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Monthly News From the U.S. Bureau of the Census

CENSUS

and you

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
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Volume 29, No. 3
March 1994

Las Vegas Is Nation's Fastest-Growing Metro Area

The fastest-growing metropolitan area in the United States since 1990 has been Las Vegas, Nevada, according to population estimates released by the Census Bureau. The area grew by 14 percent between April 1, 1990, and July 1, 1992, increasing from 852,737 to 971,169.

Laredo, Texas (11.4 percent) and Yuma, Arizona (10 percent) were the only other metro areas increasing by 10 percent or more.

You can obtain these and other 1992 population estimates for metro areas and cities in a variety of media (see page 2).

Ten Fastest-Growing Metro Areas: 1990-92

Rank		Percent change
1	Las Vegas, NV	13.9
2	Laredo, TX	11.4
3	Yuma, AZ	10.0
4	McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, TX	9.8
5	Anchorage, AK	8.6
6	Naples, FL	8.3
7	Las Cruces, NM	8.2
8	Bakersfield, CA	8.1
9	Lawton, OK	8.1
10	Boise City, ID	8.0

Source: 1992 Population Estimates for Metropolitan Areas and Incorporated Cities, PPL-2.

(183,000). In all, 14 metropolitan areas grew by 100,000 or more during the period."

Nearly 80 percent of the U.S. population now lives in metropolitan areas. The 1992 estimated metropolitan total of 203,172,185 is an increase of 2.8 percent over the 197,724,892 counted in 1990. The nonmetropolitan population of 51,905,351 in 1992 is an increase of 1.8 percent since 1990, lower than the overall national increase of 2.6 percent but almost three times the rate of nonmetropolitan population growth in the 1980's.

Only 20 out of 268 metropolitan areas are estimated to have lost population since 1990, a sharp reduction in the number of losing areas (54) since the 1980's.

Continued on page 2

Six of the fastest-growing metro areas in the early 1990's are in the West, and four are in the South (only one of them in Florida). By contrast, 9 of the 10 fastest-growing metro areas during the 1980's were in Florida. The only non-Florida area to crack the 1980's top 10 was Las Vegas at number five.

In actual numbers, Los Angeles continued to lead metro areas. Census Bureau analyst, Don Starsinic says: "The Los Angeles metro area added over half a million persons from 1990 to 1992, far more than any other metropolitan area. It was followed by Houston (231,000), Washington-Baltimore (193,000), and Atlanta

Number of Metropolitan Areas Losing Population

Region	All areas	Areas losing population		Both periods
		90-92	80-90	
United States	268	20	54	10
Northeast	35	10	11	3
Midwest	71	1	23	1
South	117	9	17	6
West	45	0	3	0

Source: 1992 Population Estimates for Metropolitan Areas and Incorporated Cities, PPL-2.

U.S. Department of Commerce
Economics and Statistics
Administration
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

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Estimates for Metro Areas and Cities

Continued from page 1

In addition to being the fastest-growing metro area during the 1990-92 period, Las Vegas was the fastest-growing city of over 100,000 population expanding by 14.4 percent.

Moreno Valley, California was second with an 11.2-percent growth rate; then Laredo, Texas at 11.1 percent; Chandler, Arizona at 10.6 percent; and Plano, Texas at 10.4 percent. Thirteen of the 20 fastest-growing cities with over 100,000 population are in the West, 6 are in the South, and 1 in the Midwest.

Forty-five of the 200 cities of over 100,000 lost population between 1990 and 1992. Six of the 10 most rapidly declining U.S. cities over 100,000 are in New England.

Multimedial

The 1992 population estimates for metropolitan areas and incorporated

cities of 10,000 or more population are available in paper copy for \$10 from our Population Division (301-763-5002).

You can also obtain these estimates on diskette from the Population Division (301-763-5002). The diskette gives you a bonus — substantially more geographic detail than the paper copy.

They are also available through CENDATA™ (our online service available through DIALOG and CompuServe), *FastFax* (our fax service), and our electronic bulletin board. Call 301-763-2074 for information about CENDATA™ and 301-763-1384 for information about *FastFax* and the bulletin board.

We are also planning to release an analytical report and, with greater geographic detail, a CD-ROM.

For more information about the estimates, contact Don Starsinic (301-763-5158) or Edwin Byerly (301-763-5072) of our Population Division.

Census and You

Volume 29, No. 3
March 1994

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Subscription Information

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Detroit	313-259-1875
Kansas City	913-551-6711
Los Angeles	818-904-6339
New York	212-264-4730
Philadelphia	215-597-8313
Seattle	206-728-5314

Get Ready for 1992 Economic Census Data!

