

Minnesota Manufacturing Business Conditions Survey Methodology – Winter 2005

The January 2005 Harris InfoSource Selectory Online of Minnesota Manufacturers provided the population of 9,278 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 January 20th and the second mailing went out to businesses that had not responded by February 9th. The cutoff for survey responses was February 22nd. A total of 221 usable surveys were received, for a response rate of 22 percent. Of the usable surveys, 19 were from respondents indicating that their specific location had no manufacturing on site. An additional 78 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 6.8 percentage points. Results are also subject to errors introduced by other factors such as the wording of questions and differences between survey respondents and non-respondents.