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Historical Statistics

OF THE UNITED STATES

1789-1945

*A Supplement to the Statistical Abstract
of the United States*



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

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Historical Statistics

OF THE UNITED STATES

1789-1945

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*A Supplement to the Statistical Abstract
of the United States*

PREPARED BY THE BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
WITH THE COOPERATION OF THE
SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH COUNCIL

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*United States Department of Commerce, CHARLES SAWYER, Secretary
Bureau of the Census, J. C. Capt, Director*



HISTORICAL STATISTICS OF THE UNITED STATES, 1789-1945

REVISIONS

For more recent data, including revisions, see the current *Statistical Abstract of the United States* where, beginning with the 1949 issue (available about November 1949), these time series will be brought to date annually in a special appendix which will include revisions for earlier years.

ERRATA

Page 1, series A 3-99 (text), general note, line 11, should read "was 321 billion dollars" and "was 353 billion dollars," not "million dollars."

Page 112, series E 265 (table), 1940 figure should read "31,061," not "31,601."

Page 118, series F 200-211 (text), lines 9-10, weight of standard case of salmon should read "48 pounds," not "45 pounds."

Page 174, series H 117 and H 124 (table), footnote 1 should read "Excludes loans," not "Includes loans."

Page 256, series N 86-89 (text), lines 18-19, should read "For 1920-1936, series N 86," not "series N 88."

Page 267, series N 67 (table), 1933 figure should read "-9.6," not "-9.9."

Page 273, series N 124-130 (table), omit headnote; table is in dollars, not thousands of dollars.

In a volume of detailed historical statistics it is inevitable that errors will occur which will be discovered only in use of the book. Users encountering such errors are urged to communicate them to the Bureau of the Census where they will be listed for correction in a revised edition. In the meantime, if a sufficient number of corrections accumulate, additional errata sheets may be issued. Those users who wish to be placed on the mailing list to receive such errata sheets should address a request in writing to the Director, United States Bureau of the Census, Washington 25, D. C.

JUNE 1949.

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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1949

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While this volume has been planned, assembled, and edited in the Bureau of the Census, with the advice and assistance of the Social Science Research Council, many other individuals and agencies contributed to its preparation, directly and indirectly. In some instances, individuals devoted themselves full-time for the period necessary to complete their phase of the project. In other instances, contributions were prepared by individuals while they maintained heavy responsibilities in their own offices. A number of private publishers, authors, and research organizations generously granted permission to use their materials. In some cases, they also made additional contributions in time and energy. General acknowledgments for each chapter are given on p. IV; other specific acknowledgments appear within the text in the various sections of the volume.

This volume was prepared in the office of Morris H. Hansen, Statistical Assistant to the Director of the Bureau of the Census,

under the supervision of Morris B. Ullman, Chief, Statistical Reports Section, by Bruce L. Jenkinson, A. Benjamin Handler, and William Lerner. Mr. Jenkinson, Chief, Statistical Abstract Unit, was primarily responsible for the planning and preparation of the report; Mr. Handler, Executive Secretary of the Social Science Research Council Committee on the Source Book of Historical Statistics, was primarily responsible for procurement of data and relationships with the agencies and individuals who contributed to the publication; and Mr. Lerner, Statistician, Statistical Abstract Unit, was primarily responsible for the review and editing of the materials as to content, adequacy, and coverage.

Dorothy M. Belzer acted as staff assistant, particularly with respect to tabular presentation, and was responsible for preparation of the materials for the printer. Claire F. Cahill checked all citations by reference to the original published sources and offered many constructive suggestions as to the content of the book.

Social Science Research Council

The Social Science Research Council Committee on the Source Book of Historical Statistics, Advisory to the Bureau of the Census, played an important role in the preparation of this volume. The Chairman of the Committee and its members gave considerable time and thought to the review of plans, to advising on proper courses of action, and contributed in other ways. In particular, J. Frederic Dewhurst, Chairman, was in a large measure responsible for the initiation of the project. The completed volume owes much

to his original outline of purpose, coverage, and arrangement. For a detailed statement of the origins of this historical volume, see introductory text.

Through a grant by the Committee on Research in Economic History (Arthur H. Cole, Chairman) of the Social Science Research Council, the full-time services of the Executive Secretary of the Advisory Committee were made available to the Bureau of the Census.

