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DESIGN AND EXECUTION OF A CENSUS PUBLICATION PROGRAMME

Prepared by the ECLA secretariat

ESTADÍSTICA INICIAL DE LOS CENSALES MEXICANOS

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DESIGN AND EXECUTION OF A CENSUS PUBLICATION PROGRAMME

I. INTRODUCTION

1. One of the essential features of an official national census is that a census is not complete unless the data collected are compiled and published. Since unpublished data are of no value to most of the potential users of the census results, a census limited to the investigation of a few important characteristics, the results of which are published as soon as possible after the enumeration, is better than a very detailed census whose too ambitious coverage in terms of characteristics investigated, jeopardizes the timely processing and publication of the data collected.
2. The basic factor in the production of the census publication is the time, i.e., it is very important that the publication programme should be planned in such a way that final results can be issued within a reasonable period of time after the enumeration and before the information has become out of date for current needs. After five or ten years, census figures are of use primarily in a historical context only. Reasonable target dates should be established and every effort should be made to ensure that the publication of the census results proceeds according to these target dates.
3. The establishment of a realistic publication plan depends on the adequate appraisal of the reproduction facilities available, the relative urgency of the various types of data to be presented and the most expeditious order in which the data can be processed. It is advisable, therefore, that publication and processing plans should be compatible. In addition, where the population census is only one of many activities of the census or statistical office, the publication relating to it must be fitted into the general publishing programme on the basis of competing demands.
4. To speed up the publication of the census results, it is necessary to publish preliminary data, based on manual counting and/or sampling. This form of publication is really very important for many users of census data, but it must not delay the final results and their publication. The risk of such a delay is great if too much time and resources are allocated to the compilation of preliminary data.

5. Beside time, another very important factor in a census publication is cost. Because of the high cost of the census publication, it is important that plans be made and sufficient funds allocated to ensure publication of the tabulations of widespread interest. There are various methods of reproduction available which are rapid, economical and legible. The use of computers for data processing makes data publication easier and cheaper and ensures quicker completion of the work.

II. PLANNING OF A CENSUS PUBLICATION PROGRAMME

6. The principal antecedents of a census publication programme are given by the tabulation programme, which has to be decided during the very early phase of census preparation. As the content of the census questionnaire determines the tabulation programme, it forms the basis of the publication. The content, order and priority of the census tabulations and therefore of the publication programme are laid down by the national necessities, which are determined by the importance of the results for the main users of census data (national planning organizations, other government offices, research institutions, etc.). This programme generally represents a compromise between the information that it would be ideally desirable to tabulate and publish and the limits imposed by actual circumstances. It is essential that the programme should be outlined sufficiently early for the procedures and costs involved to be thoroughly investigated before a final decision is reached.

7. Every country has to work out its tabulation plan and, based on that, its publication programme according to its own necessities with priorities established according to local circumstances. A good guide for a specified tabulation programme is given in Principles and Recommendations for the 1970 Population Censuses,^{1/} which divides the census tabulations into the following three groups:

^{1/} Statistical Papers, Series M, N° 44, New York, 1967 (United Nations publication: Sales N°: 67.XVII.3).

- (a) Recommended first priority tabulations, which are considered to be of widest importance, each of which should be prepared by all countries.
- (b) Recommended second priority tabulations, which, while also of generally recognized value, serve somewhat more specialized purposes than those of first priority, or involve somewhat more elaborate compilation procedures. Second priority tabulations should be undertaken only if it is certain that this will not interfere with the preparation of all of the relevant first priority tabulations.
- (c) Other useful tabulations, which cover relatively secondary topics and could be considered as more detailed or additional tabulations. The feasibility of preparing these depends to a considerable extent on the method of data processing utilized.

8. Through the application of electronic data processing, tabulations can be prepared more rapidly and a greater amount of detail included within each tabulation than is possible by the older methods of processing.^{2/}

9. Each country has to work out for its national use the same priority groups in its tabulation programme. These priorities serve not only for the programming of the data processing, but also for the preparation of the publication programme.

10. The interrelationship between the tabulated and published census results is based on the principle that not all of the processed material need be published. Tabulations which are required by only a few users - for example, some of the second priority and other useful tabulations or a very detailed territorial division of some first priority tabulations such as are required by certain government offices or specialized research organizations - can be supplied in unpublished form. Some data may not even be tabulated until they are required at a later date.

