The following information is reprinted from *Census '90 Basics,* a publication of the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

U.S. BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

The Census Bureau collects information about the Nation's people and its institutions, producing come 2,000 reports each year. Information provided by the Census Bureau is used widely in all walks of public and private life—business and industry, government, academic institutions, and community organizations—wherever there is a need for better understanding about how our society functions.

Census data form the basis for political representation and serve as benchmarks in measuring the Nation's economic well-being. Business people, community leaders, and others use Census Bureau data to study area characteristics, select sites for new facilities, assess economic potential, and so forth.

PERSPECTIVES

Historic

The 1990 Census of Population and Housing is this Nation's bicentennial census—the 21st consecutive enumeration. Since 1790, when Thomas Jefferson supervised our country's first enumeration, a population portrait has regularly marked each decade. Other statistics programs were added over the years to meet the Nation's needs. For example, the first census of manufactures was collected in 1810. Housing data entered the picture on a large scale in 1940 with the first housing census.

Contemporary

Population and housing, the main subjects of the decennial census, also are covered in surveys between censuses. Population surveys provide current estimates of population characteristics, such as the number of persons with a college education, with incomes below the poverty level, and by marital status. The Census Bureau also prepares estimates of the population by age, race, and sex, and projections of future population for the United States and individual States. It conducts special local censuses sponsored and paid for by State and local governments.

Current housing surveys furnish data comparable to those of the decennial census (but with considerably less geographic detail) as well as many other data items, such as housing inventory change, indicator of housing and neighborhood quality, and rental of new apartments.

Every 5 years, for years ending in "2" and "7," the Census Bureau conducts censuses of governments and economic activities. The census of governments shows organization employment, and finances for State and local governments. Annual surveys keep the information current.

The Census Bureau focuses on economic activities in the censuses of agriculture, wholesale and retail trade, service industries, construction industries, manufactures, mineral industries, and transportation. To keep pace with new developments, the Census Bureau also publishes results from a variety of monthly, quarterly, and annual surveys on areas of economic activity. In addition the Census Bureau compiles annual statistics on foreign trade and on other countries. No wonder the Census Bureau has been called "Factfinder for the Nation."

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CENSUS '90 Basics

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CENSUS

Two hundred years of census-taking in America certainly qualifies the decennial count as a national tradition. The results of the enumeration of people and their housing units every 10 years reflect the social and economic fabric of American life. Accurate counts from the 1990 census will be the basis for planning our communities, making business decisions, and accomplishing a host of other activities in the last decade of this century. The census also will help provide a solid statistical framework for the 21st century.

The Census Bureau expects to employ an army of 480,000 census workers—more than the number of people who join the Armed Forces in a year—over the period 1988-91. They compile and check address lists and gather and process vital information on approximately 250 million people and 106 million housing units in the United States. They also enumerate people and housing units in Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands of the United States, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, and Palau.

The results will be a Census Day snapshot of population, socioeconomic, and housing characteristics. The data collected will influence:

Ž Political power—The number of seats to which each State is entitled in the U.S. House of Representatives is determined by census numbers, and the boundaries selected for congressional and State legislative districts are strongly influenced by them. At the county and municipal levels, election districts must be drawn using census statistics to ensure equal representation.

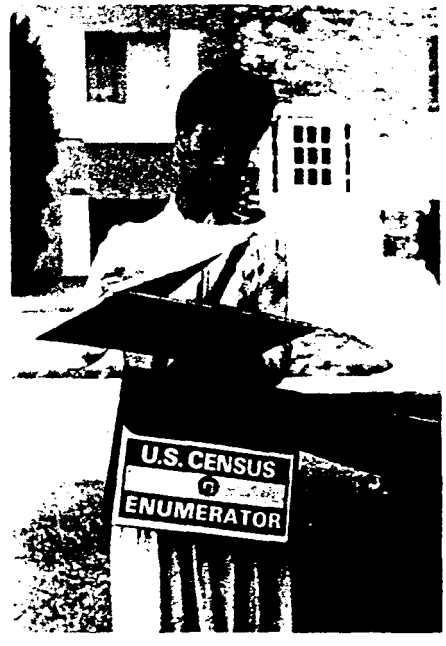
- *Federal and State program funds* — Census data are used by Federal and State governments to distribute billions of dollars each year to the Nation's local governments for a wide variety of public purposes.

- *Planning for the future* — Census data are vital in planning community, private, and public facilities and services, such as shopping centers, schools, and home health care. Accurate census information is essential to help ensure the success of these developments.

ACTIVITIES FOR CENSUS '90

In 1984, the 10-year census cycle began with a year of planning and public comment—local public meetings, user conferences, Federal data forums, etc.—followed by 3 years of conducting test censuses to evaluate methods and procedures for the big count. A full dress rehearsal was held in the spring of 1988 in parts of Missouri and Washington.

A variety of activities concerned with preparing and conducting the census then followed. Here are highlights about some of them:



Checking addresses for '90 census

Compiling the Address List — The Census Bureau hired 35,000 temporary employees during 1988-89 to go door-to-door compiling a list of about 43 million addresses of housing units, many outside metropolitan areas. In addition the Census Bureau purchased about 55 million residential addresses in large metropolitan areas from commercial mailing list companies. Census and Postal Service workers checked and updated the address list before the Census Bureau produced mailing labels for the questionnaire envelopes.

The Mailing — On March 23, 1990, the Census Bureau will mail census questionnaires to most housing units in the country; in some rural areas, the forms will be delivered

Postal workers sort census questionnaires

by census takers. Respondents will be asked to answer census questions and return forms by Census Day, April 1. Thus, the census is truly a "do-it-yourself" count. In the more sparsely settled areas and in Puerto Rico, enumerators will pick up and, if necessary, help respondents complete the questionnaires. On the night of March 20, enumerators will count people living in pre-identified shelters, on the streets, and in similar situations.

The Follow-Up — The Census Bureau will have about 300,000 temporary workers during this peak period. Many help by following up, either by phone or personal visit, at housing units for which the Census Bureau has not received a questionnaire or received one not completely filled out. Also, the enumerators collect information about vacant units and for people living in group quarters.

Local Review — The Census Bureau's Local Review Program gives local officials opportunities to point out areas where housing-unit coverage appears to be incomplete and provide documentation to support their conclusions. The program consists of two stages: a precensus review of figures on the number of housing units derived from address lists in areas for which the Census Bureau compiled such lists, and a postcensus review of preliminary housing-unit counts from the census. Census staff will use the results of each review to pinpoint areas in need of corrective action.

Data Processing — Respondents will return most census questionnaires by mail to one of over 450 district offices (DOs) or to one of seven processing centers. The district offices will perform certain clerical checking and editing operations on the questionnaires as they are received.

Census Day is on April 1st

After the initial processing, the questionnaires received by the district offices are packed into trucks, which are sealed for security, and sent to one of the processing centers to be worked on further.

The processing centers:

- Receive, sort, and microfilm questionnaires
- Prepare the written responses for automatic coding
- Convert microfilm into computer-readable form using FOSDIC (Film Optical Sensing Device for Input to Computers) equipment
- Edit the data by computer to check for completeness and consistency
- Transmit data electronically to Census Bureau headquarters, or send questionaires back to district offices if additional follow-up is required.