The Social Science Research Council Committee on the Source Book of Historical Statistics (Advisory to the Bureau of the Census)

J. Frederic Dewhurst (Chairman), The Twentieth Century Fund

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Social Science Research Council

R. H. Coats, University of Toronto, attended meetings of the Committee as a representative of the Social Science Research Council of Canada

CONTENTS

(The numbers following subjects are series numbers)

Chapter	Page
Introduction	V
A. Wealth and Income	1
National wealth (A 1-100) including early and more recent estimates. Income (A 101-207) including national product, national income, and income distribution.	
B. Population Characteristics and Migration	16
Population characteristics: Decennial summaries (B 1-23), area and population (B 24-30), sex, age, and race (B 31-144), urban-rural and farm residence (B 145-181). Migration: Internal migration (B 182-236), citizenship status and country of birth (B 237-303), immigration, emigration, and naturalization (B 304-352).	
C. Vital Statistics, Health, and Nutrition	39
Vital statistics, including births, deaths, marriage, and divorce (C 1-78). Health (C 79-119). Nutrition (C 120-155).	
D. Labor Force, Wages, and Working Conditions	55
Labor force (D 1-106). Hours, wages, and earnings (D 107-212). Productivity (D 213-217). Union membership and work stoppages (D 218-238).	
E. Agriculture	74
General statistics (E 1-116). Livestock, meat, dairying, and poultry (E 117-180). Crop statistics (E 181-243). Farm credit (E 244-269).	
F. Land, Forestry, and Fisheries	113
Public lands of the United States (F 1-24). Land utilization (F 25-68). Forestry (F 69-154). Fisheries (F 155-219).	
G. Minerals and Power	133
Value of minerals and production indexes (G 1-12). Fuels (G 13-64). Nonmetals (G 65-92). Metals (G 93-130). Mining employment and injuries (G 131-158). Power (G 159-233).	
H. Construction and Housing	160
Construction expenditures (H 1-39). Other construction data (H 40-80). Housing units (H 81-112). Nonfarm housing credit (H 113-135).	
J. Manufactures	176
General statistics (J 1-12). Production indexes (J 13-48). Value of output (J 49-148). Capital expenditures (J 149-151). Physical output of specific commodities (J 152-180).	
K. Transportation	188
Railroads (K 1-93). Shipping and water traffic (K 94-173). Road transportation (K 174-238). Air transport (K 239-273).	
L. Price Indexes	226
General price index (L 1). Wholesale price indexes (L 2-35). Cost of living, consumers' price, and retail price indexes (L 36-52).	
M. Balance of Payments and Foreign Trade	237
International balance of payments (M 1-41). Foreign trade including imports and exports of gold, silver, and merchandise (M 42-112).	
N. Banking and Finance	253
Banking statistics (N 1-147). Currency and gold (N 148-184). Money rates and security markets (N 185-232).	
P. Government	283
Elections and politics (P 1-61). Government civilian employment (P 62-88). Federal government finances (P 89-169). Copyrights, patents and trade-marks (P 170-187). State and local government finances (P 188-277).	
Appendix I. Monthly and Quarterly Indicators of Business Conditions.....	320
Appendix II. Basic Premises for Data Selection.....	350
Time-period and alphabetical indexes.....	353

Acknowledgments for Chapter or Section Contributions

(Acknowledgments for single or small groups of series are included in the text for those series)

Chapter A. Wealth and Income

Chapter prepared by Harlow D. Osborne, Economic Analyst, National Income Division, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Department of Commerce.

Chapter B. Population and Migration

Material on population, internal migration, citizenship, and country of birth prepared by Bureau of the Census staff.

Basic text and series for immigration, emigration, and naturalization supplied by Mrs. Helen F. Eckerson, Supervisor of the Statistics Section, Division of Research and Education, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Department of Justice.

Chapter C. Vital Statistics, Health, and Nutrition

Basic text and series on vital statistics supplied by National Office of Vital Statistics, Public Health Service, Federal Security Agency.

Basic text and series on health supplied by Division of Public Health Methods, Office of the Surgeon General, Public Health Service, Federal Security Agency.

Basic text and series on nutrition supplied by Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics and Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Department of Agriculture.

