## SPECIAL SECTION

## HISTORICAL STATISTICS

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Editors' Note: At its first meeting in San Francisco in 1974, the new Editorial Board of LARR decided to encourage the publication of thematically related materials. The following Special Section was assembled and compiled through the initiative and energy of Professor Laura Randall, a member of the Board.

The major emphasis has been to provide a broad overview and assessment of Historical Statistics and their use for the study of Latin America. The purpose has not been that of publishing a compendium of raw data, but rather to discuss their availability and use for more detailed scholarly investigation. Consequently, much of the tabular material has been deleted here, except for selected illustrative examples. Readers with particular interest in the more detailed statistical materials should write directly to the individual authors, addresses for whom are given on the respective title pages.