patent applications awaiting first action dropped below 700,000—an important milestone that shows USPTO is helping to usher technological innovations from the drawing board into the economic sphere more quickly. USPTO also issued its 8,000,000th patent, an important signal of the technological vigor and creative industry underpinning a healthy and highly-productive U.S. intellectual property system.
- BEA and the Census Bureau continued to upgrade the quality and availability of critical economic and demographic information for policymakers, business leaders, and the public. After successfully completing the field operations for the 2010 Decennial Census, the Census Bureau compiled the data to determine the final population counts of each state and the Nation and released it on December 21, 2010. Population data from the Decennial Census, which is mandated by the Constitution, supports the reapportionment of Congress as well as state and local legislative bodies, and is also used to allocate over \$400 billion in annual Federal program funds. The Census Bureau completed the 2010 Census more than \$1.7 billion under budget, largely due to achieving a higher-than-estimated mail-back response rate and higher worker productivity.
- In FY 2011, for the first time ever, the Census Bureau’s American Community Survey released five-year estimates, comprised of data collected from 2005 to 2009. These estimates are now available for every state, county, city, town, place, American Indian Area, Alaska Native Area, and Hawaiian Home Land, as well as for census tracts and block groups.
- In FY 2011, ESA released reports on women’s economic and social well being, foreign direct investment, intellectual property and patent reform, broadband usage, and STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) employment. BEA successfully released the 2011 flexible annual revision, which included several important improvements to the National Income and Product Accounts, and the annual revision of the U.S. International Transactions Accounts, which included improvements in classifications within services.
- NOAA’s National Weather Service (NWS) exceeded warning performance targets for the May 22, 2011 violent tornado that devastated a large portion of Joplin, MO. The Joplin tornado was the first single tornado in the United States to result in over 100 fatalities since the Flint, MI, tornado of June 8, 1953. NWS first forecasted severe weather for the Joplin area three days in advance, and issued a Tornado Watch four hours prior to the tornado and a Tornado Warning with lead time of 24 minutes before the tornado entered Joplin, which exceeded average warning lead times for all tornadoes occurring in FY 2011 by ten minutes. While the early warnings saved lives, improvements in science and technology are required in order to see further improvements in warning lead times and build a more weather-ready Nation.
- NOAA, the Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission, and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife announced the new industry-led “Partnership to Retrieve Derelict Fishing Gear in Oregon” in August 2011. This partnership

is built from the success of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funded project “Oregon Fishing Industry Partnership to Restore Marine Habitat,” which from June 2009 to June 2011, led to the removal of nearly 3,000 derelict crab pots from the ocean. The original project supported approximately 10,000 hours of work for commercial fisherman, state employees, and other project partners in Oregon coastal communities that have been especially hard-hit by high fuel prices and the national economic downturn. Of the crab pots recovered, 98 percent were returned to their owners and therefore those fishermen did not need to buy replacement gear – at an average savings of approximately \$200 per pot. The rest were recycled through the Fishing for Energy program. Recognizing the benefits provided to fishermen and the community, the industry decided to continue funding this program in partnership with NOAA after the ARRA funds were expended.

- CommerceConnect extended its local reach to 17 locations across the country from Los Angeles, CA to Boston, MA. CommerceConnect made considerable progress in establishing an operational infrastructure to support the growth of the initiative, expand inter-bureau collaboration, and implement a Department-wide customer-oriented business model, including training over 175 Department staff to participate in the initiative; engaging over 770 business clients (vs. 90 clients in FY 2010); and providing over 1,160 referrals (vs. 333 referrals in FY 2010) to Department and other Federal, state, local, and non-profit programs that address their specific needs. Referrals are critically important because among other things they help companies obtain financing for operations and expansion, improve the efficiency of their operations, protect their intellectual property, increase their exports, access data and information for more effective decision-making, and a host of other activities critical to the Nation’s growth and economic prosperity. Approximately 75 percent of the referrals made have been acted upon by clients.