Current Economic Programs Printed Survey Results: by the *Annual Survey of Manufacturers* Statistics Users Respondent Base

U.S. Census Bureau
Current Economic Statistics User Survey

OMB CQM-26 (Rev.5/5/98)

I. DATA CONTENT

Your answers identifying the survey data you use will help us understand our users' patterns of data use.

1. Which Current Economic Statistics from the Census Bureau do you use? (Mark all that apply.)

(1)   Monthly

0.3%;	1	None
53.8%;	193	Retail Sales
41.8%;	150	Wholesale Trade
55.7%;	200	Manufacturing/Trade Inventory/Sales
53.5%;	192	Housing Starts
45.4%;	163	Building Permits
38.7%;	139	New Home Sales
37.0%;	133	Value of New Construction Put in Place
24.0%;	86	Housing Completions
23.1%;	83	Expenditures for Residential Improvements
27.9%;	100	New Residential Construction
13.1%;	47	New Mobile Home Placements
46.5%;	167	Monthly Imports and Exports
59.3%;	213	Current Industrial Reports
56.8%;	204	Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, Orders

Replies 359; Forms 439

(2)   Quarterly

51.2%;	107	Quarterly Financial Report
82.8%;	173	Current Industrial Reports
3.8%;	8	Federal Assistance Awards Data System
12.4%;	26	Quarterly Tax Survey
3.8%;	8	Quarterly Public Employee Retirement

Replies 209; Forms 439

(3)   Annual

45.3%;	199	Annual Retail Trade
40.1%;	176	Annual (Wholesale) Trade
20.3%;	89	Annual Survey of Communications
26.7%;	117	Transportation Annual Survey
25.7%;	113	Service Annual Survey
48.7%;	214	County Business Patterns

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 23.5%;  103  ZIP Code Business Patterns
 37.6%;  165  Statistics of U.S. Businesses
 21.2%;   93  Characteristics of New Housing
 30.8%;  135  Annual Building Permits
 18.7%;   82  New Residential Construction in Selected Metropolitan Areas
 30.5%;  134  Annual Capital Expenditures
100.0%;  439  Annual Survey of Manufactures
 58.8%;  258  Current Industrial Reports
 18.0%;   79  Research and Development Survey
 28.9%;  127  Plant Capacity Utilization
  7.3%;   32  Education Finance Survey
 11.2%;   49  State Tax Collection Survey
  3.6%;   16  Annual Public Employee Retirement
 10.0%;   44  Annual Survey of  Public Employment
 10.0%;   44  Consolidated Federal Funds Report
 18.2%;   80  State Government Finances
 45.6%;  200  Annual Imports and Exports
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Replies 439; Forms 439

II. DATA DELIVERY

The Census Bureau is considering use of the Internet as the primary method of data delivery. By completing the following questions, you will help us retain the most essential delivery formats and design the best possible data delivery service.

(4) 2. How do you receive current economic data now? (Mark all that apply.)

88.5%;	384	Printed Publications	13.1%;	57	Direct (E-mail) delivery
74.4%;	323	World Wide Web (Internet)	1.8%;	8	Regular mail
37.3%;	162	CD-ROMs	0.7%;	3	Library
17.1%;	74	Diskettes	5.5%;	24	Other
16.6%;	72	FAX			

Replies 434; Forms 439

- Magnetic Tape
- EBB (of Stat-USA) Phone calls
- visit to Census release library and requests to commerce library.
- from others in the organization we use ftp site extensively.
- Would prefer receiving printed schedules to let me know what data is available via internet.
- tape (CPB)
- Electronic "Bulletin Boards"
- TAPE 1/2
- Check values by telephone
- also use microfiche in some cases.
- time-share vendor (private)
- Bulletin Board Commerce Dept.
- hard copy computer run
- DRI DATABASE
- Newswires
- FTP - Internet
- Stat-USA
- Via Analytics
- Receive nothing now-Provide as you require by law
- Overnight Delivery of NIA data
- CDRom & Publications in Library

- Second hand through trade journals
- FTP
- building permits printout
- STAT-USA+WEFA Group

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(5) 3. What format do you PREFER when downloading data for further manipulation? (Mark all that apply.)

68.6%;	279	Spreadsheet (e.g., wkl, xls, etc...)
30.7%;	125	Database (e.g., dbf, mdb, etc...)
26.3%;	107	ASCII delimited
16.2%;	66	ASCII flat files
15.2%;	62	Retrieve from print or screen and enter manually
14.7%;	60	Do not manipulate data
3.7%;	15	Other

Replies 407; Forms 439

- pdf format
- Printed, so it's easily read
- Sas data sets
- download from www.Census.gov
- Change to ladscape small font 9
- Charts and Trends
- to be determined
- PDF
- Text files: txt. or PRN
- Excel
- CD-Rom
- So we can manipulate.
- Also as text or word file
- Word Document
- Anything readable

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4. What capabilities do you want on the Census Internet site?   (For each line, indicate the degree of your preferences, from 5 [high] to 1 [low].)