Release schedule on pages 4-5.

Analysts, marketers, and economists – brace yourselves! Over the next 3 years, the Census Bureau will issue more than 500 printed reports and 12 CD-ROM's containing results from the 1992 Economic Census.

Economic Census Is Backbone of Many Programs

In December 1992, we mailed questionnaires to more than 3 million businesses. Data collection continued through most of 1993.

This was part of an effort, undertaken every 5 years, to assemble a detailed portrait of the American economy, consistent across industries and geographic areas.

The census provides the most comprehensive information on the Nation's business and industrial structure available anywhere, and is the only source of economic information for many small geographic areas.

Federal agencies use these data to update the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) estimates and other important measures, to benchmark survey results, and to update survey samples. Programs as diverse as the Census Bureau's monthly surveys of retail sales and manufacturers' orders, and the Bureau of Labor Statistics' producer price indexes rely heavily on the results of the Economic Census.

In many States, Business/Industry Data Centers use these products in efforts to stimulate economic growth. Businesses use the data to monitor developments in their industries.

This is the most comprehensive economic census ever undertaken.

What Is the Economic Census?

Censuses

- Construction Industries
- Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate Industries*
- Manufactures
- Mineral Industries
- Retail Trade
- Services Industries
- Transportation, Communications, and Utilities**
- Wholesale Trade

Related Programs

- Characteristics of Business Owners
- Enterprise Statistics
- Minority-Owned Businesses
- Women-Owned Businesses

*New in 1992.

**Expanded in 1992.

For the first time, activity in finance, insurance, real estate, communications, and utilities have been measured in addition to the industry sectors traditionally covered – retail and wholesale trade, service industries, transportation, manufacturing, mining, and construction industries. Censuses now measure nearly 98 percent of all economic activity in the Nation.

Over 500 Printed Reports

Most economic census reports will be published in 1994 and 1995. The first 1992 data come from a related program, the *Truck Inventory and Use Survey*, in the reports for Iowa and Oregon, released in December 1993.

As the chart (pages 4-5) shows, other reports will appear this year. The first regular census reports will be

preliminary industry reports from the censuses of construction industries, manufacturing, and minerals. There are more than 140 preliminary industry series reports from these censuses; each will be superseded by a *final* industry report.

Looming near on the horizon is the first of the geographic area series reports (i.e., the individual State reports) from the censuses of retail trade, wholesale trade, and services.

Electronic Media

This census represents a departure from the past. After consulting with *Continued on page 6*

Chart Shows Release Schedule

The chart on pages 4-5 shows the timing for the economic census products.

The CD's are cumulative: each issue in the series contains what was issued on the previous disc. For example, CD-ROM 1a, to be issued in June, will include the first State in the retail trade geographic area series and the first group of industries in the preliminary manufactures series. Disc 1b (out 3 months later) will have more of these reports, plus those found on 1a; it will also have the first data from wholesaling, services, minerals, and construction. Disc 1c (December 1994) will contain all the reports in these series.

Naturally, the dates here are projections, and any adjustment in the timing of a report could move it from one CD-ROM to another. Timing of CD-ROM's 1i and 1j has not been set.

Note that while CD-ROM's will be manufactured only once each quarter, CD-ROM subscribers can always download data released more recently from the Census Bureau's bulletin board.

ECONOMIC UPDATE

1992 Economic Census Report and CD-ROM Schedule

Census and series	Estimated timing for printed reports	CD-ROM release schedule										2a 1995 Sep	2b 1995 Dec	
		1a	1b	1c	1d	1e	1f	1g	1h	1i	1j			
		1994 Jun	1994 Sep	1994 Dec	1995 Mar	1995 Jun	1995 Sep	1995 Dec	1996 Mar	1996 TBA	1996 TBA			
Retail Trade														
Geographic Area	4/94 - 10/94	-	-	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			
U.S. Summary	11/94			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			
Nonemployer Statistics	3/95					x	x	x	x	x	x			
County and Place data	3/95*					x	x	x	x	x	x			
Subject														
Establishment and Firm Size	3/95					x	x	x	x	x	x			
Assets and Expenditures	7/96									x	x			
Merchandise Line Sales	9/95							x	x	x	x			
States and MA's	12/95*								x	x	x			
Miscellaneous Subjects	11/95								x	x	x			
ZIP Codes	8/95*											x	x	
Special Report	1/96								x	x	x			
Wholesale Trade														
Geographic Area	6/94 - 12/94	-	-	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			
U.S. Summary	1/95			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			
Subject														
Establishment and Firm Size	4/95					x	x	x	x	x	x			
Assets and Expenditures	9/96											x		
Commodity Line Sales	10/95							x	x	x	x			
Selected States and MA's	2/96*									x	x			
Miscellaneous Subjects	12/95								x	x	x			
Service Industries														
Geographic Area	6/94 - 1/95	-	-	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			
U.S. Summary	2/95			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			
Nonemployer Statistics	4/95					x	x	x	x	x	x			
County and Place data	4/95*					x	x	x	x	x	x			
Subject														
Establishment and Firm Size	5/95					x	x	x	x	x	x			
Assets and Expenditures	7/96											x		
Hotels and Motels	5/96									x	x			
Source of Receipts	3/96									x	x			
Miscellaneous Subjects	5/96									x	x			
ZIP Codes	8/95*											x	x	
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate														
Geographic Area	4/95					x	x	x	x	x	x			
Nonemployer Statistics	7/95						x	x	x	x	x			
Subject														
Establishment and Firm Size	9/95							x	x	x	x			
Revenue Lines	4/96									x	x			
Miscellaneous Subjects	7/96									x	x			
Transportation, Communication, and Utilities														
Geographic Area	3/95					x	x	x	x	x	x			
Nonemployer Statistics	7/95						x	x	x	x	x			

