

APPENDIX

PRELIMINARY EVALUATION OF PUNCHCARD AND COMPUTER TAPES OF ECONOMIC DATA HELD BY FEDERAL AGENCIES

Although it has not been possible to compile a comprehensive listing of the comments received from research scholars, the committee has made a summary listing of some of the punchcards and tapes mentioned by research workers in specific areas. In some cases, the items discussed include tapes which can be purchased from Government agencies as well as those which are currently unavailable. In a few cases, sets of information not included in the inventory of tapes were also mentioned. The numbers in parentheses which are cited refer to the inventory numbers given in the appended listing.

1. POPULATION

The census of population data are not only basic to the study of demography, but also provide valuable information on individuals and households necessary for research on housing, employment, education, health, and consumer behavior.

Census of population samples

The Bureau of the Census has prepared 1:1,000 and 1:10,000 samples of the census of population (41-A-12 and 41-A-13) on both punchcards and computer tapes which are available for purchase. These bodies of data were warmly received by the profession and many research centers have purchased these sets of data. Many Ph. D. theses, as well as other research projects, are using this sample.

Vital statistics

The Public Health Service provides annual statistics on births, deaths, marriages, and divorces (68-12, 68-13, 68-14, 68-15, and 68-16), which are all very useful for simulation models involving population projections.

2. HOUSING AND REAL ESTATE

Data relevant to research on housing and real estate are included in the material discussed under the headings of population, consumer behavior, agriculture, banking, and taxes. In addition, however, specific housing information is collected by a number of Federal agencies. Some of these agencies, such as the Federal Housing Administration, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and the Federal Home Bank Board, were not included in the inventory of machine-readable data and so are not referred to in this evaluation.

Inventory of housing

The Bureau of the Census provides a number of different series relating to this topic. The survey of inventory change and residential financing of housing units (41-A-22), the housing vacancy survey (41-A-16), and the housing sales survey (41-A-151) are all very useful, but for many purposes some data selection might be required to reduce the number of tapes.

Building permits

A number of different census surveys are available on building permits. Building permits issued monthly and annually (41-A-148 and 41-A-152), building permits used (41-A-149), nonpermit construction starts (41-A-147), and the construction progress report (41-A-150) are all relevant and important for the analysis of the construction industry.

Prices of housing

The Bureau of Labor Statistics price data on housing include consumer price data on housing (44-B-4) and rents (44-B-5). These tapes are in addition to the information on consumer expenditures included under consumer behavior, and if available in regional detail, would provide valuable information on the relative demand and supply of housing.