Once the data have arrived at Census Bureau headquarters, Census Bureau staff:

- Perform computer coding, editing, and related operations to prepare the tapes (called edited detail files) with the records for all housing units and individuals for processing
- Prepare tabulations from edited detail files
- Review the resulting statistics
- Prepare data products, such as reports, computer tapes, microfiche, and compact disc-read only memory (CD-ROM) laser disks

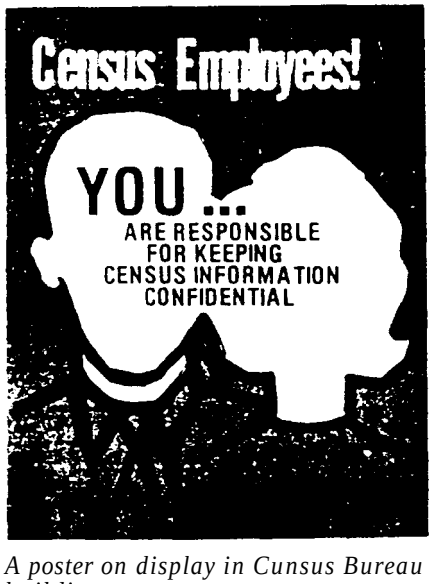
Reporting Results — The Department of Commerce will report 1990 census counts to the President and to the States by the deadlines set forth in Title 13 of the U.S. Code, Section 141 (b)—December 31,

1990, for the total population count by State and April 1, 1991, for detailed population counts within each State. If no decision on adjustment has been made by the statutory deadlines, the results of the traditional enumeration will be published with a notation stating that these population counts are subject to possible correction for undercount or overcount. If a decision is made to adjust, the adjusted figures will be released no later than July 15, 1991. (Additional information on data products presenting 1990 census results is furnished later in the "Data Products" section.)

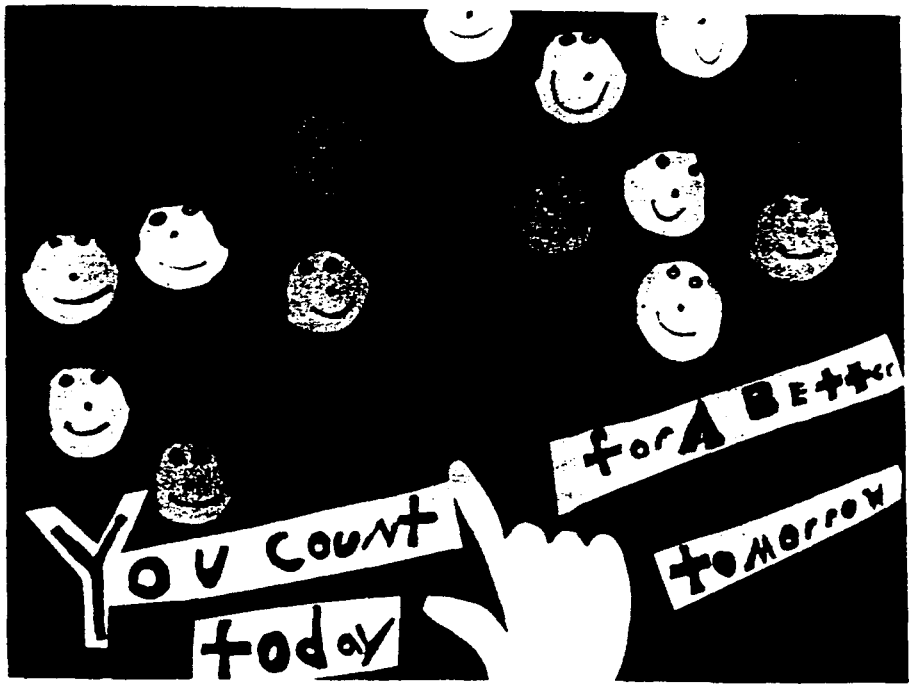
CONFIDENTIALITY

Census officials are highly aware of the importance of confidentiality in taking the census. Conducting a census in a democracy that values personal privacy requires special steps to gain cooperation. Title 13 of the U.S. Code authorizes the census, outlines its timing and scope (and the scope of other Census Bureau censuses and surveys), requires the public to answer the questions, mandates that all individual responses be held confidential, and sets the penalties for disclosing confidential information.

Census publications and other products generally contain combined statistics for geographic areas. Also, samples of responses (with names, addresses, and other identifying information removed) are available for users who want to design their own tabulations. The census questionnaire does not ask for Social Security numbers.



A poster on display in Cunsus Bureau buildings



Poster done by Jennifer Costello, a pupil in the 5th grade at the Shaw Visual and Performing Arts Center, St. Louis, Missouri

The Bureau works hard to ensure that confidentiality is not breached. Edits are performed on all data products to make sure confidential information is not released for any individual or household. Confidentiality means that only sworn employees of the Census Bureau may have access to individual census information for a period of 72 years, with the exception that individuals or their legal representatives can obtain official transcripts of information about themselves from a census for use as evidence of age, relationship, citizenship, or the like.

After 72 years, the records become public. Copies of census schedules (forms on which enumerators recorded information) from 1790 through 1910 are available, usually on microfilm for research at the National Archives and at libraries in various parts of the country.

CENSUS CONTENT AND SAMPLE DESIGN

Information from the 1990 census will be derived either from questions asked of the entire population or from questions asked of only a sample of the population. Those questions asked about every person and housing unit are called 100-percent or short-form questions. The others are called sample or long-form questions.

Those households receiving the short-form questionnaire will be asked only the 100-percent questions, and those receiving the long-form questionnaire will be asked both the sample questions and the 100-percent questions.

Some 17.7 million housing units will receive a long form, out of an estimated total of 106 million units. Sampling rates will vary depending on geographic location and population size. Key elements of the scheme are as follows:

Ž Housing units in governmental jurisdictions, such as counties and incorporated places, with an estimated population of fewer than 2,500 in 1988 will be sampled at the rate of 1 in 2.

Ž Jurisdictions having an estimated 1988 population of 2,500 or more will be sampled at a 1-in-6 rate, except for very populous census tracts and block numbering areas (based on pre-census housing unit counts) that will be sampled at 1 in 8.

Data items that will be collected are shown in figure 1. The 1990 questions are similar to those asked in the 1980 census. This is primarily because of the continuing importance of basic facts about the population and housing of the Nation and the need to have comparable data for assessing changes occuring over the decade.

Tabulation of data from the 100-percent questions will be prepared for areas as small as a block (see description below), as well as larger areas. Because 100-percent data are not subject to sampling variability, they are accurate for areas as small as blocks.

Tabulation from the sample questions will be prepared for areas as small as block groups and for all governmental units, census tracts, and block numbering areas. The higher sample rate for small areas, described above, is expected to produce data as reliable as that for larger areas.

Processing sample data, which often involves written-in responses, will take longer than processing of 100-percent data. Therefore, 100-percent data for any area will be available before the sample data for that area. The amount of detail published will, in general, be greater for large areas like counties, large cities, metropolitan statistical areas, and States.

