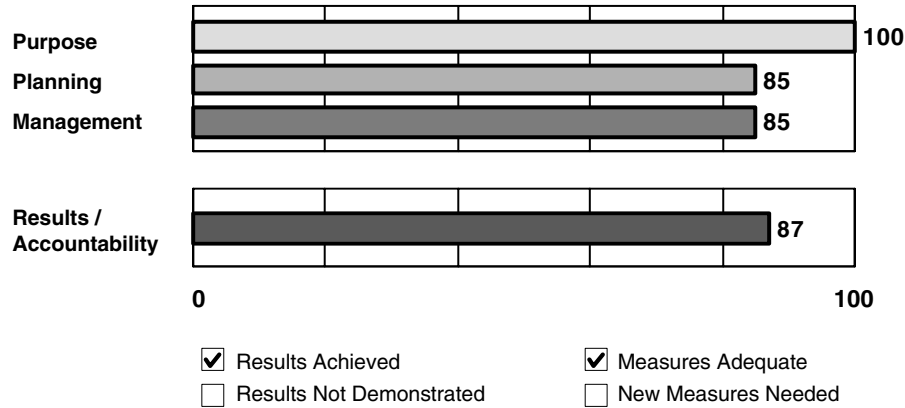


**Program:** National Weather Service

**Agency:** Department of Commerce

**Bureau:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



**Key Performance Measures**

**Year Target Actual**

Annual Measure:	Year	Target	Actual
Improve tornado warning lead time (minutes) Lead time is the difference between the time the warning was issued and the time the tornado affected the warned area. This measure reflects the average lead time for all tornado occurrences throughout the year.	1999	11	12
	2000	12	10
	2001	13	10
	2002	11	12
Annual Measure: Improve flash flood warning accuracy (percent) Accuracy is measured by the percentage of times a flash flood actually occurred in an area that was covered by a warning.	1999	85	85
	2000	86	86
	2001	86	86
	2002	86	89
Annual Measure: Reduce hurricane track forecast error (nautical miles) This measure is the difference between the actual location of hurricane landfall and the location projected 48 hours in advance.	1999	new	new
	2000	new	new
	2001	new	new
	2002	142	121

**Rating:** Effective

**Program Type:** Direct Federal

**Program Summary:**

The purpose of the National Weather Service (NWS) is to provide warnings and forecasts in order to protect lives and property.

1. NWS is well-managed and results-oriented. Past investments have yielded significant performance improvements in many areas. Cost-benefit analyses have helped to inform decisions on system improvements.
2. The strategic plan sets forth clear long-term goals that are tied to the program's performance measures. NWS develops annual operating plans to set performance targets and milestone objectives and conducts strategic planning reviews each year to track progress and make appropriate adjustments.
3. NWS has been recognized for its strong management practices by the "Government Executive Magazine" Federal Performance Project.
4. NWS has made progress in achieving long-term goals, particularly in improving accuracy and timeliness of forecasts and warnings. In 2002, NWS met nine out of thirteen annual performance goals. However, performance improvement has been slower in some areas, such as precipitation and aviation forecasting.
5. NWS works with emergency management groups to establish long-term targets for lead time and accuracy.

In response to these findings the Budget provides increases to support continued improvement in key performance areas, such as tornado-warning lead times and hurricane track accuracy.

(For more information on this program, please see the Department of Commerce chapter in the Budget volume.)

**Program Funding Level (in millions of dollars)**

<u>2002 Actual</u>	<u>2003 Estimate</u>	<u>2004 Estimate</u>
743	772	820