

Minnesota Manufacturing Business Conditions Survey Methodology – Summer 2003

The February 2002 Harris Info Source Selectory of Minnesota Manufacturers provided the population of 9,612 manufacturing businesses for the survey. A random sample of 1,000 businesses was drawn from the population.

Two mailings of a post card survey were sent to each of the selected businesses. The first mailing was on August 1st and the second mailing went out to businesses that had not responded by August 20th. The cutoff for survey responses was September 3rd. A total of 299 usable surveys were received, for a response rate of 30 percent. Of the usable surveys, 47 were from respondents indicating that their specific location had no manufacturing on site. An additional 103 surveys were returned as undeliverable or were unusable.

Survey results were tabulated for all manufacturers. The confidence interval for sampling error was calculated. The 95 percent confidence interval for the table of results for all manufacturers is plus or minus 6.1 percentage points. The confidence interval may be wider for questions that apply only to a subset of the businesses (i.e., exporting). Results are also subject to errors introduced by other factors such as the wording of questions and differences between survey respondents and non-respondents.