ECONOMIC UPDATE

Census and series	Estimated timing for printed reports	CD-ROM release schedule											
		1a Jun	1b 1994 Sep	1c Dec	1d Mar	1e Jun	1f 1995 Sep	1g Dec	1h Mar	1i 1995 TBA	1j TBA	2a 1995 Sep	2b Dec
Transportation, Communication, and Utilities (continued)													
Subject													
Establishment and Firm Size	8/95						x	x	x	x	x		
Miscellaneous Subjects	7/96									x	x		
Truck Inventory and Use Survey	1/94 - 8/94			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
U.S. Summary	10/94			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
Manufactures													
Preliminary Industry	4/94 - 9/94	-	-	x	x								
U.S. Summary	10/94			x	x								
Industry	10/94 - 6/95			-	-	-	x	x	x	x	x		
Geographic Area	6/95 - 10/95						-	x	x	x	x		
Location of Manufacturing Plants	10/95*							x	x	x	x	x	
Subject													
General Summary	12/95								x	x	x		
Concentration Ratios	1/96								x	x	x		
Shipments to Federal Government	TBA												
Analytic Report													
Exports	TBA												
Selected Characteristics	TBA												
Index of Production	TBA												
Reference													
Numerical List — Products	5/93	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
ASM '93	3/95 - 9/95					-	-	x	x	x	x		
ASM '94	2/96 - 4/96									x	x		
Mineral Industries													
Preliminary Industry	4/94 - 9/94		-	x	x								
U.S. Summary	10/94			x	x								
Industry	10/94 - 6/95			-	-	-	x	x	x	x	x		
Geographic Area	6/95 - 10/95					-	x	x	x	x	x		
Subject													
General Summary	12/95								x	x	x		
Fuels and Electric Energy Consumed	7/95												
Construction Industries													
Preliminary Industries	4/94 - 7/94		-	x	x	x							
U.S. Summary	7/94			x	x	x							
Industry	11/94 - 3/95				-	x	x	x	x	x	x		
U.S. Summary	3/95					x	x	x	x	x	x		
Geographic Area	5/95 - 7/95						x	x	x	x	x		
U.S. Summary	7/95						x	x	x	x	x		
Subject	9/95							x	x	x	x		
Other													
Minority-Owned Business Enterprises	5/95 - 10/95*						-	-	x	x	x		
Characteristics of Business Owners	2/96									x	x		
Women-Owned Businesses	5/95*						x	x	x	x	x		
Enterprise Statistics	6/95						x	x	x	x	x		
Agriculture													
ZIP Code Tabulations	6/95											x	x

x Entire series is available. - Only part of the series available on this CD-ROM. * Includes data not available in print. TBA Release date to be announced.

ASM = Annual Survey of Manufactures. MA's = Metropolitan areas

ECONOMIC UPDATE

Harvest in Delaware

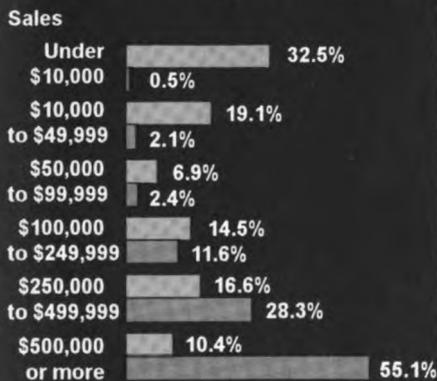
Highlights From the 1992 Census of Agriculture

