

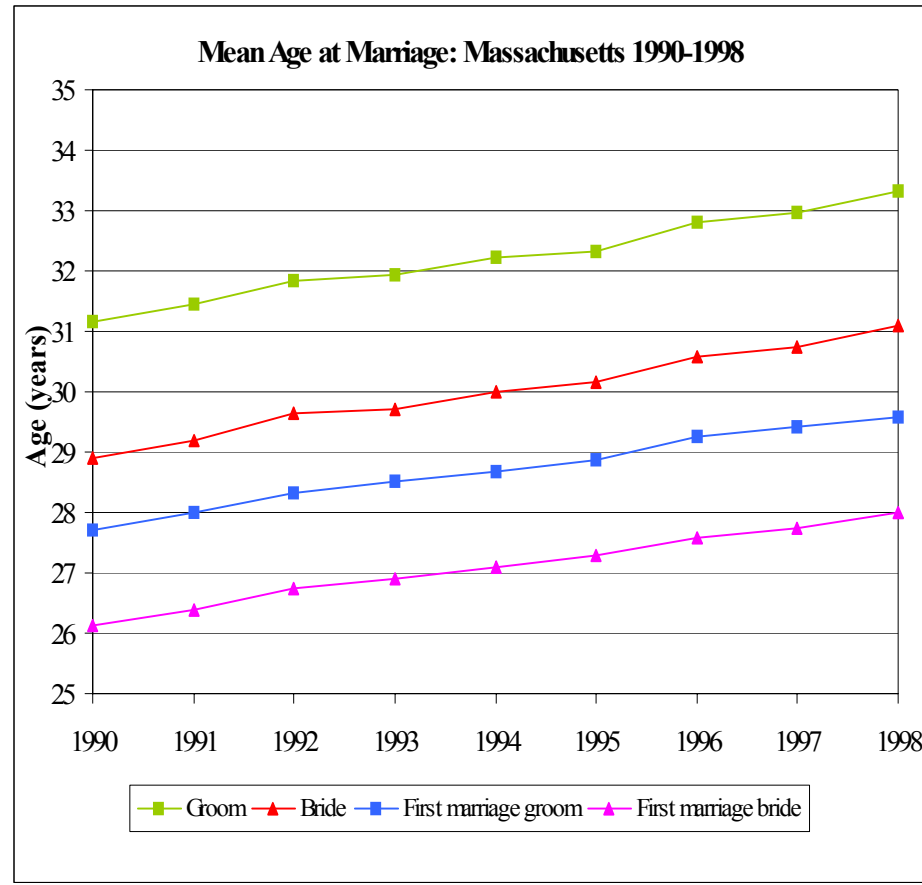


Did you know....

by Alison Donta, Manager, Population Program

Between 1990 and 1998, the mean age at marriage in Massachusetts increased annually for both brides and grooms. The mean age at marriage for brides increased from 28.9 to 31.1 years and for grooms from 31.2 to 33.3 years. For first marriages, the mean age of brides increased from 26.1 to 28.0 years and the mean age of grooms increased from 27.7 to 29.6. During this same period, the median age at marriage for brides increased from 27 to 29 years and for grooms from 29 to 31 years.

For the period 1990 to 1998, the mean age difference between groom and bride at time of marriage was 4.1 years; 3.0 years if it was a first marriage for both bride and groom. The median age difference was 3 years for all marriages; 2 years for first marriages.



2-20610
MISER 128 Thompson Hall
University of Massachusetts
200 Hicks Way
Amherst, MA 01003-9277

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



This Newsletter is produced by the Massachusetts Institute for Social and Economic Research (MISER)
128 Thompson Hall
University of Massachusetts
200 Hicks Way
Amherst, MA 01003-9277

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:
McCormack Building Room 1004
Ashburton Place
Boston, MA 02133
Phone: (617) 727-4537
FAX: (617) 727-4660
Email: wmurray@miser.umass.edu

