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Volume 31, No. 12
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Statistical Abstract Has It!

One Day in the Life of America

It's that time of year again. For those of you who can't get enough statistics, on everything from anchovies to zinc, the wait is over. The Census Bureau's bestseller, the *Statistical Abstract*, is hot off the press and, as usual, there's something for everyone.

Thirty-one chapters cover a wide range of topics, from population, education, health, and nutrition to communications, energy, and science. The 1996 edition has 34 new tables.

The *Abstract* covers all aspects of American life – from social and economic issues to recreational and international. Compiled from numerous government and private sources, this edition boasts nearly 1,500 tables, 91 of which were previously found in *U.S. Industrial Outlook*.

To whet your appetite, we cite some fascinating facts from the 116th edition about daily happenings in our country. On a typical day in America –

U.S. Department of Commerce
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Brand New This Year!

New tables in the *Statistical Abstract*

- Native and foreign-born population, by selected characteristics.
- Marital status of the population – projections, by age and sex: 2000 and 2010.
- Births to teens, unmarried mothers, and prenatal care.
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- Business investment and plans – capital expenditures.
- Hoover's 500 – top 25 business enterprises.
- Commodity flow survey shipment characteristics.
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- Industrial buildings – floorspace and vacancy rates for major cities.
- Retail trade – sales, by broad merchandise lines.
- Motor vehicle miles of travel for selected countries.
- World food production, by food type.

- 343 juveniles were arrested for violent crimes.
- 3,211 motor vehicles were stolen.
- 5,627 fires were reported.
- 84,200 people were admitted to the hospital.
- 6,500 marriages occurred.
- 69 million lbs. of beef were produced.
- 495 million pieces of mail were handled by the U.S. Postal Service.
- 34,000 cars were manufactured.
- 1,344 immigrants arrived.
- 196 businesses failed.
- \$65 million was spent on books.
- 2,772 cases of child abuse were substantiated.

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- Race and Hispanic Origin, page 12.

Statistical Abstract

Continued from page 1

- 3,300 divorces occurred.
- 2 million gallons of ice cream were produced.
- 27 million transactions were made at ATM machines.
- \$326 million was spent on mail order sales of consumer products and services.
- 346 million shares were traded on the New York Stock Exchange.
- 401 million shares were traded on NASDAQ.

For the data you need to make your case or prove your point, order your copy of the *1996 Statistical Abstract* from the U.S. Government Printing Office. The hardcover is \$47 (stock number 003-024-08810-0), and the paperback is \$40 (stock number 003-024-08809-6).

You also can get it from the National Technical Information Service.

The hardcover is \$35 (stock number PB96-965301AHL), and the paperback is \$30 (stock number PB96-965801AHL).

The *Abstract* also is on our Web site (www.census.gov/prod/2/gen/96statab/96statab.html). Very soon in the new year, the *Abstract* will be out on CD-ROM.

For more information, contact Glenn King or Lars Johanson, Administrative and Customer Services Division (301-457-1171; ljohnso@census.gov).

USA Counties on Disc

If you love the *Abstract*, you'll love *USA Counties 1996*. This CD-ROM has data on subjects similar to those covered in the *Abstract* – for over 3,000 counties and equivalents.

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U.S. Trade Deficit With Japan Declines Sharply

Through the first 9 months of 1996, the nation's trade deficit with Japan was \$34.1 billion, down 27 percent from the \$46.8 billion deficit in the same period of 1995. This marks the smallest cumulative January-September deficit with Japan, our second leading trading partner, since 1992. (Canada has long been our top trading partner.)

Imports from Japan dropped 10 percent, from \$94.3 billion to \$85.1 billion. Exports to Japan climbed 9 percent, from \$47.5 billion to \$51.0 billion. Motor vehicles accounted for nearly half the decline in imports. On the other hand, electrical machinery (primarily electronic integrated circuits), office machines (computers), and cereal products (predominantly corn and wheat) were responsible for three-fourths of the rise in exports.

The overall cumulative January-September U.S. trade deficit in goods, meanwhile, increased from \$121.5 billion in 1995 to \$123.3 billion in 1996.

You can obtain the latest detailed statistics on the nation's trade with a particular country from our Foreign Trade Division (FTD). The staff can prepare customized reports giving you a complete rundown on the amount of the specific commodities we import from and export to any country.

