

### Data Sources

This issue of *Rural Conditions and Trends* uses data from a variety of sources depending on the particular industry. These are described below by article.

**Employment and earnings data:** Most data on nonmetro employment and earnings in this issue come from the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) of the U.S. Department of Commerce. BEA employment data provide establishment data on the number of jobs. The BEA data are taken primarily from administrative reports filed by employers covered under unemployment insurance laws and from information from the Internal Revenue Service and the Social Security Administration. Thus, jobs and earnings for these jobs are counted at the place of work and are based on a virtual universal count rather than a sample. The BEA data provide detailed information on the number of jobs and amount of earnings by industry at the county level. A shortcoming of the BEA data is the 2-year lag between when they are collected and when they are available for analysis. The most recent data are for 1993. BEA data can be obtained through the World Wide Web at <http://www.lib.virginia.edu/socsci/reis/reis1.html>.

**National economic conditions:** The economic indicators used to monitor macroeconomic changes in the U.S. economy are derived from Federal sources. Measures of inflation, including the Consumer and Producers Price Indexes, and employment and unemployment data are developed by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). BLS makes 10-year projections of employment by industry and occupation every 2 years. National income and product account information on capital investment, gross domestic product, and net exports is produced by the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), U.S. Department of Commerce. Information relating to monetary policy, including changes in interest rates and foreign exchange rates, and data on industrial production are furnished by the Federal Reserve Board of Governors.

**Farm-related jobs data:** Estimates of farm-related jobs are based on the 1992 County Business Patterns file released by the Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce, and subsequently enhanced to account for confidential data not published by the Bureau. The County Business Patterns data provide estimates of wage and salary jobs in most industries in the United States. Data on farm proprietors and wage and salary jobs in farm production, as well as nonfarm proprietors, government employment, and railroad workers, are not included in the County Business Patterns. Employment for these excluded groups was obtained from the Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce. Employment data on nonfarm proprietors, available only for major industrial divisions (one-digit Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) level), were distributed among farm-related industries (two-, three-, and four-digit SIC levels) based on the proprietor's share of total employment in the division in which the farm-related industry is classified.

Farm and farm-related employment includes jobs not only in farm production but also in its closely related industries—agricultural services, forestry, and fishing; agricultural inputs; and processing and marketing of agricultural goods—as well as industries peripherally related to farming—wholesale and retail trade of agricultural products and indirect agribusiness. Farm and farm-related industries are identified as industries having generally 50 percent or more of their national workforce employed in providing goods and services necessary to satisfy the final demand for agricultural products. An exception to this criterion is indirect agribusinesses, in which percentages range between 32 and 50 percent.

**Food and Fiber Sector Employment Data:** The State nonmetro Food and Fiber System (FFS) employment estimates are a subset of the national FFS data published by ERS and the Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce. This subset is derived by distributing national FFS data to nonmetro, State, and industrial sectors in the same proportion as the 1992 County Business Patterns (CBP) file released by the Bureau of Census. The data file was subsequently enhanced to account for confidential data not published by the Bureau. To CBP data were added Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), U.S. Department of Labor estimates of agricultural and government employment, areas not

covered by the CBP file. BLS estimates of State nonmetro employment were used when determining shares of nonmetro FFS employment. Total domestic employment in the Food and Fiber System table equals the civilian labor force, which includes the unemployed.

**Agricultural exports data:** Data on agricultural exports is published in *Foreign Agricultural Trade of the United States*. Employment due to agricultural exports is derived in the same manner as Food and Fiber Sector employment.

**Mining data:** The principal source of data for nonfuel minerals and coal was the *1992 Minerals Yearbook*, Volume II published by the Bureau of Mines, Department of the Interior. Data for the oil and gas industries came from the *Annual Energy Review, 1994* from the Energy Information Administration of the U.S. Department of Energy.

**Manufacturing data:** The Census of Manufactures is collected by the Census Bureau every 5 years by enumerating all U.S. manufacturing establishments. The most recent data are from 1992. ERS requested special tabulations of value added, employment, and wages for metro and nonmetro establishments, and these data were used to compute value added and wages per worker. The analysis of technology use is based on three Surveys of Manufacturing Technology. These are sample surveys of selected manufacturing industries conducted by the Bureau of the Census in 1988, 1991, and 1993.

