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THE INQUIRING USER

A number of people are asking about the kinds of data that will be available from the 1970 census, and how one goes about getting access to these data. These questions are pertinent, but many of them cannot be answered in detail at this time. The Data Access and Use Laboratory of the Bureau has set in motion machinery to provide detailed descriptions of the contents of the various summary tapes the Bureau will prepare from the 1970 census. In addition, pamphlets titled Data Access Descriptions take up topics such as costs, ways of doing business with the Bureau, the Address Coding Guide and Register, matching studies, and other matters pertaining to data access. These descriptions are released as soon as some definite, useful, and important information is available. It will probably never be possible to answer all questions users raise in the Data Access Descriptions, and sooner or later the serious user must get in a face-to-face discussion with members of the Bureau staff.

"The Inquiring User" is a new column for the newsletter. In it we attempt to provide answers to questions about Bureau plans that are being most frequently asked at press time. In reviewing the answers to these questions, most of which are about the output of the 1970 Census Tabulation and Data Delivery System, some terms appear again and again. To make sure we are together, the following distinctions should be kept in mind:

Tabulations or tabulated results, etc., mean the results of a computer operation. A tabulation is not accessible to the public. To become accessible, it must be put through an operation that makes the tabulation releasable. There are general tabulations (prepared at Bureau expense) and special tabulations (prepared at the expense of the user). In either case, the tabulations are processed to make them releasable. This means they are reviewed to insure that Bureau standards are met, and they are described by arranging in table form (for printed reports) or by preparing technical documentation (for summary tapes or punch cards).

Thus, releasable tabulations are tabulations that have been appropriately described, and that meet Bureau

statistical and confidentiality standards. They may be machine-readable (on tape) or printed (in bound books or loose sheets). The difference between general tabulations and special tabulations is the source of financing. Either of these must be made releasable before they can be used.

Question: Can we get block face data from the 1970 census?

Answer: Block face data will not be part of the general tabulation program of the Bureau, but block faces can be used in special tabulations to create areas defined by the user. For more information on block face data, see the Small-Area Data Activities newsletter of January 1968.

Question: What can we get "cheaply" in the way of data items from the 1970 census?

Answer: Data Access Description PA-2 "Cost Considerations in Obtaining Census Bureau Data and Services," lists cost ranges (on page 2) for various products. Printed reports and photocopies are cheapest of all the products. Of the materials available on tape, the cheapest will be the summary tapes. These releasable summaries of special tabulations on tape from the full census involve several hundred data cells at the block group¹ and block level, and several thousand data cells at the tract level. It may be necessary to consolidate some adjoining blocks or block groups, in some instances, to preserve confidentiality. These data will be cheap. They will be described in full in future Data Access Descriptions.

Question: What will special tabulations cost, say per 100,000 persons?

¹A fraction of a tract, usually, but not always, composed of contiguous blocks.

For sale by the Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C., 20233, and U.S. Department of Commerce Field Offices. 10 cents.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE C. R. Smith, Secretary
William H. Chartener, Assistant Secretary for Economic Affairs
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS A. Ross Eckler, Director

Answer: There are two kinds of special tabulations: Those requiring special programming and those which do not. In the first class, the costs will probably range up from about \$2,000 per 100,000 persons, plus a (programming) fixed cost that depends on the complexity of the program, not the size of the population. In the second class, general tabulation programs of the Bureau can be run against the basic record tapes to produce tabulations for new areas required by the user. These will cost about \$2,000 per 100,000 persons. Combinations of block faces could be in either class.

More definite information will be available during calendar year 1968, and persons interested in special tabulations will be encouraged to write their needs to the Bureau in order that some cost estimates tailored to individual needs can be prepared well in advance of the time when the basic record tape will be available for special tabulations.

Question: Will computer facilities be available so special tabulations need not wait for completion of Census general tabulation work?

Answer: The Bureau is working on the creation of arrangements to provide such computer facilities.

Question: When can we get special tabulations by combinations of blocks or block faces?

Answer: If the user is concerned mainly with making combinations of whole block tallies and is satisfied with the general tabulations prepared by the Bureau, then he could use the general tabulations which should be available beginning in the middle of 1971. If the user is mainly concerned with areas that must be built up from block faces and/or if the general tabulations of the Bureau are unacceptable, then it will be necessary to use the basic record tapes for special tabulations. Special tabulations based on the complete count records can be made as soon as the basic record tape is created, assuming we have tabulation facilities available. This timing should be approximately November or December of 1970. Special tabulations based on the sample data will be possible beginning about June of 1971.

