

**OVERARCHING KEY  
FACTORS AFFECTING  
ACHIEVEMENT OF THE  
DEPARTMENT'S GOALS**

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

# Overarching Key Factors Affecting Achievement of the Department's Goals

**T**he Department's wide range of activities means that a number of factors can impact our ability to achieve our goals. We see the following factors having significant impact over the next five years:

- ***National and International Economic Conditions*** including regional economic conditions, changes in the business climate, upswings and downturns in the national and international economy, strength of the U.S. dollar, and the level of expansion of U.S. and foreign markets.
- ***U.S. and International Foreign Policy*** including both U.S. and other nations' foreign trade policy, diplomatic relations between nations, and even wars such as that against terrorism or rogue nations.
- ***Natural Environment*** including short and long-term weather conditions and patterns, and monitoring a variety of atmospheric phenomena.
- ***U.S. Demographic Trends*** including changes in urbanization, concentrations of the population along coastlines, the number and location of economically distressed communities, and the changing racial and ethnic makeup of our population.
- ***Infrastructure*** including Commerce buildings and other infrastructure (ships, satellites, etc.) as well as the infrastructure of the nation such as highways and bridges, all of which can have a significant impact on our economy.
- ***Technological Advances*** including number of patents filed; the increase or decrease in research and development investments, particularly high-risk investments; advanced computer modeling; and further enhancement of telecommunications technologies.
- ***Human Capital*** including the make-up of all Department staff, with a particular emphasis in the expected and required shift in skills as a large number of our staff approach retirement and demands continue for greater productivity.
- ***Other Agencies*** including federal, state, local, and private organizations that provide information to Commerce and share Commerce information with constituents. They also include agencies that provide Commerce with funds and assistance in conducting programs that help to achieve our goals.