

## EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND THEIR DUTIES

### DEPARTMENT OF STATE (1789)

Top official: Secretary of State  
Carries out foreign policy  
Supervises US ambassadors & other diplomats abroad  
Issues passports to US citizens  
Represents US in United Nations

### DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY (1789)

Top official: Sec. of the Treasury  
Collects federal taxes  
Borrows money & pays bills for federal govt.  
Supervises printing of money & postage stamps  
Controls taxes on alcohol, tobacco, & firearms

### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (1789)

Top official: Sec. of Defense  
Maintains armed forces (Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force)  
Conducts military intelligence  
Builds & maintains forts, bases, naval yards, canals, and harbors  
Carries out military research & engineering projects

### DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (1870)

Top official: Attorney General  
Investigates & prosecutes violations of federal laws  
Conducts suits on behalf of federal government in courts  
Supervises US attorneys & marshals  
Supervises federal prisons  
Runs the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)

### DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR (1849)

Top official: Sec. of the Interior  
Supervises federal land & parks  
Finances irrigation projects  
Investigates mine accidents  
Protects fish, wildlife, and other natural resources  
Conducts programs to help Native Americans

### DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (1849)

Top official: Sec. of Agriculture  
Conducts programs to aid farmers  
Fights animal & plant diseases & insect pests  
Administers food stamp and school lunch programs

### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE (1903)

Top official: Sec. of Commerce  
Promotes business opportunities for US companies here and abroad  
Make loans to small businesses  
Conducts a population census every 10 years and gathers other statistics  
Grants patents for new inventions  
Maintains official weights and measures  
Operates US Weather Service  
Makes surveys of coasts & reports on tides & currents

### DEPARTMENT OF LABOR (1913)

Top official: Sec. of Labor  
Carries out laws on working conditions, minimum wage, & job discrimination  
Administers unemployment insurance and compensation for injured workers  
Sponsors job-training programs  
Keeps track of prices, unemployment levels, and other labor information

### DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT (1965)

Top official: Sec. of Housing & Urban Development  
Supports private housing mortgage loans  
Finances housing for the elderly & low income families  
Makes grants for improvements to streets, sewers, & parks.

### DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (1966)

Top official: Sec. of Transportation  
Finances interstate highways & improvements to railroads, airports, and some waterways  
Supports research on mass transit  
Sets safety standards for automobiles, truck, buses, planes, & trains

### DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY (1977)

Top official: Sec. of Energy  
Promotes conservation and development of energy  
Regulates interstate gas and electricity rates  
Promotes research on energy

### DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (1979)

Top official: Sec. of Education  
Conducts programs to aid education

### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES (1979)

Top official: Sec. of Health & Human Services  
Directs Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and other social service programs  
Administers programs to aid the handicapped  
Enforces pure food, drug, and cosmetics laws  
Conducts research into causes and treatment of diseases

### DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS (1989)

Top official: Sec. of Veterans' Affairs  
Operates veterans' hospitals  
Supervises programs to assist military veterans

### DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (2002)

Top official: Sec. of Homeland Security  
Responsible for combating terrorism  
Operates Secret Service & Coast Guard  
Enforces customs laws  
Runs Citizenship & Immigration Service