

8.1.3 x87 FPU Status Register

The 16-bit x87 FPU status register (see Figure 8-4) indicates the current state of the x87 FPU. The flags in the x87 FPU status register include the FPU busy flag, top-of-stack (TOP) pointer, condition code flags, error summary status flag, stack fault flag, and exception flags. The x87 FPU sets the flags in this register to show the results of operations.

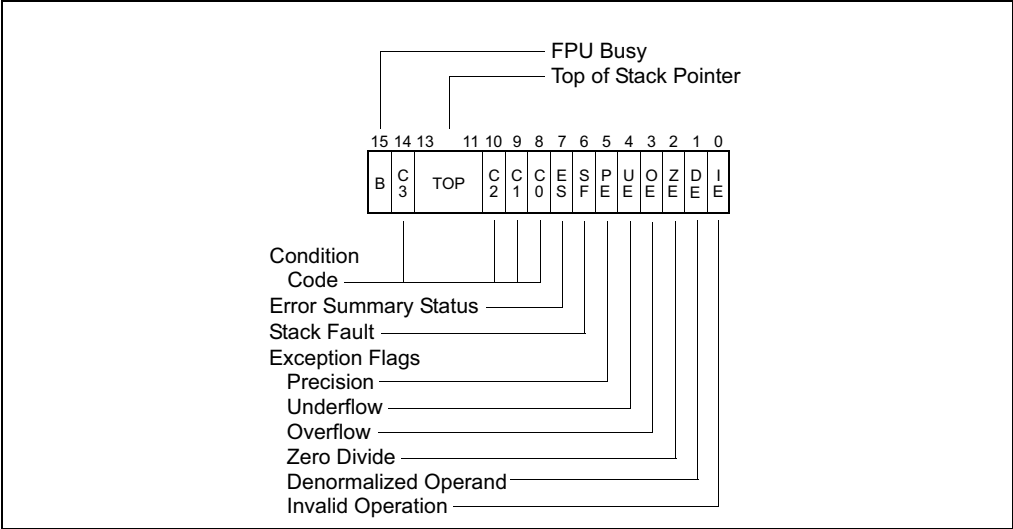


Figure 8-4. x87 FPU Status Word

The contents of the x87 FPU status register (referred to as the x87 FPU status word) can be stored in memory using the FSTSW/FNSTSW, FSTENV/FNSTENV, FSAVE/FNSAVE, and FXSAVE instructions. It can also be stored in the AX register of the integer unit, using the FSTSW/FNSTSW instructions.

8.1.3.1 Top of Stack (TOP) Pointer

A pointer to the x87 FPU data register that is currently at the top of the x87 FPU register stack is contained in bits 11 through 13 of the x87 FPU status word. This pointer, which is commonly referred to as TOP (for top-of-stack), is a binary value from 0 to 7. See Section 8.1.2, "x87 FPU Data Registers," for more information about the TOP pointer.

8.1.3.2 Condition Code Flags

The four condition code flags (C0 through C3) indicate the results of floating-point comparison and arithmetic operations. Table 8-1 summarizes the manner in which the floating-point instructions set the condition code flags. These condition code bits