April 10, 1995
1990 Census of Population and Housing
Public Use Microdata Samples (PUMS)

PUMS Files

The Public Use Microdata Samples (PUMS) contain housing unit and person records drawn from the full census sample. Each record is 231 characters in length and contains information coded from the 'long form' questionnaire. A housing unit record has an 'H' in the first character position, and a person record has a 'P' in the first position.

The file is hierarchical in structure. That is, a housing unit record is followed in sequence by records for the persons in that housing unit. Vacant units have no associated person records, and person records in group quarters each have a housing unit record with zero weight.

The 'A' Sample contains records for 5 percent of the population, and the 'B' Sample contains records for 1 percent of the population. Each housing unit and person record contains a weight field (HOUSWGT or PWGT1) which has a value that represents the record's relationship to the entire population.

HOUSWGT and PWGT1 are variable weights, and must be used to produce estimates of population and housing characteristics. This is an important difference from the PUMS files released from the 1970 and 1980 censuses. In 1970 and 1980, the PUMS files used constant weights.

Contents Of The CD-ROM

Directory listing for Volume CD90_PUMS

```
/       pumsSxAA.txt    PUMS data files.  'S' is the sample designator, and
                        'AA' is the State abbreviation.  The 231-character
                        records are terminated with carriage return and line
                        feed characters (ASCII 13 and 10).

        read.bat        Batch file to invoke text display software.

                        Example:  READ text_file
                                  (The text_file parameter is optional.  The
                                  program will ask for this information.)

        readme          Text file containing information about the use of
                        the CD-ROM.

ÃÄÄÄ/DOCUMENT

        pumsusdd.txt    Data dictionary file for PUMS.

        ancestry.lst    Ancestry code list.

        birth.lst       Place of birth code list.

        industry.lst    Industry code list.

        language.lst    Language code list.

        occup.lst       Occupation code list.
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³       race.lst        Race code list.
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ÀÄÄÄ/TOOLS
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    ÃÄÄÄ/PUMAS
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    ³   puma2dsk.exe    Program to copy records for individual Public Use
    ³                   Microdata Areas (PUMAs) to disk.  The program
    ³                   requires parameters.  Execute PUMA2DSK without
    ³                   parameters to display the help screen.
    ³
    ³                   Example:  PUMA2DSK AL A 00100 C:\
    ³                             (Copy data for PUMA '00100' from the Alabama
    ³                             'A' sample file in the current directory to
    ³                             the root directory of C:.)
    ³
    ³   puma2dsk.bas    Source code for PUMA2DSK.EXE (Microsoft Basic).
    ³
    ³   pumsS.doc       PUMA equivalency file.  This is a text file which
    ³                   lists the components of each PUMA.  Refer to this file
    ³                   for PUMA codes.
    ³
    ³   pumsSxAA.idx    PUMA index files.  These files contain the starting
    ³                   record locations for the PUMAs in each PUMS data file.
    ³                   <S> is the sample designator, and <AA> is the State
    ³                   abbreviation.
    ³
    ³                   Record format:  characters 1-5   PUMA code
    ³                                   characters 6-14  Beginning record
    ³
    ÃÄÄÄ/QUICKTAB
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    ³   90pums.dd       QUICKTAB data dictionary for PUMS.
    ³
    ³   crosstab.exe    CROSSTAB is the QUICKTAB program to do cross
    ³                   tabulations.
    ³
    ³                   Example:  CROSSTAB data_dictionary data_file
    ³                             (The data_dictionary and data_file
    ³                             parameters are optional.  The program will
    ³                             ask for this information.)
    ³
    ³   freq.exe        FREQ is the QUICKTAB program to do frequency
    ³                   distributions.
    ³
    ³                   Example:  FREQ data_dictionary data_file
    ³                             (The data_dictionary and data_file
    ³                             parameters are optional.  The program will
    ³                             ask for this information.)
    ³
    ³   quicktab.doc    QUICKTAB user documentation.
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    ÀÄÄÄ/SAS

        pums.sas        SAS language commands to input and rectangularize a
                        PUMS data file.  SAS is a registered trademark of
                        SAS Institute, Inc., Box 8000, Cary, NC 27511-8000.
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