Question: What restrictions would there be on the release of complete count or sample data?

Answer: Restrictions to protect the confidentiality of replies to the census and restrictions to protect users against unwarranted applications of results. These are being specified now and statements will be released as soon as the rules have received the approval of the Director of the Bureau. In general, the restrictions would limit access to the most detailed of the basic record tapes to Census Bureau employees. Areas with only a few reporting units will probably not be shown.

Question: What types of data will be available in 1970?

Answer: The kinds of material that were available in 1960 broadly describe the types of data that will be available in 1970; however, in 1970 it is expected that the published material will include more analytic detail at all levels than in 1960. In addition, it is known that the summary tapes from which these published materials are to be derived will include considerably more data than had been available in 1960. Obviously the new questions on the 1970 schedule will result in new data items. These points will be discussed in forthcoming Data Access Descriptions.

Question: For what kinds of areas will data be available without requesting special tabulations?

Answer: For blocks in urbanized areas and other places that entered the block statistics program, for enumeration districts in the non-mail census and block groupings in the mail census, for census tracts, for minor civil divisions and places within minor civil divisions, for counties, and for larger areas made up out of any of the aforementioned types of areas.

Question: Will the unprinted materials be available on tapes, cards, or listings?

Answer: Unprinted materials can be made available on summary tape, on microfilm, or on paper copies made from microfilm, as required by the user.

Question: If data are delivered on tape, does the purchaser provide the tape?

Answer: It will usually be decided on a case-by-case basis. Where a very large number of reels are involved it may be to the user's advantage to provide the tape.

Question: How is the Address Coding Guide to be used by those who helped prepare it?

Answer: Existence of an Address Coding Guide will permit the retrieval of 1970 census data for areas or segments of lists that do not correspond to the basic Census recognized geographic areas. The Census normally prepares tabulations for blocks, tracts, minor civil divisions, cities, counties, places, SMSA's, States, divisions, regions, and urbanized areas. Tabulations for any other kind of geographic area or segment of a list require definition either in terms of the aforementioned census areas (that is, they are composed of identifiable elements of those areas) or in terms of some other map features. The elements in the Address Coding Guide are being recognized in the basic record files required for the production of special tabulations. Therefore, these elements permit the accumulation of data for one or both sides of an entire street, for persons residing at all the addresses in a selected list of addresses, for reporting units in an area made up out of block faces, or for such other unique retrieval requirements as users may have.

Question: Will it be possible to obtain sample as well as full-count data for the areas being recognized in the local 6-digit field?

Answer: Yes. Sample reliability may be a problem for very small areas, of course.

Question: Will place of work-residence data be available on a tract basis?

Answer: Work place at the city, county (and perhaps the central business district) level will be shown for tract of residence in the general tabulations and printed reports. It is possible that most other tabulations of work place will be available only on a special order basis.

Question: Will it be possible to obtain detailed data (sample and full count) by MCD's or CCD's where these are combined to form census tracts?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Will the Bureau provide data for the split tracts for incorporated places of 10,000 or more in 1970 or will it be restricted to urban places of 25,000 or more as in 1960?

Answer: The possibility of producing such data will exist, but whether they will be part of the regular program of publications remains to be determined.

Question: Will any tract data be published for approved tracts in non-SMSA areas?

Answer: Again, the possibility will exist but whether it will appear as part of the census tract reports has not been determined. The best guess now is that such tabulations would be on a special order basis.

If you have questions that you wish discussed at this time, please relay them to the Census Data Access and Use Laboratory, Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C. 20233. All such questions will be accumulated and discussed as needed in this column of the Small-Area Data Activities newsletter.

USER GUIDE TESTED

As we go to press, the materials which will be sent to workshop attendees in advance of the Madison workshop are being prepared. These materials are intended to provide a self-teaching user guide to the 1970 census products. They will be reviewed and criticized at the workshop and then shaped into final form for use Nationwide at all workshops.

Agenda Items

Topics scheduled for discussion at Madison include, of course, a review of the contents and uses of the summary tapes, the problems of geographic identification, the use of documentation and understanding of census concepts, software problems, and prospects for a summary tape processing center. On May 14, there will be a critique of the workshop with participation by observers

who plan to sponsor workshops in other localities, and some of the Madison participants.