Farms by size

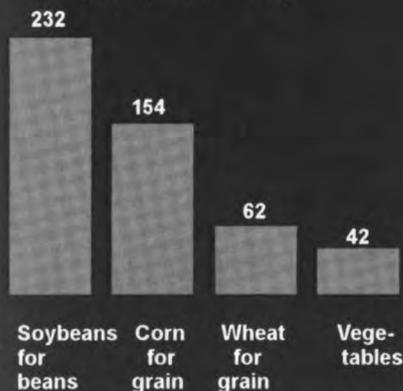


Percent of farms and of market value of agricultural products sold

■ Farms ■ Value of products sold



Selected crops harvested (thousands of acres)



Source: 1992 Census of Agriculture, Geographic Area Series, Delaware.

1992 Economic Census

Continued from page 3

data users, we decided to focus our energies on CD-ROM (with new user-friendly software) and to cancel three old standbys as regular products – computer tapes, diskettes, and detailed documentation in print.

Tapes and diskettes will be produced only on demand. The thick documentation will be replaced by an efficient menu-driven documentation viewing system, right on the discs.

All 1992 Economic Census data will be published on CD-ROM; in 1987, most data were on such discs, but some series appeared only in print.

Twelve CD's will be issued over the next 3 years, starting early this summer. The 12 discs are organized into two "volumes" (see pages 4-5).

Volume 1, Report Series, will include the data from the 500-plus printed reports, as well as a few series not available in print.

The volume 1 disc will be reissued 10 times, once every three months. Each disc will contain data from all previous discs plus new material, and the tenth disc will contain the complete census, from retail trade to enterprise statistics.

Volume 2, ZIP Code Statistics, will be reissued only twice, in mid- and late 1995 and will include ZIP data for retail trade, services, and manufacturing.

Customer Services will sell 1992 Economic Census CD-ROM's by subscription: \$500 for Volume 1, \$200 for Volume 2.

Timeliness is so important that CD-ROM subscribers will be given the opportunity to download new files from the Census Bureau's Electronic

Forum, an electronic bulletin board (call 301-763-1384 for information), just as soon as they are produced – about the same time as corresponding printed reports are issued. That way users in a hurry won't have to wait up to 3 months until the next CD-ROM comes out.

Software will make data on CD-ROM's easier to use. Software for simple data display and retrieval will be provided on the 1992 discs, to help introduce new users to the broad spectrum of economic census data.

In addition, *EXTRACT*, originally developed for the 1987 discs and included on the new 1992 census discs, lets you select and download data for use in other applications.

In addition, Census Bureau CD-ROM's are in dBase® format so you can use any compatible software.

Lots of Sources

Census results will be distributed widely. Thousands of printed reports and CD-ROM's are distributed to the State Data Centers, Business/Industry Data Centers, and depository libraries.

The U.S. Government Printing Office will sell the reports; Customer Services at Census will sell the CD-ROM's. Highlights will also be on CENDATA™, the Census Bureau's online data service available through CompuServe and DIALOG.

For more information about 1992 Economic Census programs, contact Paul Zeisset (301-763-1792) or Robert Marske (301-763-5536), Economic Census and Surveys Division. For a list of data centers and depository libraries, check the *1993 Census Catalog and Guide* available for \$21 from the U.S. Government Printing Office (S/N 003-024-08690-5).

'90 CENSUS

Detailed Housing Statistics Available

Do you know how many women householders there are 65 years and over, of Hispanic origin, with no husband present, for Hallandale city, Florida? Or how many households below the poverty level live in rental housing units lacking complete plumbing facilities in Winter Park City, Florida?

The 1990 *Detailed Housing Characteristics*, CH-2 series (a U.S. summary and one report per State and the District of Columbia), gives you

How Have You Used Census Data?

The Census Bureau would like to build a representative collection of papers and publications in which 1990 census data were used to study small areas, aid in business or governmental decisionmaking, or contribute to research or analysis in some other way. Such materials will help us in assessing which 1990 tabulations were most useful and in planning 2000 census tabulations. They also will provide valuable illustrations of data use techniques that might be cited in our publications or training.

If you or others in your organization have prepared studies or reports utilizing 1990 census data, we would greatly appreciate receiving copies. Also, any comments you have about your experiences in using 1990 data – tabulations that were particularly important, data that you needed but could not find, difficulties in dealing with the data products, etc. – would be helpful to us.

Please send materials to Gary Young, Data User Services Division, Bureau of the Census, Washington, DC 20233-8300. Thanks for your help!

the resources needed to find answers. These reports provide detailed data on housing subjects such as year structure was built, number of bedrooms, plumbing and kitchen facilities, telephone, mortgage status, selected monthly housing costs, vehicles available, source of water, sewage disposal, and shelter costs as a percentage of income.