11. At the planning stage of the census tabulation and publication programme the following groups of tabulations can be distinguished:

^{2/} For the details of the preparation of a census tabulation programme, see document ST/ECLA/Conf.32/L.5, prepared for this Seminar.

- (a) Tabulations which are published in the same extent as tabulated;
- (b) Tabulations which are published roughly in the same order in which they are tabulated, but with less territorial detail (e.g., tabulations by administrative units, but published only by major civil divisions);
- (c) Tabulations which are published with a less detailed classification than in the original tabulation (e.g., the occupation was tabulated by three-digit groups, but published only by two-digit groups);
- (d) Tabulations which are considered as second priority and therefore tabulated and published during a later phase of the census work;
- (e) Tabulations which are considered to be of special interest and therefore are published only in special publications, which do not form part of the census publication series (e.g., the detailed fertility data are published in a special monograph);
- (f) Tabulations which are considered as too detailed for any publication, and therefore are not published, but if necessary are made available to the few users interested in the tabulations in photocopies of the machine-tables or manuscript;
- (g) Information which is not tabulated, but is available in basic tables or punch-cards (summarized) or on tape, and is easily tabulated, if anyone wants to use it.

12. It should be noted, that, apart from specific national needs, the tabulations which are recommended as first priority in the World Programme for the 1970 Population and Housing Censuses, and in the Programme for the Census of America are of such wide interest that their publication is considered essential for each country which has collected the relevant data.

13. Naturally the publication plan depends not only on the tabulation programme, but also on the methods used for executing this programme, i.e., on the data processing techniques. As electronic computers are often used in preparing tables for publication, it is necessary to take into consideration the machinery which will be used for the data processing in designing the census publication. The other new method which will probably be used in the 1970 censuses is that of offset printing (in some

cases combined with the computer print-outs). Thus the publication technique, and therefore the content of the census publication itself and the promptness with which it appears could take advantage of these new developments.

14. The form of publication varies from country to country. The census results are mostly published in a special census publication series (perhaps together with others, e.g., those of agricultural or economic censuses). In other countries there are no special census publications, but the census results are published in the general statistical series (statistical yearbooks, statistical bulletins, statistical reviews, etc.). It is possible to use a combination of these two methods: e.g., the provisional data can be published in general statistical publications and the final results of the census in special volumes. In addition, some countries publish census results, especially analyses or more detailed information on special subjects, in a special census monograph series. In some cases the official census publications contain only statistical data (e.g. tabulations), and the analyses are published in these special monographs, which may be published directly by the census office or by a commercial publisher.

15. In the planning of the census publications, it is necessary to consider the possible users of census data and therefore to prepare a list of government offices, institutions, administrative organizations, governmental and private research institutions, industries, private persons, etc., that may be interested in the census data. Some have a general interest in the census results and want to receive and use all the census publications. Others are interested only in some of the census volumes; for instance, local or regional institutions are interested only in data referring to their region and in national totals, other institutions only in certain subjects, etc. Nevertheless, it is useful to make such a count, not only to determine the number of copies of each publication to be printed, but possibly the content of the publication, which may also depend on the interest of the possible users. Generally, most of the publications are available to government and research institutions free of charge, but it is possible to make them available to some interested private institutions or persons for a nominal price (the cost of production,

/which is

which is usually high cannot be covered by the sales price asked for the publications). In some cases the official publications, which contain the tables are available free, but the analytical census monographs are not.

III. EXECUTION OF A CENSUS PUBLICATION PROGRAMME

A. METHOD OF PREPARATION OF THE CENSUS PUBLICATIONS

16. As mentioned earlier in this document, the content of the publications and also the promptness with which it appears depend on the method used for the data processing and reproduction.

17. In the past there have been instances when a large amount of money and a great deal of time were spent in the preparation of beautiful census volumes, made generally by the typographic or relief printing method and containing fine pictures and coloured graphs and maps. Unfortunately these very beautiful and well-set-out volumes contained very defective information. It is, therefore, worthwhile to stress the fact that if a choice must be made aesthetic considerations must give way to the paramount considerations of the good quality of the results and their speedy publication.

18. There are, of course, certain practical considerations which should not be overlooked. The volumes should be of a convenient size, not too small for easy reading and not too large for ordinary shelf activities. Some very large volumes present problems of handling and safekeeping. Good-quality paper and sturdy binding are worth-while investment if funds are available.