(6) a. Direct (E-mail) delivery:

46.8%;	175	5	17.6%;	66	3	8.6%;	32	1
12.8%;	48	4	7.5%;	28	2	6.7%;	25	Don't know

Replies 374; Forms 439

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(7) b. E-mail notification:

43.9%;	163	5	18.1%;	67	3	7.0%;	26	1
15.4%;	57	4	8.4%;	31	2	7.3%;	27	Don't know

Replies 371; Forms 439

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(8) c. Retrieve/display to screen:

57.4%;	213	5	14.0%;	52	3	4.0%;	15	1
15.1%;	56	4	2.2%;	8	2	7.3%;	27	Don't know

Replies 371; Forms 439

(9) d. Search:

69.3%;	275 5	10.3%;	41 3	0.8%;	3 1
14.4%;	57 4	1.3%;	5 2	4.0%;	16 Don't know

Replies 397; Forms 439

(10) e. Download complete data sets:

64.9%;	253 5	8.5%;	33 3	2.1%;	8 1
15.9%;	62 4	3.3%;	13 2	5.4%;	21 Don't know

Replies 390; Forms 439

(11) f. Download selected data:

74.1%;	298 5	6.2%;	25 3	1.2%;	5 1
12.4%;	50 4	2.0%;	8 2	4.0%;	16 Don't know

Replies 402; Forms 439

(12) g. Software help/tutorials:

23.7%;	85 5	28.7%;	103 3	7.0%;	25 1
19.5%;	70 4	14.8%;	53 2	6.4%;	23 Don't know

Replies 359; Forms 439

(13) h. Publication-quality printing:

31.5%;	118 5	20.3%;	76 3	14.1%;	53 1
17.6%;	66 4	13.1%;	49 2	3.5%;	13 Don't know

Replies 375; Forms 439

(14) i. Charts and graphs:

29.4%;	112 5	18.9%;	72 3	12.1%;	46 1
20.5%;	78 4	15.0%;	57 2	4.2%;	16 Don't know

Replies 381; Forms 439

(15) j. Geographic maps:

26.6%;	97 5	17.8%;	65 3	15.6%;	57 1
17.0%;	62 4	15.6%;	57 2	7.4%;	27 Don't know

Replies 365; Forms 439

(16) k. Other, please specify:

75.0%;	24 electronic bulletin board	25.0%;	8 Other

Replies 32; Forms 439

- Publications like QFR to be in spreadsheet format or mdb for easy data manipulation after downlading.
- Structure and specialists available to help researchers find data.
- greater depth of detail
- Dowlad selected data set according to state, regions, & metro areas
- Internet site very important to receive data from.
- electronic
- Don't know if electronic bulletin was used
- Update full report at release time

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(17) I. Electronic Bulletin Board (To collect write-ins)

33.3%;	1 5	0.0%;	0 3	0.0%;	0 1
33.3%;	1 4	33.3%;	1 2	0.0%;	0 Don't know

Replies 3; Forms 439

III. DATA USAGE

Your answers describing how you use the data will help us design the most effective Current Economic Statistics retrieval tool.

(18) 5. Do you combine/compare/merge data from more than one source listed in Question 1?

30.6%;	128 No	69.4%;	290 Yes

Replies 418; Forms 439

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(19) 6. What time periods do you consider when using these data? (Mark X all that apply.)

68.2%;	289 trends up to 5 years	42.0%;	178 trends up to 1 year
62.7%;	266 5+ years	0.0%;	0 Other
44.6%;	189 latest 1 or 2 periods		

Replies 424; Forms 439

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(20) 7. How do you use the data? (Mark all that apply.)

52.9%;	220	Create value-added products/services
41.8%;	174	Perform patron/client inquiries
29.6%;	123	Inform marketing decisions
21.9%;	91	Republish in newspaper/journal
18.3%;	76	Store reports/printouts for archival purposes
16.1%;	67	Inform investment decisions
6.2%;	26	Locate new sites
0.5%;	2	Other

Replies 416; Forms 439

- Research

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(21) 8. What explanatory information do you consult when using these data? (Mark all that apply.)

74.4%;	303	Definition of terms
57.2%;	233	Narrative text describing survey results
51.8%;	211	Sampling and estimation methodology

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44.2%;    180  Survey design
 9.1%;     37  None
 3.7%;     15  Other
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Replies 407; Forms 439

- Explanations of data changes/revisions
- frequency and availability
- Not really using on Web.
- short trend summary is extremely helpful-where possible.
- Direct contact with Census analysts
- research
- Comparisons to earlier surveys and/or similar data from other agencies--e.g. census to BEA in one estimates.
- Census Bureau Staff
- footnotes (CIR)
- Regression analysis
- AD HOC
- Background papers, Journal Articles
- Econometrics Analysis
- Stat Conf. Level re: validity/reliability
- Phone calls to Census and or DOL

(22) 9. Do you have any pressing data or information needs that are not currently being met?

