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1944-45

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Compiled Under the Supervision
of Morris H. Hansen

Statistical Assistant to the Director

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Library*



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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Statistical Abstract of the United States has been published annually for the past 66 years, and its present content and form are the result of the work of many persons during that period. Revisions are made each year to adapt it to meet current needs and uses, and to bring the various statistical series up to date. The present volume has been prepared under the supervision of the Statistical Assistant to the Director by Morris B. Ullman, Statistician, and Kathleen H. Dugan, Editor.

The cooperation of many persons, acting in either their official positions or as individuals, who contributed to the preparation of this volume, is gratefully acknowledged. Cooperating agencies are credited under each of the tables for which they furnished information. In addition to furnishing information, the Federal agencies listed below contributed to the planning and preparation of the material in excess of routine requirements.

Administrative Office of the United States Courts.

Treasury Department—Bureau of Internal Revenue.

Department of Justice—Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Department of the Interior—General Land Office.

Department of Agriculture—Bureau of Agricultural Economics.
Forest Service.

Department of Commerce—Bureau of Foreign & Domestic Commerce.

Department of Labor—Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System.

Federal Security Agency—Social Security Board.

Office of Education.

Interstate Commerce Commission.

Maritime Commission.

Railroad Retirement Board.

October 1945.

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INTRODUCTION

Use of the Statistical Abstract.—The Statistical Abstract of the United States presents in one convenient volume important summary statistics on the industrial, social, political, and economic organization of the United States, and includes a representative selection from most important statistical publications. It is, of necessity, limited to national data or to data nation-wide in scope and does not attempt to present the great wealth of local data available from many sources.

This book is planned as a convenient reference volume for quantitative information and also serves as a guide to the various sources of statistical data. If the information on a particular subject presented in the Statistical Abstract is not sufficiently detailed, it is suggested that the user refer to the publication or to the agency responsible for the data, as indicated in the source note of the table, to obtain further information. The original source from which the table has been taken usually contains more complete discussions of the definitions and concepts used, and presents information for small areas, and often with additional classifications. Occasionally the agency responsible for the data has still more detailed information that can be made available from unpublished records.

The Preparation of this Edition.—This edition has been designated as that of 1944-45 in order to use the year of issue to identify the volume. The edition which will follow this will be designated the Statistical Abstract of the United States: 1946.

Under the emergency conditions which prevailed during the past few years, it has been increasingly difficult to assemble material and have it printed on the rigid time schedule required for the annual preparation of this volume. One of the problems encountered, which affected the timeliness of the data to a considerable extent, was the existence during the war years of regulations designed to withhold information which might be of aid to the enemy. The gradual lifting of wartime security regulations during the past 12 months has made available data previously withheld. To a considerable extent many of these regulations were changed after the tables for this edition were prepared and only a part of the data available at time of issue were included. For example, detailed information on imports and exports for 1942 are shown in the section on Foreign Commerce in this edition, but detailed 1943 and 1944 information has since been made available. The additions which would have been necessary to include the full information for the last two years would have meant considerable further delay in a release of this volume. A similar situation exists in the field of industry statistics, on which many restrictions have also been removed.

Closely related to this problem is the fact that much of the explanatory material, including the general notes, headnotes, and footnotes, was prepared during the time when the availability of information and the revision of surveys to readjust to new conditions, was in a state of flux. It should be kept in mind therefore that the bulk of this book was prepared as of approximately June 1, 1945 and few of the changes made since that time are included.

The Computation of Per Capita Figures.—In selecting and preparing derived figures for inclusion in this volume, another problem peculiar to the present situation has arisen in connection with reducing data to per capita figures. In normal times the total population serves reasonably well for making data comparable, either historically or geographically, on a per capita basis. Changes caused by the inclusion of a large part of the population in the armed services, their presence in areas other than their usual place of residence, and the absence of a large group of men in the armed forces overseas, has resulted in three sets of substantially different population figures from which to choose.