Figure 1. 1990 CENSUS CONTENT

100-PERCENT COMPONENT

Population

Household relationship
Sex
Race
Age
Marital status
Hispanic origin

Housing

Number of units in structure
Number of rooms in unit
Tenure—owned or rented
Value of home or monthly rent
Congregate housing (meals included in rent)
Vacancy characteristics

SAMPLE COMPONENT

Population

Social characteristics:
Education—enrollment and attainment
Place of birth, citizenship, and year of entry to U.S.
Ancestry
Language spoken at home
Migration (residence in 1985)
Disability
Fertility
Veteran status

Economic characteristics:
Labor force
Occupation, industry, and class of worker
Place of work and journey to work
Work experience in 1989
Income in 1989
Year last worked

Housing

Year moved into residence
Number of bedrooms
Plumbing and kitchen facilities
Telephone in unit
Vehicles available
Heating fuel
Source of water and method of sewage disposal
Year structure built
Condominium status
Farm residence
Shelter costs, including utilities

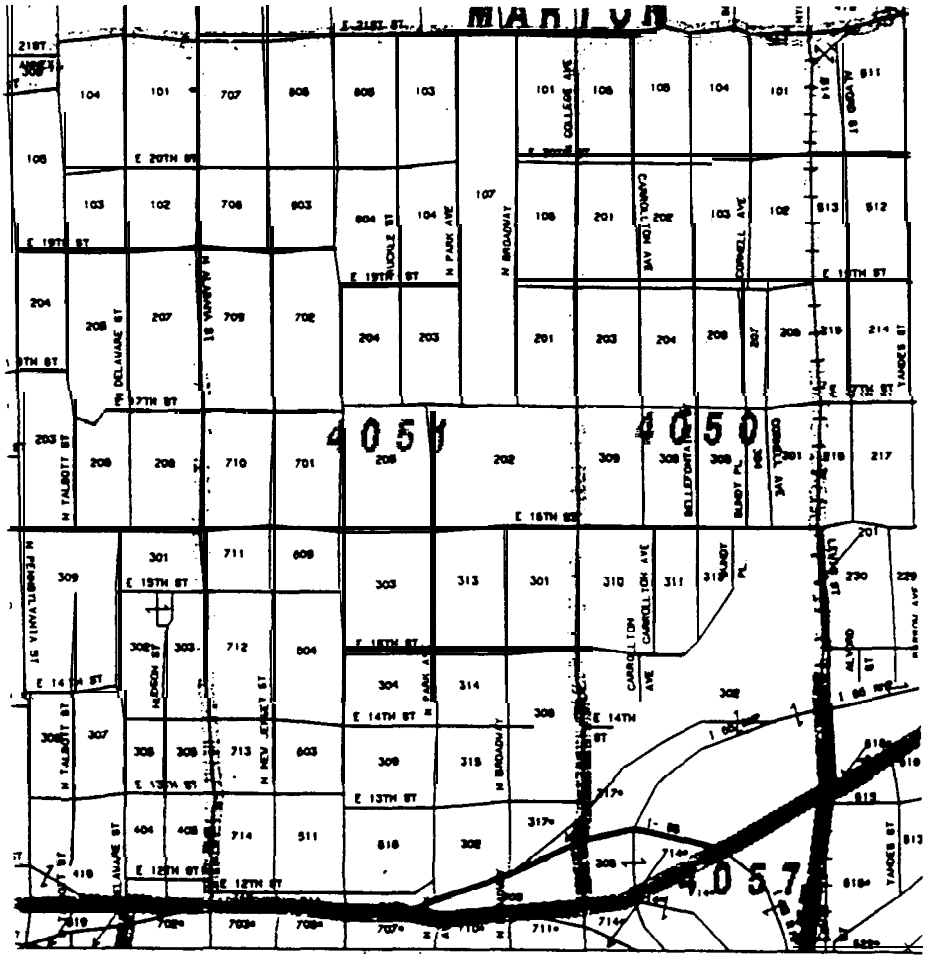
NOTE: Questions dealing with the subjects covered in the 100-percent component will be asked of all persons and housing units. Those covered by the sample component will be asked of a portion or sample of the population and housing units.

GEOGRAPHIC AREAS

Census data are provided for various political and statistical areas. Many are illustratad in figure 2.

Political areas include:

- United States
- States, the District of Columbia Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands of the United States, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, and Palau
- Congressional districts
- Voting districts
- Counties
- Minor civil divisions (MCDs; legal subdivisions of counties, called townships in many States)
- Incorporated places (cities, villages and so forth)
- American Indian reservations and associated trust lands
- Alaska Native Regional Corporations (ANRCs)



Excerpt from a map showing census tracts 4050 and 4051 and their blocks in Indianapolis. (This map has been reduced.)

Statistical areas include:

- *Census regions and divisions*— The 50 States and the District of Columbia have been grouped into four regions, each containing two or three divisions.
- *Metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs), formerly known as standard metropolitan statistical areas (SMSAs)* — Areas consisting of one or more countries (minor civil divisions in New England) including a large population nucleus and nearby communities that have a high degree of interaction. Primary metropolitan statistical areas (PMSAs) are MSAs that make up consolidated metropolitan statistical areas (CMSAs).
- *Urbanized areas (UAs)* — Defined by population density, each includes a central city and the surrounding closely settled urban fringe (surburbs) that together have a population of 50,000 or more with a population density generally exceeding 1,000 people per square mile.
- *Urban/rural* — All persons living in urbanized areas and in places of 2,500 or more population outside of UAs constitute the "urban" population; all others constitute the "rural" population.
- *Census county divisions (CCDs)* — Statistical subdivisions of a county defined by the Census Bureau in cooperation with State officials in 21 States where minor civil divisions do not exist or are not adequate for producing subcounty statistics.
- *Census designated places (CDPs)* — Densely settled population centers without legally defined corporate limits or corporate powers.
- *Census tracts* — Small, locally defined statistical areas in metropolitan areas and some other counties. They generally have stable boundaries and an average population of 4,000.
- *Block numbering areas (BNAs)*— Areas defined with State assistance, for grouping and numbering blocks and reporting statistics in counties without census tracts.
- *Block groups* — Groupings of census blocks within census tracts and BNAs. (These replace the enumeration districts (EDs) for which the Census Bureau provided data for many areas of the Nation in the 1980 census.)
- *Blocks* — The smallest census geographic areas, normally bounded by streets and other

prominent physical features. County, MCD, and place limits also serve as block boundaries. Blocks may be as small as a typical city block bounded by four streets or as large as several square miles in rural areas. The 1990 census will be the first census in which data will be available by block for the entire Nation.

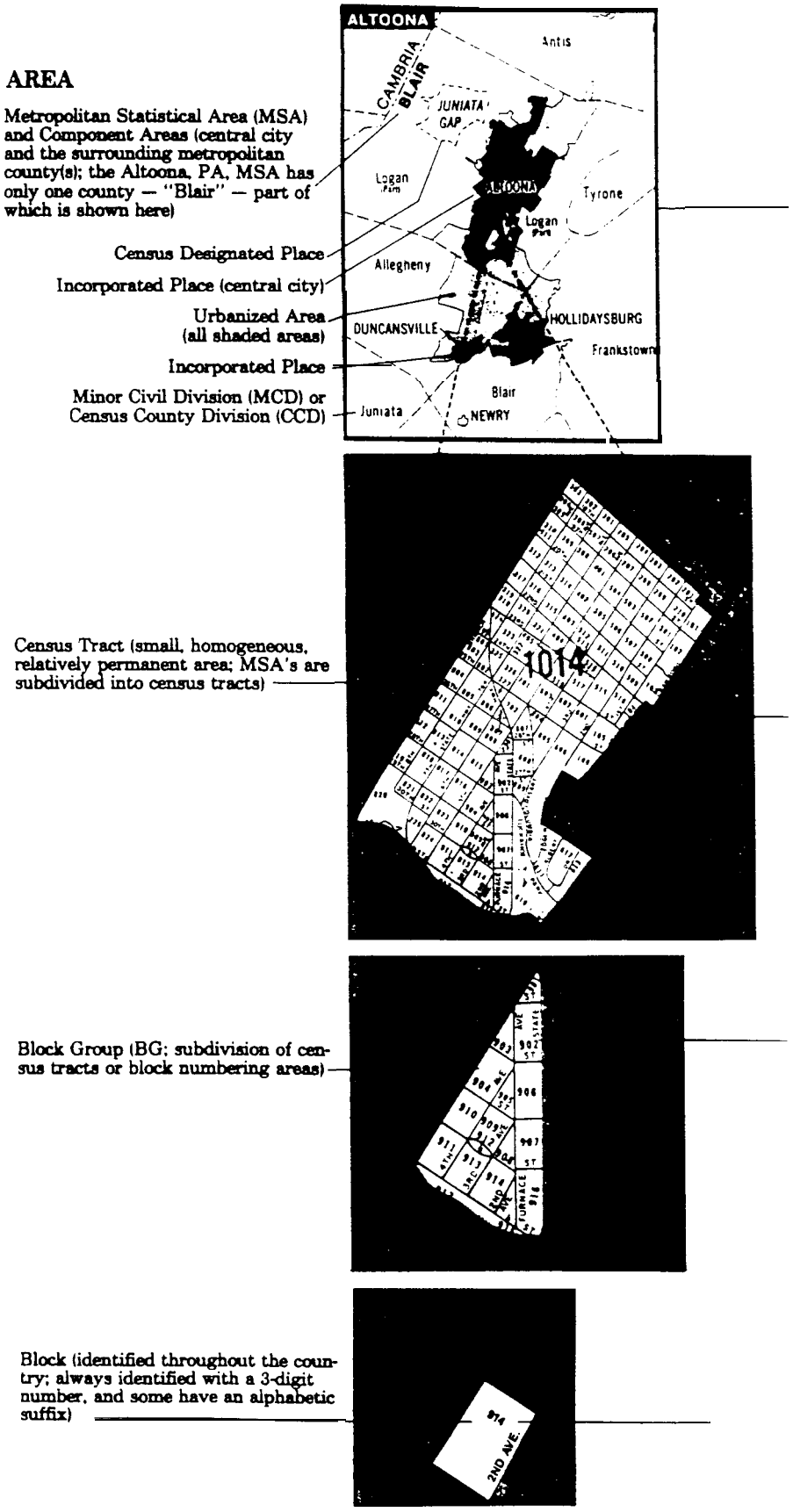
- *Alaska Native village statistical areas (ANVSAs)* — A 1990 census statistical area that delineates the settled area of each Alaska Native village (ANV). Officials of Alaska Native Regional Corporations (business and nonprofit corporate entities) outlined the ANVSAs for the Census Bureau for the sole purpose of presenting 1990 census data

