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**THE FUNCTIONS OF SMALL COMMUNITIES  
IN WEST CENTRAL ILLINOIS**

The purpose of this study was to analyze the functions of small communities in west central Illinois. Three hypotheses were developed: (1) that the proportion of local employment is positively related to business diversity, (2) that the proportion of local employment is positively associated with business magnitude, and (3) that the proportion of local employment is positively correlated with recent population change.

**An Abstract of a Master's Thesis**

Presented to

**the Faculty of the Geography Department**

**Western Illinois University**

Western Illinois University also provided information about the magnitude of the various types of business done in each of the villages.

Maps were employed to analyze the patterns the statistical variables demonstrated. Correlation was utilized to test for interrelations among phenomena and cluster analysis was used to determine other villages to determine other interrelationships for the degree structure.

**In Partial Fulfillment**

**of the Requirements for the Degree**

**Master of Arts**

Through these techniques, it was learned that the proportion of local employment was not related to either business magnitude or diversity, thereby invalidating the first two hypotheses. By correlating the business complex and population change data, the hypothesis that population change and the business complex were partially related was partially

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confirmed. This study also showed that these small villages in west central Illinois function primarily to provide housing. The purpose of this study was to analyze the functions of small communities in west central Illinois. Three hypotheses were developed: (1) that the proportion of local employment is positively related to business diversity, (2) that the proportion of local employment is positively associated with business magnitude, and (3) that the proportion of commuters is positively correlated with recent population change.

By field work, the employment locations of the village household heads were determined. Sales tax data provided information about the magnitudes of the various types of business done in each of the villages.

Maps were employed to analyze the patterns the statistical variables demonstrated. Correlation was utilized to test for interrelations among phenomena and cluster analysis was employed to group villages to determine other influential variables on total village structure. Through these techniques, it was learned that the proportion of local employment was not related to either business magnitude or diversity, thereby invalidating the first two hypotheses. By correlating the business complex and population change data, the hypothesis that population change and the business structure were related was partially

confirmed. This study also showed that these small villages in west central Illinois function primarily to provide housing and services for the village populations and to only a small extent as service centers for tributary areas.

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