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

CENSUS

and you

Volume 30, No. 6
June 1995

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Computer Use Growing - But How Widespread Is Access?

More than a fifth of American households (23 percent) had a home computer in 1993. Since 1984, when the Census Bureau first collected computer use statistics, the number of households with home computers has more than tripled.

Computers turned up even more frequently in households with children 6 to 17 years old (34 percent). One

third of America's 100 million computer users were 17 years old or younger.

For an up-to-date report on America's experiences in the Information Age, the Census Bureau has extensive statistics on computer access and use, released on the Internet and in a paper printout.

The tables are based on the October 1993 Current Population Survey. The Internet release shows the questions on which the tabulations are based. Tables deal with computer access and use by age, sex, race, Hispanic origin, family income, employment status, education, and household type and size. Especially useful are the tables showing the way people in many occupations and industries use computers at work (e.g., analysis, book-keeping, and communications).

Have and Have-Nots?

Is computer access only possible for the wealthy? Although people of all income levels had access to computers outside their homes, home

Computer Use and Access Increase Along With Family Income

Persons 18 years and over: 1993
(Numbers in thousands)

Family income	All persons	Percent	
		Uses computer anywhere	With computer at home
Less than \$10,000	23,976	11.4	6.8
\$10,000 - 14,999	18,716	15.2	8.4
\$15,000 - 19,999	13,960	23.0	12.5
\$20,000 - 24,999	15,842	27.7	15.3
\$25,000 - 34,999	27,724	36.5	21.2
\$35,000 - 49,999	29,987	46.3	31.3
\$50,000 - 74,999	25,382	60.3	45.9
\$75,000 and over	17,511	65.4	61.7
Income not reported	14,306	24.4	20.2

Source: *Computer Use in the United States: October 1993*. Internet (<http://www.census.gov>).

computer ownership was strongly related to income.

In 1994, 62 percent of people 18 years old and over with a family income of \$75,000 or over lived in households with a home computer.

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Equipped for Action!

Hardware components of home computers
(Numbers in thousands)

Hardware	Total	Percent
Total	22,640	100.0
Floppy disk drive	17,617	77.8
Hard disk drive	16,848	74.4
Color monitor	13,839	61.1
Mouse control	13,490	59.6
Dot matrix printer	12,277	54.2
Telephone modem	7,988	35.3
Joystick control	5,059	22.3
Laser printer	3,972	17.5
Fax card	2,825	12.5
Scanner	1,191	5.3
Optical disk drive	962	4.3
Plotter	556	2.5
Other	1,922	8.5
Don't know	1,305	5.8

Source: *Computer Use in the United States: October 1993*. Internet (<http://www.census.gov>).

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

Old and Older

While the U.S. population under age 65 has tripled this century, the number aged 65 and over has increased by a factor of 11, according to a recent *Statistical Brief*. The Census Bureau projects the elderly population will more than double to about 80 million by 2050.

The four-page *Brief* summarizes population characteristics and projections dealing with the aging U.S. population. It has findings from an upcoming report sponsored by the National Institute on Aging.

The faster growth of the elderly population means that by 2050 as many as 1 in 5 could be elderly, with most of the growth occurring between 2010 and 2030.

The "oldest old" – those aged 85 and over – are the most rapidly growing elderly age group. Between 1960 and 1994, their number rose 274 percent while the entire population grew by only 45 percent. In 1994,

the oldest old numbered 3 million, about 1 percent of the total population. By 2050, they are projected to number 19 million, or 5 percent of the population.

As a result, people in their 50's and 60's increasingly face the prospect of caring for frail or infirm relatives.

The parent-support ratio gives an idea of things to come. It equals the number of persons aged 85 and over per 100 persons aged 50 to 64.

The ratio tripled between 1950 and 1993 and is expected to triple again over the next six decades. More and more people will become dependent on others for help in performing daily activities.

"Sixty-Five Plus in the United States," *Statistical Brief*, Series SB/95-8, is available free from Customer Services (301-457-4100). You can also access it through the Internet (World Wide Web: <http://www.census.gov/>) or through FastFax (1-900-555-2329).

Census and You

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Editorial Information

Editor: Neil Tillman

Contributors: Molly Abramowitz, Robert Bernstein, Geraldine Blackburn, Patricia Dunton, Rachael LaPorte Taylor, and Mary Thomas.

Please send your comments to Neil Tillman, Data User Services Division, Bureau of the Census, Washington, DC 20233-0800 (301-457-1221).

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TDD	212-264-3863
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TDD	215-597-8864
Seattle	206-728-5314
TDD	206-728-5321

Services at Your Service!

Hard facts are hard to come by when you talk about health care, but the U.S. Census Bureau has made it much easier – in our annual printed report, the *Service Annual Survey*. The report profiles Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) 80 – the health services industry – and other service industries.

