

# GENERAL EXPLANATIONS

## 1. INTRODUCTION

This release shows 1947 value of shipments figures for 890 classes of manufactured products, by Geographic Division and State. In Volume II, "Statistics by Industry," and the "Product Supplement" volume of the 1947 Census of Manufactures, figures were published for approximately 6,000 individual product items, grouped into slightly more than 1,000 broad classes of products. Most of these figures, however, were published on a national basis only, and after their release the need for similar data, by State and Geographic Division, became increasingly apparent. Tabulations by State were made in conjunction with work on the 1947 Census, but the Bureau lacked funds to prepare this material for final publication. Release of the State figures at this time has been made possible through sponsorship of part of the work by the Federal Trade Commission.

As work was completed on the State figures for the product classes primary to a major industry group, a separate release was issued for that group. The present release brings together these figures for all of the 20 major groups of manufacturing industries.

The 1947 Census 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 second 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.

## 2. ESTABLISHMENTS COVERED IN THE CENSUS

The 1947 Census covered all establishments primarily engaged in manufacturing as defined in the Standard Industrial Classification Manual, Volume I, dated November 1945. The following types of activities are defined as nonmanufacturing by the Standard Industrial Classification and so are excluded from the Census of Manufactures whether or not they are associated with the production of commodities of a kind ordinarily produced in factories:

Manufacturing activities of certain establishments which sell most of their products at retail on the premises, e.g., single-shop retail bakeries.

Fabricating operations performed at the site of construction by contractors.

Production by public utilities of electric light and power or of heating, cooking, and illuminating gas distributed through mains.

Custom work to the individual order of household consumers, such as custom tailoring or woodworking.

Repair and other service activities except specified services performed "for the trade." Machine shops engaged exclusively or almost exclusively in repair work and railroad repair shops are also excluded.

To the extent that establishments of this type produce a significant proportion of the total national production of a commodity, the values presented in the following pages are too low. This qualification is important in only a few instances, notably: bakery products, dried fruit, prepared feeds, Venetian blinds, awnings, and millwork.

While the 1947 report forms were distributed and for the most part returned by mail, 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. After the canvass was completed, however, the Bureau undertook an intensive enumeration in representative sample areas in order to get some measure of the degree of coverage achieved. Preliminary results of this coverage check indicate that, for the country as a whole, the census included in its tabulations reports from establishments accounting for over 98 percent of all manufacturing employees as defined for census purposes. A large proportion of the employees not covered were found to be employed in small establishments which also were engaged at the same location in retail trade, custom work, repair services, construction, or other nonmanufacturing activities. Because of the "marginal" character of such establishments, either they were not included in the mailing lists used or when the reports were received they did not contain adequate information and so were classified as nonmanufacturing.

### 3. THE CENSUS REPORT FORM

The early censuses used a single report form and the published information was limited to such general statistics as employment, pay rolls, capital invested, total value of products, and cost of materials. In more recent censuses, however, the majority of manufacturers have received report forms containing preprinted lists of products in order to assure uniform reporting and so permit the publication of product information in the detail needed by industry or governmental agencies. In 1947, specially designed report forms, numbering about 200, were sent to manufacturers in all but 26 out of 453 industries. These 26 industries accounted for less than one percent of total employment in that year. For these industries the product information is usually restricted to a single value figure.

In addition, a short report form was used by some 40,000 smaller establishments in a large number of industries. Although the establishments reporting on this form accounted for less than one percent of total manufacturing employment, they were of considerably greater importance in some industries and account for a significant proportion of the residual or "not classified by kind" items in the product tables for such industries. Other sources of these items were combined entries in the product sections of the industry forms and those instances in which establishments described in their own words their secondary products, i. e., their shipments of products normally produced in other industries and not specifically listed on their industry form.

### 4. PRODUCTS

Most manufacturers were asked to report their shipments and, in many cases, their production of a specified list of products known to be produced by a significant number of establishments in their industry. The list of products was prepared for each industry after intensive study of the 1939 reports, and review and approval by a number of Inter-Agency Committees set up within the Federal Government. In developing the product sections of the 1947 report forms, the Bureau benefited from the advice of trade association officials in nearly all industries. In addition, preliminary drafts of the form were mailed to selected manufacturers in every industry, and, where feasible, the form was revised in accordance with their suggestions.

Of the 6,500 items included on the forms, data were actually published for approximately 6,100. The balance were eliminated because their publication would involve disclosure of the activities of individual companies or because it turned out

that a number of important producers could not report products in the detail requested; in all such cases the product data were combined with that for a similar item or included in an "all other" category.

### 5. CLASSES OF PRODUCTS

In the 1947 Census, the 6,500 individual product items were grouped into slightly more than 1,000 broad classes of products. In general, not more than 10 broad classes were used for any industry, and in many cases a broad class constituted all products of an industry. Since the Bureau of the Census is prohibited by law from publishing statistics which disclose figures for individual companies, the use of broad classes made it possible to show many more State or Geographic Division figures than could be released for individual products.

All of the product classes for which statistics were reported in the 1947 Census of Manufactures are accounted for in this release. However, data for the less significant and smaller classes have not been distributed by Division or State. The names of such undistributed product classes and the total United States value of shipments for them have been indicated in footnotes. In general, classes for which the total 1947 value of products was less than \$10.0 million were not distributed by State.

Throughout the tables, figures are not shown for States in which shipments were small (less than \$50,000), or where data could not be shown separately without disclosing figures for individual companies. These figures, however, are included in the appropriate Division totals.

### 6. VALUE OF PRODUCTS SHIPPED

The value of products shipped, shown in this release, represents received or receivable net selling values, f.o.b. plant, after discounts and allowances, and excluding freight charges and excise taxes. The figures include the values assigned by multiple-unit organizations to products transferred from one to another of their manufacturing establishments.

### 7. ABBREVIATIONS

The following abbreviations and symbols frequently recur in the tables:

- n. e. c. Not elsewhere classified.
- ... Zero or not applicable.
- (d) Withheld to avoid disclosing figures for individual companies.
- (s) Less than \$50,000.