- You should have a central source for sales for all SIC codes. The data could be more timely.
- Estimate of sales from space-based telecommunications.
- We are very much interested in unadjusted counterparts of tables 7 & 8 of the FT900 release being made avilable on internet on the day of release. Publications like QFR also need to be made available in spreadsheet or mdb for us to further manipulate data.
- No. Increasingly more and more data sets are becoming available electronically-which makes our work easier by eliminating manual inputing of data.
- Value of the U.S. apparel protection reported in the CIR - Need URGENTLY!!
- Non-residential building permit data.
- Yes--Need more timely and move defined (i.e.4-digit SIC code) SUB-NATIONAL data.
- Monthly RetailSales is no longer in print-- it is time consuming to get if off the ineternet because of the download time. It's a waste of valuable research time.
- Retail Trade Monthly - Regional Data Survey - Blue Pages, Building Permits - Non-Resident & Additions.
- Print publications no longer available, yet there is no notice that the print publication will no longer exist. Impossible to find the exact publication on the Internet so clients can compare and update printed data. Current information available but how long will older information remain available?
- Retail sales for Central Business Districts; zip code retail sales, naufacturers, wholesale, etc; zip code housing data including rent and home prices; SIC business fro sip codes.
- No.
- R & D expenditures by industry (2 & 3 - digit codes) capital expenditures by industry (2 & 3 - digit codes)
- Capital Outlays Ouarterly By Industry
- None.
- Categories are too broad.
- No.
- Automated material Handling systems ie. order fulfilling & sortation (via dispensing)
- Information on nonresidential construction.
- "807" Production-sharing trade at the 2-digit SIC level showing total U.S. import value and the value of U.S. components sent offshore for assembly.
- Printing in ASCII, converted to 6.1. That gives complete graph - 15 columns.
- Need more monthly physical output dat for manufacturing.

- Foreign trade - exports & imports - by 4-digit (data that had been available in "Trades Employment") - without SIC (& soon NAIC), cannot compare trade with domestic activity.
- No.
- Imports and Exports by SIC code; 3 or 4 digit. Move industry detail in M3 report.
- Data on exports by 3-digit SIC code that previously were calculated from the Annual Survey of Manufacturers--PLEASE RESUME!
- Monthly retail sales were previously available by U.S. region!   We need this!
- No.
- Infor at small geographic levels, villages, small cities, townships
- Selected salaries for selected industries & occupations.
- More specific value/numbe of shipments for manufacturing SICs
- It's been over 20 years since the last historicl statistics of the U.S.! This is a disgraceful lapse. And it should be on a CD-ROM!
- MCD Business Patterns, Massachusetts is doing away with county government, MCD income estimates.
- Timely release of data in an easy-to-access format (ie: XLS, 123, etc.) with revisions and option of pulling complete time series.
- Non-residential building permits--number by type of building.
- The availability of Residential and Commercial Building Permit Data.
- Accurate and timely international statistics on the air conditioning, refrigeration and heating industry.
- We use and would like to continue to use retail sales by county data and the merchandise line sales data.
- We need all stats available for the Jewelry Industry especially by geographic region.
- Internet combustion engine parts--pistons, rings, pins, sleeves-data on units produced/price.
- I'd love to see employment data by SIC based on place of residence. Also wish for reconciliation between RIMS, SIC, & NAICS.
- Int'l trade data on internet are inadequate. Only press releases are there. When data are revised, if data are not in the press release, there is no way to get the revisions (ex: monthly data from exhibits 6&7 of FT900.
- Monthly historical trade data.
- Number of Mobile Homes & Value of, by state, on a monthly basis. (Currently only published annually) -- Also, by county, if possible.
- 1) Monthly building permits by stats. 2) Retail sales by states & MSA's.
- Non-residential building permits data nad value of new non-residential construction part in place.
- More detailed retail information.
- Monthly trade data based on export location.
- Plant (extablishment) closings; No. employed occup. compostion of " salaried employees" (Census of Mfrs.)
- Yes: Durable goods forecast for up to 12 months. I can't find this info anywhere.
- Keeping ____ disaggregated data sets ____ possible that are consistent, and therefore directly comparable is very helpful.
- 1) NAICS to harmonized code concordance. 2) Timely plant capacity utilization at greatest detail level possible. 3) Windows version import data/monthly annual easy to use historical with full detail. 4) New Home sales (without land).
- We are always looking for very current information. We normally use Census dat for historical trends and background.
- MSA-level data and economic projections. New projections of pollution control expenditures (PACE study)
- Location (Census Block/Black Group) of employment for employees', commutes for work between counties.
- Resume geographic estimates of retail sales.
- MSA level business patterns. Estimates (updated info) on a wider range of demographic variable for counties and sub-counties.
- Current employment by #'s of employees, by SIC, by MCD, by specific employer ID only.
- Current input-output reports; 5 yrs. is too old!
- Pollution abatement - don't discontinue.
- YES! Bring back non-residential state/local permits authorized! This was a severe loss for