If, instead, you want a complete recap each month of U.S. trade in a particular commodity, you may subscribe to FTD's Selected

Continued on page 4

Top 10 Commodities U.S. Exports to Japan: January – September 1996

(\$ Mil.)

SITC code	Commodity	Total Japan	Total U.S.	Percent
	Total	\$50,976.4	\$459,017.3	11.1
776	Semiconductors	3,253.0	27,682.9	11.8
752	Automatic data processing machines	2,418.0	18,300.0	13.2
792	Aircraft and associated equipment	2,289.3	22,697.1	10.1
781	Motor vehicles	1,978.0	12,867.0	15.4
044	Maize	1,891.1	6,455.8	29.3
759	Parts for office machines and ADP machines	1,761.6	14,474.6	12.2
764	Telecommunications equipment	1,633.4	13,533.1	12.1
874	Measuring, checking, and analyzing instruments	1,606.8	10,742.1	15.0
247	Wood in the rough	1,234.1	1,674.4	73.7
011	Meat of bovine animals	1,202.2	1,854.9	64.8

Top 10 Commodities U.S. Imports From Japan: January – September 1996

(\$ Mil.)

SITC code	Commodity	Total Japan	Total U.S.	Percent
	Total	\$85,120.5	\$583,607.3	14.6
781	Motor vehicles	14,381.5	49,269.3	29.2
776	Semiconductors	7,302.0	29,216.7	25.0
752	Automatic data processing machines	6,741.8	28,192.5	23.9
784	Parts and accessories of motor vehicles	4,886.8	15,756.7	31.0
759	Parts for office machines and ADP machines	4,139.6	17,114.7	24.2
713	Internal combustion piston engines	3,913.6	9,065.8	43.2
763	Sound recorders, TV recorders	2,528.3	5,366.5	47.1
764	Telecommunications equipment	2,478.5	12,446.3	19.9
778	Electrical machinery and apparatus	2,473.8	7,887.3	31.4
772	Electrical apparatus for electric circuits	1,655.6	7,049.5	23.5

SITC – Standard Industrial Trade Classification Code.

U.S. Census Bureau, Department of Commerce, *U.S. International Trade in Goods and Services, September 1996*.

ECONOMIC UPDATE

Trade With Japan

Continued from page 3

Commodity Service. You will receive the statistics via E-mail; annual subscriptions cost \$160 per commodity.

For more information on the Census Bureau's international trade statistics, to obtain customized country reports, or to subscribe to our Selected Commodity Service, call the Census Bureau's Foreign Trade Data Services (301-457-2242).

The serious user can subscribe to one CD-ROM series offering monthly discs with export data (8,000 product codes) or import data (14,000 product codes). A subscription to the monthly export series costs \$1,200 (or \$150 for one disc); a subscription to the import series costs the same.

Discs come in dBase format but also have a Windows-based software.

Contact Customer Services (301-457-4100) for more information. For more details about the coverage, contact Foreign Trade (301-457-3041).

Just want a short update of U.S. trade? Then consult our Web site (www.census.gov/foreign-trade/www). You will find data on our 10 leading trading partners, along with a press release giving highlights of the current U.S. trade situation.

Census Catalog and Guide

For information about the vast range of Census Bureau products, get the *Census Catalog and Guide*, available for \$21 from the U.S. Government Printing Office (S/N 003-024-08804-5).

Minority-Owned Firms Compared to All U.S. Firms: 1992

(Includes individual proprietorships, partnerships, and subchapter S corporations. Detail may not add to total due to rounding.)

