

The IPUMS International Census Microdata Project

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The Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS) International is a project dedicated to collecting and distributing census data from around the world. The project has collected the world's largest archive of publicly available census microdata samples. Currently disseminating more than 200 census samples from 68 countries, the goals of the IPUMS International are to collect and preserve data and documentation, harmonize data, and disseminate data cost-free to researchers. The data series includes information on a broad range of population characteristics, including fertility, nuptiality, life-course transitions, migration, labor-force participation, occupational structure, education, ethnicity, and household composition. This paper describes sample characteristics and data structure; the data harmonization process including the creation of constructed family interrelationship variables; and the flexible dissemination system that enables researchers to build customized extracts of pooled census samples across time and place.

Key Words: census microdata, data harmonization, data dissemination, demographic analysis