

Rural Development Center Newsletter-January 2000

University of Maryland Eastern Shore

A CENTURY OF CHANGE: AMERICA, 1900-1999:

To commemorate the close of the 20th century, the Census Bureau, compiled the following profile, which shows how the United States has changed since the beginning of the century.

Population Distribution--

As a country, the United States became more crowded during the 20th Century as its resident population nearly quadrupled from 76 million on July 1, 1900, to 273 million on July 1, 1999.

<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/1999/cb99-101.html>

In 1900, our nation's most populous states were New York (7.3 mil.), Pennsylvania (6.3 mil.), Illinois (4.8 mil.), Ohio (4.2 mil.) and Missouri (3.1 mil.). By 1998, the top five had changed considerably: California led all states with 32.7 mil., followed by Texas (19.8 mil.), New York (18.2 mil.), Florida (14.9 mil.) and Illinois (12.0 mil.). In 1900, California had only 1.5 million people and Florida, 529,000.

<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/cb98-242.html>

Our population became older: in 1900, the median age for males was 23.3 years; for females, it was 22.4 years; in 1999, the median for each had increased by more than 10 years, to 34.3 and 36.6 years, respectively. And the proportion of the population that is elderly (65 and over) more than tripled over the period, from 4.1 percent to 12.7 percent. At the same time, life expectancy at birth jumped from 46.3 years for men in 1900 to 73.6 years in 1997; women experienced a similar increase: from

48.3 years in 1900 to 79.2 years in 1997.
<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/1999/cb99-101.html>

Men outnumbered women in the United States in 1900: 38.8 mil. versus 37.2 mil. But by July 1, 1999, the situation had reversed: 139.5 mil. women versus 133.4 mil. men.
<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/1999/cb99-101.html>

In 1900, the "Wild West" was a not-so-distant memory. And typical of those frontier days, men outnumbered women by wide margins in several western states and territories, namely, Alaska (46,000 to 18,000), Hawaii (106,000 to 48,000), Montana (150,000 to 93,000), Nevada (26,000 to 17,000) and Wyoming (58,000 to 34,000). By 1998, in the few states where women constituted the minority sex, they were not in the minority by much.
<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/cb98-242.html>

Coming to America—

The nation's foreign-born resident population totaled 10.3 mil. at the start of the century -- 13.6 percent of the total U.S. population. The numerical total in 1998 was 25.2 mil. and the percentage of the whole, 9.3 percent, less than the 20th century high of 14.7 percent in 1910, but more than the low of 4.7 percent in 1970.

<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/1999/cb99-171.html>

Yes, people from around the world are still coming to America, they're just coming from different places. One hundred years ago, ost immigrants were from Europe: Germany (2.7 mil.), Ireland (1.6 mil.), Canada (1.2 mil.), Great Britain (1.2 mil.), Sweden (582,000),

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Italy (484,000), Russia (424,000), Poland (383,000), Norway (336,000) and Austria (276,000) were the leading contributors to the foreign-born population in 1900.

<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/1999/cb99-195.html>

By 1997, Latin America and Asia accounted for eight of the top 10 countries of birth for the foreign-born population (Mexico, the Philippines, China, Cuba, Vietnam, India, the Dominican Republic and El Salvador). The exact number and the exact order after Mexico are uncertain due to sampling variability in the Current Population Survey.

<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/1999/cb99-195.html>

The Workforce--

One of the most dramatic sociological changes this century has been the participation of women (age 16 and over) in the nation's workforce: the proportion of women in the workplace tripled from 19 percent in 1900 to 60 percent in 1998. The rate for men, meanwhile, dipped from 80 percent to 75 percent.

<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/1999/cb99-238.html>

Education--

At the beginning -- and even in the middle -- of the century, high school diplomas were rare, indeed. Back in 1900, for instance, only 6 percent of 17-year-olds graduated from high school. By 1940, 25 percent of people age 25 and over had at least a high school diploma. Today, a diploma is the rule rather than the exception: 83 percent of people age 25 and over had at least a high school diploma in 1998.

<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/cb98-221.html>

The number of degrees conferred by the nation's colleges and universities now is more than 70 times higher than it was at the century's start: fewer than 30,000 were awarded in the 1899-1900 school year, compared with 2.2 mil. in 1995-1996.