Future Plans

After the Madison experience has been evaluated, the final plans for the workshops will crystallize. Action can then be taken to describe in detail the probable responsibilities of each sponsor and to obtain as many sponsors as possible in areas for which there are, as yet, no volunteers. In our January 1968 issue of the newsletter, we listed the potential sponsors who had volunteered as of that issue. We have had many more volunteers since then. The additional volunteers are listed below:

Albuquerque, N. M.	- Arthur Blumenfeld
Arlington, Texas	- Robert L. Wegner
Blacksburg, Va.	- Dr. Eldon S. Miller
Boston, Mass.	- Robert G. Davidson
Cedar Rapids, Ia.	- Robert Madson
Cincinnati, Ohio	- Fred J. Lundberg and Fred R. Rauch
Des Moines, Ia.	- Jack H. Wesenberg
Detroit, Michigan	- Richard S. Hanel
Eugene, Oregon	- Robert Keith
Gainesville, Fla.	- C. C. Osterbind
Honolulu, Hawaii	- Tom Dinell
Jacksonville, Fla.	- Mrs. Jean Jeffords
Kansas City, Mo.	- Dr. Stuart Eurban
Los Angeles, Calif.	- Fred E. Case, James L. Lewis, W. T. Chambers
Lawrence, Kansas	- Dr. Robert T. Aangeenbrug
Muncie, Indiana	- Lester H. Clark
Newport News, Va.	- Albert J. Stodghill
New York, N.Y.	- J. Douglas Carroll (co-sponsor)
Norfolk, Va.	- R. F. Foeller
Oklahoma City, Okla.	- Elliott A. Chamberlain
Peoria, Illinois	- Donald J. Irving
Pittsburgh, Pa.	- Wade G. Fox
Portland, Ore.	- Robert Blakesley
Providence, R.I.	- Dr. James Sakoda
Pueblo, Colorado	- C. Allan Blomquist
Sacramento, Calif.	- Walter Hollmann
San Bernardino, Calif.	- Neil B. Pfulb
Tulsa, Oklahoma	- Peggy Chambers
Williamsburg, Va.	- Warner Moss
Wilkes-Barre, Pa.	- Edward Heiselberg

AVAILABILITY OF PLACE OF WORK DATA IN THE 1970 CENSUS

In 1960, place of work was identified for places of 50,000 or more and for counties. Statistics on the number of persons working in or outside their county of residence were tabulated for places of 10,000 or more and counties. For Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas (SMSA's) of 100,000 or more, information on the characteristics of commuters within the central city and between the central city and its ring were tabulated. A special report, *Journey to Work*, presented comprehensive information on the work place of residents of SMSA's of 250,000 or more and on the daily flow of workers into, and out of, these SMSA's as well as among the constituent parts thereof. Similar tabulations are planned for the 1970 census.

In addition, the Bureau hopes to be able to prepare place of work tabulations in greater detail for SMSA's

where the mail enumeration procedure is used. For these places, tabulations will show the number of persons who work in the Central Business District and other census tracts having high concentrations of employment, as well as the number who work in the SMSA's counties and its cities of 50,000 or more and the residual whose place of work is outside the SMSA boundaries.

If Congress authorizes the necessary funds for coding place of work, non-mail SMSA's can obtain the same kinds of tabulations outlined for mail SMSA's provided they assist the Bureau in the preparation of an Address Coding Guide covering the urbanized area of the central city. Cooperative agreements for such assistance must be made between the Bureau and the SMSA on or before July 1, 1969. Where the Address Coding Guide is not established prior to the census, the information tabulated will be restricted to the 1960 level.

For all SMSA's, detailed tabulations of place of work for special areas by residence, by characteristics of the workers, or other special tabulations to meet agency or local needs will be undertaken on a cost-reimbursable basis.

AVAILABILITY OF STATISTICS FOR CITY BLOCKS IN THE 1970 CENSUSES OF POPULATION AND HOUSING

The Bureau of the Census has recently published notice in the Federal Register outlining the scope of the block statistics program for the 1970 Censuses of Population and Housing.

In the 1970 Censuses of Population and Housing, data for city blocks will be tabulated and printed for all cities with a population of 50,000 or more in the 1960 census or a subsequent special census conducted by the Bureau of the Census.