	Minority firms (No.)	All U.S. firms (No.)	Minority as a percent of all	Minority sales and receipts (\$Mil.)	All U.S. sales and receipts (\$Mil.)	Minority as a percent of all
All firms	2,149,184	17,253,143	12.5	209,739	3,324,200	6.3
Not allocated by state	183,619	(X)	(X)	7,728	(X)	(X)
States						
Total	1,965,565	17,253,143	11.4	202,011	3,324,200	6.1
Alabama	17,432	227,119	7.7	995	41,620	2.4
Alaska	5,382	58,898	9.1	476	7,114	6.7
Arizona	26,185	248,337	10.5	2,342	35,223	6.6
Arkansas	7,594	159,820	4.8	445	23,529	1.9
California	541,414	2,259,327	24.0	61,815	408,481	15.1
Colorado	23,463	323,147	7.3	2,328	46,763	5.0
Connecticut	13,435	237,705	5.7	1,500	70,157	2.1
Delaware	3,301	42,228	7.8	430	9,098	4.7
District of Columbia	12,669	35,344	35.8	1,066	11,061	9.6
Florida	173,287	1,000,542	17.3	21,189	172,499	12.3
Georgia	52,131	425,118	12.3	3,922	82,009	4.8
Hawaii	41,111	79,050	52.0	4,929	10,724	46.0
Idaho	2,747	88,712	3.1	251	12,676	2.0
Illinois	67,603	726,974	9.3	8,762	180,500	4.9
Indiana	13,865	364,253	3.8	1,633	77,462	2.1
Iowa	2,939	206,840	1.4	386	29,896	1.3
Kansas	7,244	191,262	3.8	477	27,524	1.7
Kentucky	7,421	236,525	3.1	654	37,112	1.8
Louisiana	29,784	236,589	12.6	2,037	34,217	6.0
Maine	1,099	109,360	1.0	133	14,424	0.9
Maryland	55,587	328,403	16.9	3,350	57,909	5.8
Massachusetts	20,749	442,848	4.7	1,947	98,358	2.0
Michigan	31,740	551,091	5.8	3,200	107,645	3.0
Minnesota	7,449	358,921	2.1	985	68,327	1.4
Mississippi	16,386	135,497	12.1	925	19,305	4.8
Missouri	15,437	348,978	4.4	1,258	65,303	1.9
Montana	1,498	76,331	2.0	120	8,820	1.4
Nebraska	3,138	124,212	2.5	232	20,439	1.1
Nevada	8,223	87,786	9.4	986	19,593	5.0
New Hampshire	1,463	97,772	1.5	219	16,387	1.3
New Jersey	64,074	517,204	12.4	8,394	141,761	5.9
New Mexico	26,729	107,377	24.9	1,741	11,751	14.8
New York	160,751	1,159,700	13.9	17,637	327,619	5.4
North Carolina	37,670	439,301	8.6	2,045	76,188	2.7
North Dakota	613	48,368	1.3	71	6,441	1.1
Ohio	33,844	666,183	5.1	3,286	120,307	2.7
Oklahoma	12,865	246,936	5.2	1,253	33,457	3.7
Oregon	10,160	238,967	4.3	1,480	38,745	3.8
Pennsylvania	32,712	728,063	4.5	4,745	166,894	2.8
Rhode Island	3,047	67,641	4.5	298	15,634	1.9
South Carolina	21,127	197,330	10.7	1,107	29,217	3.8
South Dakota	891	57,084	1.6	159	10,129	1.6
Tennessee	19,382	325,371	6.0	1,432	59,161	2.4
Texas	241,334	1,256,121	19.2	19,650	229,833	8.5
Utah	4,352	129,202	3.4	400	19,313	2.1
Vermont	747	58,924	1.3	114	8,592	1.3
Virginia	46,666	391,451	11.9	3,887	66,555	5.8
Washington	25,935	372,975	7.0	3,910	67,795	5.8
West Virginia	2,070	94,912	2.2	221	11,792	1.9
Wisconsin	7,619	300,348	2.5	1,096	61,368	1.8
Wyoming	1,195	40,696	2.9	93	7,474	1.2

X – Not applicable.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Department of Commerce. 1992 *Economic Census, Survey of Minority-Owned Business Enterprises – Summary*, Series MB92-4.

ECONOMIC UPDATE

Minority Firms Total 2.1 Million, Earn \$210 Billion

In 1992, minorities owned 2,149,184 businesses that took in \$210 billion in receipts. About 48 percent of the firms were services; especially prevalent were health, business, and personal services. However, despite their large numbers, service firms owned by minorities took in only 27 percent of total receipts, reflecting the relatively small size of these businesses.

Retail trade establishments, in contrast, constituted only 16 percent of minority firms, but took in almost as much as service firms (26 percent of receipts). Leading industries include auto dealers and service stations, eating and drinking places, and food stores.

This information – and much, much more – appears in the *1992 Economic Census, Survey of Minority-Owned Business Enterprises, Summary* report (MB92-4). The data are available now in print and online and will be out soon on CD-ROM. The report has data on specific groups: (1) Blacks; (2) Hispanics (may be any race); and (3) Asians, Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and Alaska Natives. There also is a breakdown by sex.

Topics include number of firms, number of firms with paid employees, sales and receipts, and number of paid employees.