- interpreting local economic trends. Also, more geographic detail, more frequently.
- Commodity flows data with 3 digit SIC value of shipments between states-The state to state flows.
- Wish you were more current...
- Seasonal Population - estimates. More information on affordable housing-market.
- Jounal of Commerce "piers" type of export reports on clients. We are assisting to better counsel and follow-up and measure client performance, Census-like trade dat from other countries.
- Exports from Manufacturing establishments.
- Monthly Retail Sales for U.S. Metropolitan Areas.
- We nee later than 1992 fiqures on U.S. Companies that export & import. Only dat now available is the analytical report series AR 92-2, "Selected characteristics...1992"
- Organic Chemicals Annual was very useful before it was discontinued. We would like annual production, consumption figures made available again.
- Downloadable ASM files in xls format would be great.
- HVAC Equipment sales-Target customers.
- Yes. I have been looking for cost dat for pollution data for different pollutants by categories for the last years from 1993 +, but could not.
- More frequent substate mtg. stats (annual survey is state wide only)
- More detailed annual (quarterly) production data on high technologies (electronics).
- Household Expenditure Data at State Level.
- Regional retail sales (metropolitan area) monthly non-residential building permits by metropolitan area monthly.
- Economic data broken up by county & subcounty levels (particularly data that does not fall under the privacy disclosure requirements).
- Pollution abatement expenditures by SIC
- investment plans by SIC
- None that I can think of at the moment
- We want SIC data at the product level by region. Please make every effort to provide locational tags to Canadian & Mexican data. Full country data profiles are not sufficient.
- Business starts by SIC at the County level.
- Would like Government Finance series in print form.
- Forecast data for construction markets.
- Up to date residential improvements data garage door 1 garage door openers involved in improvements.
- The 1997 Census is not out yet.
- Want monthly retail trade by state & MSA back.
- Non-residential Building permits.
- 1). Inventory by stage for M3 categories. 2). Separation of electronic components into semiconductors and other.
- Quarterly Financial data that separates publishing from printing (SIC 27)
- More extensive time series!
- Using CPS-online. The current terret use does not allow for cross-tabs and sub-group data collection.
- Need more detailed annual data for 6 digit SIC codes
- Place and regional economic data sets in relation to population/race trends.
- Better linkage between manufacturing industries and downstream reproducing and distribution. Information pertaining to weights or units with respect to distribution. At processing we measure weights and units. At distribution and are measured. It's discontinuous and you can't measure what he system is doing.
- Yes, but this will always be the cas!
- Geographic data by product class, especially in county business patterns. Totals at the 4-digit industry level aren't detailed enough.
- Utilization of data for merging with Atlas GIS. Convert landview to include information down to Block level.
- I would love something like census lookup for building permits and imports & exports.
- Make data reports easier to print off of the web.
- Monthly exports by state's origin of productions by product. (highly disaggregated). Monthly each states' imports by county of origin by product.

- Service Data on an manual/quarterly/monthly basis by 2,3, & 4-digit SIC!
- Relate the measure "value added less total compensation of employees net income/operating profit and corresponding equity capital/total capital employed.
- Website is extremely difficult to navigate.
- Meaningful state-level trade data
- The annual survey of manufacturers needs to be in ASCII or pdf format; as well as pdf. We spend too many hours re-entering the data.
- Crime--not all areas of the U.S. participate in their state uniform crime reports program, so it becomes difficult to make informed decisions.
- Need detailed PPI data.
- Permits for non-residential by place.
- Elimination of Group II sales data and problems
- Economic data for lower half and upper half of the work force.
- Detailed data on capital investment, by detailed asset type, by 3-digit industry--at least every 5 years.
- We would like to see more timely Congressional district data than the decennial. Also, on your Web site, we would like better instructions for downloading files.
- Imports and exports by 4-digit SIC. Very important--in print. Publication form--quarterly.
- Current local (county) data on any of the following: retail sales.
- We would like to see more economic data and analyses at the state & MSA level.
- Rent data and vacancy rates.
- Census of retail trade 1997 merchandis sales report - need ASAP
- An explanation of why government policy has abandoned the domestic manufacturing/industrial base upon which the nation's self-sufficiency hs rested.
- Geographic Area Retail Sales
- MSA retail sales
- Monthly service sector sales counterpart data st to retail, wholesale, and manufacturing shipments.
- Export - Import (more current data) by metal producers
- The more detailed (down to specific product line) the better.
- Non-residential construction data outside California! Bring it back!
- More frequent release of capex, 6-digit numbers access to NAICS-reclassified data.
- Yes. The survey on 'Pollution Abatement Costs and Expenditures' that has been discontinued.
- Information on type of procurement contracts by NASA and DOD to the space industry.
- We have a need for long historical time series and for long-term forecasts.
- Far better data on service sector; tons of coverage. Need data on enterprises as well as establishments.
- Information about how well the ACES programs capture new business formation and business deaths.
- sub-national retail trade
- Commercial Building Permits County level on a timely basis.
- Non-residential building permit data collection should be restored by state and metro area!
- Report on productionn of industrial fabrics
- Just wish more data were available at county or metro level in a timely fashion
- If possible, improve the timing of publication of results.
- Yes-I need non-residential construction series (commercial, industrial, etc.) on a geographic basis- as used to be done!
- Future of employment w/regards to manufacturing & agriculture. (i.e. what percentage of economy will these represent.) Also, resource availability trends.
- No, but I don't use the data very often.

