

Glossary of Terms

Accuracy and Coverage Evaluation (A.C.E.)

A survey designed to measure the undercount/overcount of the census.

Age

Age is generally derived from date of birth information, and is based on the age of the person in complete years.

American Community Survey (ACS)

The American Community Survey is a large, continuous demographic survey conducted by the Census Bureau that will eventually provide accurate and up-to-date profiles of America's communities every year. Questionnaires are mailed to a sample of addresses to obtain information about households -- that is, about each person and the housing unit itself. The survey produces annual and multi-year estimates of population and housing characteristics and produces data for small areas, including tracts and population subgroups. Questions asked are similar to those on the decennial census long form.

Related term: Continuous Measurement System

American FactFinder (AFF)

An electronic system for access and dissemination of Census Bureau data on the internet. The system offers prepackaged data products and user-selected data tables and maps from Census 2000, the 1990 Census of Population and Housing, the 1997 Economic Census, and the American Community Survey. The system was formerly known as the Data Access and Dissemination System (DADS).

Ancestry

Refers to a person's self-identification of heritage, ethnic origin, descent, or close identification to an ethnic group.

Related terms: Nationality, Place of birth

Apportionment

The process of dividing up the 435 memberships, or seats, in the U. S. House of Representatives among the 50 states. The Census Bureau's role in apportionment is to conduct the census every 10 years as mandated by the Constitution. Apportionment does not affect Puerto Rico.

Related terms: Decennial census, Reapportionment, Redistricting

Apportionment population

A state's apportionment population is the sum of its resident population and a count of overseas U.S. military and federal civilian employees (and their dependents living with them) allocated to the state, as reported by the employing federal agencies.

Related term: Resident population

Area

The size, in square miles or square meters, recorded for each geographic entity.

Average

The number found by dividing the sum of all quantities by the total number of quantities.

Related terms: Mean, Median

Average family size

A measure obtained by dividing the number of members of families by the total number of families.

Related term: Family

Average household size

A measure obtained by dividing the number of people in households by the total number of households.

Related term: Household

Base map

Map content including geographic, physical, cultural, political, and statistical features for locational reference.

Block

A subdivision of a census tract (or, prior to 2000, a block numbering area), a block is the smallest geographic unit for which the Census Bureau tabulates 100-percent data. Many blocks correspond to individual city blocks bounded by streets, but blocks -- especially in rural areas -- may include many square miles and may have some boundaries that are not streets. The Census Bureau established blocks covering the entire nation for the first time in 1990. Previous censuses back to 1940 had blocks established only for part of the nation. Over 8 million blocks are identified for Census 2000.

Related terms: 100-percent data, Census block, Census geography, Census tract,

Block group (BG)

A subdivision of a census tract (or, prior to 2000, a block numbering area), a block group is the smallest geographic unit for which the Census Bureau tabulates sample data. A block group consists of all the blocks within a census tract with the same beginning number.

Example: block group 3 consists of all blocks within a 2000 census tract numbering from 3000 to 3999. In 1990, block group 3 consisted of all blocks numbered from 301 to 399Z.

Related terms: Census block, Census geography, Census tract, Sample data

Boundary

The extent or limit of a geographic area such as a block, census tract, county, or place. A boundary may or may not follow a visible geographic physical feature.

Census

A complete enumeration, usually of a population, but also of businesses and commercial establishments, farms, governments, and so forth.

Census (decennial)

The census of population and housing, taken by the Census Bureau in years ending in 0 (zero). Article I of the Constitution requires that a census be taken every ten years for the purpose of reapportioning the U.S. House of Representatives.

Related terms: Apportionment, Reapportionment, Redistricting

Census (economic)

Collective name for the censuses of construction, manufactures, minerals, minority- and women-owned businesses, retail trade, service industries, transportation, and wholesale trade, conducted by the Census Bureau every five years, in years ending in 2 and 7.

Census area

The statistical equivalent of a county in Alaska. Census areas are delineated cooperatively by the state of Alaska and the Census Bureau for statistical purposes in the portion of Alaska not within an organized borough.

Census block

A subdivision of a census tract (or, prior to 2000, a block numbering area), a block is the smallest geographic unit for which the Census Bureau tabulates 100-percent data. Many blocks correspond to individual city blocks bounded by streets, but blocks -- especially in rural areas -- may include many square miles and may have some boundaries that are not streets. The Census Bureau established blocks covering the entire nation for the first time in 1990. Previous censuses back to 1940 had blocks established only for part of the nation. Over 8 million blocks are identified for Census 2000.