Data are presented for the nation, states, and selected metro areas, counties, and places.

Due to sampling methods, detailed tables cover only about 2 million of these firms.

Check out our Web site for the report in .pdf format and some simple ASCII tables (www.census.gov/agfs/www/smobe.html). You'll also find links to other reports in this series.

You can get the report in print for \$12.50 from our Jeffersonville, Indiana, facility (see page 2). You also can get reports on firms owned by Blacks (\$10); Hispanics (\$12.50); and Asians, Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and Alaska Natives (\$12.50). Another report covers women-owned businesses (\$15). The reports will be on *1992 Economic Census CD-ROM II*, available soon (\$150 from Customer Services).

For more information, contact Valerie Strang, Agriculture and Financial Statistics Division (301-763-5726; valerie.c.strang@ccmail.census.gov).

Minority Firms and Their Earnings

	Number of firms					Sales and receipts (\$Mil.)				
	1992	% of total	1987	% of total	Percent change	1992	% of total	1987	% of total	Percent change
All minorities*	1,965,565	(X)	1,213,750	(X)	61.9	\$202,011	(X)	\$77,840	(X)	160.0
Men	1,248,130	63.5	825,441	68.0	51.2	152,245	75.4	59,847	76.9	154.9
Women	717,435	36.5	388,309	32.0	84.8	49,767	24.6	17,993	23.1	176.6
Black	620,912	31.6	424,165	34.9	46.4	32,197	15.9	19,763	25.4	62.9
Men	343,666	17.5	265,887	21.9	29.3	23,688	11.7	13,232	17.0	77.1
Women	277,246	14.1	158,278	13.0	75.2	8,510	4.2	6,531	8.4	30.3
Hispanic**	771,708	39.3	422,373	34.8	82.7	72,824	36.0	24,732	31.8	194.5
Men	525,330	26.7	307,348	25.3	70.9	55,645	27.5	20,403	26.2	172.2
Women	246,378	12.5	115,025	9.5	114.2	17,180	8.5	4,328	5.6	297.0
Asian, Pacific Islander, American Indian, and Alaska Native	606,426	30.9	376,711	31.0	61.0	99,710	49.4	34,036	43.7	193.0
Men	397,779	20.2	258,514	21.3	53.9	74,856	37.1	26,700	34.3	180.4
Women	208,647	10.6	118,197	9.7	76.5	24,853	12.3	7,336	9.4	238.8

X – Not applicable. *Excludes 183,619 firms for which data by sex were not available. **Hispanics may be any race.

Note: Detail in this table does not add to total because of duplication. Firms owned equally by two or more minorities are included in the data for each minority group but counted only once at total levels.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Department of Commerce. *1992 Economic Census, Survey of Minority-Owned Business Enterprises — Summary*, Series MB92-4.

Jobs Gained, Jobs Lost – County by County

Maricopa County, Arizona, part of the Phoenix metro area, had a net gain of 61,029 employees between 1993 and 1994, the most of any county in the country. Clark County, Nevada, part of the Las Vegas metro area, had an increase of 35,974 jobs during this same period, the second highest, followed by Oakland County, Michigan, at 25,924.

Which industries fueled this growth?

- *Maricopa County.* Jobs were added in services (18,884 more employees than in '93); construction (12,044); retail trade (11,925); and finance, insurance, and real estate (7,296). Leading industries were special trade contractors (9,242) and help supply services (7,971).

- *Clark County.* Job growth was fueled by gains in services (17,744), construction (6,328), and retail (4,207). Leading the way were hotels

and motels (12,060) and special trade contractors (4,837).

- *Oakland County, Michigan.* Gains were seen in services (12,948), manufacturing (4,560), and retail trade (3,680). Leading industries were business services (10,856), especially help supply services (9,956).

On the flip side, Los Angeles County, California, was the runaway leader in jobs lost over the period, with 103,764. The losses there were concentrated in manufacturing (44,918); services (35,886); retail (19,767); and finance, insurance, and real estate (12,943). Big losses were seen in the motion picture industry (36,670) and the electronics industry (10,342).

These statistics come from the 1994 *County Business Patterns*, released in print; on CD-ROM, diskette, and tape; and online via the Internet.

County Business Patterns has information on business establishments, employment, and payroll, by detailed industry in nine major economic divisions.

The data on the total number of jobs gained or lost in the leading counties were gleaned from the state reports in this series.