- *Tribal designated statistical areas (TDSAs)* — Geographic areas outlined for 1990 census tabulation purposes by American Indian tribal officials of recognized tribes that do not have a recognized land area.

- *Tribal jurisdiction statistical areas (TJSAs)* — Geographic areas delineated by tribal officials in Oklahoma for 1990 census tabulation purposes.

Figure 2.

Geographic Subdivisions in a Metropolitan County



and in a Non-Metropolitan County

POPULATION SIZE

These areas vary greatly in population size

AREA

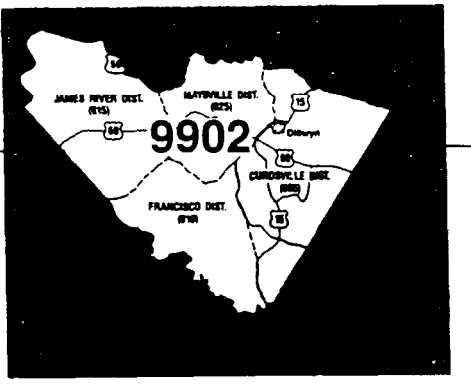
County

Place

Minor Civil Division (MCD) or Census County Division (CCD)

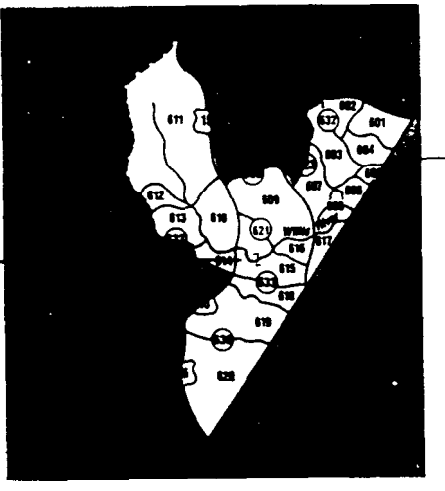
Avg. pop. under 4,000

Average 4,000



Block Numbering Area (used in counties that do not have census tracts)

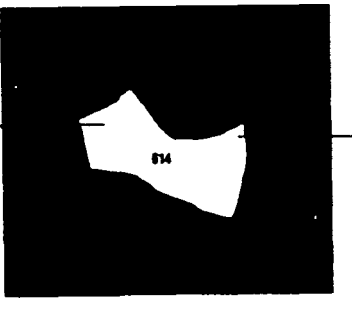
Average 1,000



Block Group (BG; subdivision of census tracts or block numbering areas; BG's in rural areas usually are larger in area than those in more densely settled areas)

Average 30

Average 85



Block (identified throughout the country; blocks in rural areas usually are larger in area than those in more densely settled areas)

DATA PRODUCTS

The products from the 1990 census will be available in a variety of new and traditional media. The Census Bureau expects the traditional media forms—printed reports, maps, and computer tapes—to provide the largest amount of 1990 census data to users. It also will release a number of products on microfiche and CD-ROM laser disks and through its online service, CENDATA™. See the lists of products, figures 3, 5, and 6.

Printed Reports — printed reports will be the most convenient and readily available source of data for many census users. Data presented in the 1990 census reports will be similar in kind and quantity to the data contained in reports resulting from the 1980 census. As in 1980, the reports will not include data for blocks or block groups.

The census data contained in printed reports are arranged in tables, as illustrated in figure 4. Population and housing characteristics are presented for specified geographic areas: for example, a table may present the number of rented housing units in a census tract, the number of persons 65 years of age or older in a city, or the total population of a county.

The Census Bureau will release 1990 census reports in several series, described in figure 3. Report series that present data at the small-area level, such as census tracts, will contain limited subject-matter detail (for example, counts of people by age ranges—under 5 years, 5 to 9 years, etc.—rather than by single years). Reports that include greater amounts of subject-matter detail will include less geographic detail.

There are several important differences between 1990 and 1980 reports:

- Speedier release of data. One of the Census Bureau's major goals for 1990 is quicker release of data products. Reports will be published over the period 1991 through 1993.
- Fewer report series for '90. In 1980 users had to grapple with several report series that were superseded by later reports. There will be no preliminary or advance reports for 1990.
- No reports like the 1980 *Detailed Population Characteristics or the 1980 Metropolitan Housing Charactistics.* Instead, much of the information previously shown in these reports will appear in the series of subject reports and associated computer files.
- More subject reports for 1990. Generally they will offer only national level data: some reports may include data for other highly populated geographic areas such as States, MSAs, counties, or large cities.
- Other changes for '90. The Census Bureau is making some changes in the way that reports display race and Hispanic statistics. In 1980, a single table was repeated for each race and for Hispanics. In 1990, most reports will group together all tables for a specific race or for Hispanics, making it possible for the user to locate all the information for each group in one place.

Computer Tapes — Decennial census data have been available on computer tapes since the 1960 census. The Census Bureau provides much more data on tape than in printed reports, and all of the tabulated figures, whether in print or not, appear on computer tapes.

Uses of Computer Tapes—

- For those needing 1990 census statistics in greater subject matter or geographic detail than will be available in the printed reports.
- For those users who will need to manipulate, aggregate, or otherwise extensively process census data.
- For those who need computer files that provide codes for a wide range of geographic areas.