Chapter D. Labor Force, Wages, and Working Conditions

Material on labor force prepared by Bureau of the Census staff.

Basic text and series on wages and working conditions largely supplied by Bureau of Labor Statistics, Department of Labor, Margaret H. Schoenfeld, Economic Editor, coordinating.

Chapter E. Agriculture

Basic text and series supplied by Bureau of Agricultural Economics and Farm Credit Administration, Department of Agriculture, Robert M. Walsh, Special Assistant to the Chief of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, coordinating.

Chapter F. Land, Forestry, and Fisheries

Basic text and series on public lands supplied largely by Branch of Research, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior.

Basic text and series on land utilization supplied by Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Department of Agriculture.

Series on forestry supplied by Division of Forest Economics, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture.

Series on fisheries supplied by Statistical Section, Division of Commercial Fisheries, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior.

Chapter G. Minerals and Power

Basic text and series on minerals supplied by Economics and Statistics Branch, Bureau of Mines, Department of the Interior, Hubert D. Keiser and Allan F. Matthews, former and present editors of the *Minerals Yearbook*, coordinating.

Basic text and series on power supplied by Division of Finance and Statistics, Bureau of Accounts, Finance, and Rates, Federal Power Commission.

Chapter H. Construction and Housing

Basic text and series on construction supplied by Keith W. Johnson, Economic Analyst, Samuel J. Dennis, Chief, Construction Economics Unit, and William H. Shaw, Chief, Construction Statistics Unit, Construction Division, in the Bureau of Foreign

and Domestic Commerce, Department of Commerce. Material was also supplied by: H. E. Riley, Chief, Construction and Public Employment Division, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Department of Labor; and Fred E. Schnepfe, Chief, Liaison Division, Public Roads Administration, Federal Works Agency.

Material on housing prepared by Bureau of the Census staff.

Chapter J. Manufactures

Material on manufactures prepared by Bureau of the Census staff.

Chapter K. Transportation

List of series on railroads suggested by: Bureau of Transport Economics and Statistics, Interstate Commerce Commission; and Bureau of Railway Economics, Association of American Railroads.

Material on water transportation prepared by staff of Bureau of the Census.

Series on road transportation supplied by Division of Research Reports and Statistics, Public Roads Administration, Federal Works Agency.

List of series on air transport suggested by J. Parker Van Zandt, Brookings Institution, and by Civil Aeronautics Administration, Department of Commerce. Data supplied by Civil Aeronautics Administration.

Chapter L. Price Indexes

Basic text and series supplied by Prices and Cost of Living Branch, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Department of Labor.

Chapter M. Balance of Payments and Foreign Trade

Basic text and series for balance of payments supplied by International Economics Division, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Department of Commerce.

Material on foreign trade prepared by Bureau of the Census staff.

Chapter N. Banking and Finance

Data reviewed and basic text supplied by Division of Research and Statistics, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

Chapter P. Government

Series and basic text on elections and State and local finance and employment were supplied by the Governments Division of the Bureau of the Census.

Data on Federal Government finance were prepared in the Bureau of the Census with the cooperation of the Office of the Technical Staff, Treasury Department.

Series and basic text on copyrights, patents, and trade-marks were supplied by P. J. Federico, Examiner-in-Chief, Patent Office, Department of Commerce.

Appendix I. Monthly and Quarterly Indicators of Business Conditions

Chapter prepared by Geoffrey H. Moore, National Bureau of Economic Research. In transmitting the manuscript, Mr. Moore stated: "In preparing this chapter I have had the expert assistance of several members of the staff of the National Bureau of Economic Research. I am especially indebted to Arthur F. Burns for his critical advice on selection of series, and to Millard Hastay for preparing a number of the descriptive notes. Hanna Stern was mainly responsible for compiling the data and verifying sources. The F. W. Dodge Corporation and Business Statistics Organization, Inc., have kindly given permission to publish certain of their series."

HISTORICAL STATISTICS OF THE UNITED STATES

Introduction

This historical supplement to the *Statistical Abstract of the United States* presents, in compact form for ready reference, approximately 3,000 statistical time series which cover various periods from 1789 to 1945. In a very few instances, figures are shown for the colonial period and the years under the Continental Congress. These statistics reflect economic, social, and political aspects of the development of the Nation since the Federal Government was formally established.