This report series contains data collected on a sample basis in the 1990 decennial census. It presents totals for States (including summaries for total urban and rural areas), counties, places of 2,500 or more inhabitants, minor civil divisions (MCD's) of 2,500 or more inhabitants in selected States, and the State portion of American Indian areas and Alaska Native areas. The U.S. summary (CH-2-1) presents totals for the United States, regions

and divisions, and metropolitan statistical areas.

The reports that make up 1990 *Detailed Housing Characteristics*, CH-2, are available from the U.S. Government Printing Office. Call Customer Services (301-763-4100) for stock numbers and prices or refer to the *Monthly Product Announcement*.

Comparable statistics appeared in the 1980 census report series titled *Detailed Housing Characteristics*, HC80-1-B.

Coming Soon!

We are publishing the reports for metro areas and urbanized areas in the *Social and Economic Characteristics* series (1990 CP-2). Check the *Monthly Product Announcement* or call Customer Services (301-763-4100) for more details.

State Profile: 1990 Census

Total population = 1,108,229
Total housing units = 389,810

Median household income = \$38,829

Hawaii

25% spoke a language other than English at home; of these, 49% said they do not speak English "very well."

The poverty rate for a female householder, no spouse present, was 20%.

Median monthly housing costs for homeowners with a mortgage = \$1,008.

66% were born here; 15% were foreign-born

Honolulu

21% moved to the State between 1985 and 1990.

21% of housing units were built in the last 10 years.

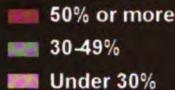
61% drove to work alone, 21% were in carpools; 7% used public transportation.

Source: 1990 Census of Population and Housing Summary Tape File 3A, Hawaii.

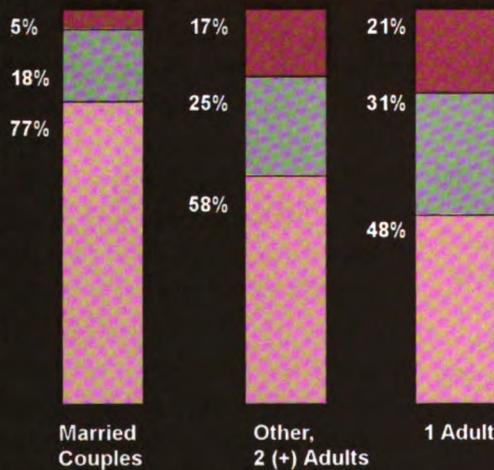
Two-Thirds of U.S. Households With Children Were Maintained by Married Couples

Married Couples With Kids Generally Spend Less of Their Income on Housing

Percent of income spent on housing by mortgaged owners and renters with children: 1991



Homeowners with children



Renters with children



Source: *Housing America's Children in 1991*, Series H121/93-6.

In 1991, about 24 million – or 69 percent – of the Nation's 34.6 million households with children were maintained by married couples, according to a recent Census Bureau report that profiles the social, economic, and housing characteristics of households with children under the age of 18. *Housing America's Children in 1991* has statistics on householders (age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin), household type and size, income, housing value, shelter costs, metro/nonmetro residence, and opinions about home and neighborhood.

The majority of married couples with children were homeowners (74 percent). Generally, their houses were in good physical shape, equipped with a sufficient number of amenities, and affordable.

The homes of the remaining households with children were either maintained by householders raising children in the company of adults other than spouses – 4.7 million or 14 percent – or by adults who lived exclusively with children – 5.8 million or 17 percent.

Children living in homes not maintained by married couples faced a different housing environment, according to Jeanne Woodward, the author: "The homes of these non-married households with children were older, smaller, more apt to be rental units in multifamily structures, and had more physical and structural problems than those of married couples with children."

Housing America's Children in 1991, Series H121/93-6, is available from our Publications Office in Jeffersonville, Indiana (see page 2 for address). Call Customer Services for the price (301-763-4100).

For more information about the report, contact Jeanne Woodward, Housing and Household Economic Statistics Division (301-763-8148).

New Statistical Briefs!

Statistical Briefs are two- or four-page summaries of Census Bureau findings, accompanied by colorful charts. Several new *Briefs* are available free from Customer Services (301-763-4100):

- *Americans With Disabilities*
- *Statistical Indicators on Women: An Asian Perspective*
- *Measuring the Productivity Impact of Pollution Abatement*
- *Household Wealth and Asset Ownership: 1991*

New Research Center Opens in Boston

January witnessed a first for the Census Bureau. We opened a research data center (RDC) in Boston, a new resource for economic researchers and analysts.

