

Urban/Regional Economics

UMD Bureau of Business and Economic Research

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New Census Data?

James Lehnhoff
BBER Research Assistant

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Over the last six months, the Census Bureau has been conducting quality control procedures by verifying data with over 300,000 people across the United States. Along with that, enumerators have been in the field trying to count all of the

people who did not send in completed forms, did not send in a form at all, or possibly never received a form. Overall, the Census Bureau was very enthusiastic over the response rate of 67% -- an increase of 2% over the 1990 Census. That increase is the first in three decades of decline in census response rates. Minnesota's response rate was 75%, which was the second highest in the nation behind Iowa with 76%.

Despite the ongoing verification procedures, this does not stop the approaching deadline designated by the Constitution: The popula-

tion count must be delivered to the President by December 31st of any given census year. This data is used to reapportion how many representatives each state is entitled to have. Once all of the states receive that data, they can begin to adjust their internal representative boundaries to compensate for the loss or gain of representative seating. More data will be delivered on or by April 1st, 2001, regarding race and ethnic data, which is used in conjunction with population data to help balance the population within representative boundaries.

All other census data will be released between June 2001 and

September 2003. Census information will be disseminated through a new system devised by the Census Bureau called the *American FactFinder*. The American FactFinder will be available through the Internet, the 1,800 State Data Centers and affiliates, the 1,400 Federal Depository

libraries and other libraries, universities, and private organizations.

The American FactFinder will be available directly through the Census Bureau's Website at <http://www.census.gov>. Data will also be released in traditional print and CD-ROM formats.



Upcoming Demographic Information from the Census 2000

State and County QuickFacts -- An expanded feature at the Census Bureau's homepage, now provides a profile of demographic and economic statistics for any state or county in the country with comparative figures for the United States. The data items shown in QuickFacts answer frequently asked questions and also illustrate the range of data sources.

Strength in Numbers -- Your Guide to Census 2000 Redistricting Data -- An 11-page guide that helps readers understand and use the maps and data the Census Bureau provides for redistricting. (Tentatively scheduled for release in mid-October.)

Non-Census Geographical Mobility: 1990 to 1995 -- Examines how likely it was in 1995 for people to have lived in a different home five years before; data by region, age, race, Hispanic origin, income, housing tenure, marital status, education and employment status. (Tentatively scheduled for release in one week.)

Fertility of American Women: June 1998 -- Examines trends in birth rates for American women, particularly the increasing number of working wives with children. National data. (Tentatively scheduled for release in mid-October.)

Child Support for Custodial Mothers and Fathers: 1997 -- Data on parents who have custody of their children including child-support income received by custodial parents with current awards, as well as other award provisions, such as visitation, joint custody and health insurance. (Tentatively scheduled for release in mid-October.)

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Census Bureau Facts for Features: American Indian Heritage Month -- Statistics from the Census Bureau's demographic subject areas pertaining to the nation's American Indian and Alaska Native population. Similar Facts for Features commemorate other events or holidays throughout the year. (Tentatively scheduled for release in three weeks.)

Recently Released

Census 2000 Final Response Rates -- The Census Bureau has released Census 2000 response rates for the nation, states, cities, counties, tribal areas and census tracts. Press release includes detailed tables for states and 100 most populous cities and counties. Internet address: <http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2000/cn57.html>.

Introduction to Census 2000 Data Products -- A free four-page brochure highlighting new data products from Census 2000, including maps, demographic profiles and detailed statistical tables. Internet address: <http://www.census.gov/mso/www/prodprof/census2000.pdf>.

Source: Census Bureau Online at <http://www.census.gov>

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Census Response Rate Press Conference

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