Massachusetts State Data Center Newsletter

Vol. 4, Issue 1

February 2002

A Publication of MISER, the Massachusetts Institute for Social and Economic Research, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Massachusetts Exports 1999 - 2001: A Wild Ride

by Carla Miller, Foreign Trade Data Analyst

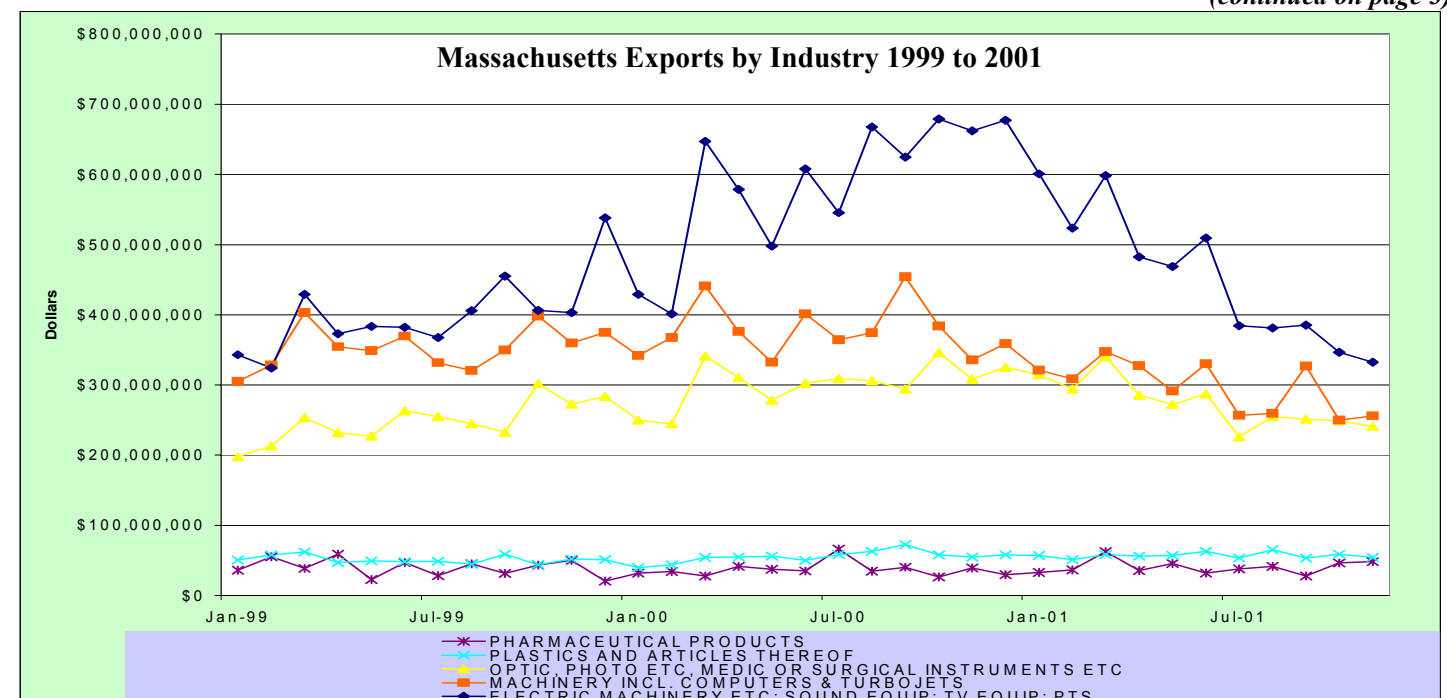
From 1999 to 2000 Baystate exports skyrocketed 22% to \$20.5 billion, with the electric equipment sector (including telecommunications and integrated circuits) leading the way. Instruments and plastics showed continued strength and machinery (including computers and turbojets) showed a brief upturn. Of the top 5 industries, only pharmaceuticals exports declined in the year 2000. In the first 11 months of 2001, how-

ever, Massachusetts foreign shipments sharply dropped 14%. Of the leading industries, only plastics and pharmaceuticals increased shipments in 2001.

Massachusetts was not alone in its 2001 export woes. Nationwide, total exports declined 5% (Jan. - Nov.). High-tech sectors were the hardest hit. US exports of electric equipment fell 16% overall, while

exports of integrated circuits (including semiconductors) dropped 24%. Many states posted huge declines in the volatile semiconductor market. Fortunately, Massachusetts exports of semiconductors, the state's second largest commodity export, increased 8%, averting an even steeper decline in total exports. Massachusetts' most significant export losses occurred in electrical

(continued on page 3)



U.S. Census Bureau, *Statistical Abstract of the United States: 2001*, (121st Edition) Washington, DC, 2001. Coming Soon to a Data Center Affiliate Near You.

by John Gaviglio, Data Center Manager

The Census Bureau describes this publication "As the National Data Book it contains a collection of statistics on social and economic conditions in the United States. The abstract is also your Guide to Sources of other data from the Census Bureau, other Federal agencies, and private organizations."

It contains 32 sections with over 1,400 tables and charts. Each section provides an overview of the subject data and Appendix I provides several guides for

data sources, state statistical abstracts and foreign statistical abstracts. The State Data Center staff frequently use the "Stat Abstract" to locate data sources for clients looking for comparable data for smaller geographies, by contacting the sources listed in the relevant table or chart footnotes.