19. Thanks to modern data processing and reproduction techniques, census publications can be produced more rapidly and at less cost than in the past. It is possible and desirable to prepare the data processing work in such a way that the finished tabulations are fit for direct reproduction.

20. Besides the traditional printing processes, like relief printing and photogravure, more general use is now being made of the method of offset printing. In publishing the results of the census, it is a great advantage if the tables prepared by the electronic data processing machines can be used

/directly, which

directly, which is possible if offset printing is used. The main principle of the offset method is that the machine tables can be photographed on the desired scale and then transferred to a plate. This means that no manuscript is needed and no proofreading is necessary. With good preparation, it is possible to use the summary tables produced by conventional tabulating machines in the same way.

21. In some cases the tables prepared by computers or other statistical data processing machines have to be corrected, or additions or improvements need to be made before photographing. For instance, there may be no lines to separate the columns in the tables (unless a printed form is used) and if they are wanted, they must be drawn in before photographing. It may be necessary to supplement the table with columns of text and other texts, even if these can be printed by the data processing machines, because type used in the relief printing method gives a more pleasing appearance to the text. Moreover, as the type of data processing machines is rather large it is not, on the whole, suitable for printing in columns.

22. The text of the publication can be typed on a typewriter, but if a more pleasing type is desired the text has to be set in a typesetting machine and then photographed for offset. Nowadays, with veritype composing machines it is possible to type texts with several kinds of letters and also to get the right-hand margin even.

23. Statistical maps and graphs are often included in census publications. They also can easily be printed by the offset method. Maps and figures can be drawn on any scale provided that account is taken of the change of scale required when they are photographed.

24. If offset printing is to be used, this means more demands on the tabulation programme, which then also has to include definite instructions on the form of each table, e.g., its format, text, etc., at the same time as the output programmes for the data processing are being prepared. In offset printing, the spacing charts needed in preparing the output programmes will be of great importance. In making the spacing charts, the form of the tables to be published must be considered, and the spaces needed for figures and texts must be calculated with care.

/25. Another

25. Another advantage of the offset method is the fact that the figures in the tables cannot be changed after the photographing phase, and that therefore time need not be spent on checking them. Nevertheless, the offset proof should be checked in order to ensure that all figures are clear and readable, that none of them has been covered up or has otherwise been dropped from the table, and that the order of the pages is correct, etc.

26. In summary, the offset method has two important advantages for the publication of census data in comparison to other printing methods. It is faster and cheaper than other methods. For these reasons offset printing is suitable for the publication of provisional data, but with adequate preparation and good execution, it may be suitable for the publication of final census data also. A disadvantage is that the print is not so good as the relief print and that it may sometimes be hard to make corrections and revisions.

27. The more traditional relief printing method can of course also be used for the census publication. If it is possible to prepare the census data processing work in such a way that it is unnecessary to prepare separate manuscript tables for the printing, a time-consuming intermediate stage can be avoided. In this case the processed tables themselves can be the bases of the manuscript, naturally after a very detailed check and careful preparation, with due attention to headings, lines, text, titles, footnotes, page numbers, etc. These tables can be given to the printing office for setting. Without this careful preparation the manuscripts have to be prepared separately - typed or written by hand - and this means another very long and costly work phase, which could also be the cause of additional errors.

28. In some countries, where offset printing machinery is not available and the necessary financial resources for relief printing are lacking, the census results are reproduced by other simpler and cheaper methods, such as stencils, multiliths, etc. The main principle is that the census results have to be published in any form, as soon as possible, and it is better to publish the census data in time by a not-too-elegant method than to wait for a more costly and beautiful publication which appears a very long time after the census enumeration.

29. The best way to execute the publication plan, where funds are available, is for the statistical or census office to acquire its own printing machines. These machines may be allocated for census purposes at specific times and used for other statistical purposes at other times, in much the same way as data processing machines are allocated. Usually, of course, the countries where the censuses are large in scope and the results require many volumes will need the best printing facilities.

30. If printing facilities are not available within the census or statistical office, it is necessary to have the printing done outside the office, usually at the regular government printing office. It may, however, be an almost intolerable strain on an often over-worked central printing office to carry the considerable extra workload entailed by the printing of the final census results, because the necessary equipment may not be available when needed. One of the solutions to this problem is to arrange for the statistical or census office to use some of the equipment of another printing office of a commercial printer.

