

I. THE NATION SERVED BY FREIGHT

The Nation's 117.5 million households, 7.4 million business establishments, and 89,500 governmental units are part of an enormous economy that demands the efficient movement of freight. While the U.S. economy has been affected by an economic downturn, it is expected to recover and continue to grow. Long-term economic growth will result in even greater demand for freight transportation.

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 24 percent between 1990 and 2010, climbing to 309.3 million in 2010. The U.S. economy, measured by Gross

Table 1-1. Economic and Social Characteristics of the United States: 1990, 2000, and 2008-2010

	1990	2000	2008	2009	2010	Percent change, 1990 to 2010
Resident population (thousands)	248,791	282,172	304,375	307,007	309,330	24.3
Households (thousands)	93,347	104,705	116,783	117,181	117,538	25.9
Median household income (2005 \$)	(R)44,790	(R)47,624	(R)45,665	(R)45,325	44,303	-1.1
Civilian labor force (thousands)	125,840	142,583	(R)154,626	(R)153,091	153,613	22.1
Employed ¹ (thousands)	118,793	136,891	145,362	139,877	139,064	17.1
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting (percent)	1.9	1.8	1.5	1.5	1.6	-16.8
Mining	0.5	0.3	0.6	0.5	0.5	-3.0
Construction	6.9	7.3	7.5	6.9	6.5	-4.9
Manufacturing	16.8	14.4	10.9	10.2	10.1	-39.7
Wholesale and retail trade	14.7	14.6	14.2	14.1	14.2	-3.5
Transportation and utilities	5.1	5.4	5.3	5.2	5.1	-0.3
Information	2.9	3.0	2.4	2.3	2.3	-22.3
Financial activities	7.1	6.8	7.0	6.9	6.7	-5.1
Professional and business services	9.4	10.0	10.7	10.7	11.0	16.4
Education and health services	17.5	19.1	21.6	22.7	23.1	31.6
Leisure and hospitality	8.0	8.2	8.8	9.1	9.0	12.0
Other services	4.3	4.7	4.8	5.0	4.9	13.1
Public administration	4.7	4.5	4.7	4.9	5.0	5.9
Business establishments (thousands)	6,176	7,070	7,601	7,433	7,397	19.8
Governmental units ²	85,006 ³	87,576 ⁴	89,527 ⁵	NA	NA	NA
Gross domestic product (millions of 2005 \$)	(R)8,027,100	(R)11,216,400	(R)13,161,900	(R)12,757,900	13,063,000	62.7
Foreign trade (millions of 2005 \$)	(R)1,973,122	(R)3,251,266	(R)4,461,196	(R)3,621,545	4,200,500	112.9
Goods (percent)	NA	(R)78.2	(R)77.5	(R) 75.3	77.1	NA
Services (percent)	NA	(R)21.8	(R)22.5	(R) 24.7	22.9	NA

Key: NA = not available; R = revised.

¹Based 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.

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

³1992

⁴2002

⁵2007

TABLE 1-1. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1990, 2000, AND 2008-2010

Sources: **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 as of August 16, 2012. **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 as of August 16, 2012. **Civilian Labor Force:** U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey*, available at www.bls.gov/data as of August 16, 2012. **Employment:** U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Current Employment Statistics*, available at www.bls.gov/ces as of August 16, 2012. **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 as of August 16, 2012. **Business establishments:** U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, County Business Patterns, available at www.census.gov/econ/cbpl/ as of August 16, 2012. **Governmental units:** U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, *Census of Governments*, available at www.census.gov/govs as of August 16, 2012. **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 as of August 16, 2012.

Domestic Product (GDP), increased by 60 percent in real terms, while household income, another indicator of economic growth, rose by two percent between 1990 and 2010. Foreign trade grew faster than the overall economy, doubling in real value over the same period, reflecting unprecedented global interconnectivity.

Table 1-2. Population and Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by Region: 1990, 2000, and 2008-2010

	1990	2000	(R)2008	(R)2009	2010	Percent change, 1990 to 2010
Resident Population (thousands)	248,789	282,172	304,094	306,772	309,350	24.3
Northeast	50,828	53,668	54,876	55,133	55,361	8.9
Midwest	59,670	64,494	66,524	66,748	66,976	12.2
South	85,454	100,560	112,185	113,549	114,866	34.4
West	52,837	63,451	70,509	71,341	72,147	36.5
GDP (millions of chained 2005 \$)¹	7,883,332	11,223,130	13,016,791	12,527,057	12,918,931	63.9
Northeast	1,808,010	2,344,250	2,634,008	2,547,214	2,634,240	45.7
Midwest	1,766,102	2,490,900	2,659,876	2,526,373	2,618,970	48.3
South	2,503,020	3,763,080	4,507,247	4,372,208	4,521,841	80.7
West	1,806,199	2,622,605	3,215,155	3,079,323	3,142,706	74.0
GDP per capita (chained 2005 \$)¹	31,687	39,774	42,805	40,835	41,762	31.8
Northeast	35,571	43,681	47,999	46,201	47,583	33.8
Midwest	29,598	38,622	39,984	37,849	39,103	32.1
South	29,291	37,421	40,177	38,505	39,366	34.4
West	34,184	41,333	45,599	43,163	43,560	27.4

Key: R = revised.

¹As 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 growth in economic activity per capita.

TABLE 1-2. POPULATION AND GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP) BY REGION: 1990, 2000, AND 2008-2010

Sources: **Population: 1990:** U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, *Statistical Abstract of the United States: 2004-2005* (Washington, DC: 2005); **2000-2010:** U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Population Division, Annual Population Estimates, table 8, available at www.census.gov/popest/data/index.html as of June 25, 2012. **Gross Domestic Product:** U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Accounts, available at www.bea.gov/regional/ as of June 25, 2012.