

forest problems. Over 20 of these surveys were listed by the research workers consulted as having considerable priority. With respect to larger bodies of data, the National Compilation of Forest Survey Statistics (40-A-59) is a very important set of data, containing information on ownership, size, forest type, species, and timber products.

Agricultural production

The basic information on farms, farm characteristics, livestock products, crops, fruit, etc., is provided by the Census of Agriculture (41-A-6 and 40-F-57). The Department of Agriculture also has tapes on the June-December enumerative survey, providing acreage reports for crops and reports on livestock (40-C-12). Both of these sets of data are important in the analysis of agricultural output.

Agricultural marketing

The data provided by the Commodity Exchange Authority showing futures transactions and trading data (40-B-3 and 40-B-5) are useful in market pricing studies. In addition, some of the data provided by the Agricultural Marketing Service on such things as fruits and vegetables (40-E-3, 40-E-5), slaughtering (40-E-8), and milk (40-E-10 and 40-E-11) provide information on specific commodities in considerable detail.

Farm management

The Economic Research Service of the Department of Agriculture provides a great deal of information about the status of farmers and farm management. Over 30 sets of data were listed as being particularly important for research on such topics as the financial condition of the farmer, transportation, housing, real estate and land use. In addition, gross income, cost of production, machinery costs, and fertilizer costs and benefits are all topics of research interest for which important sets of data exist.

8. BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

As already indicated, reports on specific business or industrial establishments might result in disclosure of confidential information. However, highly disaggregated data for regions and industries can often be presented without disclosure. In addition, samples may be developed which would not violate confidentiality, and fuller and more detailed data could be kept in a similar form by government agencies for those research projects which require processing of the original reports.

Manufacturing and mineral industries

The census of manufactures and mineral industries for 1947, 1954, and 1958 (41-A-32, 41-A-33, and 41-A-34) and the annual survey of manufactures (41-A-38) should be made available in as disaggregated a form as the disclosure rules will permit, and specific samples of data should be integrated with the census of manufactures data and the Internal Revenue data to provide more comprehensive and complete coverage of the manufacturing and mineral industries.

Trade and services

The economic censuses of wholesale (41-A-36) and retail trade (41-A-45), transportation (41-A-37) and services (41-A-42) should be treated in a manner similar to that described for data on manufacturing and mineral industries. In addition, the monthly surveys in this area (e.g., 41-A-51 to 41-A-60) should be developed into systematic sets of samples available over time.

Banking and finance

In the preliminary inventory of machine readable data in the Federal Government, the Federal Reserve Board was the only financial institution included. It is probable that when the survey is extended to other Federal financial institutions, many important bodies of data will come to light. In the material examined in the current inventory, member bank loans to commercial and industrial borrowers (55-49 and 55-50) and small business financing experience (55-45 and 55-46) obtained by the Federal Reserve Board represent valuable research materials for analyzing business financing.