Related term: Block

Census county division (CCD)

A subdivision of a county that is a relatively permanent statistical area established cooperatively by the Census Bureau and state and local government authorities. Used for presenting decennial census statistics in those states that do not have well-defined and stable minor civil divisions that serve as local governments.

Census Day

Reference date for the decennial census. For Census 2000, Census Day was April 1, 2000; for the Census 2000 Dress Rehearsal, April 18, 1998; and for the 1990 Census, April 1, 1990.

Census designated place (CDP)

A statistical entity, defined for each decennial census according to Census Bureau guidelines, comprising a densely settled concentration of population that is not within an incorporated place, but is locally identified by a name. CDPs are delineated cooperatively by state and local officials and the Census Bureau, following Census Bureau guidelines. Beginning with Census 2000 there are no size limits.

Related term: Incorporated place

Census geography

A collective term referring to the types of geographic areas used by the Census Bureau in its data collection and tabulation operations, including their structure, designations, and relationships to one another.

Census tract

A small, relatively permanent statistical subdivision of a county delineated by a local committee of census data users for the purpose of presenting data. Census tract boundaries normally follow visible features, but may follow governmental unit boundaries and other non-visible features in some instances; they always nest within counties. Designed to be relatively homogeneous units with respect to population characteristics, economic status, and living conditions at the time of establishment, census tracts average about 4,000 inhabitants. They may be split by any sub-county geographic entity.

Central city

The largest city of a Metropolitan area (MA). Central cities are a basis for establishment of an MA. Additional cities that meet specific criteria also are identified as central cities. In a number of instances, only part of a city qualifies as central, because another part of the city extends beyond the MA boundary.

Related term: Metropolitan area (MA)

Central place

The core incorporated place(s) or a census designated place of an urban area, usually consisting of the most populous place(s) in the urban area plus additional places that qualify under Census Bureau criteria. If the central place is also defined as an extended place, only the portion of the central place contained within the urban area is recognized as the central place.

Related terms: Urban, Urbanized area

Child

A son or a daughter by birth, an adopted child, or a stepchild, regardless of the child's age or marital status.

Related terms: Own children, Related children,

Citizenship status:

Citizen

People who indicate that they were born in the United States, Puerto Rico, a U.S. Island Area, or abroad of a U.S. citizen parent(s) are citizens.

People who indicate that they are U.S. citizens through naturalization are also citizens.

Naturalized citizens are foreign-born people who identify themselves as naturalized. Naturalization is the conferring, by any means, of citizenship upon a person after birth.

Not a citizen

People who indicate they are not U.S. citizens.

Related terms: Foreign born, Place of birth,

City

A type of incorporated place in 49 states and the District of Columbia. In 23 states and the District of Columbia, some or all cities are not part of any Minor Civil Division (MCD), and the Census Bureau also treats these as county subdivisions, statistically equivalent to MCDs.

Related terms: Incorporated place, Minor civil division (MCD)

Class of worker

All people over the age of 15 who have been employed at any time are asked to designate the type of work normally done or the work performed most regularly. Occupations and types of work are then broken down into the following 5 classes.

Private Wage and Salary Workers

Includes people who worked for wages, salary, commission, tips, pay-in-kind, or piece rates for a private-for-profit employer or a private-not-for-profit, tax-exempt, or charitable organization.

Self-employed people whose business was incorporated are included with private wage and salary workers because they are paid employees of their own companies. Some tabulations present data separately for these subcategories: "For profit," "Not-for-profit," and "Own business incorporated."

Government Workers

Includes people who are employees of any local, state, or federal governmental unit, regardless of the activity of the particular agency. For some tabulations, the data are presented separately for the three levels of government.

Employees of foreign governments, the United Nations, or other formal international organizations controlled by governments should be classified as "Federal Government employee."

Self-Employed Workers

Includes people who worked for profit or fees in their own unincorporated business, profession, or trade, or who operated a farm.

Unpaid Family Workers

Includes people who worked 15 hours or more without pay in a business or on a farm operated by a relative.

Salaried/Self-Employed

In tabulations that categorize persons as either salaried or self-employed, the salaried category includes private and government wage and salary workers; self-employed includes self-employed people and unpaid family workers.