IV. INDUSTRY CLASSIFICATION ISSUES

We will soon begin restructuring the Current Economic Surveys based on the new North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). Your answers will help us ensure that these surveys continue to provide the economic information needed by markets, policy makers, and business people. For more information on NAICS, see the Bureau's web site: http://www.census.gov/NAICS.

(24) 10. At what levels of detail do you MOST FREQUENTLY USE industry data classified by Standard Industrial Classification (SIC)? (Mark all that apply.)

  78.9%;   330 4-digit industries (or maximum detail I can get)
  38.3%;   160 2-digit major groups
  37.8%;   158 3-digit industry groups
  34.4%;   144 Sector totals (SIC division); e.g., Manufacturing or Retail Trade
   3.3%;   14 NA (don't use SIC-based data)
   6.2%;   26 Other

Replies 418; Forms 439

- 6 TO 10 digit
- digit SIC product codes
- Individual Products 7-Digit level
- 8-DIGIT D & B Database
- D & B 10 digit breakdown
- HS
- NAICS, Duns' Product Codes
- Highly disaggregated trade data
- 7-digit in some cases
- more detail needed
- 3
- Greater detail when available
- The greatest level available--CIR level. Product level.
- sub-groups within 4-digit
- Name of Industry & # of employees
- Construction Put in Place Categories
- Would like to have 6 or 7 digit SIC
- Occasionally, HS #'s more important.
- HS System Schedules B.
- County Level totals
- seven digit
- Product Codes
- Whateer you require by law
- Up to 6-7 digit
- 7-digit
- 6-digit product data

(25) 11. Were you aware that the SIC system is being replaced by the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)?

  22.3%;   95 I was unaware of this
  28.6%;   122 I am partially aware, but lack details
  49.1%;   209 I am aware and understand some implications

Replies 426; Forms 439

12. Would you like to receive more information about NAICS?

(26) Yes, please send me - (Mark all that apply)

  88.2%;   254 A brochure that explains NAICS   32.3%;   93 Conference announcements
  62.8%;   181 NAICS implementation plans   6.9%;   20 Other

Replies 288; Forms 439

- A copy
- Comparison-SIC VS. NAICS Similar to when SIC definitions change.
- Send info on NAICS comparability with existing SIC data.
- H.S. Concordances
- A NAICS concordane translation into SIC
- NAICS Database
- The reference book of classifications
- 100 brochures for export workshops.
- Contacted by local information office fo Bureau.
- A manual and numerical list
- Definitions of NAICS codes.
- Disaggregate SIC for each sector.
- I am awaiting CD-ROM!
- We bought the big NIACS book earlier this year--has it been updated?
- Already know
- Already have all the information I need.
- Booklet with new codes
- I already have the CD

(27) No Thanks -

69.8%;	97	I will check the Census Bureau's web site (www.census.gov/naics)
30.2%;	42	I don't need more information about NAICS

Replies 139; Forms 439

V. USER PROFILE

Please tell us about yourself so we may serve you better.

(28) 13. Type of organization.

40.3%;	171	Business	4.0%;	17	Individual
23.6%;	100	Government	2.6%;	11	Media
17.5%;	74	Academic/Research	0.5%;	2	Library
8.0%;	34	Association	3.5%;	15	Other

Replies 424; Forms 439

- Information and consulting firm
- Public Business Library
- Consulting
- Market Research/Publishing
- Small business
- Economics Consulting
- Economic Development District State Data Center depository.
- Think tank.
- Labor Union
- Regional Planning Commission
- Consultant
- Library (University
- University
- Corp. Library
- Council of Governments

(29) 14. Do you work in your organization's library?

   28.5%; 119 Yes   71.5%; 299 No

Replies 418; Forms 439

(30) 15. What is your affiliation with the Census Bureau?

75.7%;	315	None	0.5%;	2	Affiliate Data Center
7.0%;	29	State Data Center	0.5%;	2	Customer
4.3%;	18	Business/Industry Data Center	0.5%;	2	State Data Center Affiliate
1.4%;	6	Census Information Center	10.1%;	42	Other