31. Where resources are more limited, more modest solutions are needed. As has already been mentioned, one of the most satisfactory is the use of offset printing within the census or statistical office, provided that a few persons well trained in the necessary operations are available. An additional advantage of having an offset installation within the office is that it can easily be used for the printing of questionnaires, instructions, and for processing documents and any other forms needed by the census office.

32. Whatever method is used for the census publication, there are some basic criteria for the preparation of the census volumes, which must be respected. They are basically very general, and have to be adopted for all statistical publications. It is not necessary, therefore, to discuss them here in much detail.

33. At the preparation stage of the census publication, it is necessary to decide in what order the tabulations will be published, to prepare an index of the tables in this order, and to give a number to each tabulation. To facilitate reference to the publication, it is advisable to use decimal numbering, with the first digit corresponding to the main subject or chapter and the second to the number of the given table (e.g., if a table on the

/occupational distribution

occupational distribution by sex and age is the sixth of the tables on economic characteristics, and that subject is the fifth of the census chapters, the number of this tabulation would be 5.6).

34. As a general order of census chapters, the following could be used:
- (a) Total population (comparative data to the other censuses, etc.);
 - (b) Geographic distribution (in general), urban-rural population;
 - (c) Personal characteristics (sex, age, marital status, nationality, etc.);
 - (d) Educational characteristics;
 - (e) Economic characteristics;
 - (f) Fertility;
 - (g) Household (family) data;
 - (h) Housing data.

35. Some general rules can be established for drawing up the published tables also. A decision has to be taken on the length and width of the tables. These generally depend on the method of reproduction, but the main principle is that a table should not be too crammed, with too many columns and lines. It is better if the publication contains tables of uniform size, e.g., with about the same number of columns and lines. It does not look good if one table contains three columns, and the following one twelve, etc. Unless it is absolutely necessary it is better not to publish horizontal tables, but vertical ones, and only to use double-page tables if it is impossible to publish a very detailed cross-classification on one page. It is best to number all lines and all columns, not only to facilitate the reading of the data, but for ease of reference, in giving the necessary explanations. If the table is very large (especially in the case of double-page tables), the lines should preferably be numbered on both sides of the table.

36. The titles must indicate the real contents of the tables, especially if the table concerned refers to a section of the population, or is based on a sample, or in any other case where the classified topics only are not sufficient for an exact definition of the coverage and content of the data. For instance, it should be stated that the table contains only a population group over x years, or that it does not include the indigenous population, or that it contains de jure data, etc.

37. In some cases there is a main title for a series of tables, and sub-titles denoting the special content of the given table. This method is used for the separate tables of sexes (when, with the same title, there are three sub-titles: "Total", "Male" and "Female") or of urban-rural distribution, territorial divisions, etc. In these cases every table should have the same main title and number and the sub-titles should be marked as secondary with another decimal number (e.g. in the case of the example given in paragraph 33, the sub-table "Total" is numbered 56.1; "Male" 56.2; and "Female" 56.3).

38. During the preparation of the tables it is necessary to check the published data table by table, and the order in which the tables are to be published. It means, for example, that the age-distribution has to be compared in all tables relating to this topic. One basic table is generally selected against which all other tables are checked in order to avoid publishing different data for the same event. Naturally this checking should have been done at an earlier stage of the work, for instance at the data processing stage, but because some tables in the publication are copied without change while others are reduced in size or re-edited, due attention must be given to this final revision.

39. It is necessary to give expressive titles not only to the tables and chapters of the publication, but to each volume of the census publication series. The title must clearly indicate the content of the given volume, stating whether it contains preliminary, sample or final data, and whether it refers to national or regional data, and in the latter case, to which territorial unit it refers. The volumes should be numbered in a definite order, which should include all the publications in the census series. The numbering should be in the logical order for the whole publication, and should not be the order of publication (because some publications may appear earlier than others which precede them in logical order). It is a good idea to give the whole publication plan in each of the census publications so that the reader of any given volume may know which other volumes have already been published and which are planned for future publication, with their expected publication date.

B. FORM OF PUBLICATION OF CENSUS RESULTS

40. There are generally two different stages in the publication of census results which correspond to the order and content of the data published:

- (a) Publication of preliminary results;
- (b) Publication of final results.