<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/1999/cb99-238.html>

Families--

In 1900, it was unusual to find people living alone, but relatively common to see large households: only 5 percent of households in 1900 consisted of people living alone while 20 percent had seven or more people. Over the course of the century, the proportions reversed: 26 percent of 1998s households had only one person; 1 percent had seven or more. Consequently, the average household size dipped from 4.8 people in 1900 to 2.6 people in 1998.

<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/cb98-228.html>

Divorce, almost unheard of in 1900, became more widespread. Fewer than 1 percent of the nation's men and women (age 15 and over) were divorced in 1900, compared with 8 percent for men (age 15 and over) and 10 percent for women in 1998.

<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/1999/cb99-03.html>

Health--

Diseases that terrorized the United States at the beginning of the 20th century no longer pose much, if any, threat today. For instance, 194 people out of 100,000 died from

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tuberculosis in 1900 while typhoid fever and diphtheria claimed 31 and 40 victims, respectively, per 100,000 population. In 1997, there were 0.4 deaths per 100,000 population from tuberculosis; the other two diseases had been eradicated in this country.
<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/1999/cb99-238.html>

Automobiles--

At the start of the century, motor vehicles were few and far between: a mere 8,000 of them were registered across the United States in 1900. Today, they are a vital part of our nation: by 1997, the number of registrations had skyrocketed to 208 million.
<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/1999/cb99-238.html>

The Military--

As the century began, the Spanish-American War of 1898 had left a standing army, navy and marine corps of about 125,000 men. As of 1997, the total number of active-duty U.S. military personnel, men and women exceeded 1.4 million. The century's peak, 12.1 million, was recorded in 1945, the last year of World War II.
<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/1999/cb99-238.html>

Among the 1.2 million veterans in 1900, 1.0 million had fought in the Civil War. As of 1998, the plurality of the nation's 25.1 million veterans (8.1 million) were Vietnam-era vets.
<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/1999/cb99-238.html>

OUT OF WEDLOCK FIRST BIRTHS TRIPLE SINCE 1930S:

The proportion of first births conceived out of wedlock to women ages 15 to 29 nearly tripled over the past six decades, from 18 percent between 1930-1934 to 53 percent between 1990-1994, according to a report released by the Census Bureau.

Growth in the proportion of first births born premaritally grew five-fold from 8 percent during the early 1930s to 41 percent in the early 1990s.

The report, Trends in Premarital Childbearing: 1930 to 1994, traces the marital status of women at the time of their first birth from 1930 to 1994. It looks at three categories of first births: premaritally conceived and born out of wedlock; premaritally conceived but born within seven months after the mother's first marriage; and postmaritally conceived and born after the mother's first marriage.

Other findings from the report which are available on the Internet:
<http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/fertility.html>> include:

❑ The proportion of White women under age 30 who had either a premaritally born or premaritally conceived first birth tripled, from 15 percent in the early 1930s to 45 percent in the early 1990s. For African American women, it doubled, from 43 percent to 86 percent.

❑ The proportion of first births to women 15-19 years old that either were premaritally born or premaritally conceived increased from 28 percent in the early 1930s to 89 percent in the early 1990s.

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❑ In 1990-1994, about 85 percent of all first births to White women ages 15 to 19 were either premaritally born or premaritally conceived, compared with 25 percent for the 1930-1934 period. The comparable figures for African American teenage women were 98 percent and 47 percent, respectively.

US BUSINESSES SHIP \$7 TRILLION IN GOODS IN 1997:

Businesses in mining, manufacturing, wholesale and selected retail industries shipped nearly 11 billion tons of goods worth \$6.9 trillion in 1997, according to a series of reports released by the Department's Census Bureau.

For-hire trucks carried about 42 percent of the total value and 31 percent of the tonnage while private trucks carried 29 percent of the total value and 37 percent of the tonnage. More than half of the tonnage shipped traveled under 50 miles. ("For-hire" trucks are those not owned or operated by the company initiating the shipment; "private" trucks are those owned or operated by the company initiating or receiving the shipment.)

The findings come from the Commodity Flow Survey (CFS) reports, a part of the 1997 Economic Census. The Census Bureau conducted this survey in partnership with the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics. Policy-makers use the results to assess the nation's transportation needs.

The 52 CFS reports released may be accessed on the Internet. Individual reports for each state and a U.S. summary show data on the movement of goods by value, weight, average miles per shipment, mode of

transportation and type of commodity shipped. A separate report contains the first-ever CFS data on hazardous material shipments by hazard class, mode of transportation, states of origin and other characteristics.

