

twelve sub-classifications under each of these two SICs, but confusion still occurs. We talked with the Bureau of the Census which provides the figures and with commodity experts at the U.S. Industrial Outlook who disseminate information on the census figures for general use. We understand from our discussions with the Bureau that machines are sometimes unavoidably mis-classified. In addition, some duplication can occur in the transfer of products from one plant to another within the same company or group.

Pressure from the private sector and from the Department resulted in the creation of a specific SIC classification for packaging machinery. At some stage in the future all packaging machinery will be classified under one SIC code, number 3565. The classification will be divided into twenty sub-classifications covering machine types in far greater detail than is currently possible. The new classification was passed into law in January 1982, but unfortunately budgetary cut-backs under the present Administration have delayed progress. It is not known how soon fully documented figures will be released under the new SIC code; most sources we interviewed were not optimistic.

SICs 3551 and 3669--The industry is forced to use partial data provided under SIC 3551 which covers food processing machinery and includes sub-section 35514, which covers most packaging machinery for the food industry; and SIC 3569 which covers all non-food industrial machinery and includes sub-section 35691, which covers most non-food packaging machinery. Some of the information we present is drawn from data covering these SICs.