Related term: Worker

Confidence interval (ACS)

The sample estimate and its standard error permit the construction of a confidence interval which represents the degree of uncertainty about the estimate. Each American Community Survey estimate is accompanied by the upper and lower bounds of the 90 percent confidence interval. A 90 percent confidence interval can be interpreted roughly as providing 90 percent certainty that the true number falls between the upper and lower bounds.

Related terms: American Community Survey (ACS), Estimates (American Community Survey), Standard error (ACS)

Confidentiality

The guarantee made by law (Title 13, United States Code) to individuals who provide census information regarding nondisclosure of that information to others.

Related term: Title 13 (U.S. Code)

Confidentiality edit

The name for the Census 2000 disclosure avoidance procedure.

Related term: Disclosure avoidance

Congressional district (CD)

An area established by law for the election of representatives to the United States Congress. Each CD is to be as equal in population to all other CDs in the state as practicable, based on the decennial census counts. The number of CDs in each state may change after each decennial census, and the boundaries may be changed more than once during a decade.

In the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, a single CD is created consisting of the entire area. The representative is termed a delegate or resident commissioner, respectively and does not have voting rights in Congress.

Related terms: Apportionment, Reapportionment, Redistricting

Consolidated city

An incorporated place that has combined its governmental functions with a county or sub-county entity but contains one or more other incorporated places that continue to function as local governments within the consolidated government.

Related term: Incorporated place

Consolidated metropolitan statistical area (CMSA)

A geographic entity defined by the federal Office of Management and Budget for use by federal statistical agencies. An area becomes a CMSA if it meets the requirements to qualify as a metropolitan statistical area, has a population of 1,000,000 or more, if component parts are recognized as primary metropolitan statistical areas, and local opinion favors the designation.

Related terms: Metropolitan statistical area (MSA), Primary metropolitan statistical area (PMSA)

Continuous Measurement System

This system is a re-engineering of the method for collecting the housing and socio-economic data traditionally collected in the decennial census. It provides data every year instead of once in ten years. It blends the strength of small area estimation from the census with the quality and timeliness of the continuing surveys. This system includes a large monthly survey, the American Community Survey, and additional estimates through the use of administrative records in statistical models. It is in a developmental period that started in 1996.

Related term: American Community Survey (ACS)

County and equivalent entity

The primary legal subdivision of most states. In Louisiana, these subdivisions are known as parishes. In Alaska, which has no counties, the county equivalents are boroughs, a legal subdivision, and census areas, a statistical subdivision. In four states (Maryland, Missouri, Nevada and Virginia), there are one or more cities that are independent of any county and thus constitute primary subdivisions of their states. The District of Columbia has no primary divisions, and the entire area is considered equivalent to a county for statistical purposes. In Puerto Rico, municipios are treated as county equivalents.

Related terms: Borough, Municipio

County subdivision

A legal or statistical division of a county recognized by the Census Bureau for data presentation. The two major types of county subdivisions are census county divisions and minor civil divisions.

County subdivision not defined

The name assigned to an area of unpopulated coastal water within a county that belongs to no county subdivision.

Related terms: Minor civil division (MCD), Unorganized territory,

Decennial

Occurring or being done every 10 years.

Decennial census

The census of population and housing, taken by the Census Bureau in years ending in 0 (zero). Article I of the Constitution requires that a census be taken every ten years for the purpose of reapportioning the U.S. House of Representatives. Title 13 of the U. S. Code provides the authorization for conducting the census in Puerto Rico and the Island Areas.

Related terms: Apportionment, Reapportionment, Redistricting, Title 13 (U.S. Code)

Derived measures

Census data products include various derived measures, such as medians, means, and percentages, as well as certain rates and ratios. Derived measures that round to less than 0.1 are not shown but indicated as zero.

Related terms: Mean, Median, Percentage

Disability

A long-lasting physical, mental, or emotional condition. This condition can make it difficult for a person to do activities such as walking, climbing stairs, dressing, bathing, learning, or remembering. This condition can also impede a person from being able to go outside the home alone or to work at a job or business.

Disclosure avoidance

Statistical methods used in the tabulation of data prior to releasing data products to ensure the confidentiality of responses.

