

Sixty-Eighth Edition

Statistical Abstract of the United States

1947

Compiled Under the Supervision
of Morris H. Hansen

Statistical Assistant to the Director

*Bureau of the Census
Library*



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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Statistical Abstract of the United States has been published annually for the past 68 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 compiled under the supervision of Morris H. Hansen, Statistical Assistant to the Director, and Morris B. Ullman, Chief, Statistical Reports Section. Bruce L. Jenkinson is Chief, Statistical Abstract Unit. Kathleen H. Dugan is Editor, and Elma D. Beynon is editorial supervisor, of the annual volume.

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. The list of tables by source (pages VII-X), as well as the source note following each table, indicates the various government and private agencies cooperating in furnishing information, assisting in the selection and preparation of the material, or otherwise contributing to the preparation of the Statistical Abstract.

OCTOBER 1947.

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INTRODUCTION

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

This book is designed to serve a two-fold purpose: *First*, to serve as a convenient reference volume for quantitative summary information; and *second*, to serve as a guide to various important sources of statistical data. If the user finds that the information given here on a particular subject is not sufficiently detailed for his purpose, it is suggested that he refer to the publication or the agency from which the statistics were obtained for publication in the Statistical Abstract. The source of each table is given at the foot of the table. The original source usually contains additional statistical detail, and a more complete discussion of the definitions and concepts involved, than can be presented in the Statistical Abstract; also, it may supply data for small areas. Further, the agency initially responsible for the statistics occasionally can supply still more detailed information on the basis of their unpublished tabulations or records.

1947 Edition.—This edition, the 68th annual issue of the Statistical Abstract of the United States, is designated by the year of publication. The statistics shown are the latest available in the early part of the calendar year. The time periods or dates covered by the information in the tables vary according to the practices followed by the various agencies responsible for their preparation.

Among the new features in this edition is the presentation of some graphic material. A small number of charts and maps have been included, using selection criteria similar to those used in selecting the tabular material. It is planned to continue and to expand this practice in subsequent issues. Comments of users will be helpful in determining future selections of this type of material.

The availability of data from the 1945 Census of Agriculture furnished an opportunity to reorganize the material on agriculture. Data on farms are now presented in two sections instead of four. New material is also included from the resurvey of forestry resources, on new veterans' programs, on current industrial production, on construction contracts, and on new and discontinued businesses. A few additional general notes have also been prepared.

The principal omissions are tables showing data for the Philippine Islands, since that area attained status as an independent republic on July 4, 1946. A small amount of material on the Philippines has been retained, however, especially in the historical tables where the separation of data for that area would be difficult.

Finally, a number of changes have been made in the tabular materials with the intention of increasing their legibility. In particular, the width of the type page has been increased, the use of heavy vertical rules has been made uniform throughout the book, and parallel vertical rules have been inserted after additive totals.

Supplements to the Abstract.—The Statistical Abstract, as an annual one-volume publication, is of necessity limited in amount of detail shown. Businessmen, teachers, librarians, public officials, professional workers, and others often require data for individual cities, counties, metropolitan areas, and other small areas as well as for States. Economists, teachers, students, and others frequently need more historical information. To meet such requests for more detail, a series of supplements to the Abstract has been initiated.

The first of these supplements, *Cities Supplement—Statistical Abstract of the United States*, provides 79 different items of information concerning the population, education, housing, labor force, business establishments, government finance, and climate of each of the 397 cities of the United States with 25,000 or more inhabitants in 1940. This supplement is on sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington 25, D. C., for 15 cents.

The *County Data Book*, a supplement to the Statistical Abstract of the United States, is the second in this series. This publication brings together 91 different items of information for each of the 3,099 counties of the United States, with summaries for 138 metropolitan areas defined along county lines. Broad subject headings covered are population, labor force, housing, agriculture, industry, trade, and other economic data (including bank deposits, E Bond sales, war supply contracts and war-time facilities projects). This publication is on sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington 25, D. C., for \$2.75.

The preliminary edition of a third publication in this series, *Historical Statistics of the United States*, a supplement to the Statistical Abstract, is now at the printer and should be available early in 1948. This volume brings together a large number of statistical series which extend back through time. Data are shown for each year back to 1790 or to the earliest data available for the series. In preparing this volume the Bureau had the cooperation of a special committee of the Social Science Research Council set up to advise the Director of the Census on a source book of historical statistics and of the Committee on Research in Economic History under the auspices of the Social Science Research Council.

These supplements to the Statistical Abstract have been prepared to extend the usefulness of the basic annual volume by assembling specialized material in separate books. As these supplements develop it will be possible to edit the material shown in the basic volume to emphasize recent data, while supplements will serve the more specialized needs.

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. (See 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 those which it collects. However, the responsibility for selection of the material for the general user and for proper presentation rests 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.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON DATA PRESENTED

write to the agency indicated in the source note to the table which covers the desired subject.

SUGGESTIONS AND COMMENTS

should be sent to:

The Director
Bureau of the Census
Washington 25, D. C.

