

Editor's Notebook

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My tenure as Executive Editor of *RDP* ends with this issue. I'm happy that the variety of articles herein represents many of the wide, increasingly global, concerns of rural policymakers. The effect of computers on the rural workforce is reflected in Beyers and Lindahl's report on the ability of export-oriented "Lone Eagles" and "High Fliers" in the producer services industries to locate in rural areas and in Kusmin's report on the increasing share of rural workers who use computers on the job. Fagan and Reeder's finding that military retirees may be lost by communities that lose their military bases shows the local effects of decreased international tensions and improved military technology. Whitener and Parker look at possible rural effects of the recent increase in the national minimum wage, and Cromartie and Swanson show examples of how the current definition of metro and nonmetro areas on the basis of counties misrepresents urban settlement patterns in many parts of the country.

An "Index to Feature Articles and Indicators, Volumes 8-11" is also included in this issue. [The last index appeared in volume 8, number 1, and covered volumes 5 through 7.] Looking back over the articles, the diversity of rural concerns becomes even more evident. Aspects of life in rural areas, such as social and economic characteristics of residents, trends in various industrial sectors, programs to assist rural businesses, and Federal rural development policy, have been discussed.

Serving as executive editor since summer 1992 allowed me to work closely with authors from ERS, nonprofit research organizations, and universities to put out informative articles on rural America. And the efforts Lindsay Mann, the managing editor, and I have made to address *RDP*'s chronic problem with timely publication are now closing the gap between the cover and actual publication dates. Despite these rewarding aspects of the job, I am happily moving back into research here at ERS. Douglas Bowers moves from research to the executive editorship. I would like to thank the readers who provided positive feedback and constructive criticism during my tenure. I hope that you will continue to provide Doug with that support.

Linda M. Ghelfi

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