The present edition is not intended as a final product. In terms of the objectives of the compilers it is preliminary in character and comprises, in effect, a working manuscript. As such, it establishes a pattern and provides a preliminary selection of materials. Gaps and weaknesses are thereby disclosed and problems crystallized. On the basis of the experience thus gained, and the suggestions and criticisms of users of this edition, the process of revision will make possible a more useful future edition.

This volume is designed to serve two immediate needs. *First*, to bring together for the convenience of users of statistics the historical series of wide general interest; and *second*, to provide, through brief descriptive text and precise source notes, a guide to the types of historical data available, so as to inform the user where further data can be obtained. These objectives are similar to those of the annual *Statistical Abstract of the United States*, except that in the annual volume the emphasis is on current data with limited historical data as background.

The historical statistics selected for presentation here consist primarily of data readily available in Federal agencies and in a few additional quarters. In the compilation task, the Bureau of the Census has not engaged in new research for the purpose of establishing new series, revising existent series, or interpreting the comparability through time of the statistics presented.

Furthermore, the conditions of compilation, particularly the time factor, made it impracticable to take full advantage of the research already performed by others. To locate and bring together for initial inspection any significant proportion of the contributions to historical statistics which may be found in government and other reports would be a formidable task in itself, exclusive of the evaluation necessary as a prelude to publication. Even the selection and preparation for publication of 3,000 statistical time series out of those most ready of access would have proved impracticable without the cooperation of the many government bureaus whose materials are shown.

In particular, it is felt that so-called "lapsed" series are not sufficiently represented here. These are series once compiled annually but abandoned at some time in the past. The reason for abandonment varies: A new and more adequate measure of the given phenomena may have become possible; the phenomena being measured may have ceased to exist, as in the instance of the statistics on slavery; the subject field may have been one in which the Federal Government ceased to collect data; or the phenomena may have receded to a position of minor import in our national life. A careful selection and presentation of such series would go far to provide a more complete statistical picture of the early and middle periods of the Nation's existence.

Major objectives of a future revision of this volume should include presentation of additional series less readily available, a selection of some of the more significant lapsed series which offer light on early American history, and series in a few additional subject fields for which statistics could not be presented in this first edition. It is hoped also that the present volume will stimu-

late research by others leading to filling in of gaps in historical knowledge—research that will afford materials for inclusion in future revisions.

The Problem of Historical Statistics

The statistics of the Nation are an important and even indispensable tool in the proper portrayal of the status of the United States in various subject fields at various periods in time. There are surprisingly few general fields in which existent figures cannot supplement or clarify the qualitative historical records—figures which were compiled year by year during the course of events, or were reconstructed later on the basis of existent statistical evidence.

The extent to which statistical data are cited or taken into account in historical writings is frequently dependent upon the ready availability of the needed data to the writers. An understandable lack of knowledge as to the existence of historical statistics in a given field, and the relative inaccessibility of the volumes in which they may be found, combine to prevent their more widespread and effective use.

True, in some subject fields statistical time series are entirely lacking, particularly figures already arranged year by year. In many important fields, however, the past publications of the Nation, public and private, contain a wealth of data periodically compiled which reflect the fact that "a strong passion for statistics early developed itself in the life of our people . . ."¹

Sources of data. Among the numerous sources of historical statistics of the United States are the annual reports of the executive heads of the various Departments, Bureaus, and other agencies of the Federal Government, reports of special Federal commissions established from time to time, the volumes of the various censuses of the United States, the printed debates of the Congress, the published reports of Committees of the Congress and the transcripts of hearings conducted by them on important legislative measures, the published reports and documents of State Governments, the statistical publications of private research foundations and organizations and of the universities and colleges of the Nation, and the great mass of statistical and other volumes printed privately by other organizations and individuals.

Difficulty of accessibility. The accessibility of these great masses of historical data to those who wish to use them is another matter. As matters stand, Senators and Congressmen, public officials, economic, social, and political historians, research workers, teachers, students, journalists, and authors, to mention only a few groups, who wish to consult the historical statistics "available" in published form on a given subject are faced with three major difficulties:

First, the determination of the existence of the data and the identification of the exact public or private document or volume in which the data may be found. Frequently, this requires a knowledge of the responsibilities of government bureaus in years long past, and the scope, coverage, and formal description or title of their official reports. The exact material which is desired may already have been compiled, but it may well be buried in an obscure special report or in the published documents of an early Congress—publications which few libraries may have on their shelves.