This is one of our most frequently used publications. We hope you find this publication as useful as we do.

As part of the State Data Center program, each of our affiliates receive a copy directly from the Census Bureau.

To view the
Statistical
Abstract on the
Web go to:



<http://www.census.gov/prod/2002pubs/01statab/stat-ab01.html>

United States Historical Census Data Browser

by Deb Furioni, Data Specialist

The University of Virginia's Fisher Library offers a comprehensive site covering U.S. Census data from 1790 to 1960. The data presented in this site describe the people and the economy of the U.S. for each state and county from 1790 to 1960. This site is made available with the cooperation and consent of the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR), in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The data displayed in this site were initially created by ICPSR.

The data files on this site are browse-only. This site is not intended as a



tool for downloading or manipulating data for further research. If you need the original data, please contact your respective ICPSR official representative or ICPSR itself.

This site is user friendly and options include data by census year for individual states and counties within each state. You first select the census year you are interested in and then the variable you want within each category. You may choose more than one category. The data for each state will be displayed in a table. Data can also be displayed on the county level for a selected state. A graph feature is also available for variables on the state level only.

For more information go to:
<http://fisher.lib.virginia.edu/census/>

Did you know??? As of September 30, 2001, Enron had \$63.4 billion in assets. Its' bankruptcy was equal to the 1999 gross national product of Pakistan! Reference information continued on page 3.



Guest Corner

Placement Accountability System (PAS): MISER Completes Pilot Project



Guest Corner

by Elena Filios, Ph.D., Data Specialist

The PAS team at MISER has recently completed a pilot project in conjunction with the Massachusetts Department of Labor and Workforce Development and the Department of Revenue.

Part one of this three-part project served to fulfill federally-mandated performance measures under the Workforce Investment Act for Commonwealth Corporation. The study evaluated the performance of a variety of state and federally funded job-training programs by examining the employer wage records of participants in the quarters before, during and after service. All performance measures are aggregate and include the Entered Employment Rate, Average Earnings in the quarter following service, Employment Retention in the second and third

quarter following service, and Average Earnings Gain. No individual records were provided to program providers.

Part two of the project evaluated the employment outcomes for students graduating from the 15 Community and 8 State Colleges in the Commonwealth during the academic years 1998 and 1999. Reporting to the Board of Higher Education and authorized stakeholders at the campuses, MISER determined average earnings in the first and second quarters after completion, and projected earnings for the year following completion by field of study.

Part three involved working with four One-Stop Career Centers. A feasibility study showed that

analysis of employer wage records is very useful in establishing best practices in servicing a broad clientele as well as fulfilling required reporting. Analyses included an outcomes assessment which studied cohorts of clients who were serviced in the third quarter of 1998, tracking their employment and service status forward through six quarters. Other analyses examined employment status by specific services provided.

In the Commonwealth, unlike most other states, the agency gathering quarterly employer wage data (Department of Revenue) is not the State Employment and Security Agency (Division of Employment and Training). This distinction has posed unique methodological and logistical issues for MISER.

(Wild Ride ... from page 1)

apparatus for line telephony or telegraphy, instruments for measuring electrical quantities, and particle accelerators. The state's largest gains occurred in medical needles, camera parts and accessories, and medical instruments. Massachusetts rode the wave of expansion and recession in the world telecommunications market and experienced both its' largest export increase and decrease since data on state exports were first collected in 1987. However,

Massachusetts has a strong export base across many industries from plastics and chemicals to fishing. From 1998-2001 Massachusetts exports grew 10.7% compared to the national average of 8.5%. While the near-term outlook for Massachusetts exports is uncertain, in the long run the Baystate will undoubtedly continue to be a strong global competitor.

For more details and complete Annual Export 2000 reports for the 10 Northeast States, please visit: <http://misertrade.org>

Data Operations Staff



John Gaviglio, State Data Center Manager
Chris Amherst, Data Specialist (Boston Office)
Firuzeh Khorazanizadeh, Data Specialist
Deb Furioni, Data Specialist
William Murray, Data Specialist (Boston Office)
Roy Williams, Senior Data Specialist
Bob Lacey, Graduate Assistant

From page 2: For more information on Enron go to: <http://www.msnbc.com/news/701478.asp>. For the Statistical Abstract 2001 go to: <http://www.census.gov/statab/www/>. For Gross National Product Data refer to the World Bank, Washington, DC, World Development Indicators CD-ROM, annual (copyright)