Related term: Confidentiality edit

Earnings

Earnings is defined as the algebraic sum of wage or salary income and net income from self-employment. Earnings represent the amount of income received regularly before deductions for personal income taxes, Social Security, bond purchases, union dues, Medicare deductions, etc.

Related term: Income

Educational attainment

Refers to the highest level of education completed in terms of the highest degree or the highest level of schooling completed.

Employed

Employed includes all civilians 16 years old and over who were either (1) "at work" -- those who did any work at all during the reference week as paid employees, worked in their own business or profession, worked on their own farm, or worked 15 hours or more as unpaid workers on a family farm or in a family business; or (2) were "with a job but not at work" -- those who did not work during the reference week but had jobs or businesses from which they were temporarily absent due to illness, bad weather, industrial dispute, vacation, or other personal reasons. Excluded from the employed are people whose only activity consisted of work around the house or unpaid volunteer work for religious, charitable, and similar organizations; also excluded are people on active duty in the United States Armed Forces. The reference week is the calendar week preceding the date on which the respondents completed their questionnaires or were interviewed. This week may not be the same for all respondents.

Related terms: Labor force, Unemployed, Worker

Employment status reference week

The data on employment status and journey to work relate to the calendar week preceding the date on which the respondents completed their questionnaires or were interviewed. This week may not be the same for all respondents.

Estimates (American Community Survey)

Data for the American Community Survey are collected from a sample of housing units and used to produce estimates of the actual figures that would have been obtained by interviewing the entire population using the same methodology.

Related terms: American Community Survey (ACS), Confidence interval (ACS), Standard error (ACS)

Family

A group of two or more people who reside together and who are related by birth, marriage, or adoption.

Family household (Family)

A family includes a householder and one or more people living in the same household who are related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption. All people in a household who are related to the householder are regarded as members of his or her family. A family household may contain people not related to the householder, but those people are not included as part of the householder's family in census tabulations. Thus, the number of family households is equal to the number of families, but family households may include more members than do families. A household can contain only one family for purposes of census tabulations. Not all households contain families since a household may comprise a group of unrelated people or one person living alone.

Related terms: Household, Householder

Family size

Refers to the number of people in a family.

Family type

Refers to how the members of a family are related to one another and the householder. Families may be a "Married Couple Family," "Single Parent Family," "Stepfamily," or "Subfamily."

Feature

Any part of the landscape, whether natural (such as a stream or ridge), man-made (such as a road or power line), that can be shown on a map.

Related term: Reference map

Foreign born:

Foreign-born population

People who are not U.S. citizens at birth.

Native population

People born in either the United States, Puerto Rico, or a U.S. Island Area such as Guam or the U.S. Virgin Islands, or people born in a foreign country to a U.S. citizen parent(s).

Related terms: Citizenship status, Immigrants, Native population, Place of birth

Foster children

Children receiving parental care and guidance although not related through blood or legal ties; placed in care by a government agency.

When a foster child is also a relative, such as a nephew or niece, the child is counted as a related individual rather than a foster child.

Related term: Nonrelatives

Full-time, year-round workers (in designated calendar year)

All people 16 years old and over who usually worked 35 hours or more per week for 50 to 52 weeks in the designated calendar year.

Related terms: Employed, Worker

Full-time, year-round workers (in the past 12 months)

All people 16 years old and over who usually worked 35 hours or more per week for 50 to 52 weeks in the past 12 months.

Related terms: Employed, Worker

Geographic Component

A geographic component is the portion of a geographic area (e.g., Alabama) that meets a location-based test such as "in a metropolitan area" or "in a rural place". For example, a geographic component of "in metropolitan area" for Texas combines the land area of El Paso, TX MSA, San Antonio, TX MSA and all other metropolitan areas in Texas into a single collective identity.

The Census Bureau recognizes about 100 different geographic components, with most focusing on urban/rural or metropolitan/non-metropolitan distinctions. Geographic components are only available for some types of geographic areas (e.g., State, Region). And the specific geographic components available for one geographic type may be different from those available for another geographic type.

Geographic entity

A geographic unit of any type, legal or statistical, such as a state, county, place, county subdivision, census tract, or census block.

Geographic Identifiers

These are also called geocodes and include codes, names and data relevant to the geography chosen, such as land area, water area, the center point longitude and latitude, etc.

Geography (census)

A collective term referring to the types of geographic areas used by the Census Bureau in its data collection and tabulation operations, including their structure, designations, and relationships to one another.

