



Federal Register Facts

Revised July 15, 2010

Statistical Data

- The annual editions of the *Federal Register* published between 1991 and 2009 contained more pages than the editions in any previous years, with the exception of two years in the 1970s and one in the 1980s.
- Each of the annual editions published since 2002 has contained more than 70,000 pages of text
- The largest annual edition of the *Federal Register* was published in 2008 and contained 79,435 pages
- In 2008 the *Federal Register* published a total of 31,879 documents: Rules, Proposed Rules, Presidential Documents and Notices.
- The largest single document ever published in the *Federal Register* was a 6,653 page report of the Justice Department's proposed settlement in its antitrust case against Microsoft contained in the issue of May 3, 2002. The manuscript filed with the Office of the Federal Register contained more than 10,000 pages.
- The 2009 edition of the *Code of Federal Regulations* was the largest ever, encompassing 163,333 pages in 226 individual books
- Usage figures for July and August 2009 suggest that users of online Federal Register publications will retrieve more than 300 million documents during the next year. For Fiscal Year 2009 ending September 30 2009, over 225 million Federal Register documents were downloaded by the public.
- On October 5, 2009 the Office of the Federal Register and Government Printing Office launched the bulk download of the *Federal Register* in XML format for the years 2000-2009 and began placing the XML-coded text of each future daily *Federal Register* online.

History:

- Federal Register Act was approved on July 26, 1935
- Federal Register has published in partnership with the Government Printing Office, as required by the Federal Register Act. Long and successful partnership of almost 75 years.
- First issue of the *Federal Register* was published on March 16, 1936 contained eleven pages
- First Director of the Federal Register, Retired Major Bernard R. Kennedy, was appointed by President Roosevelt, effective September 3, 1935. Current Director is Raymond A. Mosley, serving since 1996.
- Initial subscription price of \$10 per year

- Federal Register Act amendment approved by the President on June 19, 1937 creating a codification, rather than a cumulative collection of all the rules
- President authorized a new publication, the *Code of Federal Regulations*, on October 11, 1938
- During WWII, the number of documents printed jumped from 7,850 in FY1941 to 18,569 in FY1943, then returned closer to pre-war levels by FY1947
- During the war some trade journals and other papers began a daily practice of telephoning to ask whether regulations on particular subjects had been filed for publication the next day. Others sent typists to copy the documents before they were printed in the *Federal Register*.
- June 11, 1946 issue carried the first documents published under requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act, including proposed rules and statements of organization
- Years 1960 – 1967 marked the longest sustained period of growth in the number of pages in the daily *Federal Register*, an increase of 89%. Part of this growth came from the increasing use of extensive preambles in Rule and Proposed Rule documents beginning in the mid-1960s.
- Effective April 1, 1977 rulemaking agencies were required to use the now familiar seven headings -- *Agency, Action, Summary, Dates, Addresses, For Further Information Contact, and Supplementary Information*
- During the 1970s the Office of the Federal Register and GPO moved from hot metal printing to electronic photo composition
- The *Federal Register* was placed online at www.gpoaccess.gov beginning in 1994 in response to the GPO Access legislation. In 2009 GPO launched an improved website for searching its products, including the online *Federal Register*, at www.FDsys.gov. The online *Federal Register* is an official version of the publication.
- An online version of each volume of the *Code of Federal Regulations* was placed online beginning in 1996 at www.gpoaccess.gov (new home is www.FDsys.gov). The online Code of Federal Regulations is an official version of the publication.
- Beginning in 2001 the Office of the Federal Register began updating the entire Code of Federal Regulations online on a daily basis to provide an up-to-date, although unofficial, version of the CFR. This “e-CFR” is located at www.gpoaccess.gov/ecfr .
- In 2008 the Office of the Federal Register launched an electronic Public Inspection Desk, making available the contents of the next day’s issue of the *Federal Register* regardless of one’s location. Now anyone anywhere at any time may obtain the actual document filed for publication at least the day before it is published in the *Federal Register*, ending a 72-year monopoly on access to the Public Inspection Desk by Beltway Insiders. The electronic Public Inspection Desk is available at <http://federalregister.gov/inspection.aspx>
- Beginning with the inauguration of President Barack Obama, the Office of the Federal Register converted the printed *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* into the online *Daily Compilation* available at <http://fdsys.gpo.gov/fdsys/browse/collection.action?collectionCode=CPD>

Source: Office of the Federal Register, Jim Hemphill, Special Assistant