Furthermore, the present staff of the Government Bureau now responsible for the given subject field may have only a meager

¹ From a speech by Francis A. Walker, Superintendent of the Ninth and Tenth Censuses of the United States (1870 and 1880), delivered before the International Statistical Institute, Chicago, 1893.

knowledge of the detailed statistics contained in the early reports and published documents of their own and predecessor agencies.

Second, once an exact published source has been determined, the data may not be found already arranged in the form of a time series.

In some historical fields, such as banking, merchant vessel tonnage, and the fiscal affairs of the government, current or fairly recent government documents carry extensive statistical summary tables which provide the more important data carried far back in time year by year. In other fields, the annual reports and other documents present figures only for the most recent year. Accordingly, historical tables must be constructed laboriously by reference to as many volumes as there are years to be considered. This requires access to a collection of such volumes possessed by few libraries.

Even in Washington, D. C., at the seat of Government, where the extensive collections of the Library of Congress may be supplemented by reference to Bureau and Departmental libraries and records, the compilation of long-term time series by reference to individual annual reports is a laborious and time-consuming task.

Third, identification of changes in concept and coverage over a period of time is important since such changes may affect vitally the interpretation of the statistics for a span of years. Coupled with this is the need for definitions of terms employed in published historical tables, definitions which may be in a separate publication or may never have been published.

A ready "solution" of the first two difficulties by location of a previously compiled time series may prove deceptive. As a general rule, historical tables in government documents represent compilations of figures with a minimum of text and tabular notes. Definitions, where given, are usually for the current year; qualifications of data, particularly warnings as to changes in concepts and collection methods over the years, are often inadequate.

Grave risks are entailed in attempts to compile long-term time series of annual data by reference to successive issues of the *Statistical Abstract of the United States*. In each issue, many revised figures appear. Generally, these are for the immediately preceding year or years, but revisions in the more historical data are not uncommon. Statistics for the specific years for which data are shown in the most recent issue of the *Statistical Abstract* may be used with no greater precaution than is necessary when making use of any highly abbreviated presentation of historical statistics. However, the attempt to fill in data for omitted years by reference to earlier issues may well result in serious lack of comparability through time.

In view of the broad difficulties outlined above, it is apparent that no single reference volume can offer a complete solution to the problem of historical statistics, as such. At best, it can provide a selection of statistics in a number of broad subject fields and constitute a guide to the more basic and detailed sources of data—functions which comprise the objectives of *Historical Statistics of the United States*.

Origins of This Volume

This volume stems directly from a resolution of the Committee on Problems and Policy of the Social Science Research Council which was transmitted to the Secretary of Commerce. That resolution urged that the Secretary give consideration to the compilation and publication by the Bureau of the Census of a source book of economic statistics.

The idea had been originated by J. Frederic Dewhurst who, in a memorandum dated April 12, 1945, outlined the need for a volume which would bring together within a single cover the most important of the comprehensive statistical series measuring the economic development of the United States over the past century or more. Dr. Dewhurst submitted his proposal, which included illustrative materials, to the American Statistical Association and the American Economic Association which, the same year, set up a Joint Committee to explore the practical problems of preparing such a volume. The Economic History Association,

which also expressed an interest, was invited by the Joint Committee to send representatives to its meetings.

The proposal was discussed by the Committee on Problems and Policy of the Social Science Research Council on July 28, 1945, which adopted and transmitted to the Secretary of Commerce the resolution referred to above.

In his reply to the Social Science Research Council, dated August 9, 1945, the Secretary of Commerce wrote "The Bureau of the Census is prepared to cooperate to the fullest extent possible in the preparation of this volume and is including in its budget request for next year (fiscal year 1947) the necessary funds for compilation and printing." The Bureau of the Census was particularly interested in this proposal because of the growing belief of staff members responsible for preparation of the annual *Statistical Abstract of the United States* that a historical supplement to that volume was needed. Such a supplement would provide users of the *Statistical Abstract* with needed historical compilations which some users now attempt to obtain by reference to successive back issues, frequently with unfortunate results as indicated above. Also, additional current statistics could be included in the annual issues of the *Statistical Abstract* if some reduction could be made in the space devoted to historical data. Funds were made available for this purpose in the appropriations for 1947 and compilation work was begun.