Replies 416; Forms 439

- Affiliate of the State Data Center
- Industry & Business Analysts in Maryland
- Philiadephia Regional Office
- user of Census data
- Do not understand?
- State Government Agency.
- Need statistical info on Jewelry Industry.
- Special Sworn Employee
- Richmond Public Library, BST Dept. 101 E. Franklin St., Richmond, VA 23219
- Under the Mi State Data Center
- Associate Stat Data Center
- Former Advisory Committe member and CES researcher.
- User: Occupations/Ind. data; Census Mfrs. data.
- Federal User
- Employed by US DOC/BXA
- State Data Center Affiliation
- Cooperator in disseminating permits authorized data
- Census Liason
- DOC/ITA/USFCS/ODO
- Derek E. Santos, 700 W. Jefferson, P.O. Box 83720, Boise, ID 83720-0032
- Research
- Formerly on Advisory Board
- unsure
- Depository
- Fund the CIR-MA35N
- Economic Development Distirct State Data Center depository
- DOC Staff
- Congress
- Economist
- Affiliate of State Data Center
- Heavy user
- GPO Depository
- Local Census Affiliate
- BEA, U.S. Department of Commerce
- Government agency
- Associate Data Center
- Affiliate
- They do work for our Division
- Federal Depository Library
- Local affiliate of State Data Center

(35) 20. May we contact you to follow up on this questionnaire?

80.5%; 327 Yes	19.5%; 79 No

Replies 406; Forms 439

(36) Question 21. Remarks:

- You should include questions on technology usage in your census questions (in the 10 year census).
- It would be nice to have all reports available in spreadsheets format. For any publication reports that contain large tables and data, mdb file format would be an ideal too.
- We greatly appreciate this survey. I'd like to stress one major concern we have: As you move toward complete Internet delivery of data-please continue to publish "hard copies" of the economic reports for us to compare as backup. We have noticed that occasionally there are errors in Electronic Bulletin Board and Internet files--so we rely on the hard copy as backup. We use it as a safeguard. Thank you and feel free to contact me at your convenience.
- Staff is very friendly and helpful at you department.
- Do not sell/rent my phone # to telemarketers.
- The computerized data is fine when know exactly which dat you want. It is not so good when you want to know what is available and related information; in this case the printed publication e.g. censu of Manufactures, is far superior.
- The library relies heavily on Census data bu twe have a need for the information in both printed and downloadable (manipulable) formats. The library would purchase both the printed format as well as subscribe to the census website.
- We would like to be placed on your mailing list to regularly received the publications as check-marked on the attached listing form.

  Sincerely, William A. Rossi
- When we were unable to order with our GPO account #, we lost a lot of time in establishing a Census acct #. I am behind in ordering.

  I do not have the hardware at my desk to search on the Web. The public does have workstations. This will hopefully change shortly.

  Paper is quicker for us. Print editions. We can in seconds deliver the info to patrons.
- I make extensive use of Census Bureau data. My greatest wish would be to gave access to disaggregated dat (ie.beow the national, and state levels) on a more timely basis.
- We have been relying on your MA32C for 20 years. Keep up your outstanding service.
- Would like info on NAICS asap.
- I've been trying to get Census data since 1991. I've use NTDB CD-ROM, StatUSA CD and now the Internet site. As soon as I learn the system really well-you change it. After I loaded the StatUSA CD--The NTDB CD would not work. We need older figures going back to the 1980's. It's impossible to run NTDP, then StatUSA on the smae PC. I really hate the StatUSA CD.
- 1). It is important to be able to retreive data in easy to use formats (spreadsheet or ascii)- "pdf" formats are convenient to print, but difficult to use. 2). Please see question 9. 3). We are concerned about the discontinuity in time series data that will occur with NAICs. The 1987 SIC change was a significant problem-NAICS will likely be much worse. Any help from Census (bridges, publication of data in both classifications) would be a great help to data users.
- I suport the move toward Internet data delivery because it should make data available faster and at a lower cost. the challenge is to make it easy for the widest variety of data users as possible to retrieve the data the need.

  Example: I use County Business Patterns to track number of establishment for certain industries by state. I believe dat users on the Internet currently can select only one year at a time and one state at a time. the ability to put together summary tables based on selections would help a lot.
- I have proposed

- buying the SIC statute for years with no luck. NAFTA had it come before we could get this done. We now have separae classificaion just for apparel. It only took 30 years.
- Fedstats web site is very useful--

  Thank you
- The Bureau of the Census has done a great job with it's web sites. Wth the exception of some unpublished data, everything is available through the internet. The unpublished data is received by direct e-mail.
- Survey of manufacturing have input from business. The categories often do not match the real world.
- In our work with furniture manufacturers and retailers we consistently need breakdowns of mrgrs. shipments by product classification (ie. bedroom) on a more timely basis & retail sales at a smaller geographic level.
- 1). I cannot say that this is pressing, but I would like to see the results of the state-level retail trade series. 2). I need data files that are easily read into software such as SAS and SPSS. I also tend, when I am looking for somethin, to require as much history as I can get, because that is what is demanded of me. It would help me a great deal if all federal agencies that release dat (especially Census, BEA, and BLS) would release an actual data file (e.g. GDP.DAT rather than GDP. BEA) at the same time as the press release, much as The Federal Reserve does with its industrial production notices. More history dat on CD-ROM products, such as USA Counties would sometimes be useful as well (say 1940 or 1950 if available).
- A published paper version should always be made available for purchase to the public. Information being available on the internet is nice, yet it is a completely different animal than having a hard copy version of the information. An example: I can receive my new off the internet, but I still prefer to get my newspaper in the morning for reading at my leisure away from a computer.
- When is 1997 Census to be available? Please keep as much of the data in print as possible-- Thanks!
- Census bureau data is always helful--the data you provide enhances our publication and enables readers to make informal business decisions.
- We are a certified Public Accounting firm. We prepare the "Annual Survey of Manufacturers" for a few of our clients.
- --But please ask for Deborah Foster.