Group quarters (GQ)

The Census Bureau classifies all people not living in households as living in group quarters. There are two types of group quarters: institutional (for example, correctional facilities, nursing homes, and mental hospitals) and non-institutional (for example, college dormitories, military barracks, group homes, missions, and shelters).

Related term: Household

Group quarters population

Those people residing in group quarters as of the date on which a particular survey was conducted. The Census Bureau recognizes two general categories of people in group quarters: (1) institutionalized population and (2) non-institutionalized population. The institutionalized population includes people under formally authorized supervised care or custody in institutions at the time of enumeration. Such people are classified as "patients or inmates" of an institution regardless of the availability of nursing or medical care, the length of stay, or the number of people in the institution. Generally, the institutionalized population is restricted to the institutional buildings and grounds (or must have passes or escorts to leave) and thus have limited interaction with the surrounding community. Also, they are generally under the care of trained staff who have responsibility for their safekeeping and supervision. The noninstitutionalized population includes all people who live in group quarters other than institutions.

Related terms: Institutionalized population, Noninstitutionalized population

Hispanic or Hispanic origin

See Spanish/Hispanic/Latino.

Household

A household includes all the people who occupy a housing unit as their usual place of residence.

Household size

The total number of people living in a housing unit.

Household type and relationship

Households are classified by type according to the sex of the householder and the presence of relatives. Examples include: married-couple family; male householder, no wife present; female householder, no husband present; spouse (husband/wife); child; and other relatives.

Householder

The person, or one of the people, in whose name the home is owned, being bought, or rented.

If there is no such person present, any household member 15 years old and over can serve as the householder for the purposes of the census.

Two types of householders are distinguished: a family householder and a nonfamily householder. A family householder is a householder living with one or more people related to him or her by birth, marriage, or adoption. The householder and all people in the household related to him are family members. A nonfamily householder is a householder living alone or with nonrelatives only.

Housing unit

A house, an apartment, a mobile home or trailer, a group of rooms, or a single room occupied as separate living quarters, or if vacant, intended for occupancy as separate living quarters. Separate living quarters are those in which the occupants live separately from any other individuals in the building and which have direct access from outside the building or through a common hall. For vacant units, the criteria of separateness and direct access are applied to the intended occupants whenever possible.

Immigrants

Aliens admitted for legal permanent residence in the United States.

Immigration statistics are prepared by the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Department of Justice, from entry visas and change of immigration forms.

Related term: Foreign born

Imputation

When information is missing or inconsistent, the Census Bureau uses a method called imputation to assign values. Imputation relies on the statistical principle of "homogeneity," or the tendency of households within a small geographic area to be similar in most characteristics. For example, the value of "rented" is likely to be imputed for a housing unit not reported on owner/renter status in a neighborhood with multi-units or apartments where other respondents reported "rented" on the census questionnaire.

Income

"Total income" is the sum of the amounts reported separately for wages, salary, commissions, bonuses, or tips; self-employment income from own nonfarm or farm businesses, including proprietorships and partnerships; interest, dividends, net rental income, royalty income, or income from estates and trusts; Social Security or Railroad Retirement income; Supplemental Security Income (SSI); any public assistance or welfare payments from the state or local welfare office; retirement, survivor, or disability pensions; and any other sources of income received regularly such as Veterans' (VA) payments, unemployment compensation, child support, or alimony.

Related term: Earnings

Incorporated place

A type of governmental unit incorporated under state law as a city, town (except the New England states, New York, and Wisconsin), borough (except in Alaska and New York), or village and having legally prescribed limits, powers, and functions.

Related terms: Census designated place (CDP), Place

Independent City (IC)

An incorporated place that is a primary division of a state and legally not part of any county. The Census Bureau treats an independent city as both a county equivalent and county subdivision for data tabulation purposes.

Related term: County and equivalent entity

Industrial Classification

The Economic Census classifies establishments according to the new North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). NAICS codes replace the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes used in previous censuses. NAICS classifies industries using 2-, 3-, 4-, 5-, and 6- digit levels of detail. 2-digit codes represent sectors, the broadest classifications. 6-digit codes represent individual industries in the U.S.

Related terms: Economic census, North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)

Industry (economic) - In the 1997 economic census data, U.S. industries are classified using a 5- or 6- digit NAICS code. Industry groups are represented by classification using a 4 digit NAICS code.