Additional data, including information for metropolitan areas, will be released on the Internet and on CD-ROM in upcoming weeks. Data for the 1997 CFS were reported on a Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) basis, but future surveys will use the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), which provides updated industry classifications for Transportation and Warehousing and 19 other economic sectors.

SURVEY FINDS SATISFACTION WITH GOVERNMENT:

A first-ever survey of customer satisfaction with federal agencies showed that the government, which often draws low marks from the public, scored nearly as high as private sector companies.

The survey of 29 agencies published today by the University of Michigan gave the government a score of 68.6, not far behind the private sector's rating of 72.

The government scores ranged from a high of 87 for the Head Start program to a low of 51 for the Internal Revenue Service and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

The study, paid for by the federal agencies that were surveyed, shows that the level of service provided by the government is almost as good as service in the private sector, said Claes Fornell, director of the University of Michigan Business School's National Quality

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Research Center.

The survey was based on interviews with 7,723 customers of selected services at 29 federal agencies that were chosen because they deal most with the public and businesses.

Some agency scores were based on interviews with people who received government benefits or services, such as the Food and Nutrition Service, which received a score of 83 based on interviews with people who receive food through the program. The National Park Service's score of 73 was based on interviews with park visitors.

The Environmental Protection Agency's score of 69 was derived from surveying reference librarians who use EPA's Web site. NASA's score of 80 was based on the views of teachers who participated in an education program at a NASA center.

The overall results are a stark contrast to public views of government shown in other studies. A Pew Research Center study of Americans' trust in government published last year showed that an overwhelming majority of the public doesn't trust the government and thinks it does a fair to poor job managing its program and providing services.

The study was sponsored by the University of Michigan, the American Society for Quality and the consulting firm Arthur Andersen.

SELECTED SERVICE BUSINESSES REVENUE \$3 TRILLION:

Selected service businesses achieved nearly

\$3 trillion in revenue in 1998, with taxable firms registering \$2.3 trillion and tax-exempt establishments, \$653 billion, according to a report released today by the Commerce Department's Census Bureau. In 1997, similar taxable businesses reported \$2.1 trillion in revenue, while tax-exempt enterprises took in \$614 billion. The </svsd/www/sas.html> 1998 Service Annual Survey covers such professional services as personal, business, automotive, amusement and recreation, social and health. Tables in the report show receipts for taxable firms and revenue and expenses for organizations exempt from federal income taxes.

Highlights of changes between 1997 and 1998 for selected businesses include:

Receipts for computer-services businesses, including computer programming, data processing and related services, increased 20 percent to \$259 billion in 1998, up from \$215 billion in 1997.

Taxable firms providing engineering, accounting, research and management and related services reported receipts of \$361 billion, an increase of 12 percent.

Receipts for automotive repair, automotive services and parking businesses increased 8 percent to \$120 billion.

Taxable receipts for hotels, motels, rooming houses, camps and other lodging places (except those requiring memberships) increased 7 percent, to \$101 billion.

Revenue for tax-exempt child-care services increased 11 percent, to \$6.6 billion.

COMMUNICATIONS REVENUES

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NEAR \$390 BILLION:

The [/svsd/www/ascs.html](#) U.S. communications industry's revenues increased by 11 percent in 1998, to \$388 billion, while operating expenses increased by 13 percent, to \$325 billion, according to data released on the Internet by the Census Bureau.

Highlights for selected industry groups for 1997 to 1998 are as follows:

Cable and Other Pay Television Services- Revenue for cable and other pay television services showed an increase of 14 percent, to \$49 billion.

Basic-service Revenue -- subscription fees received from residential and commercial customers for basic television cable services increased 15 percent, to \$24 billion.

Radio and Television Broadcasting Services (taxable firms only)-- Revenue from radio and television broadcasting services increased 9 percent, to \$42 billion. Expenses increased 10 percent, to \$34 billion. Broadcast television, with \$31 billion in revenue -- a 9 percent increase from 1997 -- accounted for three-quarters of the total revenue of the radio and television broadcasting industry group.

Telephone Communications Businesses-- Revenue from cellular and other radio telephone services continued to grow, increasing by 26 percent, to \$42 billion. Overall, the telephone communications industry produced \$285 billion in revenues, an increase of 11 percent, while expenses were \$240 billion, an increase of 13 percent.

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