The center was established with funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF) in cooperation with the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), headquartered in Boston. It extends a program previously restricted to the Census Bureau's Center for Economic Studies (CES) at headquarters that allows researchers and analysts to study how businesses develop.

According to Robert McGuckin, Chief of CES, "Boston – with its large university, policy, and business communities – is an ideal location for this new center."

With the new RDC, selected researchers will be able to use non-public Census Bureau microdata on businesses to study economic and policy issues, without having to do the research at CES's Washington headquarters. (Microdata are records showing actual responses to survey or census questionnaires.)

As at headquarters, the researchers in Boston are Census Bureau special sworn employees (SSE's). Both SSE's and regular Census Bureau employees are subject to the same legal requirement — spelled out in Title 13 of the U.S. Code — not to reveal any confidential data from surveys or censuses.

CES data bases available at the new RDC include microdata from the Census of Manufactures, the Annual Survey of Manufacturing, the Pollu-

tion Abatement Costs and Expenditures Survey, the Survey of Manufacturing Technology, and the Research and Development Survey, to name only a few. They provide information on the costs and outputs of manufacturing plants and other businesses — including shipments, inventories, cost of materials, size of payroll, number of employees, and many other items.

The data that the researchers at the Boston RDC will use come from sources outside the Census Bureau as well — for example, Environmental Protection Agency information on manufacturing plants' emissions of toxins, air pollution, and water pollution.

When the Census Bureau data bases are combined with each other or with outside data bases, researchers can learn more about what is happening in the Nation's business sector.

Four Projects Inaugurate Boston RDC

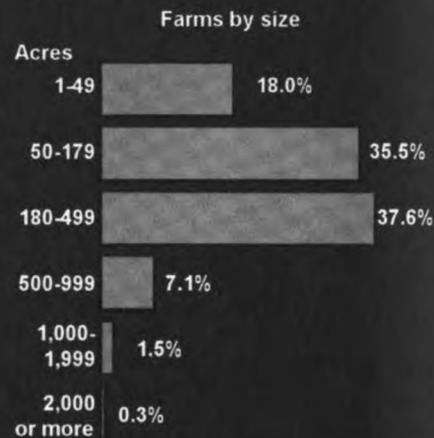
The first four research projects at the Boston RDC, already underway, examine several topics relevant to current economic issues. Four more projects will be added by the summer.

Ariel Pakes of Yale University and Sam Kortum of Boston University are measuring and explaining how firms and plants in the automobile industry react to changes like gasoline price shocks or government-imposed mileage requirements. Their analysis requires combining Census Bureau data with publicly available data on auto model characteristics and how they change.

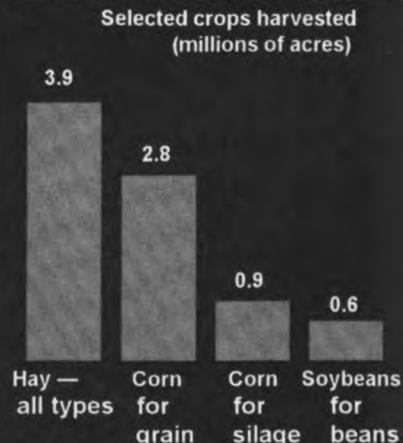
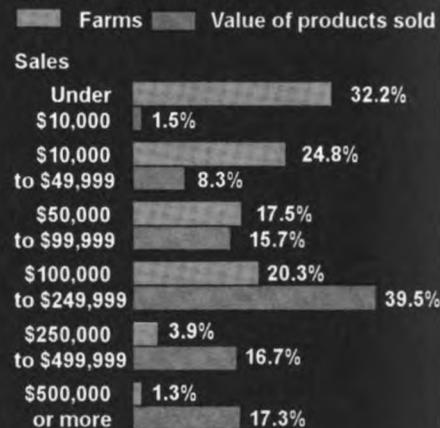
Continued on page 12

Harvest in Wisconsin

Highlights From the 1992 Census of Agriculture



Percent of farms and of market value of agricultural products sold



Source: 1992 Census of Agriculture, Geographic Area Series, Wisconsin.

News from other Federal agencies

Consumer Expenditures Again Rise Slightly

The latest results from the Consumer Expenditure Survey released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) show that average annual expenditures per consumer unit rose less than 1 percent from 1991 to 1992, continuing the modest increases of the last few years. Expenditures rose 4 percent from 1990 to 1991 and 2 percent from 1989 to 1990. General price levels, as shown by the Consumer Price Index, rose by 3 percent from 1991 to 1992.

Food expenditures showed almost no change. Housing, transportation, and entertainment each rose about 2

percent; health care rose about 5 percent; and apparel and services and personal insurance and pensions each fell about 1 percent.