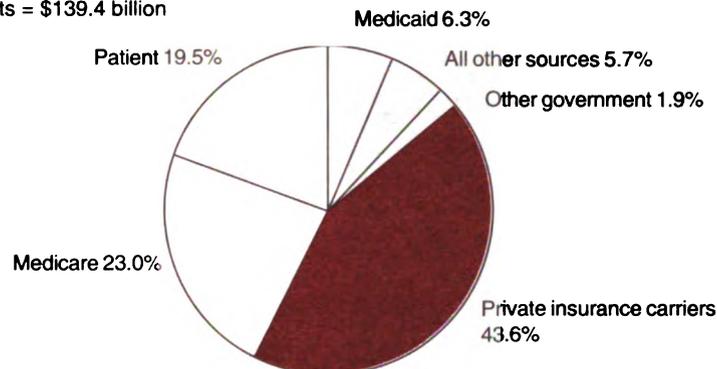
For health services industries (three- and four-digit SIC's), the report shows receipts of taxable firms and revenue and expenses of tax exempt firms and organizations. Also included for some industries are additional data on service performed, source of receipts, and per capita receipts.

Other chapters deal with selected travel and lodging services (SIC's 472 and 70); personal services (SIC 72); business and selected professional services (SIC's 73, 81, and 87); auto repair, services, and parking and miscellaneous repair services (SIC's 75 and 76); motion pictures and amusement and recreation services (SIC's 78 and 79); and social services (SIC 73).

Who Pays the Doctor Bill?

Offices and clinics of medical doctors (SIC 8011), percent of estimated receipts for taxable firms, by sources: 1993

Total receipts = \$139.4 billion



Source: *Service Annual Survey: 1993, Series BS/93.*

Appendixes discuss sampling variability, concepts, and industry definitions and show the questionnaires.

Services Annual Survey: 1993, Series BS/93, is available from Customer Services at Census while the supply lasts.

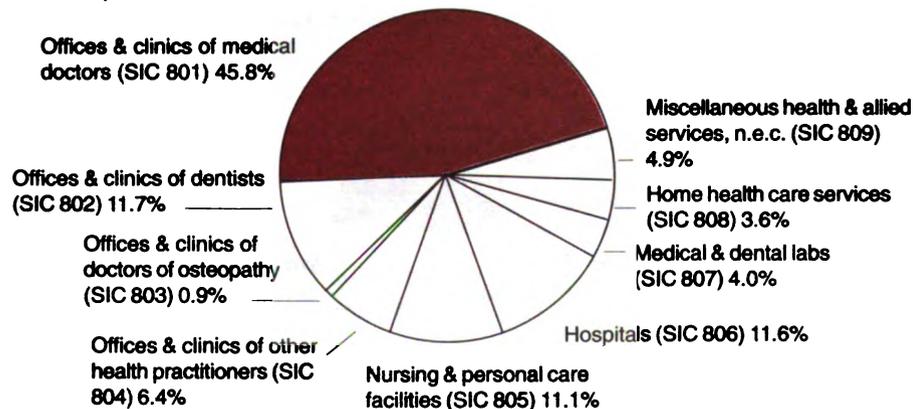
For more information about the statistics, contact Thomas Zabelsky, Services Division (301-457-2766).

This report has data at the national level. If you need data for services industries in States, cities, counties, and metro areas, the 1992 Economic Census is the place to turn. You can obtain printed reports for each State or get the information on *1992 Economic Census CD-ROM (Disc 1E)* available for \$150 from Customer Services. Contact Customer Services (301-457-4100) for ordering information concerning the reports or the CD-ROM.

Health Services in America

Percent of estimated receipts for taxable firms: 1993

Total receipts = \$304.1 billion



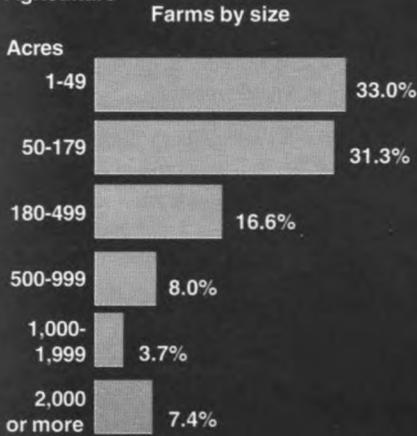
Source: *Service Annual Survey: 1993, Series BS/93.*

International Trade Info on the Internet

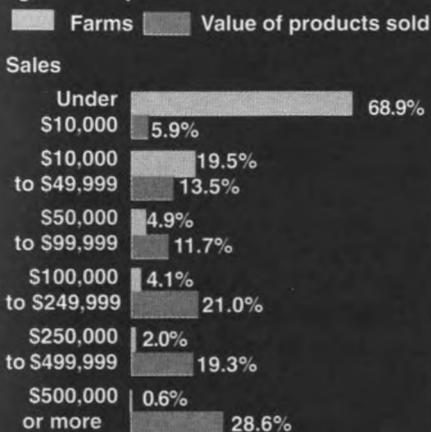
If you need up-to-date information on U.S. trade, be sure to head for our home page and click on "Economy." Each month we release the latest trade figures. The next update is scheduled for June 21. The Web code is <http://www.census.gov/>.