The 1994 and 1993 state and U.S. summary reports are on the Web (www.census.gov/prod/www/titles.html#count).

A simple way to see which industries made the biggest contributions to gains or losses in a particular county between 1993 and 1994 is to check out the "Map Stats" feature on our Web site (www.census.gov/datamap/www/index.html).

Top 10 Counties With Job Gains: 1993 to 1994

Rank	1994 employment	1993 employment	Gain	
			Number	Percent
1	959,158	898,129	61,029	6.80
2	413,087	377,113	35,974	9.54
3	641,007	615,083	25,924	4.21
4	505,004	480,395	24,609	5.12
5	366,020	341,668	24,352	7.13
6	1,182,929	1,160,055	22,874	1.97
7	357,737	336,661	21,076	6.26
8	521,412	500,400	21,012	4.20
9	484,237	463,498	20,739	4.47
10	1,385,913	1,366,579	19,334	1.41

Top 10 Counties With Job Losses: 1993 to 1994

Rank	1994 employment	1993 employment	Loss	
			Number	Percent
1	3,391,482	3,495,246	103,764	-2.97
2	767,525	777,418	9,893	-1.27
3	392,359	401,700	9,341	-2.33
4	479,155	487,834	8,679	-1.78
5	1,116,840	1,125,311	8,471	-0.75
6	438,035	445,591	7,556	-1.70
7	322,378	329,567	7,189	-2.18
8	284,853	291,869	7,016	-2.40
9	350,473	356,364	5,891	-1.65
10	409,919	415,545	5,626	-1.35

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Department of Commerce, *County Business Patterns*, 1994. State reports.

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County Business Patterns

Continued from page 6

You can get the 1994 U.S. summary report in print for \$7 from the U.S. Government Printing Office (stock number 803-050-00001-5).

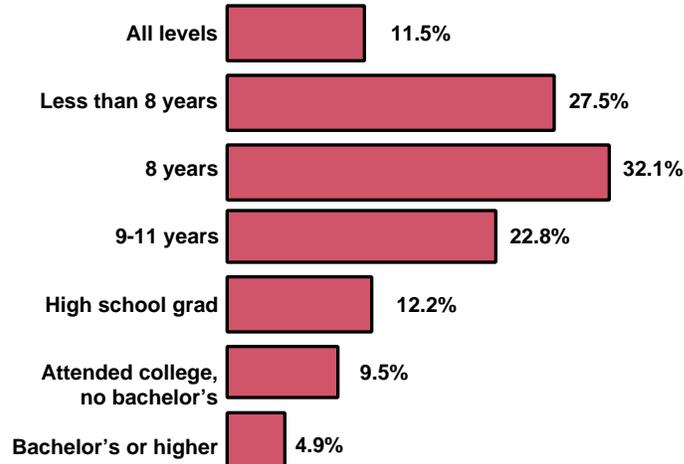
For ordering information on state reports, check the "CenStore" on the Web (www.census.gov/ftp/pub/mp/www/pub/bus/msbus28.html) or call Customer Services (301-457-4100).

Look for the 1994 information on CD-ROM, tape, and diskette shortly. (The CD-ROM and tape files have more data than the reports or the diskettes.) Be on the lookout too for similar data for ZIP Code areas.

For more information about the statistics, contact Tom Bell, Economic Planning and Coordination Division (301-457-2580; thomas.e.bell@ccmail.census.gov).

People With Disabilities Comprise a Disproportionately Large Share of the Less Educated

Civilians 25 to 64 years old with a work disability as a share of the total population, by level of education: 1996



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Department of Commerce, Web (www.census.gov/hhes/www/disable.html).

Chill Out!

In 1995, U.S. manufacturers shipped 11.1 million refrigerators and freezers, with a value of \$4.8 billion.

Get the lowdown on these and other major household appliances – such as electric ranges and ovens, microwaves, gas ranges and ovens, outdoor cooking equipment, household laundry machines, and water heaters.

You can find this information in one of many Current Industrial Reports on our Web site (www.census.gov/cir/www/ma36f.html for *Major Household Appliances*).

For information about the data, contact Vera Harris-Bourne, Manufacturing and Construction Division (301-457-1604).

Disability Estimates for States and Counties

New tables on the Census Bureau's Web site show data for states, counties, and metropolitan areas on the characteristics of adults identified in the 1990 census as having a work disability, a mobility limitation, or a self-care limitation.

