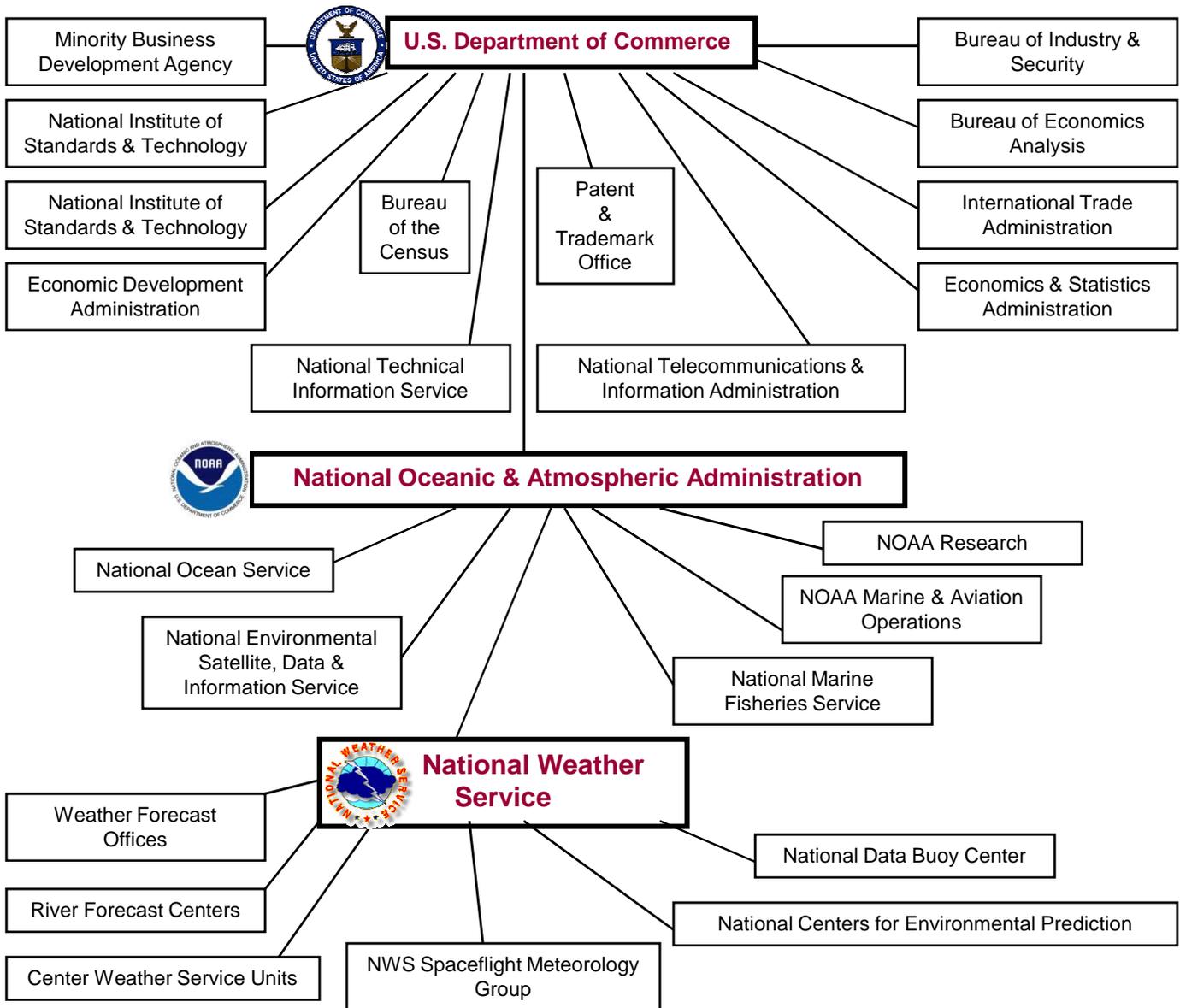


# Heirarchy of the NWS



The National Weather Service (NWS) employs approximately 5,000 full-time personnel who work in meteorological, electronic, information technology and administrative positions. In one year, the NWS processes about 22 million observations from all over the world. The NWS issues about two million forecasts and warnings. We also provide countless individual briefings and other services on a routine, but unscheduled, basis.

The physical plant of the NWS is valued in the hundreds of millions of dollars. This includes hundreds of facilities and thousands of items of major equipment. In addition, public and private agencies supply or lease millions of dollars worth of facilities and equipment, such as advanced data processing hardware, to the NWS. An extensive international communications system links NWS domestic and overseas operating locations.

NWS offices prepare and issue public, aviation, hydrologic, and climate products for their local area. Using radar, satellite, and surface observations, The NWS monitors the weather, keeping a vigilant watch for any weather conditions that may threaten lives and property. When such events arise, NWS offices issue warnings and statements for their local area to alert local and state emergency officials and the public to the dangerous weather situation. There are 125 National Weather Service offices across all 50 states, and including Guam, San Juan, American Samoa.