

ANSSR: Economy Priorities and Progress Assessment Measures

United States

As the economy recovers from the worst recession in generations, the United States has made accelerating economic growth and job creation a priority. The United States aims to create an economy that is more competitive, more productive, and employs more people.

The United States has taken a broad approach to identifying priorities and measures of progress under the APEC New Strategy for Structural Reform (ANSSR), reflecting the range and depth of activity underway in the United States across the full spectrum of reforms encouraged by ANSSR to support higher-quality, more balanced, and inclusive growth. Nonetheless, the priorities set forth here are not an exhaustive list of all U.S. efforts aligned with the tenets of ANSSR.

The United States recognises the power of goal-setting as a way to improve the Federal Government's performance and accountability to the American people, and federal agencies are using near-term and longer-term goals to improve effectiveness and efficiency.

Federal agencies prepare and publicly release strategic plans that identify long-term performance goals and identify corresponding annual performance goals and measures of progress. Agencies report at least annually on progress toward their goals. Twenty-four major federal agencies also set near-term High Priority Performance Goals (Priority Goals) that correspond with the U.S. budget cycle. The U.S. priorities set forth under ANSSR are derived from this process.

The process of goal setting and evaluating progress is an iterative and continuous process in the United States. Federal agencies currently are selecting new Priority Goals for fiscal years 2012 and 2013. As a result, we anticipate that the United States will be well-positioned to provide updates and achievements on its selected priority goals through 2015.

ANSSR Priorities

Promoting more open, well-functioning, transparent, and competitive markets	
Priority:	Improve federal government management, effectiveness, and efficiency, including by implementing the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) Modernization Act of 2010 (GPRAMA) which requires Federal agencies to set clear performance goals that can be accurately measured, regularly reviewed by senior leaders, and publicly reported in a more transparent way.
Progress assessed based on:	Achievement of key milestones through the establishment of new Federal and Agency Priority Goals in February 2012; progress toward goal achievement thereafter using measures established for each Priority Goal. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detailed information on these priorities and measures will be available via Performance.gov.
Priority:	Drive greater transparency and openness in government through the adoption of agile technologies, processes, and expertise for citizen engagement and collaboration built around innovative solutions that provide a more effective, citizen-driven government.
Progress assessed based on:	Numeric achievement targets, such as the number of contacts with citizens via web, phone, print, and social media channels and the number of engagements executed by federal agencies including blogs, Wikis, Forums, and other innovative solutions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detailed information is available via the Budget and Performance page of the General Services Administration website at www.gsa.gov.

Promoting better functioning and effectively regulated financial markets	
Priority:	Effectively manage and exit emergency interventions and programs set up in response to the financial crisis.
Progress assessed based on:	Troubled Assets Relief Program (TARP) repayments and TARP lifetime cost estimates. Performance is publicly reported in the Department of Treasury annual performance report. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detailed information is available via the Budget and Performance page of the Treasury Department website at www.treasury.gov.
Priority:	Implement financial regulatory reform legislation.
Progress assessed based on:	Meeting statutory deadlines and requirements, such as the transfer of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to the Federal Reserve under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, and internal milestones. Performance is publicly reported in the Department of Treasury annual performance report. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detailed information is available via the Budget and Performance page of the Treasury Department website at www.treasury.gov. The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (H.R.4173) are available from the Library of Congress at thomas.loc.gov.

Promoting labour market opportunities, training, and education	
Priority:	All states improving overall and disaggregated high school graduation rates.
Progress assessed based on:	Increasing the percentage of public high school students who graduate four years after starting 9th grade (Averaged Freshman Graduation Rate). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detailed information is available via the Budget and Performance page of the Education Department website at www.ed.gov.
Priority:	Improving overall and disaggregated college attainment rate.
Progress assessed based on:	Increasing the percent of 25- to 34-year-olds who have completed an associate's or higher degree. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detailed information is available via the Budget and Performance page of the Education Department website at www.ed.gov.

Promoting sustained SME development and enhanced opportunities for women and vulnerable populations	
Priority:	Foster a small business-friendly environment by encouraging Federal Agency awareness about the impact of unfair regulatory enforcement and compliance efforts, reducing burdens on small business, and improving small business research.
Progress assessed based on:	Achieving regulatory cost savings for small businesses and other small entities due to Advocacy interventions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performance is to be reported by the Small Business Administration's Office of Advocacy via Regulatory Flexibility Act Annual Reports available at www.sba.gov/advocacy.
Priority:	In order to facilitate access to capital for high growth companies and enhance job creation and retention by these companies, the Small Business Administration will target committing additional capital via its Small Business Investment Company (SBIC) program.
Progress assessed based on:	Quantitative measures, such as the number of small businesses assisted and value of debentures deployed by the Small Business Administration to SBIC. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detailed information is available via the Budget and Performance page of the Small Business Administration website at www.sba.gov/performance.

Promoting effective and fiscally sustainable social safety net programs	
Priority:	Ensure access to quality, culturally competent care for vulnerable populations.
Progress assessed based on:	A range of qualitative and quantitative indicators, such as improving the availability and accessibility of health insurance coverage, improving access to/quality of health care for vulnerable populations, and improving access to/quality of early childhood care and education. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detailed information is available via the Budget and Performance page of the Department of Health and Human Services website at www.hhs.gov.