

# General Explanations

The 1947 Census of Manufactures is the first to be taken since 1939. The first Census of Manufactures covered the year 1809 and a census was taken at 10-year intervals in connection with the Decennial Census of Population up to and including 1899, with the exception of 1829. It was conducted at 5-year intervals from 1904 through 1919, and every other year from 1921 through 1939, but was suspended during the war period. Present legislation provides for a Census of Manufactures to cover the year 1953 and every fifth year thereafter.

## 1. The Census Report Forms

More than 200 different report forms were used to canvass the establishments included in the 1947 census. With a few exceptions, the general information requested was the same for all forms, but in addition each form contained inquiries adapted to the requirements for information on production of commodities, materials consumption, and equipment in use from one or several of the more than 450 manufacturing industries recognized by the Standard Industrial Classification. The product and materials section of each form was the result of intensive study of the 1939 census reports and extensive consultation with other Federal agencies, manufacturers, and trade associations in an effort to provide the most useful information consistent with the ability of manufacturers to report the desired data. In addition to these standard forms, shorter forms requesting limited general and product information were designed for the use of smaller establishments in about one-third of the manufacturing industries.

## 2. The Canvass

In the 1947 census the report forms were distributed and for the most part returned by mail; however, manufacturers who did not send in a report or whose reports were incomplete or otherwise inadequate were reached by telephone or personal visit from the Field Offices of the Bureau. An important exception to this procedure was made in the case of the highly mobile eastern lumber mills, which were reached entirely by field enumeration. Manufacturers are required by law to report in the Census of Manufactures and an intensive field enumeration of selected areas indicates that this census covers virtually all significant manufacturing establishments.

## 3. Establishments Covered in the Census

The 1947 Census of Manufactures covered, for the 48 States and the District of Columbia, all establishments primarily engaged in manufacturing, as defined in the 1945 revision of the Standard Industrial Classification sponsored by the Bureau of the Budget. This system of classification is now in general use not only among Government agencies but also outside the Government. In a few instances, however, the Standard Industrial Classification was not followed; such departures are noted in the reports for the industries affected.

To the extent possible, the Census of Manufactures is conducted on an establishment basis. That is, a company operating establishments at more than one location is required to submit a report for each location; also, companies engaged in distinctly different lines of activity at one location are required to submit separate reports insofar as the plant records permit such a separation. Census figures must, therefore, be expected to differ substantially from those prepared on a company basis, e. g., from consolidated reports which not only combine activities at different locations but also include the nonmanufacturing activities of companies primarily engaged in manufacturing. Census figures will also differ to some extent from other tabulations based on establishment reports, where the definition of an establishment as to location and line of activity are not so rigidly applied.

In 1947, as in earlier years, a minimum size limit for establishments was set for inclusion in the census. In other recent

censuses, establishments having less than \$5,000 value of products were designated as out of the scope of the census. In the 1947 census, on the other hand, reports were required from all establishments employing one or more persons at any time during the census year. In several of the apparel industries reports were obtained from jobbers, whether or not they reported any employment in 1947, since contractors are normally unable to report cost of materials and value of products shipped.

The change in the minimum size limit in 1947 as compared with 1939 has not, however, appreciably affected the comparability of the figures for these two years, except for data on number of establishments for a few industries. During 1939, establishments with no employees amounted to fewer than 5,000 and accounted for less than one-half of one percent of the value added by manufacture in that year. A preliminary study of the 1947 tabulations indicates that a somewhat larger number of reports showing less than \$5,000 value of products was tabulated for that year.

## 4. Industry Classification of Establishments

Each of the establishments covered in the census was classified in one of 458 manufacturing industries in accordance with the industry definitions embodied in the Standard Industrial Classification system with a few exceptions as noted in (3) above. Under this system of classification, an industry is generally defined as a group of establishments producing a single product or more or less closely related group of products. This product or group of products is in turn said to be "primary" to that industry. Accordingly, an establishment is classified in a particular industry if its production of the primary products of that industry exceeds in value its production of any other group of products. In a few instances, however, the industry classification of an establishment is determined not only by the products it makes but also by the processes employed in making those products.

## 5. Disclosure of Data for Individual Companies

The Bureau of the Census is prohibited by law from publishing any statistics that reveal the operations of individual companies. For this reason the statistics for some industry groups and counties are not shown. They are included, however, in the appropriate major industry groups, and in the State totals.

## 6. Abbreviations

The following abbreviations and symbols recur frequently both in the tables and footnotes:

n.a.	not available
n.e.c.	not elsewhere classified
M	thousand
mil.	million
----	zero or not applicable

Where the term tons is used, it refers to short tons of 2,000 lbs. The term barrels refers to barrels of 42 gallons.