The tables were developed jointly by the Census Bureau's Housing and Household Economic Statistics Division and the office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation in the Department of Health and Human Services.

The site also has work disability data based on the March 1995 and 1996 Current Population Surveys (CPS), previously released disability

data from the Survey of Income and Program Participation, and state- and county-level thematic maps.

The CPS tables show that people with a work disability – a condition that limits the kind or amount of work they can do – face substantial employment barriers.

But the data also show that many people surmount these barriers: in March 1996, 28 percent of the 17 million adults aged 16 to 64 with a work disability were employed and 18 percent worked full time. This compares to 77 percent and 63 percent, respectively, among those without a work disability.

Continued on page 8

Customers, Are Our Standards Right? Let Us Know!

The Census Bureau recently proposed standards for service to our customers (see right).

Under the National Performance Review (NPR) guidelines, we are required to ask for public comment. Anyone wishing to comment should contact Paul Wyatt of the Marketing Services Office (301-457-4094; fax: 301-457-2778; pw Wyatt@census.gov). The comment period ends on January 31, 1997.

Under the NPR guidelines, the Census Bureau can modify or add to the standards each year.

Please comment and help us serve you better.

Disability

Continued from page 7

The presence of a work disability often means lower earnings. Workers with such a disability made, on average, about two-thirds as much as those without a work disability (\$17,258 compared to \$26,870).

The pay gap was smaller – about 86 percent – among year-round full-time workers (\$30,148 versus \$34,897). The CPS tables cross-classify work disability status by a number of other characteristics including age, sex, and education.

You'll find all this information on our Web site (www.census.gov/hhes/www/disable.html).

For more information, contact Jack McNeil, Housing and Household Economic Statistics Division (301-763-8300; john.m.mcneil@cmail.census.gov).

Proposed Customer Service Standards

Excellence

We will guarantee a quality product or service that meets or exceeds your expectations.

We will measure our performance against the best-in-the-business.

Timeliness

We will provide you with realistic delivery times based on the nature of the request.

(General information) We will answer your request for information promptly, usually within 24 hours of receipt by the responding office.

(Off-the-shelf) We will ship any available product within three days of receiving your request. (Priority orders will be shipped within 24 hours).

(Special requests) We will ship special requests by the agreed-on delivery date.

(Surveys) We will meet all dates and deliverables as documented in the timelines we negotiate with you.

Responsiveness

We will respond promptly to all requests in accord with our resources and capabilities.

We will acknowledge receipt of an E-mail, fax, or telephone call within 24 hours.

We will cover the telephones at all customer-contact points during normal business hours, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (EST), Monday through Friday.

We will investigate and act to resolve your complaints within two working days of their receipt.

Accessibility

We will provide you with choices for products, services, and the means of delivery.

We will periodically survey you to assess your needs.

We will use the results of these customer surveys for product development.

Commitment

We will be courteous, respectful, responsible, and professional at all times.

We will take responsibility for providing answers to your requests to the best of our knowledge and skills.

We will make sure if we need to refer your request that the person we are referring you to can provide an answer.