**Retail industry data:** The Census of Retail Trade is collected by the Bureau of the Census every 5 years. This census provides geographic detail on number of establishments, sales, and employment for all retail businesses in the United States. The analysis of the retail census data was supplemented by county-level data from census years on population and income from the Bureau of Economic Analysis' Regional Economic Information System. A spreadsheet with retail sales, a sales leakage estimate, income, and population by county for 1982-92 is available from Fred Gale 202-219-0594 or fgale@econ.ag.gov. More up-to-date information on employment and earnings in retail industries through 1995 was obtained from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, which produces monthly estimates based on a survey of business establishments. These data can be obtained through the World Wide Web or gopher at <gopher://hopi2.bls.gov:70/11/Time%20Series>.

**Commercial bank data:** Data were compiled for all commercial banks located in the 50 States that are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). Data on interstate bank branches and for the time series on the number of banks come from the National Information Center database maintained by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. Information concerning the number of banking firms operating in rural and urban banking markets is based on deposit data for individual bank branches as of June 30, 1980 and 1993, from the FDIC's Summary of Deposits database.

**Government employment data:** The government employment article uses BEA data.

### Definitions

The data reported in this issue of *Rural Conditions and Trends* are for nonmetro and metro areas, but we use the terms “rural” and “urban” interchangeably with “nonmetro” and “metro.” However, in tables and charts we use “nonmetro” and “metro,” the original and more accurate terms used in the data sources.

**Civilian labor force:** Noninstitutional civilians age 16 or older who are either employed or unemployed. Individuals who are neither employed nor unemployed are out of the labor force.

**Consumer Price Index (CPI):** A measure of the average price level of a basket of consumer goods and services at the retail level for a specific period compared against a benchmark period.

**Farm:** Any place from which \$1,000 worth or more of agricultural products are sold or normally would be sold in a year.

**Final demands of the Food and Fiber System:** The consumer ready form of the raw farm products purchased by U.S. and foreign consumers. Estimated as U.S. personal consumption spending for food, clothing, shoes, tobacco products, and flowers, seeds, and potted plants, agricultural and textile exports less agricultural and textile imports, changes in government and private holdings of farm commodities, and gross investment in farm capital.

**Food and Fiber System (FFS):** That set of producers of goods and services required to assemble, process, and distribute raw farm products to U.S. and foreign consumers.

**Food and Fiber System income and employment:** The income earned and employment provided by the producers in the Food and Fiber System.

**Foreign exchange rate:** The rate at which one currency is traded for another. The Federal Reserve publishes a measure of the overall foreign exchange rate of the U.S. dollar based on the rates of the 10 major U.S. trading partners.

**Gross domestic product (GDP):** The value of final output produced by people, government, and firms in the United States, whether they are U.S. or foreign citizens, or U.S.- or foreign-owned firms. Output of U.S. citizens or firms located outside the United States is not included. This statistic is reported quarterly but is revised in each of the 2 months following the initial release.

**GDP price deflator:** A measure of the average price of final output produced by people, government, and firms in the United States during a specific period compared against a benchmark period.

**Inflation rate:** The percentage change in a measure of the average price level. The index used to measure inflation depends on the part of the economy being analyzed. In this issue, for example, the GDP Price Deflator is used to measure inflation in the overall national economy and the implicit Personal Consumption Expenditures Price Deflator is used to measure inflation in earnings.

**Input-output model:** An economic model which presents the economy as a set of sales and purchases between sectors, final demands, and payments to labor, capital, profits, and indirect business taxes.

**Metro areas:** Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA's), as defined by the Office of Management and Budget, include core counties containing a city of 50,000 or more people and a total area population of at least 100,000. Additional contiguous counties are included in the MSA if they are economically and socially integrated with the core county. Metro areas are divided into central cities and areas outside central cities (suburbs). Throughout this publication, "urban" and "metro" have been used interchangeably to refer to people and places within MSA's.

**Nonmetro areas:** Counties outside metro area boundaries. Throughout this publication, "rural" and "nonmetro" are used interchangeably to refer to people and places outside of MSA's.