Publication of preliminary results

41. The preliminary census data should be published as quickly as possible. The preliminary country totals are usually wanted first, and they must therefore be produced as fast as possible. The easiest way to obtain these data is for the enumerators to compile the enumerated population totals, usually by sex, after finishing the enumeration. Local population totals are then computed on this basis and are submitted to the major civil divisions, which prepare the district totals, and later on the provincial totals, etc. In this way, if every effort is made to issue a preliminary count of the total population, the central census office knows the enumerated population of the whole country a few weeks after the enumeration. Naturally, these data are only preliminary and they have not been checked in any way, but they are nevertheless suitable for publication as preliminary information.

42. These first preliminary data (which could be published only at the national level, or at the level of major civil divisions, such as states, provinces, etc.) need not be issued in printed form. They may, for example, be reported to the legislature or the chief executive, or they may be issued for press and radio announcement (perhaps at a press conference, held by the director of the census office, the minister responsible for the census, or some other high-level official). In any event, the most important thing is that they should be reported within as brief a period as possible after the completion of the enumeration. At the same time, it should be made clear that these are not final figures and are subject to later revision.

43. The second phase of the preliminary publication of the census results needs more preparation. These are generally issued in printed form by the census office. Once again the basis of this publication is usually the enumerators' statements, and not the census questionnaires. But before

/the publication

the publication of these results, a more detailed quantitative control by the regional or, if possible, by the central census office is required. It is advisable not only to check the completeness of the enumerators' summaries, but also to compare them with the questionnaire totals.

44. This publication generally contains not only the population totals, but also the sex distribution; in addition, it sometimes includes data on the present (de facto) and resident (de jure) populations, and often on the number of households and dwellings also.

45. In some countries the enumerators' summaries may contain other information, which is of immediate interest for administrative or planning work. In that case, this information is also included in the preliminary publication (e.g., age distribution in broad age groups; number of employed and unemployed persons; distribution of the employed population in broad industrial groups, or only the number of agricultural workers and non-agricultural workers, etc.). But because results computed in this way generally contain substantial errors and therefore differ from the final data, it is advisable to use an advance tabulation by the sample method, for obtaining such detailed information. If this method is applied the preliminary publication could be issued in two volumes:

- (a) Preliminary data based on the manual computation of the enumerators' summaries, which are published by the most detailed territorial divisions (localities), and contain information on the total population, sex distribution, number of households and dwellings;
- (b) Preliminary data based on sampling, which are published generally by national and major civil divisions (or, better, by regions), and contains the most interesting tabulations of the population and housing situation (generally the first priority tabulations).^{3/}

46. The preliminary data could be published as part of the general census publication series (as a special volume or volumes) or separately. The former method is preferable, but in this case also, it is necessary to mention that this information is preliminary, and will necessarily differ from the final data.

3/ For details on use of sampling in the censuses and also on the tabulation of provisional results and of additional data and data required for special studies, see document ST/ECLA/Conf.32/L.12, prepared for this Seminar.

Publication of final results

47. The publication of final census results is the main purpose of all census publications. They should contain the information collected by the census and their content has to be planned and prepared in the best and most detailed form possible. The time factor is very important in the publication of these data also. This means that though the publication of data should be preceded by a careful consideration and evaluation of the completeness and accuracy of the census results, the final results must be published as soon as possible. In every case the publication of census results should include an estimate of coverage error - i.e., the amount of over- and under-enumeration - and a full explanation of the methods used for evaluating the completeness of the data. Similarly, it is desirable to provide, as far as possible, an evaluation of the quality of the information on each topic, and of the effects of the editing procedures adopted.^{4/} Nevertheless the process of evaluation should not be permitted to delay the prompt publication of the principal results of the census. Evaluations of the completeness and accuracy of the data can be issued after the preliminary publication of the results.

48. Final census results have in practice been published in many different forms and many different ways. As was mentioned in paragraph 14, the publication is sometimes issued as part of a regular government statistical series, or the results appear in various issues of an official statistical review. More often, they are published in separate census volumes.