Harvest in Alaska

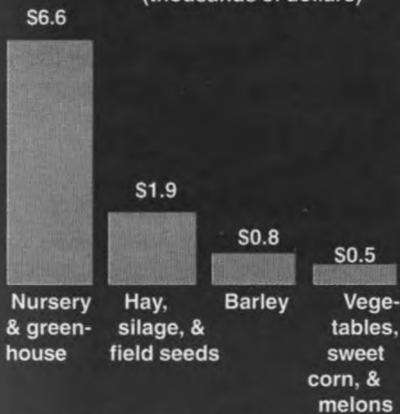
Highlights From the 1992 Census of Agriculture



Percent of farms and of market value of agricultural products sold



Selected crops harvested (thousands of dollars)



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

New! Business Investment Data

Users can now have electronic access to early data on current and planned business investment in structures and equipment. You can also get mid-year revisions to the planned investment figures. They are the results of a semiannual survey that began in 1994.

The survey shows that U.S. businesses plan to invest nearly \$593 billion for capital goods in 1995, an increase of 7 percent from 1994 and over 21 percent from 1993 levels.

The spending data for 1994 and 1995 are based on information collected in the new semiannual *Investment Plans Survey (IPS)*. The 1993 figures are based on preliminary data from the *Annual Capital Expenditures Survey (ACES)*.

The *IPS* use the same sample as the *ACES*. Its universe includes all private nonfarm businesses with five or more paid employees. The survey currently has a sample of 30,000 businesses.

The survey will be conducted twice yearly; from November to February (for the upcoming year), with early data released in February; and from June to September with revised, mid-year data released in September.

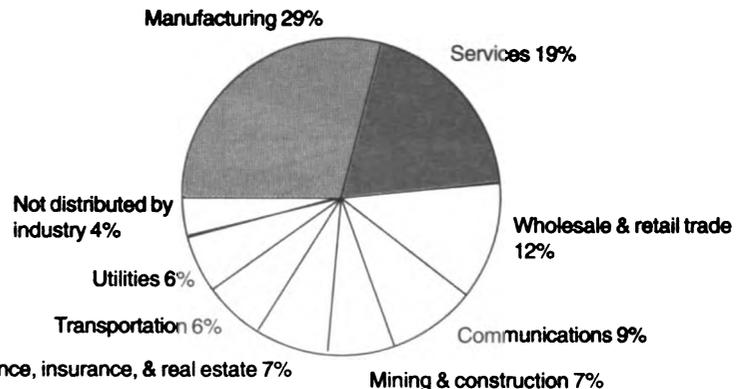
Business investment represents domestic expenditures for depreciable capital assets such as buildings and other structures and machinery and other equipment. Spending in 1994 was estimated at \$556 billion and \$489 billion in 1993.

Business Investment and Plans: 1993 to 1995 is a printed press release (CB95-43). The release describes the survey and its results and also is available electronically through the Department of Commerce's Economic Bulletin Board (202-482-3870) and on the Internet (gopher.gopher.census.gov).

For questions on business investment and plans, contact Charles Funk or Laurence Blumberg, Agriculture and Financial Statistics Division (301-763-2542).

Almost Half of All Planned Business Investment Comes From Manufacturing and Services

Percentage of planned business investment by sector: 1995



Source: Business Investment Plans: 1993-1995, Press Release CB95-43.

First-Ever Report Profiles Communications, Utilities, and Transportation

The Nation gets its first statistical look at a significant sector of the economy, with our first publication from the 1992 Census of Transportation, Communications, and Utilities.

The report includes the first-ever census data on the communications, electric, gas, and sanitary services industries, as well as highway passenger, air, and pipeline transportation. It also provides updated data for previously covered motor freight, water, and transportation services. It focuses on number of establishments, employment, payroll, and receipts.

Shown here are data for States and metropolitan areas for most of these industries. (Data on railroads and scheduled air passenger service are available only at the national level.)

Many of the transportation industries were included in the 1987 Census of Transportation.

The printed report, *1992 Census of Transportation, Communications, and Utilities, Geographic Area Series – United States, Series UC92-A-1*, is available for sale for \$21 from the U.S. Government Printing Office (S/N 003-024-08781-2). To get highlights from the report, contact Customer Services and ask for press release CB95-80.

The same statistics are also available on CD-ROM – *1992 Economic Census 1E*, costing \$150. To order the CD, contact Customer Services (301-457-4100).

For more information, contact Dennis Shoemaker, Services Division (1-800-541-8345 or 301-457-2786).

Highlights From the 1992 Census of Communications (SIC 48)

- The communications sector boasted over \$231 billion in revenue during 1992. Three quarters of that amount (\$172 billion) came from telephone communications.
- There were nearly 7,000 radio broadcasting establishments, and they averaged just under \$1 million dollars in revenue each.
- The 1,593 broadcast TV establishments brought in much more revenue, averaging about \$13.4 million each.
- Total revenues of cable TV services, \$27.5 billion, surpassed those of broadcast TV, with \$21.4 billion.
- Employment was roughly comparable among the three industries: radio (112,000), broadcast TV (109,000), and cable TV (129,000).

Source: *1992 Census of Transportation, Communications, and Utilities, Geographic Area Series – Summary, UC92-A-1.*

CD-ROM Has Agriculture Data for ZIP Code Areas

Harrisonburg, Virginia, is a small city (1990 population: 30,787) nestled in Shenandoah Valley, the home of James Madison University and the county seat of Rockingham County. Harrisonburg is a fast-growing city: the population there increased by almost 60 percent between 1980 and 1990, but the city is still surrounded by farmland and still the center of a thriving agricultural economy.

