

## I. THE NATION SERVED BY FREIGHT

The Nation's 118.7 million households, 7.4 million business establishments, and 89,004 governmental units are part of an economy that demands the efficient movement of freight. While the U.S. economy has been affected by an economic downturn, it is recovering and will continue to grow. Long-term economic growth will result in even greater demand for freight transportation.

Table 1-1. Economic and Social Characteristics of the United States: 1990, 2000, and 2009-2011

	1990	2000	2009	2010	2011	Percent change, 1990 to 2011
Resident population (thousands)	248,791	282,172	307,007	(R) 309,326	311,588	25.2
Households (thousands)	93,347	104,705	117,181	117,538	118,682	27.1
Median household income (2009 \$)	(R) 47,637	(R) 52,301	(R) 49,777	(R) 48,476	47,735	0.2
Civilian labor force (thousands)	125,840	142,583	(R) 153,120	(R) 153,649	153,945	22.3
Employed <sup>1</sup> (thousands)	118,793	136,891	(R) 138,025	(R) 139,295	140,896	18.6
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting (percent)	1.9	1.8	1.5	1.6	1.6	-15.5
Mining	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.6	7.7
Construction	6.9	7.3	6.9	6.5	6.5	-5.9
Manufacturing	16.8	14.4	10.2	10.1	10.2	-39.0
Wholesale and retail trade	14.7	14.6	14.1	14.2	14.1	-4.1
Transportation and utilities	5.1	5.4	5.2	5.1	5.1	0.0
Information	2.9	3.0	2.3	2.3	2.3	-22.7
Financial activities	7.1	6.8	6.9	6.7	6.7	-5.3
Professional and business services	9.4	10.0	10.7	11.0	11.3	20.0
Education and health services	17.5	19.1	22.7	23.1	22.8	30.0
Leisure and hospitality	8.0	8.2	9.1	9.0	9.1	12.8
Other services	4.3	4.7	5.0	4.9	4.8	11.7
Public administration	4.7	4.5	4.9	5.0	4.9	3.3
Business establishments (thousands)	6,176	7,070	7,433	7,397	7,354	19.1
Governments <sup>2</sup>	85,006 <sup>3</sup>	87,576 <sup>4</sup>	NA	NA	89,004 <sup>5</sup>	53.0
Gross domestic product (millions of 2009 \$)	(R) 8,945,400	(R) 12,565,200	(R) 14,417,900	(R) 14,779,400	15,052,400	68.3
Foreign trade (millions of 2009 \$)	(R) 1,364,100	(R) 3,027,500	(R) 3,559,800	(R) 3,993,700	4,226,900	209.9
Goods (percent)	NA	(R) 77.8	(R) 74.5	(R) 76.3	76.4	NA
Services (percent)	NA	(R) 22.0	(R) 25.5	(R) 23.7	23.6	NA

**Key:** NA = not available; R = revised.

<sup>1</sup> Based on the 2002 Census Industry Classification system. Data for 1990 do not appear in the source document; they are estimated using the Bureau of Labor Statistics crosswalk from the 1990 Census Industry Classification system to the 2002 Census Industry Classification system.

<sup>2</sup> Data for governmental units come from the Census of Governments, which is collected every five years.

<sup>3</sup> 1992

<sup>4</sup> 2002

<sup>5</sup> 2012

Freight transportation has grown over time with the expansion of population and economic activity within the United States and with the increasing interdependence of economies across the globe. The U.S. population grew by 25 percent between 1990 and 2011, climbing to 311.6 million in 2011. The U.S. economy, measured by gross domestic product (GDP), increased by 68 percent in real terms (inflation adjusted), while household income, another indicator of economic growth, remained the same between 1990 and 2011. Foreign trade grew faster than the overall economy, doubling in real value over the same period, reflecting unprecedented global interconnectivity.

