

Department	Creation	Notes
State	1789	Initially named "Department of Foreign Affairs".
Treasury	1789	Initially named "National Military Establishment" 1947-49. Created as a subsuming — from executive to sub-executive status—of the Departments of Air Force (officially distinct from Army 1947, began 1907), Army (was the "Department of War" 1789), and Navy (founded 1798).
Defense	1947	Position of Attorney General created in 1789, but had no department until 1870
Justice	1870	1849
Interior	1849	1862
Agriculture	1862	Originally named Commerce and Labor; Labor later separated
Commerce	1903	Originally named Health, Education, and Welfare; Education later separated
Labor	1913	1965
Health and Human Services	1953	1966
Housing and Urban Development	1965	1977
Transportation	1966	1980
Energy	1977	1989
Education	1980	2002
Veterans Affairs	1989	formerly an independent agency as the Veterans Administration
Homeland Security	2002	



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Independent Agencies and Government Corporations

Independent establishments are created by Congress to address concerns that go beyond the scope of ordinary legislation. These agencies are responsible for keeping the government and economy running smoothly.

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A

- [African Development Foundation](#)
- [AMTRAK \(National Railroad Passenger Corporation\)](#)

C

- [Central Intelligence Agency \(CIA\)](#)
- [Commission on Civil Rights](#)
- [Commodity Futures Trading Commission](#)
- [Consumer Product Safety Commission \(CPSC\)](#)
- [Corporation for National and Community Service](#)
- [Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia](#)

D

- [Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board](#)

E

- [Election Assistance Commission](#)
- [Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)](#)
- [Equal Employment Opportunity Commission \(EEOC\)](#)
- [Export-Import Bank of the United States](#)

F

- [Farm Credit Administration](#)
- [Federal Communications Commission \(FCC\)](#)
- [Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation \(FDIC\)](#)
- [Federal Election Commission \(FEC\)](#)
- [Federal Housing Finance Board](#)
- [Federal Labor Relations Authority](#)
- [Federal Maritime Commission](#)
- [Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service](#)
- [Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission](#)
- [Federal Reserve System](#)
- [Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board](#)

- [Federal Trade Commission \(FTC\)](#)

- G

 - [General Services Administration \(GSA\)](#)

- I

 - [Institute of Museum and Library Services](#)
 - [Inter-American Foundation](#)
 - [International Broadcasting Bureau \(IBB\)](#)

- M

 - [Merit Systems Protection Board](#)

- N

 - [National Aeronautics and Space Administration \(NASA\)](#)
 - [National Archives and Records Administration \(NARA\)](#)
 - [National Capital Planning Commission](#)
 - [National Council on Disability](#)
 - [National Credit Union Administration \(NCUA\)](#)
 - [National Endowment for the Arts](#)
 - [National Endowment for the Humanities](#)
 - [National Labor Relations Board \(NLRB\)](#)
 - [National Mediation Board](#)
 - [National Railroad Passenger Corporation \(AMTRAK\)](#)
 - [National Science Foundation \(NSF\)](#)
 - [National Transportation Safety Board](#)
 - [Nuclear Regulatory Commission \(NRC\)](#)

- O

 - [Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission](#)
 - [Office of Compliance](#)
 - [Office of Government Ethics](#)
 - [Office of Personnel Management](#)
 - [Office of Special Counsel](#)
 - [Office of the National Counterintelligence Executive](#)
 - [Overseas Private Investment Corporation](#)

- P

 - [Panama Canal Commission](#)
 - [Peace Corps](#)
 - [Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation](#)
 - [Postal Rate Commission](#)

- R

- [Railroad Retirement Board](#)

S

- [Securities and Exchange Commission \(SEC\)](#)
- [Selective Service System](#)
- [Small Business Administration \(SBA\)](#)
- [Social Security Administration \(SSA\)](#)

T

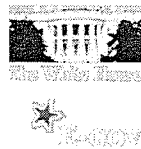
- [Tennessee Valley Authority](#)

U

- [U.S. Trade and Development Agency](#)
- [United States Agency for International Development](#)
- [United States International Trade Commission](#)
- [United States Postal Service \(USPS\)](#)

A|B|C|D|E|F|G|H|I|J|K|L|M|N|O|P|Q|R|S|T|U|V|W|X|Z

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U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission

The Investor's Advocate: How the SEC Protects Investors, Maintains Market Integrity, and Facilitates Capital Formation

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Introduction

The mission of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission is to protect investors, maintain fair, orderly, and efficient markets, and facilitate capital formation.

As more and more first-time investors turn to the markets to help secure their futures, pay for homes, and send children to college, our investor protection mission is more compelling than ever.

As our nation's securities exchanges mature into global for-profit competitors, there is even greater need for sound market regulation.

And the common interest of all Americans in a growing economy that produces jobs, improves our standard of living, and protects the value of our savings means that all of the SEC's actions must be taken with an eye toward promoting the capital formation that is necessary to sustain economic growth.

The world of investing is fascinating and complex, and it can be very fruitful. But unlike the banking world, where deposits are guaranteed by the federal government, stocks, bonds and other securities can lose value. There are no guarantees. That's why investing is not a spectator sport. By far the best way for investors to protect the money they put into the securities markets is to do research and ask questions.

The laws and rules that govern the securities industry in the United States derive from a simple and straightforward concept: all investors, whether large institutions or private individuals, should have access to certain basic facts about an investment prior to buying it, and so long as they hold it. To achieve this, the SEC requires public companies to disclose meaningful financial and other information to the public. This provides a common pool of knowledge for all investors to use to judge for themselves whether to

buy, sell, or hold a particular security. Only through the steady flow of timely, comprehensive, and accurate information can people make sound investment decisions.

The result of this information flow is a far more active, efficient, and transparent capital market that facilitates the capital formation so important to our nation's economy. To insure that this objective is always being met, the SEC continually works with all major market participants, including especially the investors in our securities markets, to listen to their concerns and to learn from their experience.

The SEC oversees the key participants in the securities world, including securities exchanges, securities brokers and dealers, investment advisors, and mutual funds. Here the SEC is concerned primarily with promoting the disclosure of important market-related information, maintaining fair dealing, and protecting against fraud.

Crucial to the SEC's effectiveness in each of these areas is its enforcement authority. Each year the SEC brings hundreds of civil enforcement actions against individuals and companies for violation of the securities laws. Typical infractions include insider trading, accounting fraud, and providing false or misleading information about securities and the companies that issue them.

One of the major sources of information on which the SEC relies to bring enforcement action is investors themselves — another reason that educated and careful investors are so critical to the functioning of efficient markets. To help support investor education, the SEC offers the public a wealth of educational information on [this Internet website](#), which also includes the [EDGAR database](#) of disclosure documents that public companies are required to file with the Commission.

Though it is the primary overseer and regulator of the U.S. securities markets, the SEC works closely with many other institutions, including Congress, other federal departments and agencies, the self-regulatory organizations (e.g. the stock exchanges), state securities regulators, and various private sector organizations. In particular, the Chairman of the SEC, together with the Chairman of the Federal Reserve, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Chairman of the Commodities Futures Trading Commission, serves as a member of the President's Working Group on Financial Markets.

This article is an overview of the SEC's history, responsibilities, activities, organization, and operation. More detailed information about many of these topics is available throughout this website.