It and a large agricultural area are located in ZIP Code 22801.

ZIP Code 22801 had 451 farms in 1992, about 59 percent of them with annual sales of \$10,000 or more. Over 90 percent produced livestock and poultry and related products. Hay and corn silage were crops grown on many of the farms within ZIP Code 22801.

Our recent *1992 Census of Agriculture ZIP Code Tabulations CD-ROM* enables users to study the agricultural characteristics of farms by ZIP Code – even those like 22801 that have urban and industrial development. The file displays information for ZIP Code areas having five or more farms; data for ZIP Codes having one to four farms are combined under “all other ZIP Codes” and included in the State totals.

The CD has both 1992 and 1987 census data. It comes with four easily accessible software packages:

- *GO92* and *GO87* for viewing and printing ZIP Code profiles.
- *EXTRACT* for more sophisticated analysis and for entering the data into

Continued on page 6

ZIP Code Data on Agriculture CD-ROM

Continued from page 5

other software like Lotus® and dBase®.

• **TECHDOC** for viewing the technical documentation.

The file shows the number of farms, according to categories of land use, market value of agricultural products sold, livestock and poultry, and crops harvested.

The *1992 Census of Agriculture ZIP Code Tabulations CD-ROM* costs \$150 from Customer Services (301-457-4100). Customer Services also sells files on CD-ROM with 1992 and 1987 agriculture data for States and counties.

Highlights from the 1992 Agriculture Census can also be viewed on the Internet (<http://www.census.gov/>).

For more information about the data, contact Keith Lacy, Agriculture and Financial Statistics Division (301-763-8567; keith_h_lacy@smtp-gw.census.gov).

State Profiles on the Internet

Contact the Census Bureau online and obtain a statistical profile of your State. When you access our home page, click on "Data Access Tools" and then on "DataMap" and you'll be given a color map of the United States. Click on any State and you'll see a county map of the State. Click again and you'll get a table of the latest data for your State. The profile comes from our recent *USA Counties*, available as a CD-ROM for \$150 from Customer Services (301-457-4100).

To check out our home page, address inquiries to <http://www.census.gov/>.

Learning About America's Disabled

In the 1990 census, we found that 12.8 million Americans had a work disability. Learn more about this population in a new Census Bureau file on CD-ROM. *Characteristics of Adults With Work Disabilities, Mobility Limitations, or Self-Care Limitations*, Subject Summary Tape File (SSTF) 4 is a three-disc set with statistics on age, sex, race, Hispanic origin, household type and relationship, employment and work status, hours worked, educational attainment, occupation, means of transportation to work, and so forth. The file has over 60 tables.

The geographic coverage is for the Nation, States, counties (50,000 or more), and metro areas (250,000 or more).

The *GO* software simplifies the search for the data you need.

Characteristics of Adults With Work Disabilities, Mobility Limitations, or Self-Care Limitations costs \$250 from Customer Services (301-457-4100). The information can also be obtained in a computer tape file from Customer Services, costing \$2,030.

Order by Internet

Users can now order Census Bureau CD-ROM's via the Internet. Go to the Census Bureau's home page and click on "Market Place." When you find the CD-ROM you want to buy, click on the "Buy" button and you'll be able to place your credit card order. Our encryption software will keep credit card information confidential.

Work Disability – No Barrier for Some

Men 16 years and over reporting a work disability and a mobility limitation, not prevented from working: 1990

Age	White	Black	Asian & Pacific Islander	American Indian Eskimo, or Aleut	Other	*Hispanic
Total 16 to 64 years	150,295	25,076	4,928	2,282	7,756	17,528
Total 65 years and over	46,046	4,496	928	316	734	2,063
16 to 19 years	8,211	1,606	231	122	382	984
20 to 24 years	13,996	2,440	387	213	905	1,949
25 to 29 years	17,129	2,847	553	209	1,267	2,334
30 to 34 years	19,028	3,525	751	266	1,107	2,587
35 to 39 years	19,156	3,147	551	360	928	1,987
40 to 44 years	17,463	2,901	636	365	950	1,989
45 to 49 years	14,257	2,429	412	220	661	1,580
50 to 54 years	13,216	2,249	548	244	564	1,526
55 to 59 years	14,248	2,132	467	155	517	1,402
60 to 64 years	13,591	1,800	392	128	475	1,190
65 to 69 years	12,824	1,361	262	123	311	876
70 to 74 years	10,983	1,154	244	115	133	342
75 to 79 years	10,090	1,073	195	23	139	425
80 to 84 years	6,885	587	116	35	83	246
85 to 89 years	3,779	219	92	16	38	127
90 to 94 years	1,235	72	19	4	30	47
95 years and over	250	30	0	0	0	0

*Hispanics may be of any race.

Source: 1990 Census of Population and Housing, *Characteristics of Adults With Disabilities*, Subject Summary Tape File 4.

Conference Focuses on Metropolitan Definitions

On November 29-30, the Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics (COPAFS) will host a conference to discuss new ways to define metropolitan areas. The Census Bureau and other agencies will offer their support.

The conference is a forum for evaluating alternative approaches, a vehicle for the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to hear user concerns. Following the conference, OMB will begin developing the standards to be used in defining areas cited in 2000 census products.