Table 1-1. Economic and Social Characteristics of the United States: 1990, 2000, 2009-2011

**Source: Population:** U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Population Profile of the United States, available at [www.census.gov/population/www/pop-profile/profile.html](http://www.census.gov/population/www/pop-profile/profile.html) as of September 20, 2013. **Households:** U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Families and Living Arrangements, table HH-1, available at [www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/hh-fam.html](http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/hh-fam.html) as of September 20, 2013. **Civilian Labor Force and Employment:** U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey, available at [www.bls.gov/data](http://www.bls.gov/data) as of September 20, 2013. **Median household income:** U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Historical Income Tables, table H-6, available at [www.census.gov/hhes/www/income/data/historical/household/index.html](http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/income/data/historical/household/index.html) as of September 20, 2013. **Business establishments:** U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, County Business Patterns, available at [www.census.gov/econ/cbp/](http://www.census.gov/econ/cbp/) as of September 20, 2013. **Governmental units:** U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Census of Governments, available at [www.census.gov/govs](http://www.census.gov/govs) as of September 20, 2013. **Gross domestic product and foreign trade:** U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, National Income and Product Accounts Table, tables 1.1.5, available at [www.bea.gov/national/FA2004/index.asp](http://www.bea.gov/national/FA2004/index.asp) as of September 20, 2013.

Table 1-2. Population and Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by Region: 1990, 2000, and 2010-2012

	1990	2000	(R) 2010	2011	2012	Percent change, 1990 to 2012
<b>Resident Population (thousands)</b>	<b>248,789</b>	<b>282,172</b>	<b>309,326</b>	<b>311,588</b>	<b>313,914</b>	<b>26.2</b>
Northeast	50,828	53,668	55,377	55,598	55,761	9.7
Midwest	59,670	64,494	66,972	67,145	67,316	12.8
South	85,454	100,560	114,854	116,022	117,257	37.2
West	52,837	63,451	72,123	72,823	73,579	39.3
<b>GDP (millions of chained 2005 \$)<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>7,883,332</b>	<b>11,223,130</b>	<b>12,897,088</b>	<b>13,108,318</b>	<b>13,430,576</b>	<b>70.4</b>
Northeast	1,808,010	2,344,250	2,643,262	2,672,595	2,709,385	49.9
Midwest	1,766,102	2,490,900	2,617,099	2,676,825	2,739,673	55.1
South	2,503,020	3,763,080	4,524,803	4,601,219	4,728,538	88.9
West	1,806,199	2,622,605	3,109,710	3,156,139	3,252,097	80.1
<b>GDP per capita (chained 2005 \$)<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>31,687</b>	<b>39,774</b>	<b>41,694</b>	<b>42,069</b>	<b>42,784</b>	<b>35.0</b>
Northeast	35,571	43,681	47,732	48,070	48,589	36.6
Midwest	29,598	38,622	39,077	39,866	40,699	37.5
South	29,291	37,421	39,396	39,658	40,326	37.7
West	34,184	41,333	43,117	43,340	44,198	29.3

**Key:** R = revised.

<sup>1</sup> As of October 26, 2006, the Bureau of Economic Analysis renamed the gross state product (GSP) series to gross domestic product (GDP) by state.

**Notes:** Chained dollars are not additive, especially for periods farther away from the base year of 2005. Thus, GDP for all regions is not equal to total GDP. Numbers may not add to totals due to rounding.

Although freight moves throughout the United States, the demand for freight transportation is driven primarily by the geographic distribution of population and economic activity. Both population and economic activity have grown faster in the West and South than in the Northeast and Midwest, but the Northeast has the highest economic activity per capita.

**Table 1-2. Population and Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by Region: 1990, 2000, and 2010-2012**

**Source: Population: 1990:** U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Statistical Abstract of the United States: 2004-2005 (Washington, DC: 2005); **2000-2012:** U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Population Division, Annual Population Estimates, table 8, available at [www.census.gov/popest/data/index.html](http://www.census.gov/popest/data/index.html) as of October 18, 2013. **Gross Domestic Product:** U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Accounts, available at [www.bea.gov/regional/](http://www.bea.gov/regional/) as of October 18, 2013.