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	Oct	\$Bil.	206.6	206.2	196.7	0.2	5.0	
Inventory	Sept	\$Bil.	313.6	310.9	302.8	0.8	3.6	
Inv./sales ratio	Sept	Ratio	1.52	1.52	1.54	(X)	(X)	
Consumer installment credit	Sept	\$Bil.	1,172.5	1,175.1	1,074.7	-0.2	9.1	
Merchant wholesalers: Sales	Sept	\$Bil.	202.0	200.1	189.2	0.9	6.8	
Inventory	Sept	\$Bil.	255.5	258.8	253.2	-1.3	0.9	
Stock/sales ratio	Sept	Ratio	1.27	1.29	1.34	(X)	(X)	
Construction and Housing			<i>Sources: Census Bureau, Federal Housing Finance Board</i>					
Residential: Building permits – AR	Oct	1,000	1,361	1,399	1,393	-2.7	-2.3	
Housing starts – AR	Oct	1,000	1,366	1,440	1,351	-5.1	1.1	
New home sales – AR	Oct	1,000	714	782	673	-8.7	6.1	
New home mortgage rate – NSA	Oct	Pct.	7.95	7.98	7.58	-0.4	4.9	
New construction: Total expenditures – AR	Oct							
Current dollars		\$Bil.	581.2	571.0	550.0	1.8	5.7	
Constant (1992) dollars		\$Bil.	502.5	494.0	484.9	1.7	3.6	
Manufacturing			<i>Sources: Census Bureau, Federal Reserve Board</i>					
Durable goods: Shipments	Oct	\$Bil.	168.8	170.7	164.1	-1.1	2.9	
New orders	Oct	\$Bil.	174.4	173.8	166.5	0.3	4.7	
Unfilled orders	Oct	\$Bil.	486.5	480.9	439.5	1.1	10.7	
Total goods: Shipments	Oct	\$Bil.	315.4	315.2	303.4	0.1	4.0	
Inventories	Oct	\$Bil.	437.9	436.7	417.4	0.3	4.9	
Inv./ship ratio	Oct	Ratio	1.39	1.39	1.38	(X)	(X)	
Index of industrial production	Oct	1987=100	126.6	127.2	122.2	-0.5	3.6	
U.S. International Trade in Goods and Services			<i>Source: Census Bureau</i>					
Exports of goods and services	Sept	\$Bil.	68.8	69.8	68.0	-1.4	1.1	
Imports of goods and services	Sept	\$Bil.	80.1	80.1	74.9	0.1	6.9	
Trade balance	Sept	\$Bil.	-11.3	-10.3	-6.9	10.1	64.5	
Money Supply, Prices, Interest Rates			<i>Sources: Federal Reserve Board, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Treasury</i>					
Money supply (M1)	Oct	\$Bil.	1,076	1,092	1,132	-1.5	-4.9	
Consumer Price Index – NSA	Oct	1982-84=100	158.3	157.8	153.7	0.3	3.0	
Producer Price Index ¹	Oct	1982=100	132.2	131.7	128.4	0.4	3.0	
Prime rate charged by banks ²	Nov	Pct.	8.25	8.25	8.75	–	-5.7	
3-month U.S. T-bill – NSA	Nov	Pct.	5.03	5.01	5.35	0.4	-6.0	
Other Principal Indicators			<i>Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Bureau of Economic Analysis</i>					
Civilian labor force	Nov	Mil.	134.8	134.6	132.4	0.2	1.8	
Unemployment rate	Nov	Rate	5.4	5.2	5.6	3.8	-3.6	
Index of leading indicators	Oct	1987=100	103.6	103.5	100.7	0.1	2.9	
Personal income – AR	Oct	\$Bil.	6,544	6,542	6,607	–	-1.0	
			Qtr. 3 1996	Qtr. 2 1996	Percent change ³			
Chained (1992) dollars:								
Gross domestic product (GDP)		\$Bil.	6,926	6,893	2.0			
Personal consumption expenditures		\$Bil.	4,694	4,688	0.6			
Gross private domestic investment		\$Bil.	1,090	1,039	21.4			

– Represents zero. AR Annual rate. NSA Not seasonally adjusted. X Not applicable. ¹Finished goods. ²As of end of month. ³Annualized rate.

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Asking About Race and Hispanic Origin in Census 2000

Findings From the 1996 National Content Survey

Asking the Hispanic-origin question on the census questionnaire before asking the race question significantly reduces nonresponse to the Hispanic question – according to findings from the 1996 National Content Survey.

This survey, part of the planning for Census 2000, explored ways of asking about race and Hispanic origin; Census has just released findings. The survey tested the use of different sequences in the race and Hispanic origin questions and the effect of adding a “multiracial” option to the race question.

Results from this survey will be considered in developing the race and Hispanic origin questions for the census.

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and its Federal Inter-agency Committee for the Review of Racial and Ethnic Standards will consider these findings, and research conducted by other federal agencies, in their review of federal standards for race and ethnic reporting set forth in Statistical Policy Directive No. 15. Final recommendations will be made by the OMB in the spring of next year.

For a copy of “Findings on Questions on Race and Hispanic Origin Tested in the 1996 National Content Survey,” contact the Census 2000 Publicity Office (301-457-2000).

You also can get a summary of the findings from our Web site (www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/96natcontentsurvey.html).

For information about the findings, contact Roderick Harrison (301-457-2402; roderick.j.harrison@ccmail.census.gov) or Manuel de la Puente (301-457-2403; manuel.de.la.puente@ccmail.census.gov), both of our Population Division.

Coming Next Month!

- Annual Survey of Communications: 1995.
- Household and Family Characteristics: March 1995.