First defined before the 1950 census, metropolitan areas found increasingly widespread use both within and outside the Federal Government. Metropolitan standards have received several reviews and modifications since then (and there have been frequent definition updates).

The central question at issue now is whether after numerous revisions, metropolitan areas remain an effective classification. Do evolving settlement patterns, changes in data uses, and technological opportunities warrant changes in approach for the start of the 21st century?

Under the current standards, qualification as a metropolitan area requires that there must be a population concentration of at least 50,000. If an area has no city that large, it must have an urbanized area and a total population of at least 100,000. The extent of a metropolitan area depends heavily on commuting patterns.

Conference participants will include Federal, State, and local users

as well as others from universities and the private sector. Questions to be discussed include:

- What are the basic geographic units for defining areas?
- What criteria should be used to aggregate the basic geographic units?
- Should there be hierarchies of statistical areas?
- What kinds of areas should receive official recognition to meet the needs of various users?
- Should the defined areas provide nationwide territorial coverage?
- What kinds of data are most appropriate and available for defining areas?

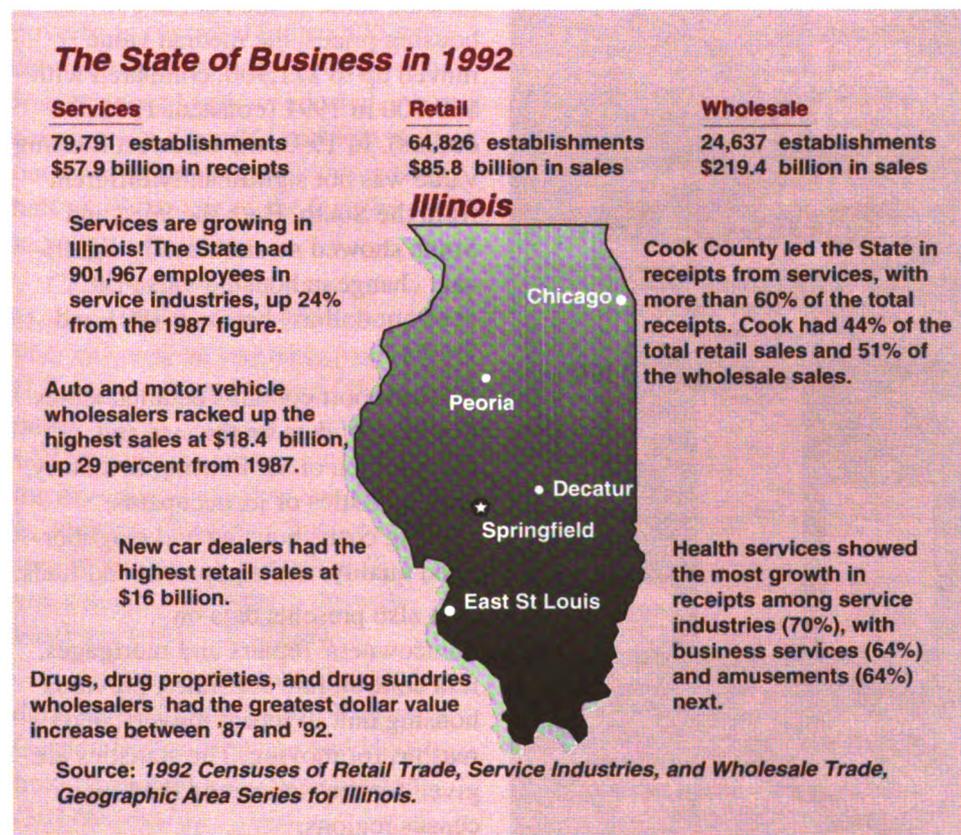
• Should the definition process follow strictly statistical criteria or allow for local opinion?

• What should be the frequency of updating?

• Should the metropolitan concept be eliminated?

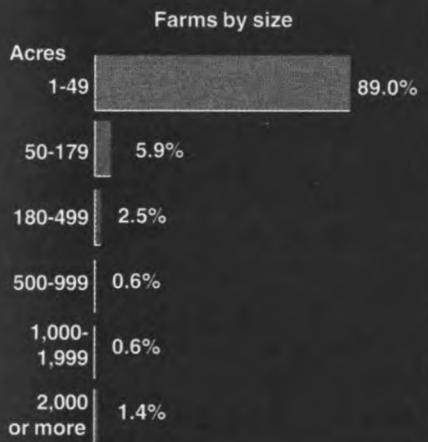
The cost for the 2-day seminar will be \$125 per person. Registration will be limited to 250 participants.

For further information, contact Edward Spar or Susan Cohen in the COPAFS office (703-836-0404; fax: 703-684-2037).