                              Thank you.
- Documents need to more clearly state whom to contact for follow-up information.
- Thanks for asking!
- Whenever I have used statistics & required assitance I have found the staff both friendly & efficient. I remain very impressed with your web site & service provided.
- The efforts to provide electronic format dat are a vast improvement over paper/hard copy publications. They have increased the accuracy and utility of the data sets.
- The level of detail varies depending on the type of data requested. Mostly county-level data is used because this is what is available.

  Although the technology of the internet is available to tie up my phone line browsing for information to print out is very time consumin, whereas a printed report is much easier to access & reference. Not all government entities have the capacity to keep pace with new, faster, computer hardware & software.
- Census data has proven invaluable to in-depth country comparisons of productivity in sectors extremely valuable organization.

  Please keep going with the detailed data, comparable time series (IS NAICS comparable?) and aggregate numbers.
- Your credibility is a great strength.
- --Strongly support new PACE (Pollution Abatement and Control Expenditures) studies

  --New BEA projections are needed (GSP, MSA-level,etc.
- DOC DOES GREAT JOB. HAVE USED PRODUCTS/SERVICES FOR REFERENCE MANY

- TIMES.

  THANKS.
- This survey was filled out by three people.
- You've done a fine job in organizing your internet site. As a librarian, a primary concern is the archiving of informaiton. Will historical files/data/reports be kept on the net indefinitely? As you plan for net-based information, keep in mind the historical aspects as well as the current need for up-to-date economic information.
- We used to receive from state employment agency using worker comp data lists by geography MCD; by SIC; by name of employer--the number of employees. We were well aware this was sensitive data for competitive reasons of employer confidentiality. Unfortunately, someone at another agency apparently released some of this data to the "public" and now it is unavailable-- what is left is very inadequate, unsorted data--difficult to interpret. We can not do adequate community profiles by consolidated data any more. How can similar data be obtained?
- We use business/commericial statistics when writing market reports. We are not regular users of any of the Census publications, but value them highly in our individual case work.
- Being able to download from the web site has generally worked very well for us. The only troublesome aspect is that the page numbers of the PDF documents differ form the page numbers in their taple of contents (e.g. - printing page 18 gets you page 12 of the document).

  A big "thank you" to the Census specialists who have been most helpful and polite when we've called with questions.
- We serve a varied clientale (academic, business, government, and private citizens) and work across many subject. Census data are absolutely vital to us. Our biggest need is for more geographic area detail more frequently (state, county, place, if possible). Users often do not understand the 5 yr. gaps and lag time for the major Economic Surveys that offer such detail, much less the 10 yr. decennial cycle. The internet is a great help in speeding "publication", but we find access is not yet universal. We still download and print entire documents for guide reference and historical purposes. I am concerned about just how long the electronic medi will remain accurate and usable as technology changes. How will the Bureau deal with these problems?
- Stat-USA is an extremely useful tool for retrieving data. I would like to see more files in spreadsheet format and the ability to download particular segments.
- Please contact ASAP: Bob Davidson, Gov't Information Service Section Palm Beach county Library System Service

  3650 SUMMIT BLVD. 33406
  (561) 233-2600, ext. 164
  email Robert ID@PB.SEFLIN.ORG
- Excellent Web-Site. A cross reference between NAICS and the harmonized system would be useful even though the two schemes are more like "apples and "oranges" in purpose.
- Great idea! Thanks
   for asking.
- Good job on the web site.
- Would like more detail on Semiconductor Industry (SIC 3674) and SIC 3661 & 3669 communicaitons equipment. Also, computers SIC 3575,3577,3578, 35,79. Would like more details on subcategories in terms of sales dollars and total units sold.
- We are especially interested in trade stats and any information on companies that import or export-- e.g., number of Co's, maufacturer or wholesaler, # of employees, total sales export sales, product/NAIC codes, growth, etc.
- I believe this survey contains a lot of information to be used.
- We recommend that the Census prepare and distribute a list of annual publications, along with their anticipated release dates.
- You provide very useful information. Please do not switch any data over to PDF if possible make ASM and Census Manufacturing available as text or some other useable format.
- Data validity in the NAICS project is one of our concerns. Has any provision been for cross checks of the data?
- I received the survey on August 7th-so was not able to return it in the time requested!