Public Law 94-171 Counts — These are counts that States use in legislative redistricting. This data file will be the earliest 1990 census product to provide data for areas smaller than States and the first on computer tape. These counts also will be available on CD-ROM and in printouts of the computer tape. Excerpts will be available on CENDATA. The counts will include totals for population, race groups, Hispanics, and—new to this product in 1990—population 18 years and over and housing unit counts. This means that population

Figure 3. 1990 Census of Population and Housing Printed Reports

Series	Title	Unit of issue/ projected release date	Description	Geographic areas
		POPULATION AND HOUSING		
		100-percent data		
1990 CPH-1	**Summary Population and Housing Characteristics**	A report for the U. S./ 1992; each State and DC/1991-1992*	Population and housing unit counts, and summary statistics on age, sex, race, Hispanic origin, household relationship, units in structure, value and rent, number of rooms, tenure, and vacancy characteristics	Local governmental units (i.e., counties. incorporated places, and towns and townships) and American Indian and Alaska Native areas
1990 CHP-2	**Population and Housing Unit Counts**	A report for the U. S./ 1992: each State and DC/1991-1992*	Total population and housing unit counts for 1990 and previous censuses	States, counties, minor civil divisions (MCDs)/ census county divisions (CCDs), places, and summary geographic areas (for example, urban and rural, metropolitan and nonmetropolitan residence)
		100-percent and sample data		
1990 CPH-3	**Population and Housing Characteristics for Census Tracts and Block Numbering Areas**	A report for each MSA and each State/1992-1993*	Statistics on 100-percent and sample population and housing subjects	In MSAs: census tracts/ BNAs, places of 10,000 or more inhabitants, and counties. In the remainder of each State: census tracts/BNAs, places if 10,000 or more, and counties
1990 CPH-4	**Population and Housing Characteristics for Congressional Districts of the 103rd Congress**	A report for each State and DC/1993	Statistics on 100-percent and sample population and housing subjects	Congressional districts (CDs) and within CDs, counties, places of 10,000 or more inhabitants, MCDs of 10,000 or more in selected States, and American Indian and Alaska Native areas
		Sample data		
1990 CPH-5	**Summary Social, Economic, and Housing Characteristics**	A report for the U.S./1993; each State and DC/1992*	Statistics on 100-percent and sample population and housing subjects	Local governmental units (i.e., countries, incorprated places, and towns and townships in selected States) and American Indian and Alaska Native areas

*Reports for Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands of the United States are included.

Figure 3. 1990 Census of Population and Housing Printed Reports — Con.

Series	Title	Unit of issue/ projected release date	Description	Geographic areas
		POPULATION		
		100-percent data		
1990 CP-1	**General Population Characteristics**	A report for the U.S./1992; each State and DC/1992*	Detailed statistics on age, sex, race, Hispanic origin, marital status, and household relationship characteristics	States, counties, places of 1,000 or more inhabitants, MCDs of 1,000 or more in selected States, State parts of American Indian and Alaska Native areas, and summary geographic areas such as urban and rural
1990 CP-1-1A	**General Population Characteristics for American Indian and Alaska Native Areas**	A single report/ 1992	Detailed statistics on age, sex, race, Hispanic origin, marital status, and household relationship characteristics	American Indian and Alaska Native areas, i.e., American Indian reservations, trust lands, tribal jurisdiction statistical areas in Oklahoma, Alaska Native village statistical areas and Alaska Native regional corporations
1990 CP-1-1B	**General Population Characteristics for Metropolitan Statistical Areas**	A single report/ 1992	Detailed statistics on age, sex, race, Hispanic origin, marital status, and household relationship characteristics	Individual MSAs and their component areas. For MSAs split by State boundaries, summaries are provided both for the parts and for the whole MSA
1990 CP-1-1C	**General Population Characteristics for Urbanized Areas**	A single report/ 1992	Detailed statistics on age, sex, race, Hispanic origin, marital status, and household relationship characteristics	Individual UAs and their component areas. For UAs split by State boundaries, summaries are provided both for the parts and for the whole UA
		Sample data		
1990 CP-2	**Social and Economic Characteristics**	A report for the U.S., each State and DC/1993*	Statistics on 100-percent and sample population subjects	States (including summaries such as urban and rural), counties, places of 2,500 or more inhabitants, MCDs of 2,500 or more in selected States, and the State portion of American Indian and Alaska Native areas

*Reports for Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands of the United States are included.

Figure 3. 1990 Census of Population and Housing Printed Reports — Con.

Series	Title	Unit of issue/ projected release date	Description	Geographic areas
		POPULATION-Con. **Sample data-Con.**		
1990 CP-2-1A	**Social and Economic Characteristics for American Indian and Alaska Native Areas**	A single report/ 1993	Statistics on 100-percent and sample population subjects	American Indian and Alaska Native areas, as for CP-1-1A
1990 CP-2-1B	**Social and Economic Characteristics for Metropolitan Statistical Areas**	A single report/ 1993	Statistics on 100-percent and sample population subjects	Individual MSAs and their component areas, as for CP-1-1B
1990 CP-2-1C	**Social and Economic Characteristics for Urbanized Areas**	A single report/ 1993	Statistics on 100-percent and sample population subjects	Individual UAs and their component areas, as for CP-1-1C
1990 CP-3	**Population Subject Reports**	A report for each subject/1993	Approximately 30 reports on population census subjects such as migration, education, income, the older population, and racial and ethnic groups	Generally limited to the U.S., regions, and divisions: for some reports, other highly populated areas such as States, MSAs, counties, and large cities
		HOUSING **l00-percent data**		
1990 CH-1	**General Housing Characteristics**	A report for the U.S./ 1992; each State and DC/1992*	Detailed statistics on units in structure, value and rent, number of rooms, tenure, and vacancy characteristics	States, counties, places of 1,000 or more inhabitants, MCDs of 1,000 or more in selected States. State parts of American Indian and Alaska Native areas, and summary geographic areas such as urban and rural
1990 CH-1-1A	**General Housing Characteristics for American Indian and Alaska Native Areas**	A single report/ 1992	Detailed statistics on units in structure, value and rent, number of rooms, tenure, and vacancy characteristics	American Indian and Alaska Native areas, i.e., American Indian reservations, trust lands, tribal jurisdiction statistical areas in Oklahoma, Alaska Native village statistical areas, and Alaska Native regional corporations

* Reports for Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands of the United States are included.

Figure 3. 1990 Census of Population and Housing Printed Reports — Con.

Series	Title	Unit of issue/ projected release date	Description	Geographic areas
		HOUSING–Con.		
		100-percent data-Con.		
1990 CH-1-1B	**General Housing Characteristics for Metropolitan Statistical Areas**	A single report/ 1992	Detailed statistics on units in structure, value and rent, number of rooms, tenure, and vacancy characteristics	Individual MSAs and their component areas. For MSAs split by State boundaries, summaries are provided both for the parts and for the whole MSA
1990 CH-1-1C	**General Housing Characteristics for Urbanized Areas**	A single report/ 1992	Detailed statistics on units in structure, value and rent, number of rooms, tenure, and vacancy characteristics	Individual UAs and their component areas. For UAs split by State boundaries, summaries are provided both for the parts and for the whole UA
		Sample data		
1990 CH-2	**Detailed Housing Characteristics**	A report for the U.S./1993; each State and DC/1992-1993*	Statistics on 100-percent and sample housing subjects	States (including summaries such as urban and rural), counties, places of 2,500 or more inhabitants, MCDs of 2,500 or more in selected States, State parts of American Indian and Alaska Native areas
1990 CH-2-1A	**Detailed Housing Characteristics for American Indian And Alaska Native Areas**	A single report/ 1993	Statistics on 100-percent and sample housing subjects	American Indian and Alaska Native Areas, as in CH-1-1A
1990 CH-2-1B	**Detailed Housing Characteristics for Metropolitan Statistical Areas**	A single reported 1993	Statistics on 100-percent and sample housing subjects	Individual MSAs and their component areas, as in CH-1-1B
1990 CH-2-1C	**Detailed Housing Characteristics for Urbanized Areas**	A single report/ 1993	Statistics on 100-percent and sample housing subjects	Individual UAs and their component areas, as in CH-1-C
1990 CH-3	**Housing Subject Reports**	A report for each subject/1993	Approximately 10 reports on housing census subjects such as structural characteristics and space utilization	Generally limited to U.S. regions, and divisions; for some reports, other highly populated areas such as States, MSAs counties, and large cities

* Reports for Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands of the United States are included.