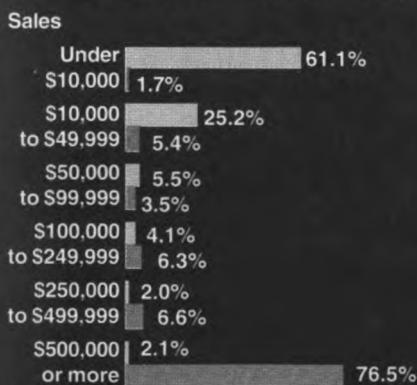
Harvest in Hawaii

Highlights From the 1992 Census of Agriculture

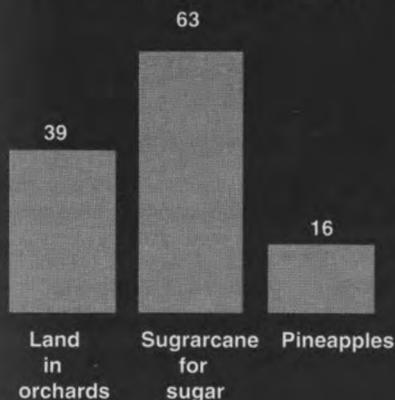


Percent of farms and of market value of agricultural products sold

█ Farms █ Value of products sold



Selected crops harvested (thousands of acres)



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

Housing Value Drops in Northeast, Rises in Midwest

The median value of owner-occupied housing dropped markedly in the Northeast between 1991 and 1993 while rising slightly in the Midwest, according to a report released by the Census Bureau and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The *American Housing Survey for the United States in 1993* (H150/93) shows that in the Northeast, the median value of an owner-occupied home was \$116,100 in 1993, compared with \$123,700 in 1991 (constant 1993 dollars). Before correction for inflation, the 1991 median value was \$116,600, not significantly different from 1993.

In the Midwest, which long has boasted some of the Nation's lowest housing prices, the median value moved up to \$71,900, compared with \$69,700 in 1991 (constant 1993 dollars). In 1993, the Midwest housing value was not significantly different from the South. Both the West and South showed no statistically significant change in housing value (in constant dollars) between 1991 and 1993.

The report contains detailed tables that present data on the size and composition of the housing inventory, characteristics of its occupants, housing costs, housing and neighborhood quality, and equipment and fuels.

It also presents data on homeowners' repairs and mortgages, rent control, rent subsidies, previous housing unit of recent movers, and reasons for moving. The statistics are given for the Nation and the four census regions.

All the Comforts of Home

Percent of occupied housing units: 1993

	Owners	Renters
Selected equipment		
Washing machine	94%	46%
Clothes dryer	89%	39%
Dishwasher	61%	35%
Disposal in kitchen sink	44%	40%
Central air conditioning	50%	35%
Selected amenities		
Porch, deck, balcony, or patio	85%	63%
Usable fireplace	42%	13%
Two or more living rooms or recreation rooms	45%	10%
Garage or carport	74%	30%

Source: *American Housing Survey for the United States: 1993*, Series H150/93.

The *American Housing Survey for the United States: 1993*, Series H150/93, is available for \$39 from the U.S. Government Printing Office (S/N 003-024-08776-6).

For more information about the data, contact Ed Montfort, Housing and Household Economic Statistics Division (301-763-8551).

AHS Microdata Via the Internet

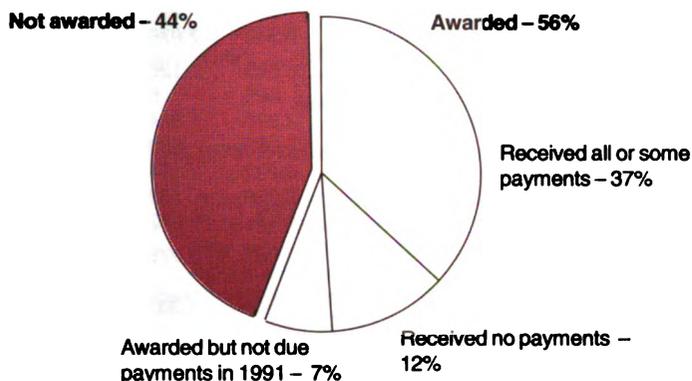
We have not yet released the 1993 national microdata on computer tape or CD-ROM, but these microdata are available on the Internet. Access the Census Bureau's home page (<http://www.census.gov/>) and click on "Population and Housing" and then on "Housing and Household Economics." You can get the microdata through the Data Extraction System. Directions for downloading are provided.

Child Support Payments – \$5.8 Billion Short

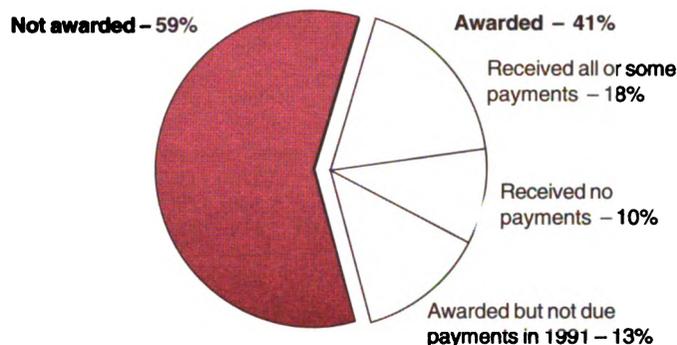
Child Support at a Glance

Child support status: Spring 1992

Women With Children Whose Father Was Absent (9.9 Million)



Men With Children Whose Mother Was Absent (1.6 Million)



Source: *Child Support for Custodial Mothers and Fathers: 1991*, Series P60-187.

Parents due child support in 1991 received only 67 percent, or \$11.9 billion of the \$17.7 billion due them, about \$5.8 billion short, according to a soon-to-be-released Census Bureau report, *Child Support for Custodial Mothers and Fathers: 1991* (P60-187).