You can obtain a summary of the results in Report 861, "Consumer Expenditures in 1992," available from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

This report includes tables showing data classified by income quintile, income class, age of the head of the consumer unit, size of consumer unit, number of earners, type of consumer unit, region of residence, housing tenure, race, type of area (urban-rural),

and occupation. You can also get the statistics on diskette, with more detail than in the report.

You can get the 1992 microdata on computer tape. (Tapes for each year are available back to 1980.) Microdata are consumer unit records with identifying information removed to ensure confidentiality.

Information about the data and about ordering the report, diskette, and tapes can be obtained from the Division of Consumer Expenditure Surveys, at the Bureau of Labor Statistics (202-606-6900).

Call Toll-Free Commerce Hotline for Trade Information

The Commerce Department now has a toll-free hotline to provide up-to-the-minute information on the effect of the new General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) on U.S. businesses. The hotline is the latest addition to the various services provided by the Commerce Department's Trade Information Center.

Key items of information available from the hotline will be "Flash Reports" providing a first look at the benefits of the Round for each State and 19 major industry sectors. "Flash Reports" give a brief profile of an industry or a State's industrial makeup.

The new hotline can be reached by dialing 1-800-USA-TRADE. To obtain information, the caller must have access to a fax machine and a touchtone telephone. The reports are

free; two may be ordered per call. Companies without a fax can obtain copies of these reports from their local Commerce district office.

The Trade Information Center is an access point for information on Federal export assistance programs, including those that provide export counseling, international market research and trade leads, overseas and domestic trade activities, export financing, and Federal environmental export promotion programs and assistance. Use the toll-free 800 line to reach trade specialists at the center.

Ask too about the phone number of the nearest Commerce district office. These offices are also listed in the *1993 Census Catalog and Guide*, from the U.S. Government Printing Office (\$21; S/N 003-024-08690-5).

Energy Use in Manufacturing

The U.S. manufacturing sector consumed 15.0 quadrillion British thermal units (Btu) of energy to produce heat and power in 1991, according to preliminary estimates released by the Energy Information Administration (EIA) from its triennial Manufacturing Energy Consumption Survey (MECS). Manufacturers' consumption of energy for heat and power accounts for approximately 25 percent of the total U.S. end-use energy consumption.

Five manufacturing industries account for 78 percent of the total energy consumption by the manufacturing sector: the food industry (6 percent), primary metals (15 percent), paper and allied products (16 percent), petroleum and coal products (20 percent), and chemicals and allied products (20 percent). The other 15 manufacturing industries consume a total of 22 percent of manufacturing energy consumption.

Cited in EIA Press Release EIA-93-07. To obtain a copy of the release, contact the National Energy Information Center (202-586-8800).