An example of the difficulty of maintaining historical comparability is the matter of birth rates. Crude rates in 1943 might be based on the total population, including armed forces overseas, on the population actually in continental United States excluding armed forces overseas, or on the civilian population. None of these three is fully satisfactory as a base for such rates. The first of these three (the total, including armed forces overseas) is perhaps the most nearly satisfactory base in this instance.

From the geographic viewpoint, the problem is one of taking adequate account of the temporary loss of population in an area to the armed forces and the temporary presence in an area of a large number of servicemen in training.

In the example cited, crude birth rates for States are exaggerated if based on the civilian population but will in some instances be underestimated if based on the actual population in the State, since the latter may contain a large number of servicemen in training. Rates based on the *de jure* population, that is, the population which "belongs" in the area might be advisable, but in the absence of adequate armed forces statistics by State of residence, such estimates are not feasible.

Each type of rate presents its own problem. Birth rates have been chosen simply as an illustration, but birth rates do not exemplify all the types of difficulties that are to be met. In almost all cases, it is necessary to interpret wartime rates with a great deal of caution. In many cases, it is even necessary to forego the attempt to achieve comparability as between wartime and peacetime rates.

Changes in this Edition.—The presentation of a general note at the beginning of each section in order to furnish a background for the statistics in the field is the principal new feature of this edition. General notes have been prepared for 15 of the 34 sections this year and will be revised and extended in future editions.

This edition includes 1,034 tables, as compared with 1,009 in the last volume. Over 10 percent of the tables are new and another 5 percent have been considerably revised. These changes are spread through 28 of the 34 sections. Special attention has been given to the section on Labor Force, State and Local Governments, Forests, and Manufactures. No new sections have been formed, but a number of improvements are under consideration. The increased availability of data withheld from the general public and the likelihood of changes in statistical reports after the war made it seem advisable to defer major changes until another year.

A list of tables by source is presented on pages VII to X, for the added convenience of users of the Statistical Abstract.

Supplements to the Abstract.—The Cities Supplement to the Statistical Abstract, announced in the last edition, has proved to be very popular. The publication, which brought together 79 items of information from 18 different sources for each city with 25,000 or more inhabitants in 1940, is on sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington 25, D. C., for 15 cents.

A second supplement, which brings together selected data from various sources on each county, including summaries for metropolitan areas is now being prepared. Information on the publication date and price will probably be available in the spring of 1946.

A third supplement has been proposed and is now under consideration. This supplement would show data for each year as far back as possible for a large number of time series.

This series of supplements to the Statistical Abstract of the United States has been initiated in response to many requests for the Abstract type of service in more detail than presented in the annual volume. Almost all statistical publications report results from a single survey or discuss a particular topic. The Statistical Abstract, on the other hand, brings together data from various sources on a variety of subjects in order to place in the hands of the user a general reference volume. The series of supplements is designed to carry this purpose beyond the limitations of a single volume. It is still in a formative state, so that criticism and expressions of needs will be welcomed as a means of increasing the value of this service.

Responsibility.—As implied in the title, the contents of this volume are taken from a large number of sources, as indicated in the list of agencies furnishing material on pages VII–X. The Bureau of the Census cannot accept the responsibility for the accuracy or limitations of the data presented here, other than for that which it collects. The responsibility for selection of the material for the general user and for proper presentation does, however, rest with the Bureau even though carried out with the cooperation of many technicians who have given unselfishly of their time and knowledge in order to assist the Bureau's staff in making the presentation as meaningful and useful as possible.

The cooperation of the users must also be acknowledged. Many persons have written offering suggestions for improving the presentation of the material. These letters have been most helpful and users are urged to continue to make their needs known. All suggestions will be carefully considered in planning future editions.

Address requests for additional information to the agency indicated
in the source note to the table which covers the desired subject.

Address suggestions and comments to
The Director
Bureau of the Census
Washington 25, D. C.