The data were collected as part of an April 1992 supplement to the Current Population Survey sponsored by the Office of Child Support Enforcement, Department of Health and Human Services. Collected in 1992, the data reflect payments received or missed during the previous year.

Of 11.5 million custodial parents in the United States in spring 1992, 6.2 million were awarded child support, with 5.3 million parents due to receive payments in 1991. For the first time, the report includes data for 1.6 million custodial fathers, 400,000 of whom were due payments in 1991. Nearly 5 million custodial mothers expected child support in 1991.

Custodial mothers were about two and one-half times as likely to be in poverty as custodial fathers (35 percent versus 13 percent) and more than four times as likely as married couples. For custodial mothers without child support agreements, nearly half or 49 percent of the families were in poverty.

Child Support for Custodial Mothers and Fathers: 1991, Series P60-187, will be available from the U.S. Government Printing Office, with tables available on the Internet. We will show the ordering information in the *Monthly Product Announcement*. In addition, Customer Services can supply you with a *Statistical Brief*, or you can call and order it through FastFax (1-900-555-2329).

For more information about the data, contact Lydia Scoon-Rogers or Gordon Lester, Housing and Household Economic Statistics Division (301-763-8576).

Data Sources Near You

- Depository Libraries – 1,400 libraries that select publications from the U.S. Government Printing Office and some files on CD-ROM.
- State Data Centers – usually State government agencies (and assorted affiliates) with data services; found in all States except Alaska.
- Business/Industry Data Centers – usually State government agencies (and affiliates) with data services; special interest in economic development. In 24 States.
- National Census Information Centers – nonprofits serving the interests of various race and ethnic groups.
- National Clearinghouse for Census Data Services – vendors that provide specialized services.

Call 301-457-4100 for more information. The *1995 Census Catalog and Guide* has up-to-date listings of these organizations (see page 12 for ordering information).

Computers at Work!

Use of computer at work, by occupation: October 1993
(Numbers in thousands)

Occupation	Employed	Uses a computer at work		Occupation	Employed	Uses a computer at work	
		Total	Percent			Total	Percent
All occupations	118,400	51,106	43.2	Secretaries, stenographers, and typists	3,985	3,257	81.8
Executive, administration, & management	15,582	10,645	68.3	Financial records processing workers	2,256	1,718	76.2
Public administrators	684	560	81.9	Mail & message distributing workers	914	226	24.7
Other executives, administrators, & managers	10,840	6,720	62.0	Other administrative support workers	9,949	7,076	71.1
Management related workers	4,058	3,365	82.9	Service occupations	15,593	2,126	13.6
Professional specialty occupations	17,278	10,399	60.2	Private household workers	889	5	0.5
Engineers	1,806	1,531	84.8	Protective service workers	2,073	834	40.3
Mathematical & computer scientists	1,079	1,033	95.7	Food service workers	5,063	553	10.9
Natural scientists	568	483	85.0	Health service workers	2,202	354	16.1
Health diagnosing	842	378	44.8	Cleaning & building service workers	2,826	138	4.9
Health treatment	2,741	1,545	56.4	Personal service workers	2,541	242	9.5
Teachers, college	840	597	71.1	Precision production, craft, & repair occupations	13,663	2,976	21.8
Teachers, except college	4,483	2,091	46.6	Mechanics & repairers	4,581	1,302	28.4
Lawyers	819	490	59.9	Construction trade workers	5,160	380	7.4
Other professionals	4,101	2,252	54.9	Other precision production workers	3,922	1,294	33.0
Technical and related support occupations	3,897	2,592	66.5	Machine operators, assemblers, & inspectors	7,468	1,230	16.5
Health technologists	1,579	828	52.4	Machine operators & tenders	4,778	795	16.6
Engineering technicians	1,130	750	66.4	Fabricators & assemblers	2,690	435	16.2
Technicians (except health, engineering, & science)	1,188	1,013	85.3	Transportation & material moving equipment operators	5,100	603	11.8
Sales occupations	13,579	6,220	45.8	Motor vehicle operators	3,898	438	11.2
Sales supervisors & proprietors	3,912	2,113	54.0	Other transportation workers	1,202	165	13.7
Sales reps (finance & business services)	2,363	1,629	68.9	Handlers, equipment cleaners, & helpers	4,442	549	12.3
Sales reps (commodities except retail)	1,537	804	52.3	Construction laborers	703	22	3.1
Sales workers, retail	5,694	1,658	29.1	Freight, stock, & material handlers	1,736	280	16.1
Sales related occupations	73	16	22.0	Other handlers	2,004	247	12.3
Administrative support occupations, including clerical	18,535	13,505	72.9	Farm, forestry, & fishing occupations	3,264	262	8.0
Administrative support supervisors	909	759	83.5	Farm operators	1,159	152	13.1
Computer equipment operators	521	468	89.8	Farm workers	1,892	104	5.5
				Forestry & fishing workers	212	6	2.7

Source: *Computer Use in the United States: October 1993*. Internet (<http://www.census.gov/>).

Computer Use

Continued from page 1

Computer access and use also differ by race. About 36 percent of White children had access to a computer at home; the figure for Black children was 13 percent; for Hispanic children, 12 percent (no statistical difference).

