Statistical Abstract of the United States

1956

77th Annual Edition

Prepared under the direction of
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Chief, Statistical Reports Division

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Sinclair Weeks, Secretary
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS, Robert W. Burgess, Director

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The cooperation of the many contributors to this volume is gratefully acknowledged. The list of sources of tables (pp. XII-XV) and the source note below each table credit the various government and private agencies which have collaborated in furnishing information for the Statistical Abstract.

JUNE 1956.

SUGGESTED BRIEF CITATION

PREFACE

The Statistical Abstract of the United States, published annually since 1878, is the standard summary of statistics on the industrial, social, political, and economic organization of the United States. This book is designed to fulfill two functions: First, to serve as a convenient volume for statistical reference; and second, to serve as a guide to other statistical publications and sources. The latter function is served both by the source notes appearing below each table and the Bibliography of Sources, alphabetically indexed by subject, found beginning on page 974.

The Statistical Abstract of the United States includes a representative selection of data from most of the important statistical publications, both governmental and private. The publications cited as sources usually contain additional statistical detail and a more complete discussion of relevant definitions and concepts than can be presented here. Where contributing agencies are cited as sources, without mention of publications, more detailed information frequently is available from their unpublished tabulations and records.

Emphasis in the Statistical Abstract is given primarily to national data. Data for regions and individual States are presented to a lesser extent. Data for cities or other small geographic units appear only in a few instances.

1956 edition.—This edition, the 77th annual issue, presents data for the most recent year or period available during the early part of 1956. The title year "1956" refers both to the year during which compilation of the book was made and the year of publication.

Each year, in addition to the normal bringing up to date of the over 1,100 tables and charts comprising the Statistical Abstract, new tables containing pertinent data are introduced. Data that are less timely are eliminated and format and text changes are made where considered advisable.

This year the text notes for the second half of the volume have been revised to make them more comprehensive and consistent. This completes the revision of the text material begun last year. Ninety-seven new tables have been introduced, including one group devoted to an initial presentation of data on physical geography and a second group containing information from the 1954 Census of Business. A selection of the subjects of other new tables appears below:

- Current population estimates, by age and sex
- Church membership trend and Sunday school enrollment
- Live birth rates, by order of birth, for native white women
- Expectation of life, for white males and females, by States
- Projections to 1965 of elementary and high school enrollments, by grade
- Public library systems
- State park systems
- Inventory of Federal real property, by acreage, buildings, cost, usage
- Work stoppages, by States
- Unions and union membership, by size class
- Coast Guard personnel
- Persons, 65 years old and over, receiving money income from specified sources
- Workmen's compensation payments, by type of benefit and type of insurance
- Resources, expenditures, and grants of philanthropic foundations
- National flow of funds accounts
- Campaign expenditures for congressional and Presidential elections
- Fishing and hunting licenses
Stock ownership, by income, occupation, educational level, and place of residence of owner
Volume and annual growth, cut, and mortality of growing stock on commercial forest land
Medical care insurance
Trend of mergers and acquisitions of firms

Life expectancy of business firms, by industry
Households with television sets
Motor travel, by type of vehicle
Public highway debt
Coal reserves
Characteristics of new nonfarm dwelling units
Per capita consumption of tobacco products

In addition to the 1954 Census of Business, the 1954 Censuses of Agriculture, Manufactures, and Mineral Industries are also represented. Further and more detailed statistics will be included in the next edition.

Among tables shown in the last edition, 87 were omitted from this issue. Major omissions occurred in the Social Insurance and Welfare Services section affecting figures on the source of, and administrative responsibility for, social welfare expenditures, and on workers under the Federal retirement systems and the old-age and survivors insurance laws; in the Federal Government Finances and Employment section affecting data on Federal employees subject to Federal retirement acts, on civilian employment by pay group and compensation authority, and on corporation income tax returns; in the State and Local Government Finances and Employment section affecting data on revenue, expenditure, and debt of cities having 25,000 inhabitants or more, on monthly employment, retirement coverage of employees, and cash and security holdings of State and local governments; in the Banking and Finance section affecting figures on assets, liabilities, and fiduciary activities of national banks, and on characteristics of individual share owners of publicly owned stocks; and in the Construction and Housing section affecting 1950 Census of Housing data. Some of the information in the omitted tables was absorbed in other tables still present.

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, market researchers, and others often require data for individual cities, counties, metropolitan areas, and other small areas as well as for States. Economists, teachers, social scientists, historians, students, and others frequently need more historical information. To meet such requests for more detail, a series of supplements to the Abstract has been issued.

The County and City Data Book, 1953, a small-area supplement, issued in May 1953, brings together 128 items of information for each county, standard metropolitan area, and State; and 133 items for each of 484 cities with 25,000 inhabitants or more in 1950. Most of the statistics in this volume were obtained from the results of the 1950 Censuses of Agriculture, Population, and Housing. Other subjects covered include 1950 data for births, deaths, and marriages; bank deposits and E Bond sales; city government finances and employment; city school systems; farm-operator family level-of-living index; and other items of social and economic importance. Final figures for a number of items from the 1948 Census of Business and the 1947 Census of Manufactures are also shown. This volume is on sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., for $4.25.

Historical Statistics of the United States, 1789–1945, a historical supplement, was published in July 1949. This volume presents, in compact form, approximately 3,000 statistical time series (mostly on an annual basis) which cover various periods from 1789 to 1945. These time series reflect economic, social, and political aspects of the
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development of the Nation since the Federal Government was formally established. In the preparation of this supplement the Bureau of the Census 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. This volume is on sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., for $3.25.

Continuation to 1952 of Historical Statistics of the United States, 1789–1945, issued in May 1954, presents data for 1946 to 1952 for the current series shown in Historical Statistics, mentioned above. It also contains the latest revisions for many of the series in Historical Statistics. This publication is also on sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., for 55 cents.

Responsibility.—The contents of this volume are taken from a large number of sources, as indicated in the list of agencies furnishing material. (See pages XII–XV.) 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 and for proper presentation rests with the Bureau, even though carried out with the cooperation of many technicians who have given generously 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 users of this volume 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.
STATISTICAL ABSTRACT SUPPLEMENTS

County and City Data Book, 1952. A compact presentation of 128 items of statistical data for each county and standard metropolitan area in the United States, and 133 items of statistical data for each of 484 cities having 25,000 inhabitants or more in 1950. Items included based largely on results of 1950 Censuses of Agriculture, Population, and Housing. Includes 51 maps, explanatory and definitive text, and source notes. 608 pages. Issued 1953. Second printing. Price $4.25 (Buckram).

Historical Statistics of the United States, 1789–1945. A supplement to the Statistical Abstract, prepared with the cooperation of the Social Science Research Council. A compilation of about 3,000 statistical time series, largely annual, extending back through time to the earliest year for which figures are available. Includes definitions of terms and descriptive text. Specific source notes provide a basic guide to original published sources for further reference and additional data. Detailed alphabetical subject index. 363 pages. Issued 1949. Fifth printing. Price $3.25 (Buckram).


Purchase orders should be addressed to the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C.
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