Chapter 20

**Data File 20-1 Learning about the US Commerce Department**

**Directions:** Complete the following activity to learn more about the US Commerce Department

In early times, how did people get the goods they needed? They traded, using extra items they owned to exchange for something someone else could spare. This was early commerce, the exchange of goods and services. Commerce is part of our economic history, and it continues today in far more com­plex forms. Through advancements in technology, commerce is large-scale and involves buying, sell­ing, and transporting goods great distances, even around the world.

In the United States, commerce is overseen by the US Department of Commerce. To learn more about the department and what it does, go to the website below and answer the questions that follow.

www.commerce.gov

**Activity Questions**

1. From the “About Commerce” drop-down menu at the top of the web page, click on “FAQ.” Scroll down and click on the “mission and organization” link. What is the mission of the US Department of Commerce? What are three ways that the Department fulfills this mission?

<<Place Answer Here>>

2. From the FAQ page, click on the “milestones” link. What was the first name of the Department? When did the current name go into effect?

<<Place Answer Here>>

3. On the FAQ page, scan the list of bureaus and agencies in the Department. Click on “Census Bureau.” What does the Census Bureau do? Click on “History.” From the left-hand menu, click on “About the Bureau.” How is the data collected by the US Census Bureau used?

<<Place Answer Here>>

4. Again, from the FAQ page, access the MBDA site. From the menu near the center of the page, click on “MBDA” (to the right of “Research Library”). What is this agency? What are some of the programs it provides (follow the links listed under the “MBDA Programs” link)?

<<Place Answer Here>>

5. Again, from the FAQ page, scroll down to the “job opportunities” link under the “Careers in Commerce” heading. Then, click on “Commerce Only” jobs. Locate a Department of Commerce career that interests you and read the description. Summarize what you learn about the career.

<<Place Answer Here>>

6. Ask your instructor where to save your documents. This could be on the school’s network or a flash drive of your own. Name your Word document *FirstnameLastname*\_Activity20-1.docx (i.e., JohnSmith\_Activity20-1.docx).