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1935 CENSUS OF BUSINESS:
SCHEDULES OF MOTOR TRUCKING FOR HIRE

Introduction

On the 103 rolls of this microfilm publication, M2068, are reproduced schedules of motor trucking companies taken during the 1935 Census of Business. These schedules are part of Record Group (RG) 29, Records of the Bureau of the Census, and are part of the records designated as Entry 319 in *Preliminary Inventory of the Records of the Bureau of the Census*, Preliminary Inventory (PI) 161 (Washington, DC: National Archives, 1964), by Katherine H. Davidson and Charlotte M. Ashby.

Background

Collection of Business Statistics by the Bureau of the Census

The Census Bureau established a Current Business Division and a Distribution Division on July 1, 1928. These were consolidated into a Current Business and Distribution Division on July 1, 1929; however, this division was abolished on July 10, 1930. On December 4, 1933, the Census Bureau established a Division of Business with Fred A. Gosnell as Chief Statistician. Effective July 27, 1943, this division, which had also been known as the Business Census Division, was renamed the Business Division. These successive divisions supervised the business censuses taken under section 4 of an act of June 18, 1929 (46 Stat. 22), which authorized a census of distribution, the taking of business censuses as relief projects, and the collection of monthly and annual business statistics.

The suggestion that the Census Bureau should take a census of distribution or business, in cooperation with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and trade organizations, was originally presented in December 1926, at a meeting of the Committee on Collection of Business Figures. As a result, a trial census of distribution was taken in 1927 in 11 cities, beginning with Baltimore. The schedules for the 1929 census of distribution were based largely on the experience gained in 1927. The 1929 Census of Distribution covered retail and wholesale trade, hotels, the construction industry, and the distribution of goods by manufacturers. The 1933 Census of Business gathered data on retail and wholesale trade, service businesses, places of amusement, and hotel establishments. The 1933 and 1935 censuses of business were set up as relief projects, and the 1933 census was financed by the Civil Works Administration.

The 1935 Census of Business

The 1935 Census of Business was the largest and most inclusive inventory of business establishments undertaken by the Bureau of the Census up to that time. Much broader in scope than either the Census of Distribution of 1929 or the Census of American Business of 1933, the data for this census, when considered together with the Census of Manufacturers and the Census of Agriculture of the same year,

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permitted a fairly complete analysis of American economic life.

The Business Census was designed to provide a picture of essential items of information concerning most types of business activity in the United States. The severity and duration of the depression of the 1930s indicated the need for an intensive study of the U.S. business structure. Government and business both felt the need for detailed economic data as a basis for planning methods of increasing business activity, thereby stimulating economic recovery.

Funds to defray the cost of the 1935 Census of Business and for the subsequent publication of any related reports were furnished by the Works Progress Administration. The canvassing of businesses began on June 2, 1936, and all final reports were issued by June 30, 1937.

Fifteen categories of businesses were surveyed: advertising agencies, banks, bus transportation, construction, distribution of manufacturers' sales, financial institutions, hotels (including tourist camps), insurance and real estate, miscellaneous enterprises (primarily nonprofit organizations), motor trucking for hire, public warehousing, radio broadcasting, retail trade, service and amusement, and wholesale trade.

Upon completion of tabulations and reports, the Department of Commerce, under authority granted by Congress, disposed of the schedules relating to the following: construction, distribution of manufacturers' sales, hotels, retail trade, and service and amusement. The schedules relating to advertising agencies, banks, bus transportation, financial institutions, insurance and real estate, miscellaneous, motor trucking for hire, public warehousing, radio broadcasting, and wholesale trade were retained and transferred to the custody of the National Archives in 1941 and 1946. In 1953, in order to dispose of the paper schedules, the National Archives transferred to microfilm the following categories of schedules: advertising agencies, banks and other financial institutions, miscellaneous, motor trucking for hire, public warehousing, and radio broadcasting. The remaining schedules, relating to bus transportation, insurance and real estate, service and amusement, and wholesale trade were retained in paper form because resources required for extensive rearrangement prior to microfilming were not available.

Records Description

The records described in this publication consist of Schedule 70, Motor Trucking and/or Warehousing Schedule, which requested the following information for calendar year 1935: name of the concern or establishment; name and address of owner; legal form of organization (proprietorship, partnership, corporation, other); kind of business (warehousing/storage or trucking for hire); if a warehousing or storage business, whether for household goods, general merchandise, farm products, cold storage or other; if a trucking business, whether local, intrastate, or interstate; if a trucking business, whether it operates "under agreements with shippers over a definite period of time" and/or accepts shipments from the public; amount of operating revenue and expenses; number of proprietors and firm members; number of full- and part-time paid employees and weekly payrolls for executives, office and clerical employees, warehousing and platform employees, transportation crews, and employees engaged in maintaining and servicing equipment; total payroll for the week ending October 26, 1935; number of male, female, and "Negro" employees; total number of full- and part-time employees working during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of each month; and number of motor vehicle equipment (trucks, semi-trailers, trailers, and non-farm tractors) in operation in October 1935 by rated capacity and age. Supplemental information was to be provided by businesses that carried on operations at more than one address. For each additional

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address, the requested supplemental information included the state, city or town, street address, name of unit, number of employees during the week ending October 26, 1935, and the total payroll for the year 1935. There was also a section requesting "remarks," which is usually blank.

The records are arranged alphabetically by state, thereunder alphabetically by county, and thereunder by political subdivision. There are five exceptions to this arrangement: (1) Los Angeles Co., CA, follows Yuba Co., CA; (2) Cook Co., IL, follows Woodford Co., IL; (3) Bronx, Kings, New York, Queens, and Richmond Cos., NY, follow Yates Co., NY; (4) Philadelphia Co., PA follows York Co., PA; and (5) the independent cities of Virginia follow York Co., VA. The independent cities are listed in the Table of Contents.

In addition, schedules that (apparently) were "missed" during the initial arrangement of a state's schedules are filmed at the end of the state, except that the additional California schedules are filmed before Los Angeles Co.; additional Illinois schedules are filmed before Cook Co.; additional New York State schedules are filmed before Bronx Co.; additional Pennsylvania schedules are filmed before Philadelphia Co. Additional schedules for Los Angeles, Cook, Bronx, Kings, New York, Queens, Richmond, and Philadelphia Cos. are filmed at the end of the appropriate county. Supplemental schedules for Virginia are filmed following the independent cities, arranged alphabetically by county, then alphabetically by independent city. The Table of Contents *only* refers to these "supplemental schedules" when they begin or end the roll. There may be one or more series of supplemental schedules for each state, they are each arranged alphabetically by county. At least one roll begins with a short "retakes" section which consists of retakes of images that were blurry or otherwise improperly filmed during the original filming. The Table of Contents does *not* note which rolls begin with retakes as a "retakes" target sheet clearly marks the beginning of these rolls.

Related Records

Other microfilmed 1935 Census of Business schedules have been or are being reproduced in the following National Archives Microfilm Publications: M1797, *1935 Census of Business: Schedules of Advertising Agencies* (1 roll); M2066, *1935 Census of Business: Schedules of Banking and Financial Institutions* (31 rolls); M2067, *1935 Census of Business: Schedules of Miscellaneous Nonprofit Enterprises* (43 rolls); M2069, *1935 Census of Business: Schedules of Public Warehousing* (6 rolls); and M2070, *1935 Census of Business: Schedules of Radio Broadcasting Stations* (1 roll).

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