-
  Our office is very interested in any information on the implementation of NAICS-as our researchers will be using it a great deal.
- We still prefer to have reports generated as a hard copy for our library. If this is no longer possible, an e-mail notification service for new publications available on the Internet would be helpful.
- PDF files are big and we have to retype the data for analysis. Having raw or spreadsheet/database data would save us much time. BLS's web site is a good one to study.
- M3 data for office and computer appears to be overly strong, probably because software is being counted instead of just hardware.
- State and Local Government Finance Estimates, by State. We appreciate having this information on the Internet but wish the report was still published. Is there any way of compiling the data sooner? It is almost too old to be of any use.
- Desperately need this information from NAICs. Emerging technology/company information requested everyday.
- We look forward to working with you on the upcoming Census.
- Tables which have no column headings and which one must consult separate documents are highly confusing.
- Tutorials and/or manuals should be sent out with Census products. I have fiddled enough with Landview III to utilize some of its versatility. Other colleagues won't due to lack of time to waste on self-teaching (fumbling).

  Landview III should allow searches down to the Block level & just empty the fields which raise concerns regarding privacy at that level.
- So far, the lookup approach has been not valuable to me. It has some limitations. CD's are my second favorite.
- I always use your data for the economic releases. My major concerns are: timeliness of data availability on web and being able to print the data from the web without having to reformat printing fonts. I also to the revisions when they come out, but often the location and structure of the revisions is confusing.
- - Census should also provide information on Agriculture sector.

  - Provide up to date GSP data for status by digit SIC.

  - Provide "Green GSP" data.
- I appreciate receiving this survey.
- I will be continuing my studies in Europe from where I will communicate with my colleagues.
- We're still waiting for an order blank so we can order the 1997 Economic Census.
- Census is always quick and dependable. Great job!
- We also make hearvy use of the US Statistical Abstract.
- I think the advancements on the Web over the past few years have been excellent. The Bureau of Labor Statistics has put much of this data in raw form on their FTP site. I'd like to see the Census Bureau make the FTP site more accessible and have more information.
- We are in the site selection/economic development function. Census data is absolutely crucial to our function, especially the ability to compare areas.
- We have develped "Productivity Enhancement and Control (Peacon) Plan." This plan will solve 20 major economic problems of the U.S. and provide about $10,000 to all wage earners earning up to $200,000. It will double the minimum wage, reduce unemployment to 2% reduce poverty to 2% and provide health care benefits and solve other economic problems. Over 98% of the work force will benefit at the the cost of upper 2%, whose income will be reduced considerably.
- Please update my address in your records. Thanks!
- My collegues and I use your printed and electronic resources regularly, for a variety of economic and population requests. We find your resources to be user-friendly.

  We have a few suggestions listed in question 9.

  I have always found your data user staff members who answer the phone to be helpful and responsive to our rush requests.

- Most interested in current industrial reports (MA36H) regarding electronic motors (product codes 3621215 - 3621219, 322122-362112P), and imports/exports of the same (ref: HTS 850 etc.) Thanks for asking?

  P.S. Also interested in small single phase motors (2-digit) 362111A--362123F
- I think many users are still going to want the hard copy publications. I know many are available in PDF formats but these are not conducive to shelving.
- Will the 1997 ECON Census use the NAICS codes? Seems like I heard that it would use SIC, not NAICS--In light of how long it traditionally takes to get the ECON Census reports (2-3 years), I would hope the data would conform to NAICS, rather than SIC, Standards.

  P.S. Hope you win the "Sampling" battle in the Supreme Court.
- Newest format of Import/Export CD-ROM requires extra steps to access/print. Previews version has more efficient to use.
- We love the Census Bureau! Clear publications indices and ease of search engines on the Internet site are very important to us. Also, choice of how to download data is good, not all users need or can use spreadsheet software.
- Small Businesses, with fewer people these days are buried with government paperwork.
- Will all Census data be available only via the Internet? My customers prefer printed format. Thank you.
- Keep up the good work. I appreciate this survey.
- More documentation and instructions for obtaining data from gohper directories would be helpful.
- I appreciate the value of your service! Educators use information for social profit.
- prefer e-mail
- Surveys are informative; Good source for benchmarking; Would like to see more details on industries.
- Speed up release of industry (manufacturing) data (often 1996 is most recent); Establish help desk (more capable than present) to help "dig into" the numbers.
- The Website can be quite cumbersome to search sometimes.
- Security made your site impossible to enter from our system. My trial membership was a waste of money.
- I use your "Telephone contacts for Data Users" and phone for help and information--of ten. I am very pleased with the response and helpfulness of all the people at Census, from receptionists to anyalysts. It would be nice to get it regularly. I forget, from year to year, to send for updates, until I notice that some contact names are out of date.
- I don't access the data very often. When I do it is for a specific project. In general, I have been pleased with the service.
- I like the fact that the Census Bureau Produces many of is documents in the .pdf format, these are easy to print, bind and archive in our library. However, what is even more important to our firm is the ability to manipulate the data, and easily bring it into a data base or spreadsheet. If I had to choose I would prefer the raw data to the printable format.

  I might use more of the data listed in question now that I know it exists.

Figure 1: