

THE DYNAMICS OF SUBURBAN INDUSTRIALIZATION:  
THE EXAMPLE OF DU PAGE COUNTY

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by  
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## ABSTRACT

The objective of this thesis is to characterize Du Page County manufacturers and to describe recent changes that have taken place within these industries. Initially, the 1984 Du Page County manufacturers are presented by showing their geographical distribution, industry types, ownership types, and employment sizes. Next, the origin of the 1984 manufacturers and the status of the 1975 Du Page County firms will be determined. Finally, changes in the characteristics of the manufacturers in the study area will be presented.

The objective was achieved by using the Illinois Manufacturers Directory as a primary data source and the Dunn and Bradstreet file of Du Page County and telephone surveys of businesses as secondary data sources.

The majority of the manufacturing plants and employees are located in the eastern portion of Du Page County, close to Cook County and O'Hare International Airport. The majority of Du Page County manufacturing workers and plants are occupied by firms producing machinery, both electrical and non-electrical, fabricated metal products, rubber and miscellaneous plastics products, and printing and publishing products. Most manufacturers in Du Page County are single plant firms who employ few workers.

Almost one-half of the 1984 manufacturing plants in Du Page County had the same location in 1975 while one-third had relocated to their 1984 site from another area, principally within the county. The remaining manufacturing plants started at their 1984 location after 1975.

Approximately one-third of the 1984 Du Page County manufacturing employees worked in plants with the same location as in 1975. Another one-third worked with firms that relocated, principally within Du Page County, while the

remaining one-third employees worked in plants that started at the 1984 site after 1975.

More than one-half of the 1975 Du Page County manufacturing firms had the same location in 1984 while over one-fourth had closed by then. The remaining firms had moved to an area primarily within Du Page County.

Less than one-half of the 1975 Du Page County manufacturing employees worked in plants with the same address in 1984. More than one-fourth of the employees worked in plants that closed by 1984 and another one-fourth worked in plants that relocated.

The characteristics of Du Page County manufacturers have changed during the past several years. Du Page County manufacturers changed from sparse and somewhat even distribution to dense with heavy concentration in the east and northeast. The industry types that have become more important are those mentioned previously. There has been an increase in high technology industries and branch and headquarter plants are increasing in importance. Du Page County has become more the place of the smaller firm and less for the larger plants.