With the formal acceptance by the Bureau of the Census of responsibility for compilation of the volume, the Joint Committee was reconstituted and it became the Social Science Research Council Committee on the Source Book of Historical Statistics, Advisory to the Bureau of the Census. The Committee on Research in Economic History of the Social Science Research Council made additional funds available so that the Committee on the Source Book of Historical Statistics could appoint a full-time executive secretary to work with the Bureau of the Census in the joint effort to insure that this book meet the widest possible needs.

Planning and Compilation

As a first step in the actual preparation of this volume, the Bureau of the Census staff, with the advice and cooperation of the Advisory Committee, prepared a working outline and statement of basic premises to guide the selection of material. It was necessary to set up a procedure for reviewing and sifting the many series available in an effort to select for presentation in the limited space of a single volume those series that would be most widely useful.

After agreement on a basic framework, a number of agencies and persons were approached to prepare lists of significant available historical series for specific subjects which they would recommend for inclusion or to review and supplement lists prepared by the editorial staff of the volume. Since it was realized that there were many questions and much room for judgment in the preparation of these lists, it was intended that the lists be given a further broad review throughout the field of possible users in government, in business, and in the academic world. Most of these first lists were prepared or edited by persons in Federal government agencies since such persons were more readily available for consultation.

It soon became evident that the broader review process would be of limited value unless the data themselves could be made available to those who were to be asked to review the lists. This need led to the preparation of this edition without such a broad review.

Comments and suggestions. It is the intention of the Bureau of the Census to review this material systematically in the next few years. To this end, users of this volume are encouraged to send in any comments or any information they have which they believe

will make this volume more complete and more useful. The statement of "Basic Premises for Data Selection," which comprised the basic considerations for the project, is reproduced without significant change in Appendix II. This provides the criteria

against which contributions and suggestions for future editions should be measured. In itself, the statement of premises is subject to change, and criticisms and suggestions leading to its improvement will be welcomed.

TECHNICAL NOTES

Arrangement of the data. Data finally selected for inclusion in this volume are arranged by subject in lettered chapters and numbered series. The chapter titles are of necessity somewhat arbitrarily chosen and certain materials could have been classified under several of them. On the whole, however, it is felt that subject matter of interest can readily be found by reference either to the subject-listing under the chapter titles in the table of contents or to the index on the last pages of the book. Because of the possible confusion of capital letter I and Roman numeral I and of capital letter O with zero (0), these two letters have been omitted in identifying the chapters.

Each series or tabular column is assigned a number, the first series in each chapter beginning with 1. Each series is further identified in the table titles and cross-references by prefixing the chapter letter. Thus, the 44th series in the chapter on Agriculture is designated as **E 44** to distinguish it from the 44th series in the chapter on Transportation designated as **K 44**.

All series begin with the most recent year for which data have been obtained and run backward in time. Insofar as possible, there are uniformly placed spaces above every year ending in 0 or 5. No data are shown for years subsequent to 1945; this was done partly because it facilitated the space arrangement, but primarily because a considerable body of 1946 figures were still preliminary at the time this volume was in preparation.

Basic premises. When preparing a volume of this type, certain basic premises must be established to guide the staff and consultants in the selection and preparation of the material. These premises are subject to modification in accordance with the problems encountered during the course of operations. A statement on the basic premises for *Historical Statistics of the United States* is presented as appendix II on page 350. The extent to which it has been possible, or impracticable, to adhere to the objectives and premises described will be apparent to the user of this edition. The following specific observations relate to the limitations of the tabular materials and descriptive text as found in this preliminary edition.

Area coverage. Data shown in this volume are for continental United States as a whole, unless otherwise specified in table titles, tabular notes, or descriptive text. In some instances, however, the source material used failed to specify clearly the exact area covered. Where practicable, the matter was investigated and the appropriate qualification added.