Figure 4. Table From a 1980 Census Report—PHC80-3, *Summary Characteristics for Governmental Units and Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas*

Table 1. **Summary of General Population Characteristics: 1980**

For meaning of symbols see introduction For definitions of terms see appendixes A and B1

The State Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas Counties and County Subdivisions Incorporated Places	Persons														
		Percent					Race								
			Age												
	Total	Female	Under 5 years	18 years and over	65 years and over	Median age	White	Black	American Indian Eskimo and Aleut	Asian and Pacific Islander[1]	Spanish origin[2]	In group quarters	Households	Persons per household	Families
The State	5 490 224	51 4	7 6	70 5	10 7	29 2	5 004 394	414 785	7 836	20 557	87 047	145 681	1 927 050	2 77	1 455 556
SMSA'S															
Anderson Ind	139 336	51 4	7 3	70 2	10 9	30 2	128 913	9 652	155	294	789	3 577	49 985	2 72	38 061
Bloomington Ind	98 785	50 7	5 6	79 0	7 2	24 6	93 472	2 570	130	1 139	1 104	15 062	33 952	2 47	21 099
Cincinnati Ohio–Ky –Ind	34 291	50 8	8 1	68 0	10 8	29 5	33 930	227	27	79	128	294	11 486	2 96	9 196
Elkhart Ind	137 330	51 7	8 3	69 1	9 6	29 0	129 971	5 761	256	491	1 719	1 973	48 148	2 81	35 944
Evansville Ind –Ky	268 559	52 1	7 3	72 6	12 7	30 9	253 722	13 149	286	863	1 171	5 346	99 020	2 66	73 132
Fort Wayne Ind	382 961	51 4	8 3	69 2	9 9	28 6	350 650	26 435	645	1 422	6 052	5 689	134 313	2 81	100 521
Gary–Hammond–East Chicago Ind	642 781	51 2	8 5	68 5	8 4	28 1	491 274	126 350	829	2 627	46 621	7 901	214 244	2 76	167 101
Indianapolis Ind	[illegible]	51 9	7 5	70 4	9 8	29 3	[illegible]	[illegible]	1 486	5 437	8 839	[illegible]	418 485	2 74	[illegible]
[illegible] Ind	[illegible]	[illegible]	7 7	69 0	9 4	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	209	295	[illegible]	[illegible]	37 243	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]yette Ind	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

and housing unit counts from the smallest areas (blocks) to the largest will be available within a year after the census, including voting districts where States have identified them for the Census Bureau.

In addition to this redistricting file, the Census Bureau also will offer summary tape files, subject files, public use microdata sample files, and special files.

Summary Tape Files (STFs) – The STF's are designed to provide statistics with greater subject detail for geographic areas than is feasible or desirable to provide in printed reports. They will contain essentially the same types of information as in the reports—just more of it.

Here are some STF highlights:

- STFs 1 and 2 will contain 100-percent data, and STFs 3 and 4 will offer sample data
- Each STF will present a particular set of data tables for specific types of geographic areas.
- Each STF will have three or more file types (indicated by a letter suffix attached to the STF number) that differ in the types of geographic detail reported but contain the same data detail.
- STFs 1 and 3 will have more geographic detail, but less data detail than STFs 2 and 4.
- STFs 1 through 4 will be comparable to those produced in 1980.
- STF 5, released in 1980 for the United States, each State, and the District of Columbia, will not be issued in 1990. Similar data will be provided through the 1990 subject reports and related summary tape files, noted below.

Subject Summary Tape Files— These files will correspond to the subject reports and, in some cases, contain data for States, counties, and large cities.

Public Use Microdata Sample Files (PUMS) — These microdata files on computer tape will present a sample of unidentified long-form housing-unit records for large geographic areas. Each housing-unit sample record will present essentially all the census data collected about each person in a sample household plus the housing unit's characteristics. Information that might tend to identify an individual or a housing unit will not be contained on the file.

Microdata files enable users with special needs to prepare customized tabulations and cross-tabulation of virtually any item on the census questionnaire. There will be two sets of public-use microdata files.

- A 5-percent sample of housing units in which each household record includes codes to let the user know in what group of counties (or sometimes a county or smaller area) the household is located.
- A file presenting a 1-percent sample of housing units. It shows data for metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) in the 1990 census and other large areas. In 1980, there were two files with 1-percent samples rather than the one file for 1990. The 1980 1-percent sample showing data for large States and groups of smaller States will not be produced in 1990.

The minimum population size of any county group or other area identified is, as in 1980, 100,000 persons. What is new for 1990 is that household and geographic-area identifiers have been added to each person-record to make the files easier to process.

Other Special Computer Tape Files — Other files are planned, such as the Census/Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) File and the County-to-County Migration File. See figure 6.

Figure 5. 1990 Census of Population and Housing Summary Tape Files

Summary Tape File (STF 1A, 1B, etc.) and date type (100 percent or sample)		Projected release date	Geographic areas	Description
STF 1 (100 percent)	A*†	1991-1992	States, counties, MCDs/CCDs, places, census tracts/ BNAs, block groups (BGs)	About 1,000 cells/ items of 100-percent population and housing counts and characteristics for each geographic area
	B*†	1991-1992	States, counties, MCDs/CCDs, places, census tracts/ BNAs, BGs, blocks	
	C†	1992	U.S., regions, divisions, States (including summaries such as urban and rural), counties, places of 10,000 or more inhabitants, MCDs of 10,000+ in selected States, MSAs, UAs, American Indian and Alaska Native areas	
	D	1993	Congressional districts (CDs) by State; and within each CD: counties, places of 10,000+, MCDs of 10,000+ in selected States	
STF 2 (100 percent)	A	1992	In MSAs: census tracts/BNAs, places of 10,000 or more inhabitants, and counties. In the reminder of each State: counties, places of 10,000+, and census tracts/ BNAs	Over 2,000 cells/items of 100-percent population and housing counts and characteristics for each geographic area. Each of the STF 2 files will include a set of tabulations for the total population and separate presentations of tabulations by race and Hispanic origin
	B	1992	States (including summaries such as urban and rural), counties, places of 1,000+, MCDs of 1,000+ in selected States, State portion of American Indian and Alaska Native areas	
	C	1992	U.S., regions, divisions, States (including summaries such as urban and rural), counties, places of 10,000+, MCDs of 10,000+ in selected States, MCDs of fewer than 10,000+ in New England MSAs, American Indian and Alaska Native areas, MSAs, UAs	
STF 3 (sample)	A*†	1992	States, counties, MCDs/CCDs, places, census tracts/ BNAs, BGs	Over 2,300 cells/items of sample population and housing characteristics for each geographic area
	B†	1993	5-digit ZIP Codes within each State	
	C†	1993	U.S., regions, divisions, States, counties, MCDs of 10,000+ in selected States, places of 10,000+, American Indian and Alaska Native areas, MSAs, UAs	
	D	1993	Congressional districts (CDs) by State; and within each CD: counties, places of 10,000+, MCDs of 10,000+ in selected States	
STF 4 (sample)	A	1992	In MSAs: census tracts/BNAs, places of 10,000 or more inhabitants, and counties. In the remainder of each State: counties, places of 10,000+, and census tracts/BNAs	Over 8,000 cells/items of sample population and housing characteristics for each geographic area. Each of the STF 4 files will include a set of tabulations for the total population and separate presentations of tabulations by race, Hispanic origin, and possibly selected ancestry groups
	B	1992-1993	States (including summaries such as urban and rural), counties, places of 2,500+, MCDs of 2,500+ in selected States, MCDs of fewer than 2,500 in New England MSAs, State portion of American Indian and Alaska Native areas	
	C	1993	U.S., regions, divisions, States (including urban and rural and metropolitan and nonmetropolitan components), counties, places of 10,000+, MCDs of 10,000+ in selected States, MCDs of fewer than 10,000 in New England MSAs, American Indian and Alaska Native areas, MSAs, UAs	