The information to be printed by city block includes the count of population, the number of housing units, tenure, value or rent, plumbing and other facilities, the number of occupied units with Negro household head, the number of units with 1.01 or more persons per room, and other selected population and housing characteristics. Additional information may be available at cost of reproduction on tape or photocopies.

In addition to data for cities of 50,000 or more, tabulations of block data will be made for the remainder of an urbanized area of a Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (SMSA) if the cooperation of a metropolitan regional planning group is obtained. For those urbanized areas to be enumerated by mail, this group must assist by reviewing the map prepared by the Census Bureau and helping to prepare an Address Coding Guide to identify blocks. For urbanized areas not enumerated by mail, the review of the map is required to assure tabulation by blocks. When the regional group does not provide the required cooperation, an individual locality may supply the cooperation needed, i.e., review the map and assist in the Address Coding Guide preparation if needed, and will thus assure block tabulations for the area for which the assistance was provided. Two copies of the machine tabulation sheets and one copy of the map will be provided to the cooperating organization. Additional copies for the planning group, local governments, or other users will

be provided at the cost of reproduction. The Bureau has not yet decided whether to print city block data for the portion of the urbanized area outside cities of 50,000 or more.

In urbanized areas, for cities whose last official census count was less than 50,000 but which are reported with a population of 50,000 or more in the 1970 census and where cooperation was provided, block data will also be tabulated and printed. However, for such cities outside urbanized areas, block data will be tabulated and printed only if the specific locality participates in the contract program.

To obtain block data for a place of less than 50,000 population outside urbanized areas, the local authorities must contract for the tabulations on or before July 1, 1968, agree to supply the block map, and, where required, assist in the preparation of the Address Coding Guide. A fee will be charged to cover the tabulation and publication of the data, with 100 copies of the report to be provided to the purchaser. The fees, based on population size, are shown below:

FEES FOR CONTRACT BLOCK STATISTICS PROGRAM FOR URBAN PLACES OUTSIDE 1970 URBANIZED AREAS

Population Size Group	Fee
Under 10,000	\$ 875
10,000 - 14,999	1,000
15,000 - 19,999	1,125
20,000 - 24,999	1,250
25,000 - 29,999	1,400
30,000 - 34,999	1,550
35,000 - 39,999	1,700
40,000 - 44,999	1,850
45,000 - 49,999	1,975

Any city which contracts for block statistics and which reaches a population of 50,000 or more in the census will have the fee completely refunded.

Requests for participation in the contract block program or for further information on the program should be addressed to Mr. Arthur F. Young, Chief, Housing Division, Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C. 20233.

CENSUS USER DICTIONARY IN PREPARATION

The Data Access and Use Laboratory of the Bureau of the Census has been working for some months to develop a Census User Dictionary as part of a user guide package describing the products of the 1970 Censuses of Population and Housing. The Dictionary will bring together in one place definitions of all the geographic and subject terms and concepts used by the Bureau to collect and present data from the Decennial Censuses of Population and Housing. The Lab hopes the Dictionary will prove a useful tool in facilitating communications between the Bureau and the user.

The Dictionary will be available in several versions to meet the needs of a variety of users. A simplified version is planned for the user who requires clear, complete definitions of census concepts such as "female head primary family," "other income," or "SMSA," but does not want to know about the technical refinements to these definitions necessitated by special problems and procedures in collecting and processing the data. This version of the Dictionary is rapidly nearing completion.

For the user who does require the precise operational definition of a concept, a more technical version is planned. This version will include details on how the meaning of a data cell or tabulation is affected by procedures to correct or allow for blanks or inconsistent responses on schedules, etc.

The Lab is taking advantage of the capabilities of the Administrative Terminal System software to allow flexibility in creating the Census User Dictionary. This software enables the Dictionary to be continuously updated--additions, deletions, and modifications of concepts can be introduced as soon as they are made. A further development which the Lab plans to pursue is to add sections of the Dictionary for the other subject divisions of the Bureau--Governments, Business, etc., and also a section containing definitions of technical processing terms.

For further information about progress on the Census User Dictionary, contact Mrs. Constance F. Citro, Data Access and Use Laboratory, Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C. 20233.

NEW BIBLIOGRAPHY, "DATA ACCESS PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE FROM THE BUREAU OF THE CENSUS"

The Data Access and Use Laboratory has prepared a cumulative bibliography, covering the period 1963 to the present, of all materials available from the Bureau of the Census on the subject of census data access and use. The items listed include articles, speeches, and pamphlets on availability of census data, measures to improve the customer services of the Bureau, innovations in format, presentation, and utilization of census data.