Related term: North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)

Industry (population data)

Information on industry relates to the kind of business conducted by a person's employing organization. For employed people the data refer to the person's job during the reference week. For those who worked at two or more jobs, the data refer to the job at which the person worked the greatest number of hours. Some examples of industrial groups shown in products include agriculture, forestry, and fisheries; construction; manufacturing; wholesale or retail trade; transportation and communication; personal, professional and entertainment services; and public administration.

Related terms: Economic census, Employed

Institutionalized population

People under formally authorized, supervised care or custody in institutions at the time of enumeration. Generally, restricted to the institution, under the care or supervision of trained staff, and classified as "patients" or "inmates."

Related terms: Group quarters (GQ), Group quarters population, Noninstitutionalized population

Integrated Coverage Measurement (ICM)

The Integrated Coverage Measurement program was designed to permit statistically valid estimates of the proportion of the population missed using traditional census procedures and to identify persons incorrectly included in the initial phase of the Census 2000 Dress Rehearsal. The ICM program was designed to address irrefutable evidence produced from studies of previous censuses indicating that traditional census methods result in difficulties in counting people in certain demographic groups, specifically minorities and renters. ICM estimates were obtained using a three-step procedure: Dual System Estimation, Iterative Proportional Fitting, and Synthetic Estimation.

Related term: Without Correction for ICM

Interpolation

Interpolation frequently is used in calculating medians or quartiles based on interval data and in approximating standard errors from tables. Linear interpolation is used to estimate values of a function between two known values. Pareto interpolation is an alternative to linear interpolation. In Pareto interpolation, the median is derived by interpolating between the logarithms of the upper and lower income limits of the median category. It is used by the Census Bureau in calculating median income within intervals wider than \$2,500.

Journey to work

Includes data on where people work, how they get to work, how long it takes to get from their home to their usual workplace, when they leave home to go to their usual workplace, and carpooling.

Related terms: Employed, Worker

Keyword

Word or words used in the Search function of The CTPP Access Tool (CAT) to locate data or geographic areas of interest

Labor force

The labor force includes all people classified in the civilian labor force, plus members of the U.S. Armed Forces (people on active duty with the United States Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard). The Civilian Labor Force consists of people classified as employed or unemployed

Related terms: Employed, Unemployed

Latino

See Spanish/Hispanic/Latino

Legend

The part of a map that lists and explains the colors, symbols, line patterns, shadings, and annotations used on the map.

Related terms: Reference map, Thematic map

Living quarters

A housing unit is a house, an apartment, a mobile home or trailer, a group of rooms or a single room occupied as separate living quarters or, if vacant, intended for occupancy as separate living quarters. Separate living quarters are those in which the occupants live separately from any people in the building and which have direct access from outside the building or through a common hall.

Related term: Housing unit

Long form

The decennial census questionnaire, sent to approximately one in six households for the 1980, 1990, and 2000 censuses, contains all of the questions on the short form, as well as additional detailed questions relating to the social, economic, and housing characteristics of each individual and household. Information derived from the long form is referred to as sample data, and is tabulated for geographic entities as small as the block group level in 1980, 1990, and 2000 census data products.

Related terms: Census (decennial), Sample data, Short form

Marital status

Adults are generally classified by marital status as being married, never married, separated, divorced or widowed.

Mean

This measure represents an arithmetic average of a set of numbers. It is derived by dividing the sum of a group of numerical items by the total number of items in that group. For example, mean family income is obtained by dividing the total of all income reported by people 15 years and over in families by the total number of families.

Related term: Derived measures

Mean income

Mean income is the amount obtained by dividing the total income of a particular statistical universe by the number of units in that universe. Thus, mean household income is obtained by dividing total household income by the total number of households. For the various types of income, the means are based on households having those types of income.

Related term: Income

Means of transportation to work

Means of transportation to work refers to the principal mode of travel or type of conveyance that the worker usually used to get from home to work during the reference week. Data were tabulated for workers 16 years old and over; that is, members of the Armed Forces and civilians who were at work during the reference week. People who used different means of transportation on different days of the week were asked to specify the one they used most often, that is, the greatest number of days. People who used more than one means of transportation to get to work each day were asked to report the one used for the longest distance during the work trip. The means of transportation data for some areas may show workers using modes that are not available in those areas (for example, subway or elevated riders tabulated for a residence area where there actually is no subway or elevated service). This result is largely due to people who worked during the reference week at a location that was different from their usual place of work (such as people away from home on business, working that week in an area where subway service was available).