Computer Use in the United States: October 1993 can be obtained from the Internet (<http://www.census.gov/>); select *Population and Housing* and

Social and Demographic Characteristics Data).

A printout listing can be obtained from the Population Division (301-457-2422) for \$10.

The *October 1993 Current Population Survey Computer Tape File* has the microdata on which these statistics are based. You can also get more recent information in the *November 1994 Current Population Survey File*. Microdata are person, family, and

household records purged of any identifying information. Each tape file costs \$175 from Customer Services (301-457-4100). Customer Services can convert tape files to CD-ROM but these discs do not come with our customary retrieval software. Users must have their own software resources.

For more information on the data, contact Rosalind Bruno, Population Division (301-457-2464).

U.S. STATISTICS AT A GLANCE

Economic Indicators

		Latest data	Unit	Latest month	Previous month	Last year	Percent change from previous month year	
Business		<i>Sources: Census Bureau, Federal Reserve Board</i>						
Retail:	Sales	April	\$bil.	192.6	193.3	183.5	-0.4	5.0
	Inventory	March	\$bil.	297.2	296.0	269.1	0.4	10.4
	Inv./sales ratio	March	ratio	1.54	1.54	1.46	(X)	(X)
	Consumer installment credit	March	\$bil.	941.8	928.0	813.8	1.5	15.7
Merchant wholesalers:	Sales	March	\$bil.	183.1	185.1	169.4	-1.0	8.1
	Inventory	March	\$bil.	243.2	240.4	217.3	1.2	11.9
	Stock/sales ratio	March	ratio	1.33	1.30	1.28	(X)	(X)
Construction and Housing		<i>Sources: Census Bureau, Federal Housing Finance Board</i>						
Residential:	Building permits — AR	April	1,000	1,242	1,235	1,375	0.6	-9.7
	Housing starts — AR	April	1,000	1,236	1,231	1,463	0.4	-15.5
	New home sales — AR	March	1,000	577	560	722	3.0	-20.1
	New home mortgage rate — NSA	March	pct.	8.21	8.28	6.99	-0.8	17.5
New construction:	Total expenditures — AR	March						
	Current dollars		\$bil.	525.1	527.2	496.0	-0.4	5.9
	Constant (1987) dollars		\$bil.	420.5	422.2	413.1	-0.4	1.8
Manufacturing		<i>Sources: Census Bureau, Federal Reserve Board</i>						
Durable goods:	Shipments	March	\$bil.	162.0	161.2	147.4	0.5	9.9
	New orders	March	\$bil.	164.1	163.3	146.9	0.5	11.7
	Unfilled orders	March	\$bil.	439.0	436.9	423.3	0.5	3.7
Total goods:	Shipments	March	\$bil.	298.9	298.6	274.5	0.1	8.9
	Inventories	March	\$bil.	402.3	399.7	379.8	0.7	5.9
	Inv./ship ratio	March	ratio	1.35	1.34	1.38	(X)	(X)
	Index of industrial production	March	1987=100	121.1	121.6	116.7	-0.4	3.8
U.S. International Trade in Goods and Services		<i>Source: Census Bureau</i>						
	Exports of goods and services	February	\$bil.	62.4	61.0	52.8	2.4	18.2
	Imports of goods and services	February	\$bil.	71.4	72.9	62.4	-2.0	14.4
	Trade balance	February	\$bil.	-9.0	-12.0	-9.6	-24.6	-6.1
Money Supply, Prices, Interest Rates		<i>Sources: Federal Reserve Board, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Treasury</i>						
	Money supply (M1)	March	\$bil.	1,148	1,147	1,141	0.1	0.6
	Consumer Price Index — NSA	April	1982-84=100	151.9	151.4	147.4	0.3	3.1
	Producer Price Index ¹	April	1982=100	127.9	127.3	125.2	0.5	2.2
	Prime rate charged by banks ²	April	pct.	9.00	9.00	6.75	0.0	33.3
	3-month U.S. T-bill — NSA	April	pct.	5.67	5.73	3.74	-1.0	51.6
Other Principal Indicators		<i>Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Bureau of Economic Analysis</i>						
	Civilian labor force ³	April	mil.	132.75	132.5	130.8	0.2	1.5
	Unemployment rate ³	April	rate	5.8	5.5	6.4	5.5	-9.4
	Index of leading indicators	March	1987=100	101.8	102.3	101.3	-0.5	0.5
	Personal income — AR	March	\$bil.	5,996	5,961	5,608	0.6	6.9
				Qtr. 1	Qtr. 4	Percent		
				1995	1994	change ⁴		
Constant (1987) dollars:	Gross domestic product (GDP)		\$bil.	5,472	5,434	2.8		
	Personal consumption expenditures		\$bil.	3,642	3,630	1.4		
	Gross private domestic investment		\$bil.	1,031	985	18.0		

AR — Annual rate. NSA — Not seasonally adjusted. (X) — Not applicable. ¹Finished goods. ²As of end of month. ³Data for latest month not comparable with data for same month last year due to change in survey methodology. ⁴Annualized rate.

Note: Figures are seasonally adjusted except as noted.

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For more information, contact John McCall, Data User Services Division (301-457-1221).

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