Time coverage. Three major problems of identification of time-periods were encountered: (1) The sources occasionally did not state whether the data were for a calendar or fiscal year; (2) if for a fiscal year, it was not always clear whether the data were for a fiscal year ending June 30, September 30, or some other date; (3) shifts in time coverage, as from calendar to fiscal year, during the period covered by the series, were not always clear in the source.

In all three instances, particularly where time shifts seemed likely to have occurred, an effort was made to determine the exact situation so far as practicable.

Series linkage. No formal attempt has been made in this edition to extend a single series farther through time by linking it to another series which terminated at or near the date on which the first series began, or stopped, as the case may be. However, in a number of instances, notably in the chapter on agriculture, such series have been presented in adjoining columns, with an overlap for a

period of years when available. In spite of this, some series which are presented here as continuous through the years are comprised of distinct segments. These series are shown thus in this volume for the following reasons:

1. The series have been transcribed as shown in the source materials. The volumes from which data were taken frequently present historical summaries in a given field for the purpose of permitting broad comparisons, or to bring out certain particular attributes for which the data shown are comparable, with tabular notes selected in terms of the particular presentation purpose. It is possible that notations vital to other types of interpretation were omitted. Thus, a series showing data from 1789 to the present may be adequately noted for use of those who wish to measure the extent to which certain present-day phenomena have their antecedents in past time; the same notes may well be useless, and the omitted notes vital, to a person whose interest is confined to the period 1820-1860.

Actually, the problem of omitted qualifications is inherent in virtually every time-series of any length. The series presented here are no exceptions to that rule. In general, where the sources used provided tabular notes, qualifying the data, such notes have been included here.

2. In some instances, the linkage of series had already been performed and published by competent research workers who had made a careful study of the factors involved. Such series have, of course, been presented here, citing the source. Even here, however, it should be noted that the research may have been carried on in terms of specific objectives. Consequently, the data are subject to increased qualifications when used for purposes other than those contemplated by the original responsible analyst.

Omissions of data, "blank" cells. The significance of dashes in tabular cells requires explanation, since their meaning tends to vary from series to series, and even within the same series. In general, the presence of cell "leaders" or "dashes" indicates merely that no information was provided for this volume. In respect to possible significance, dash entries may mean that (1) no information exists for the given year, (2) that the entry, if shown, would be zero (0), (3) the information was not available, whether because it was never requested, or whether it was requested but was not forthcoming, or (4) the information is believed to exist in published form but it was not practicable to do the research necessary to locate the appropriate source.

Further, the practices of the several government agencies and private sources of information differ as to the meaning of dashes in cells, the extent to which they label material as "not available," the meaning of the term "not available," the use of the zero (0) entry, etc.

In general, the policy adopted in preparing this volume, was to retain "not available" notations where they appeared for intermediate years in the series; to change them to dashes where they appeared at the beginning or end of the series. Where cells were left blank in the sources, they were filled with dashes in this volume.

Finally, since series of varying length taken from different sources are frequently found in adjoining columns, the stub listings for years necessarily encompass the earliest and latest date for which any of the series are shown. In itself, this tends to create many additional blank cells, as in the case where a series for 1885 to 1926 is placed next to the same stub as a series for 1880 to 1945.

HISTORICAL STATISTICS OF THE UNITED STATES

Here again, the "blank" cells have been filled by dashes in order to make it easier for the user's eye to trace the entries for a given year across the entire table, through the otherwise blank columns.

The presence of dashes in the cells may thus have several meanings—it does not necessarily mean that the value is zero, not obtainable, or nonexistent. The user will have to judge from the context which meaning is appropriate in each particular instance.

Responsibility. Because of the multitude of sources and the varied subject matter covered, the Bureau of the Census cannot

accept responsibility for the accuracy or limitations of data other than those which it collects. Every attempt has been made insofar as time and personnel permitted to verify and label properly the material included here. The places where this was not always possible are indicated in the remarks, just preceding this section. Final responsibility for selection of the material, for accurate transmittal, and for proper presentation, rests with the Bureau of the Census, even though carried out with the cooperation of many individuals and agencies who devoted much time and energy in providing data and descriptions of series for this publication.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON DATA PRESENTED

write to the agency indicated in the source note in the descriptive text for the given statistical series.

SUGGESTIONS AND COMMENTS

should be sent to:

The Director
Bureau of the Census
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