* Available on microfiche (STF 1B microfiche is an extract).
† Available on laser disk (CD-ROM), (STF 1B data on CD-ROM is an extract)

Figure 6. Special Computer Tape Files and Other Data Products

Title	Projected release date	Description	Geographic areas
Public Law 94-171 Counts File (redistricting data)	Prior to April 1991	Statistics on total population, age, sex, race, Hispanic origin available in paper copy and computer files; housing unit counts on computer tape files only	States. counties, MCDs/CCDs, places, census tracts/BNAs, BGs, and blocks; and voting districts where States have identified them for the Census Bureau
Census/Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Special File	1992	Sample tabulations showing detailed occupations and educational attainment data by age. Cross tabulated by sex, Hispanic origin, and race	Counties, MSAs, places of 50,000 or more inhabitants
County-to-County Migration File	1993	Summary statistics for all intrastate county-to-county migration streams and significant interstate county-to-county migration streams. Each record will include codes for the geographic area of destination, and selected characteristics of the persons who made up the migration stream	States, counties
Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) Files		Computerized files containing a sample of individual long-form census records showing most population and housing characteristics but with identifying information removed	
5 Percent—County Groups	1993		County groups or smaller areas with 100,000 or more inhabitants
1 Percent—Metropolitan Statistical Areas identified in 1990	1993		MSAs and other large areas with 100,000 or more
User-Defined Area Tabulations		Printouts, tapes or other products with data tables, maps, and narrative (if requested). The table format will be standard or fixed for these tabulations	User-defined areas created from blocks
Special Tabulations		Special tabulations for any specific geographic or subject-matter area in any format (reports, tapes, and microfiche)	User-defined areas or standard areas

Microfiche — Block statistics will be available on microfiche as they were in 1980. The microfiche will present a subset of the tabulations for blocks found in STF 1B. In 1990, for the first time, the entire Nation is blocked. This will increase the number of blocks for which the Census Bureau provides data from 2.5 million in 1980 to about 7 million in 1990. The cost and storage of block data of this magnitude would be prohibitive if they were published in printed reports.

STFs 1A and 3A will be made available on microfiche, as well.

Other Media — Newer media also will be used for 1990 products:

Ž *Online information systems*— The Census Bureau began its own online information service called CENDATA™ in 1984. A number of Census Bureau reports, in whole or in part, are offered online. For 1990, CENDATA will provide up-to-the-day information about the availability of data products and will carry selections of State, county, metropolitan statistical area, and place data from the Public Law (PL) 94-171 tape file and STFs 1 and 3. CENDATA is available through two information vendors, CompuServe and DIALOG.

- *CD-ROM* — Compact disk-read only memory, a type of optical or laser disk, is the most recently developed technology for data storage and retrieval. One 4 3/4-inch CD-ROM can hold the contents of approximately 1,500 flexible diskettes, or three or four high density tapes. For 1990, the Public Law 94-171 tape file and STFs 1A, 1B (extract), 1C, 3A, 3B, and 3C will be available on CD-ROM.

Custom Data Programs — These programs are for users who require unique tabulations that are not included in Census Bureau standard products; for example, information for locally defined geographic areas. Any data that the Census Bureau furnishes will be subject to the usual standards to ensure that confidential individual information is not revealed.

- *User-Defined Area Tabulations*— This program will provide data for locally defined geographic areas that do not correspond to standard census geographic areas. Users will identify the geographic areas of interest to them by compiling census blocks. The Census Bureau then will create a set of predefined tables of information for these areas.

- *Special Tabulations* — The Census Bureau will prepare special tabulations, paid for by the requester, for any specific geographic or subject-matter area. Standard reports, tapes, and microfiche should be used whenever possible, though, since special tabulations are fairly expensive and can only be done when the demands of regular work permit.

MAPS AND GEOGRAPHIC FILES

Maps — Census maps are necessary for virtually all uses of small-area census data. They are needed to locate specific geographic areas and study the spatial relationship of the data for analytic purposes. The Census Bureau plans to offer a variety of 1990 census maps. Among them will be these three series:

- *County block maps* — These maps will show census blocks and their numbers, other boundaries, and physical features. Maps will be available by county with one or more map sheets each, depending on the size, shape, number of blocks, and density of the block pattern.

- *County subdivision maps*— Maps in this State-based series present the boundaries of the counties, county subdivisions (MCDs or CCDs), places, American Indian reservations (including off-reservation trust lands), and Alaska Native areas.

- *Census tract/BNA outline maps* — These maps depict census tract/block numbering area (BNA) boundaries and features underlying the boundaries.

Geographic Publications — The Census Bureau will produce a Geographic Identification Code Scheme (GICS) report that shows the 1990 census geographic area codes for States, counties, county subdivisions, places, and certain other areas, along with some descriptive information.

Machine-Readable Geographic Files — All 1990 summary tape files will include 1990 census geographic area codes and other geographic information, similar to that presented on the 1980 Master Area Reference File 2.

The Census Bureau has developed an automated geographic data base, known as the TIGER (Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing) System, that will allow the production of various geographic products to support the 1990 census. It provides coordinate-based digital map information for the entire United States, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and the Pacific territories over which the United States has jurisdiction.

The TIGER System will significantly improve 1990 census maps and geographic reference products and will permit users to generate, by computer, maps at different scales for any geographic area of the country.

The final list of TIGER products has not been determined, but the Census Bureau expects that extracts from the TIGER System will be released in several formats. One extract of selected geographic and cartographic information is called the TIGER/Line files.

Digitizing geographic coordinates into a TIGER/Line file

TIGER/Line files contain basic data for the segments of each boundary or feature (e.g., roads, railroads, and rivers), including adjacent census geographic area codes, latitude/longitude coordinates of segment end points, the name and type of the feature, and the relevant census feature class code identifying the feature segment by category. TIGER/Line files also furnish address ranges and associated ZIP Codes for each side of street segments for areas approximating the urbanized areas.

The TIGER/Line files are organized by county and are available to the public now in a precensus version and later in a final 1990 census version. The files are released on computer tape and CD-ROM.

TAPPING OTHER CENSUS BUREAU RESOURCES

The Census Bureau has more to offer than just the results of the census of population and housing. Through other censuses, surveys, and estimates programs, it compiles and publishes data on subjects as diverse as appliance sales, neighborhood conditions, and exports to other countries. The other censuses, such as retail trade, manufactures, and governments, are collected for years ending in "2" and "7." Surveys and estimates programs generate results as often as every month.

Here are examples of the information published about—

Ž *People:* Age, race, sex, income, poverty, child care, child support, fertility, noncash benefits, education, commuting habits, pension coverage, unemployment, ancestry.

Ž *Business and industry:* Number of employees, total payroll, sales and receipts, products manufactured or sold.

Ž *Housing and construction:* Value of new construction, numbers of owners and renters, property value or rent paid, housing starts, fuels used, mortgage costs.

Ž *Farms:* Number, acreage, livestock, crop sales.

Ž *Governments:* Revenues and expenditures, taxes, employment, pension funds.

Ž *Foreign trade:* Exports and imports, origin and destination, units shipped.

Ž *Other nations:* Population, birth rates, death rates, literacy, fertility.

