

Massachusetts State Data Center Newsletter

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American FactFinder

by David Crout, Data Specialist

The Census Bureau's American FactFinder is a generalized electronic system for access to and dissemination of Census Bureau data. The system is already available through the Internet and offers prepackaged data products and the ability to build custom products. The system will serve as the vehicle for accessing and disseminating data from Census 2000 (as well as the 1997 Economic Censuses and the American Community Survey). The system was formerly known as the Data Access and Dissemination System (DADS).

The first version of American FactFinder can be used to select data tabulations and maps from the data sets available in the system. Your choices are subject to the data available in the system and the strict confidentiality standards of the Census Bureau. American FactFinder will continue to expand and improve functionality and add data during 1999.

American FactFinder lets you select the data you need for the geography of your choice from summary data files such as:

1990 Decennial Census Detailed Files
American Community Survey Summary Tables
Census 2000 Dress Rehearsal Summary Files
1997 Economic Census Summary Files

These summary data products are derived from data sets with pre-aggregated, or summarized, data records. American FactFinder lets you search, browse, retrieve, view, print, save, and download the data. You may request tabulations online or you can download an extract of the data set (tables) and use your own software to analyze the data.

American FactFinder will soon permit you to create custom tabulations from microdata files (available in mid-1999). You can select the universe, variables, and geography you need, compute simple statistics, and obtain a thematic map.

Microdata files are data sets that contain records for individual persons and housing units w/o identifiers. Public use Microdata Samples (PUMS) from the 1990 Census of Population and Housing, the American Community Survey, and Census 2000 will be available. You can request extractions from the PUMS files and carry out any statistical analysis that you wish on your own computer, or request custom tabulations from the data sets.

American FactFinder will also let you search, browse, retrieve, view, print, and download from hundreds of Census Bureau data products available on the Internet, including press releases, statistical abstracts, census briefs, and information bulletins. These are predefined, static data products, so you cannot manipulate any of the data or information they contain.

You can access information on American Factfinder at: <http://factfinder.census.gov>



New Construction Program



by David Crout, Data Specialist

The Census Bureau has developed its New Construction Program to insure that all housing units are included in Census 2000. The goal of this program is to supplement the LUCA (Local Update of Census Address) 1998 program and account for new housing units constructed between January 2000 and April 1, 2000 (Census Day). All new construction addresses identified as a result of this program will be matched against the Census 2000 address list to avoid duplicating addresses that are already included. Enumerators will visit each remaining address during the Census 2000 Coverage Improvement follow-up operation, and complete a questionnaire for each housing unit that exists at each new address as of Census Day.

New construction consists of all housing units that have been built and occupied between January 2000 and Census Day, plus all housing units being built for which enough work has been completed to close the structure from the elements, even if not yet occupied.

The Bureau will offer the New Construction Program to all local and tribal governments that were eligible to participate in LUCA 1998 (mainly the areas in which the U.S. Postal Service uses house-number and street-name addresses for most mail delivery) regardless of whether the government participated earlier. The Census Bureau's Update/Leave, Rural Update/Enumerate, and List/Enumerate

field procedures will identify new construction in all remaining areas.

The Bureau will also provide the appropriate portion of the latest Census 2000 address list and related maps to each participating government in early 2000. The Census 2000 address list provided will show the Basic Street Addresses (BSA) of each residential structure. The list will not contain individual housing unit addresses within multi-unit structures, but will list the number of housing units within each BSA that contains more than one housing unit.

For more information go to:
<http://www.census.gov/dmd/www/2khome.htm>

1997 Economic Census: What's New



New Industry Classification System

The 1997 Economic Census will publish data primarily on the basis of the new North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). [Detailed conversion tables](#) show how the shift will affect each industry, and identify where discontinuities in time series will occur.

A limited amount of data from the 1997 census will be published according to the old Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system: certain

national preliminary totals in the first publications (early 1999), a detailed "bridge table" showing the relationships between NAICS and SIC categories a year later, and state level statistics based on SIC, also in 2000, but after publication of geographic area data by NAICS.

Faster publication via the Internet

Census results will become available on the Internet faster than they have ever before been published.

Fewer printed reports

Only highlights of the Economic Census will be published in paper reports. Nonetheless, software on both CD-ROM and the Internet will include the ability to print out any of the detailed data on demand.

Better software

Access software on both CD-ROM and the Internet will be easier to use and have more capabilities than the software on 1992 CD-ROMs.

Greater integration of data economy-wide

Data for all sectors will be integrated in the Core Business Statistics reports and key CD-ROM files. Those statistics published separately by sector will have a more consistent look and feel.

Terminology

The "Economic Census" terminology will be used more consistently. We will no longer title publications as if we had conducted a separate census for each sector of the economy, e.g., the Census of Manufactures.

For more information, visit the Census Bureau's Guide to the 1997 Economic Census at <http://www.census.gov/epcd/www/guide.html>

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MISER

Thompson Hall Box 37515
University of Massachusetts
Amherst, MA 01003-7515

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



*This Newsletter is produced by the
Massachusetts Institute for Social and
Economic Research (MISER)
Thompson Hall, Box 37515
University of Massachusetts
Amherst, MA 01003-7515*

*Data Center Manager: John Gaviglio
Editor: Deb Furioni
Phone: (413) 545-3460
FAX: (413) 545-3686
Email: miser@miser.umass.edu
Web Page:
<http://www.umass.edu/miser/dataop>*

*Our Boston office location:
Saltonstall Bldg. Rm 1103
100 Cambridge St.
Boston, MA 02133
Phone: (617) 727-4537
FAX: (617) 727-4660
Email: wmurray@miser.umass.edu*