

# DATA TAPES and REELS



A NEWSLETTER ABOUT  
MACHINE-READABLE DATA ACQUISITIONS BY THE UNIVERSITY

NO. 1 SOCIAL SCIENCE DATA ARCHIVE

SURVEY RESEARCH LABORATORY

NOV. 1970

## Introduction

In line with the function of SRL to inform the University community of developments regarding Census materials and other data available in machine readable form, this is the first issue of a newsletter concerning the 1970 Census of Population and Housing, and related machine readable acquisitions by the University. Although all printed material pertaining to the Census will be handled by campus libraries, the Survey Research Laboratory, through its Social Science Data Archive, will serve as the repository for data in machine readable form.

In accordance with these objectives, we are sending this initial issue to all faculty to ascertain who would be interested in receiving further issues of this newsletter. If you are interested, please fill out the attached sheet and return it to us.

## The Latest on the Census

As general background, here is the latest information we have on the availability of the 1970 Census material. The Census used three questionnaires:

the complete-count questionnaire, answered by 100% of the population, and two more detailed questionnaires, completed by 20% and 5% samples. Tabulations from these counts will be available in tabular printed form and on maps. In addition, the Bureau of the Census will publish books and pamphlets explaining and evaluating the Census. Acquisitions of these printed materials will be handled through campus libraries.

The census data will also be available on magnetic tape since the volume of data makes it more practical to do analysis by computer. The data are organized on a geographic basis and will be released in six series or summary counts. There will be 2,054 magnetic tapes in a complete set. The summary counts differ with respect to sample size and geographic organization. Tapes will be released by state, with tabulations for the less populated states being completed first. The First Count was scheduled to begin release August 1, but this date was not met. The tapes may be available in October. Consequently, all tabulations will probably be later than estimated.

1. First Count Summary Tapes contain complete-count population and

housing data for States, counties, congressional districts, minor civil divisions and enumeration districts. Release of these tapes was expected to begin Aug.1 and be completed by December.

2. Second Count Summary Tapes contain complete-count data at the census tract and minor civil division level. Scheduled release is Oct. 1970 through April 1971.

3. Third Count Summary Tapes contain complete-count data for city blocks. Release is expected to begin in January 1971 and continue through July 1971.

4. Fourth Count Summary Tapes, covering 5% and 20% samples, includes data down to the level of minor civil divisions. Release is expected to begin in January 1971 and continue through October 1971.

5. Fifth Count Summary Tapes contain summaries for three and five digit ZIP-code areas. They cover the 5% and 20% samples and are expected to become available in mid-1971.

6. Sixth Count Summary Tapes contain housing data for cities with populations over 50,000 and population data for cities greater than 100,000. Data are drawn from the 5% and 20% samples.

### Highlights of the Census

Preliminary counts indicate the following trends:

The ten most populous states in 1970 are the same as those on the 1960 list, though there were some shifts in rank. California now surpasses New York in population.

Migration continues to be predominantly from farms to cities, mid-county to coastal areas, and South to North. The major exception is the State of Florida, whose population has shown a 34% increase over the decade.

Suburban growth rates continue to exceed those of central cities.

Counties containing large, expanding universities have experienced significant increases in population. This is largely a result of students now being counted at the place where they attend school. Champaign County is one of the counties showing such gains.

Illinois' population in 1970 is 10,973,986, an 8.9% increase, or an absolute increase of about 900,000. It dropped in rank over the decade from fourth to fifth.

### Tape Usability

The data as distributed by the Bureau of the Census are formatted in geographic sequence. This is satisfactory for state and local governmental agencies, but the tapes will need to be reformatted into variable sequence before they can be used by most researchers.

Because the number of tapes will be so great, the cost of reformatting is too prohibitive to be undertaken by individual academicians. Consequently, plans are being made for one or two agencies to reformat and distribute the tapes. This will facilitate cross-sectional analysis.

Unfortunately, this may take one to two years, so the use of these data for research purposes may not be as imminent as many have hoped. We will have further news about this in future issues.

### Reminder

Be sure to fill out and return the attached sheet if you want to receive future issues of this Newsletter. Feel free to add any comments or suggestions you may have about the sort of information you would like to have in future issues.