U.S. STATISTICS AT A GLANCE

Economic Indicators

	Latest data	Unit	Latest month	Previous month	Last year	Percent change from previous month year	
Business Sources: Census Bureau, Federal Reserve Board							
Retail: Sales	January	\$bil.	181.0	182.0	169.2	-0.5	7.0
Inventory	December	\$bil.	279.7	278.3	261.2	0.5	7.1
Inv./sales ratio	December	ratio	1.54	1.55	1.55	X	X
Consumer installment credit	December	\$bil.	789.8	782.6	741.1	0.9	6.6
Merchant wholesalers: Sales	December	\$bil.	161.0	162.0	155.5	-0.6	3.6
Inventory	December	\$bil.	217.0	216.1	209.0	0.4	3.8
Stock/sales ratio	December	ratio	1.35	1.33	1.34	X	X
Construction and Housing Sources: Census Bureau, Federal Housing Finance Board							
Residential: Building permits — AR	January	1,000	1,360	1,476	1,157	-7.9	17.5
Housing starts — AR	January	1,000	1,294	1,571	1,170	-17.6	10.6
New home sales — AR	December	1,000	862	774	662	11.4	30.2
New home mortgage rate — NSA	November	pct.	6.80	6.80	8.07	0.0	-15.7
New construction: Total expenditures — AR	December						
Current dollars		\$bil.	513.1	500.0	455.2	2.6	12.7
Constant (1987) dollars		\$bil.	430.0	421.0	397.1	2.1	8.3
Manufacturing Sources: Census Bureau, Federal Reserve Board							
Durable goods: Shipments	December	\$bil.	146.0	142.7	134.0	2.3	8.9
New orders	December	\$bil.	142.7	139.7	135.2	2.1	5.5
Unfiled orders	December	\$bil.	420.6	424.0	449.7	-0.8	-6.5
Total goods: Shipments	December	\$bil.	269.2	265.6	257.0	1.4	4.7
Inventories	December	\$bil.	377.9	380.2	378.9	-0.6	-0.3
Inv./ship ratio	December	ratio	1.40	1.43	1.47	X	X
Index of industrial production	January	1987=100	114.4	113.9	109.2	0.4	4.8
Foreign Trade Source: Census Bureau							
Exports, f.a.s. basis	November	\$bil.	40.1	40.1	37.8	-0.1	6.0
General imports, customs basis	November	\$bil.	50.2	51.0	45.6	-1.5	10.1
Merchandise trade balance	November	\$bil.	-10.2	-10.9	-7.8	-6.7	29.8
Money Supply, Prices, Interest Rates Sources: Federal Reserve Board, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Treasury							
Money supply (M1)	December	\$bil.	1,128	1,122	1,025	0.5	10.1
Consumer Price Index — NSA	January	1982-84=100	146.2	145.8	142.6	0.3	2.5
Producer Price Index ¹	January	1982=100	124.5	124.2	124.3	0.2	0.2
Prime rate charged by banks ²	December	pct.	6.00	6.00	6.00	0.0	0.0
3-month U.S. T-bill — NSA	December	pct.	3.08	3.12	3.25	-1.3	-5.2
Other Principal Indicators Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Bureau of Economic Analysis							
Civilian labor force ³	January	mil.	130.7	128.9	127.2	1.4	2.7
Unemployment rate ²	January	rate	6.7	6.4	7.1	4.7	-5.6
Index of leading indicators	November	1987=100	99.6	99.1	98.2	0.5	1.4
Personal income — AR	November	\$bil.	5,514	5,480	5,239	0.6	5.3
				Qtr. 4 1993	Qtr. 3 1993	Percent change ⁴	
Constant (1987) dollars:							
Gross domestic product (GDP)		\$bil.	5,212	5,138	5.9		
Personal consumption expenditures		\$bil.	3,504	3,470	4.0		
Gross private domestic investment		\$bil.	864	813	27.1		

NOTE: Figures are seasonally adjusted except as noted. AR Annual rate. NSA Not seasonally adjusted. X Not applicable. ¹Finished goods.²As of end of month. ³Beginning January 1994, data not comparable with previous months due to change in methodology.⁴Annualized rate.

Census Goes Cable

Attention all elementary school teachers!

Get ready to set your VCR to The Learning Channel (TLC) cable network's daily series *TLC Elementary School*. On April 5 and again on May 10, the show will air a documentary that features the work of the Census Bureau. Be sure to set your VCR timer because the show airs early (4:00 a.m. to 5:00 a.m.).

The hour-long documentary *Counting and Measuring* illustrates the many ways in which people, places, and things are counted and measured. Like all segments shown on *TLC Elementary School*, the approximately 15 minute-long piece on the Bureau, "Count Me In!," is intended for taping by elementary school teachers to complement their classroom teaching.

The Learning Channel produced the segment with the help of our Public Information Office and Data User Services Division.

"Count Me In!" will provide your class with some background on why we conduct the decennial census, the history of census data collection and tabulation, how census statistics are used, and what demographers do. At the end of the piece, the narrator

suggests as a classroom activity giving your students a little taste of what we do – designing and conducting a survey themselves!

Again, "Count Me In!" will be featured in *Counting and Measuring*, which will air twice on *TLC Elementary School* – April 5 and May 10

Boston Research Center

Continued from page 9

Ricardo Caballero of MIT is examining specifically how certain actions (such as investment) which individual firms undertake only occasionally and in relatively large amounts may affect macroeconomic variables and the business cycle.

Similarly, Russell Cooper of Boston University is examining other occasional actions including machine replacement and entry into and exit from markets.

Finally, using Census Bureau data on individual manufacturing plants, together with Environmental Protection Agency data on environmental regulations and their enforcement, Wayne Gray of Clark University is examining an important question – how regulatory differences across

(4-to-5:00 a.m. Eastern time both days). Check your local cable TV guide for the channel.

To learn more about instructional materials you can get to supplement your daily class lessons, contact Dorothy Jackson, Data User Services Division (301-763-1510).

States affect the location of manufacturing activity around the country. Dr. Gray is also the research coordinator of the new RDC.

For More information

For more information on the Boston RDC – including research opportunities – contact Robert McGuckin or Arnold Reznick at the Center for Economic Studies (301-763-2337), or Wayne Gray or Joyce Cooper (senior economist and administrator) at the Boston RDC (617-424-0550).

Coming Soon!

An updated *U.S. Census Bureau Telephone Contacts List for Data Users* is on the way! More in a future issue.

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