

registration, which meant that you and the authorities from then was obliged to report all changes to them. These changes are then spread out in the society to update different registers with new addresses, import infants, delete deaths and so on.

Statistics Sweden receive every day all changes from the civil registration and create out of that a Total Population Register (TPR).

3. Administrative registers

Nearly all administrative tasks have since long time been computerized with use of the PIN. A lot of administrative registers have been established in different authorities since the beginning of the 70s. Most of these registers are listed in annex 2. Statistics Sweden can use these registers for statistical purposes and can combine them with use of the PIN.

All these circumstances have made it possible to develop the taking of the Swedish Population and Housing Census with a more and more register-based method. Other important circumstances are described below:

Mailing system, people's response and data capture

Sweden has a well-functioning mailing system with high quality of addresses and a population that is used to answer letters from authorities in a proper way. These facts have made it possible for us to use the mail-out mail-in method when collecting census information from the respondents. The non-response rate has been around one percent in the 70s and up to around three percent in the 90s.

The census questionnaires were pre-printed from the TPR with name, address and family composition. The questionnaires were sent out centrally and mailed back to a local census office at each municipality. They completed the questionnaire with lacking information and during the 70s and 80s they sent the questionnaires to Statistics Sweden where we used Optical Mark Reader (OMR) and terminals in a computerized system for data capture. Later in the 90s the data capture was done locally on PC-computers.

Data protection and the Secrecy Act

We have in Sweden a Secrecy Act and a Personal Data Act.

The Secrecy Act says that all personal and economic circumstances of respondents, that are collected by Statistics Sweden, are protected and cannot leave Statistics Sweden as identified micro-data.

The Personal Data Act regulate the protection of personal integrity, notification of personal data processing to Data Inspection Board, right for people to ask for register extracts free of charge and regulations on damages, penalties and fines in the case of infringements of the general provisions of the Act.

Besides that we also have a Statistical legislation. The Official Statistics Act and the Official Statistics Ordinance are regulating what kind of statistics that must be official.

The development census by census is described below: