

Appendix VI:

Guide to the U.S. Database

The large time-series database constructed to support the analysis of this project had two purposes in mind. The first was to provide data to support the research questions posed in each of the two projects. The second, and arguably more important in the long run, was to provide a database that could be provided and maintained online for others to use as a guide to their own explorations of rurality and economic clusters.

The following were the primary goals of Project 1:

- The linkages between cluster structure, degree of rurality, and economic performance
- The spatial clustering of industrial clusters and the interface between rural and metropolitan regions in emerging agglomeration economies
- Growth trajectories for counties that are differentiated by cluster makeup, degree of rurality, and distance to metropolitan areas

The goals of Project 2 were to use the database to analyze the cluster structure of a selected region, supplement these secondary data with additional local knowledge, and mobilize the regional constituency in a planning process that was grounded in both secondary data and localized primary data. In essence, Project 2 was a pilot study designed to create and document a prototype process for rural regional development planning and action—one that can be replicated in other rural regions of the country.

The Indiana Business Research Center (IBRC) will maintain and enhance the online database that is available at www.ibrc.indiana.edu/innovation/data.html.

The database is enhanced with information on basic demographic and social indicators to provide users with a more comprehensive understanding of regional challenges and opportunities for growth.

The database contains data sets from the following sources:

- **Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (CEW)** from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The Indiana Business Research Center (IBRC) administers the confidential research version of this file for the state. Additionally, the IBRC maintains public data for all U.S. counties by NAICS back to 1990 for establishments, wages, and jobs.
- **Longitudinal Employment and Household Dynamics (LEHD)** from the Census Bureau. This file is used to help determine longitudinal birth, death, and transition demographics of businesses in the selected county or region. This dataset also provides important information on the age and sex of workers by industry, wages of new hires versus existing workers, turnover rates and more. The research versions of these data were used for this study.
- **Demographics, educational attainment, occupation, housing, and income data from the national decennial census**
- **County data on occupation and commuting** contained in the 1990 and 2000 Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) special tabulations compiled by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Specific Data Sets Provided

Clusters

- Economic Clusters — National Perspective

Commuting

- Worker Flows

Education

- Attainment

Employment and Wages

- Census of Employment and Wages (CEW)

Housing and Households

- Building Permits
- Household Makeup
- Housing Units

Income

- Median Household Income
- Per Capita Income
- Personal Income
- Poverty

Labor Force

- Resident Labor Force

Population (Census & Estimates)

- Population
- Population by Age
- Population by Race
- Migration, Births, Deaths

Rurality

- Index of Relative Rurality
- USDA Rurality Codes
- Distance to Nearest Metro Area
- USA Counties in Profile

Detailed instructions on the use of the online database and information specific to the data provided there are available on the website.

Online Access

This database is available at www.ibrc.indiana.edu/innovation—click on the Data section of the site. Questions may be directed to the IBRC at ibrc@iupui.edu.