

## **The Population and Housing Census in a Register Based Statistical System**

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The population and housing census has for decades been the back bone in the social statistics in most countries, and so it has been in Denmark. However, a traditional census is an extremely costly operation and, especially back in time, a long lasting process, which makes data less useful. On this background the direct use of administrative registers in statistics was introduced in Denmark in the 70's. The paper describes the way to the world's first totally register based population and housing census in 1981, and how the use of administrative registers changes the production of statistics and also the demand for statistics. In the register based systems most statistics can be produced annually or more frequently, for example can population statistics in principle be produced daily. The first register based census in 1981 turned out to be also the last census published in Denmark. Denmark still undertakes censuses based on registers, but only to fulfill international commitments. So the conclusion is that in a register based statistical system, like the Danish, the census has lost its importance and hardly exists.

Key words: administrative registers, frequency, production time