The bibliography, which now includes about 30 items, will be updated regularly. Instructions for ordering

particular items are included. To be placed on a mailing list to receive the bibliography as it is updated, write to Mrs. Carol A. Sellner, Data Access and Use Laboratory, Bureau of the Census, Washington D.C. 20233.

ARE YOU RECEIVING TOO MANY COPIES OF THIS NEWSLETTER?

If you are, we apologize. Our mailing list was prepared from several sources and some names were duplicated. If this is a problem for you, please let us know. Write to Mrs. Carolee Bush, Data Access and Use Laboratory, Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C. 20233.

EXAMPLES OF SPECIAL TABULATIONS

This issue of the newsletter makes a point of distinguishing general tabulations from special tabulations. To give readers some notion of the variety of special tabulations prepared in the past, some examples are provided below. These tabulations used the census data collection as a national information resource to provide needed answers to important questions. By using the census information resource as a system for providing tabulations instead of compiling new data from new censuses or surveys, vast sums of money, usually tax dollars, were saved. In all cases of census information resource use, the confidentiality of census returns is protected because only statistical summaries are provided (or needed) to answer the questions posed.

The following selected list of special projects involving census information resource use in the last five years is illustrative of the variety of tasks, purposes, and costs. Common to all items in the list, however, is the need for geographic detail for areas that could be provided only with census data.

In the following list of examples, the retrieval costs from the census information resource are regarded as very low in comparison to the importance of the program in which the data were used and the amount of data provided.

DESCRIPTIONS OF SPECIAL TABULATIONS	PURPOSE	APPROXIMATE COST OF TABULATIONS
Migration to each State Economic Area in the Nation from every other State Economic Area	Used by the Dept. of Agriculture to study population shifts and anticipate consequences for agricultural and rural programs.	\$ 9,300
Characteristics of teen-agers in a large city.	Used by a research center of a major university for a detailed analysis of factors associated with educational development and abnormal behavior. Census data provided the knowledge about the basic population.	19,800
White/nonwhite differentials in income for the State of Alabama.	Used by the Dept. of Justice in poll tax case litigation to support basic constitutional objectives.	8,000
Labor force characteristics for all the counties in California.	Needed by the State of California to develop labor market data to help locate industry, to set up training programs, to stimulate growth.	32,000
Place of residence data by place of work data for the State of Connecticut.	Used by the Conn. State Highway Dept. for transportation planning, (i.e., future highway construction, maintenance, etc.)	2,300
Occupations of employed persons by the industry in which they work for all non-SMSA areas in the U.S.	Provided basic data to the Dept. of Labor for national and local planning of employment security.	132,000
Children under 21 living without their parents and white/Negro differentials in income and education in Mississippi.	Used by the Dept. of Justice in providing evidence for challenging State laws denying free public education to children living without parents (mostly Negro children).	6,900

DESCRIPTIONS OF SPECIAL TABULATIONS	PURPOSE	APPROXIMATE COST OF TABULATIONS
Characteristics of "neighborhoods" (composed of census enumeration districts) in the San Francisco area.	Used in a model of its growth to plan transportation, community renewal, business locations, taxes and expected revenue, etc.	\$19,800
Data on the population 5 to 17, families, families with income under \$2,000, and children 5 to 17 in such families for all the counties, places, and minor civil divisions in the U.S.	Used by the Office of Education to decide on the distribution of funds provided by the Aid to Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.	17,400
Income by family size, race, and urban/rural residence for every census enumeration district in the U.S.	Used by the Office of Economic Opportunity for basic planning of resource allocation and identification of target areas and population.	26,000
Special small area tabulations of housing and households for New York City.	Used by the NYC Planning Board to analyze and project the city's manpower potential, job requirements, new housing construction and future needs, etc.	19,000
Provision of small area population and housing data and latitude and longitude coordinates tape.	Office of Emergency Planning used the basic census summaries on tape, plus the census geographic service, to construct data needed for emergency damage assessment.	40,000
Low income families in Bergen County, New Jersey.	Used by the County Engineer's Office in planning for low cost housing for the elderly.	3,900
The forms of transportation to work chosen by workers in Nassau and Suffolk Counties, New York.	Used by the City Planning Board in evaluating workers' transportation patterns and needs for future plans.	8,100

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