

The Division of Research was created as a staff agency of the Department of Economic and Community Development to provide analytical support for economic policy-making and development planning. It also collects and maintains a data base for the research needs of the Department, and for use by the private sector. The Division is responsible for various *ad hoc* projects of the Department, for monitoring research proposals and contracts of other divisions in the Department, and for representing the Department on numerous State-wide committees and Task Forces.

The Office of Regional Economics is primarily responsible for producing a study of the State economy. The approach of this study is macro in character, concerned with inter-relationships among aggregate economic variables such as Gross State Product, taxes, employment, etc. The main purpose of this effort is to provide a quantitative and analytical basis for economic policy-making and development planning. The economic theory, methodology, and results and recommendations are presented annually in a year-end report. A series of economic indicators is published monthly as well as a short appraisal of the economic situation in Maryland.

The Office of Regional Economics has the additional task of conducting sectoral studies in the energy and transportation fields. For example, technical advice is provided to the Department of Natural Resources in the Maryland Power Plant Siting Program. The Office is responsible for anticipating to some extent the research needs of the Department. To this end, significant effort is being extended in the direction of creating a socio-economic data-bank.

The Office of Community Development Research is responsible for responding to the research needs of the other Divisions in the Department. Analyses of specific aspects of the State economy are conducted, the approach being primarily micro in character. The purpose of these studies is to provide a quantitative and rational basis for industrial and community development planning.

The Office of Business Research is responsible for all technical information gathering. It provides an information center for economic and statistical data and serves as the contact point between the State and the sources of such data, which include the U.S. Bureau of the Census, the U.S. Department of Commerce, the Federal Reserve Districts, trade associations, non-profit organizations, and various State and local organizations. This Office converts basic information into specific materials pertinent to business, industry and the general public.

#### DIVISION OF HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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The Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs brings together for administrative purposes the Bicentennial Commission for the Commemoration of the American Revolution, the St. Mary's City Commission, the Maryland Historical Trust, and the Maryland Arts Council. These agencies have the common goal to promote and preserve the historic and cultural heritage which highlight Maryland's past and brighten its future.

#### MARYLAND BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

Chairman: Louise Gore, 1977

Spencer C. Ellis, 1974; Edward J. Vinnicombe, Jr., 1974; C. Lease Bussard, 1975; Max Chambers, 1975; William B. Jones, 1975;