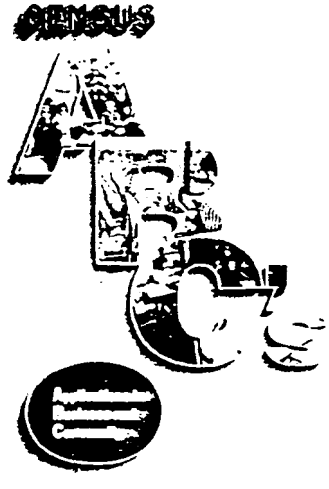
Many of the monthly "economic indicators" that measure how the Nation is doing come directly or indirectly from the Census Bureau. Examples: employment and unemployment; housing starts; wholesale and retail trade; manufacturers' shipments, inventories, and orders; export and import trade; and sales of single family homes.

Use the attached form to request more information about any of these subjects.

HOW TO OBTAIN REFERENCE MATERIALS AND ASSISTANCE

Key Reference Sources — The Census Bureau issues several reference publications that are of value to many data users.

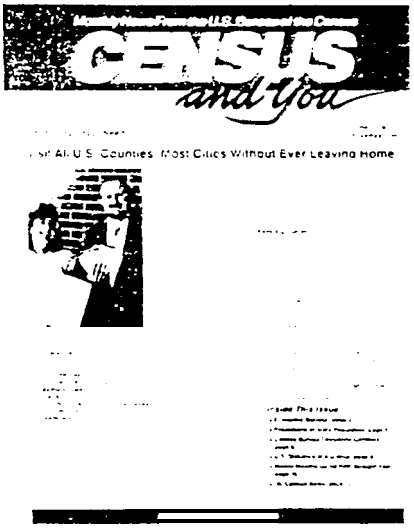
- *1990 Census of Population and Housing Tabulation and Publication Program* — This free report gives more complete descriptions of 1990 products, estimated publication dates, and a comparison of 1990 products with those of 1980, and more. Order by sending in the attached form.



- *Census ABC's-Applications in Business and Community* — A free report that highlights key

information about the 1990 census and illustrates a variety of ways the data can be used. Order by sending in the attached form.

- *1990 Census of Population and Housing Guide* — The primary guide to the 1990 census that will provide detailed information about all aspects of the census and a comprehensive glossary of census terms. Sign up to receive an order form for it as soon as it's ready by sending in the attached form.



- *Census and You* — The Census Bureau's monthly newsletter for data users. It reports on the latest 1990 census developments, selected new publications and computer tapes, other censuses and surveys, developments in Census Bureau services to users, and upcoming conferences and training courses. (Use the attached form to request a sample copy.) A subscription costs $12 per year. Make checks payable to "Superintendent of Documents, " and send to the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402; or call 202/783-3238 to charge to a VISA, MasterCard, or GPO deposit account. Cite the code "DUN" in your order.

Ž *1990 Census Publication Order Forms* — For basic information (a brief description, prices, and stock numbers) on ordering 1990 census reports, get on the mailing list to receive order forms as the reports are published. Complete and return the attached form. For information about all 1990 census products and products from other censuses and surveys, too, subscribe to *Monthly Product Announcement,* described next.

- *Monthly Product Announcement (MPA)* — A free monthly listing of all new Census Bureau publications; microfiche; maps; data files on tape, diskettes, or CD-ROM's; and technical documentation. 1990 census products will be specially noted. For a sub scription, complete and mail in the attached form.

- *Census Catalog and Guide* — A comprehensive annual description of Census Bureau data products (from 1980 to date), statistical programs, and services of the Census Bureau. It provides abstracts of the publications, data files, microfiche, maps, and items online. In addition, the *Census Catalog and Guide* offers such features as information about censuses and surveys and telephone contact lists for data specialists at the Census Bureau, the State data centers, and other data processing service centers. The cost for the 1989 edition is $21. When ordering, give the stock number 003-024-07009-0. (It is sold by the Superintendent of Documents; see ordering instructions for *Census and You,* above.)

Users also can get listings of new Census Bureau products, updated daily, and selected statistical information online through CENDATA™ the Census Bureau's online information service. CompuServe (800/848-8199) and DIALOG (800/334-2564), which are information service companies, offer CENDATA to their customers. For more information, complete and return the attached form.

Other Census Services — The Census Bureau has specialists whom users may consult at the Washington headquarters and its 12 regional offices. They answer inquiries by telephone, correspondence, and personal visit. From time to time, they also conduct workshops, seminars, and training courses.

- *Washington contact* —For general and product ordering information: Customer Services, Bureau of the Census, Washington DC 20233 (301/763-4100).

- *Regional office contacts–*

Atlanta, GA	404/347-2274
Boston, MA	617/565-7078
Charlotte, NC	704/371-6144
Chicago, IL	312/353-0980
Dallas, TX	214/767-7105
Denver, CO	303/969-7750
Detroit, MI	313/354-4654
Kansas City, KS	816/891-7562
Los Angeles, CA	818/892-6674
New York, NY	212/264-4730
Philadelphia, PA	215/597-8313
Seattle, WA	206/728-5314

Other Sources of Census Products and Services—

- *State Data Centers* — The Census Bureau furnishes data products, training in data access and use, technical assistance, and consultation to all States, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. State Data Centers, in turn, offer publications for reference, printouts from computer tape, specially prepared reports, and other products and assistance to data users. For a list of the State data centers, complete and return the attached form. The list also will note organizations in the States participating in the Census Bureau's Business/Industry Data Center (BIDC) Project. The BIDCs help business people, economic development planners, and other data users obtain and use data.

- *National Clearinghouse* — The National Clearinghouse for Census Data Services is a listing of private companies and other organizations that offer assistance in obtaining and using data released by the Census Bureau. For a list of participants in the National Clearinghouse, complete and return the attached form.
- *National Services Program* — The National Services Program (NSP) provides a structure for cooperation between the Census Bureau and nationally based organizations that represent minorities or other segments of the population who have been historically undercounted in decennial censuses. The participants include social service, business, professional, civil rights, educational, and religious groups. To learn more about the NSP, write to the National Services Program, Data User Services Division, Bureau of the Census, Washington, DC 20233, or call 301/763-1384.
- *Depository Libraries* — There are 1,400 libraries that receive (from the Government Printing Office) those Federal publications which they think their patrons will need. Often some of these publications are Census Bureau reports. The Census Bureau protides free reports to an additional 120 Census depository libraries. Also, many libraries purchase census reports for their areas.

For Further Information — To receive additional information on the 1990 census as it becomes available, and on Census Bureau products in general, mail the attached form.

Census '90 Basics

Please send me more information about Census Bureau programs and products

(Check those you are interested in.)

- ☐ *1990 Census of Population and Housing Tabulation and Publication Program*
- ☐ *Census ABC's—Applications in Business and Community*
- ☐ *1990 Census of Population and Housing Guide order form*—as soon as it is ready
- ☐ Order forms for 1990 census reports as soon as they are prepared
- ☐ Free sample copy of *Census and You,* the Census Bureau's monthly newsletter
- ☐ Free subscription to *Monthly Product Announcement*
- ☐ Lists of State Data Centers, Business/Industry Data Centers (BIDCs), and Clearinghouse organizations
- ☐ Information about CENDATA, the Census Bureau's online service

Information about Census Bureau statistics on:

- ☐ Agriculture
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Construction
- ☐ Foreign trade
- ☐ Governments
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ International
- ☐ Manufacturing
- ☐ Mineral Industries
- ☐ Population
- ☐ Transportation

Name:_____

Title:_____

Organization:_____

Street:_____

City:_____

State:_____ ZIP:_____

Phone: (____)-_____-_____

Detach this form and mail to:

Customer Services
Bureau of the Census
Washington, DC 20233