

AN ANALYSIS OF THE SPATIAL VARIATION OF
INDUSTRIES IN RURAL COUNTIES IN
SELECTED MIDWESTERN STATES

by

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An Abstract

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Much effort has been spent on analyzing manufacturing in large cities and urban areas. Little attention has been focused on rural counties so that little is known about the types and quantities of manufacturing in rural areas. The purpose of this study is to determine the types and characteristics of manufacturing industries found in rural areas of the Midwest and to analyze their distributions.

Data for the study was obtained from the Census of Manufactures for the years 1958 and 1963. Information was gathered for the two digit and three digit Standard Industrial Classification industries used in the Census of Manufactures. Only two and three digit industries which are common to rural areas are used. The location of each industry and the changes in location between 1958 and 1963 were examined through the use of maps. To assist in determining the characteristics of manufacturing, a list of variables was subjected to principal components analysis.

The study showed that certain types of manufacturing are found in rural areas, and that these same industries are found in the rural areas of New York, Florida, and Missouri. The study also showed that most counties do not have a variety of manufacturing. Instead, most rural counties have a lack of industry, industry oriented toward low cost labor, or industry which is spatially concentrated.