49. The order and the method of publication also vary widely but these can be divided roughly into two main forms:

- (a) There is a series of volumes containing the territorial data and one volume containing the national results. The former is generally divided by the administrative units of the given country (states, provinces, etc.), but sometimes one volume contains the data on the larger administrative units (generally economic or planning region). In this form of publication, all the territorial volumes contain the same kind of data, and the

^{4/} For details of the methods of evaluating the reliability of census data see document ST/ECLA/Conf.32/L.11, prepared for this Seminar.

national volume generally contains more detailed tabulations at the national level and gives historical and territorial comparisons also. Sometimes the volume which gives the data on the national capital, is a little different from the others, because more detailed tabulations are published in it.

- (5) The other method - generally used by countries which do not have a federal system - is not to publish territorial and national volumes, but one census volume, or if there is too much information for one volume, several volumes. They are divided by subject (e.g., one volume for general (or demographic) data, one for educational characteristics, one or more for economic characteristics, another for fertility data, one for housing information, etc.). In this case it is also advisable to publish a summary volume, which contains the most interesting results in the form of a résumé, together with historical data, analyses, etc.

50. Sometimes the two methods are used side by side. The regional data is published in regional volumes, but the national data are published separately by subjects (especially for the different types of censuses, such as population and housing).

51. The publications may also have an order of priority based on the tabulation order. This means that the final results are divided into two or three priority groups and the publications are issued in that order. In this form, either the territorial or the national publications, or both of them, are published not by subjects, but by order of tabulations. The volumes in this case, therefore have two or three "sub-volumes" or books labelled "first priority", "second priority" or "special" data. If this method is used, a national summary volume, will be required also, but will be independent of the priorities for the basic volumes.

52. The publication containing the final census results consists in some countries of statistical tables only. Other countries include in the same publication analyses of the data also, which is the more acceptable form of publication. It is desirable that not only the national, but also the territorial volumes should contain an analysis.

53. Besides the analyses, it is necessary to publish a note giving definitions, an estimate of accuracy (rate of omission) and a clarification of the comparability with previous census results. Some countries also publish graphs and statistical maps.

54. The form of publication of the analytical and cartographic material and graphs also varies from country to country. In some cases it is published together with the summary tables (i.e., with the national volume). In other cases, the national publication consists of different volumes: one contains the tables, another the analytical and methodological text, and the third (or the same) the graphs and maps.

55. It may be of great value to include in the last volume an index or list of all the tables prepared in the census. This list should indicate how detailed the classifications in the tables are on the magnetic tapes (if the computer method was used), in the machine tables and in the census publications. For example, a table may be on tape by localities, in machine tables by provinces, but in published form only for the whole country. In other cases a table may contain more detailed classifications (e.g., of occupations) in the unpublished version than in the published one. A list giving this information is therefore of great value to the user of the statistics.

56. An alphabetical index of all the more important concepts taken into consideration in the census may also be included in the last volume. This will be of value especially if data on the same characteristics are included in several volumes (especially when there is an order of priority for publication). Naturally besides this general index, each volume must have its own table of contents.

57. It is recommended that, in addition to publishing the tabular results, every country should provide a methodological and administrative report, giving the information necessary for appraising and interpreting the results of each census. This report should include specimens of the questionnaires, instructions for the enumeration, information on the cost of the census and on the manner in which the census was planned, organized and conducted, the important methodological and other problems encountered at the various stages of the programme, and points to be considered in

/future censuses.

future censuses. This report can be published separately, either as a special volume of the census series, or as a part of the summary census volume, which contains also the final results and analyses. The former method is more convenient, but some information - i.e. the most important methodological information - must be published in each census volume.

58. Besides the general analyses which are generally prepared by the staff of the census office and published in the census publication series itself (either in the summary publication or in a special analytical volume, as was mentioned before), it is a very desirable practice to prepare and publish special analytical volumes, often outside of the census publication series. It means that aside from such studies, which are part of the overall census programme, additional analyses are prepared by research organizations, universities or experts on their own initiative. The preparation of such analyses should be encouraged by the census office, which should help the authors with their work. These special studies could form part of a census monograph series, in which the population of the given country would be systematically analysed and studied. The monograph series would not necessarily cover all subjects for each census but would always include those subjects which are of special interest in the period of the census. For instance, a very detailed analysis of fertility may be published at one time, and an analysis of the employment-unemployment situation at another.

59. In conclusion it is necessary to stress once again that the census data should be presented and explained in the census publication in whatever form is most acceptable and convenient for each country. The general principle is, however, that the results must be published as soon as possible in the most complete and useful form.