Median

This measure represents the middle value (if n is odd) or the average of the two middle values (if n is even) in an ordered list of data values. The median divides the total frequency distribution into two equal parts: one-half of the cases fall below the median and one-half of the cases exceed the median.

Related term: Derived measures

Median age

This measure divides the age distribution in a stated area into two equal parts: one-half of the population falling below the median value and one-half above the median value.

Related term: Age

Median income

The median income divides the income distribution into two equal groups, one having incomes above the median, and other having incomes below the median.

Related term: Income

Metropolitan

Refers to those areas surrounding large and densely populated cities or towns.

Metropolitan area (MA)

A collective term, established by the federal Office of Management and Budget, to refer to metropolitan statistical areas, consolidated metropolitan statistical areas, and primary metropolitan statistical areas.

Metropolitan statistical area (MSA)

A geographic entity defined by the federal Office of Management and Budget for use by federal statistical agencies, based on the concept of a core area with a large population nucleus, plus adjacent communities having a high degree of economic and social integration with that core. Qualification of an MSA requires the presence of a city with 50,000 or more inhabitants, or the presence of an Urbanized Area (UA) and a total population of at least 100,000 (75,000 in New England). The county or counties containing the largest city and surrounding densely settled territory are central counties of the MSA. Additional outlying counties qualify to be included in the MSA by meeting certain other criteria of metropolitan character, such as a specified minimum population density or percentage of the population that is urban. MSAs in New England are defined in terms of minor civil divisions, following rules concerning commuting and population density.

Related terms: Consolidated metropolitan statistical area (CMSA), Primary metropolitan statistical area (PMSA)

Microdata files

Files with non-aggregated data about the units sampled. For surveys of individuals, microdata files contain records for each individual interviewed; for surveys of organizations, the microdata contain records for each organization.

To ensure confidentiality, the Census Bureau publishes microdata only after it is stripped of all identifying information.

Migration

Migration includes all changes of residence including moving into, out of, or within a given area. Foreign country, or state, county and city of previous residence is collected and coded. In 12 states, minor civil division (MCD) is also coded.

International Migration

Movement of people across international borders.

Related terms: Immigrants, Residence 5 years ago

Minor civil division (MCD)

A primary governmental and/or administrative subdivision of a county, such as a township, precinct, or magisterial district. MCDs exist in 28 states and the District of Columbia. In 20 states, all or many MCD's are general-purpose governmental units: Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Vermont, and Wisconsin. Most of these MCDs are legally designated as towns or townships.

Related Terms: Census county division (CCD), County subdivision, Unorganized territory

Multi-unit structure

A building that contains more than one housing unit (for example, an apartment building).

Nationality

The status of belonging to a particular nation by birth, origin or naturalization.

Related terms: Ancestry, Place of birth

Native population

The native population includes people born in the United States, Puerto Rico, or U.S. Island Areas; as well as those born in a foreign country who had at least one parent who was a U.S. citizen.

Related term: Foreign born

New England County Metropolitan Area (NECMA)

A county-based alternative to the city-and-town-based metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) and consolidated metropolitan statistical areas (CMSAs) of New England. (Outside of New England, all MSAs and CMSAs are county-based.)

Noninstitutionalized population

Includes all people who live in group quarters other than institutions.

Examples: college dormitories, rooming houses, religious group homes, communes, and halfway houses.

Related terms: Group quarters (GQ), Group quarters population, Institutionalized population

Nonmetropolitan

The area and population not located in any Metropolitan area (MA).

Related term: Metropolitan area (MA)

Nonrelatives

Any household member, including foster children, living in the housing unit but not related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption.

Related terms: Family, Foster children, Household,

Nonsampling error

Errors that occur during the measuring or data collection process. Nonsampling errors can yield biased results when most of the errors distort the results in the same direction. Unfortunately, the full extent of nonsampling error is unknown. Decennial censuses traditionally have experienced nonsampling errors, most notable undercount, resulting from people being missed in the enumeration processes.

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)

NAICS classifies industries using 2-, 3-, 4-, 5-, and 6- digit levels of detail. Two-digit codes represent sectors, the broadest classifications. Six-digit codes represent individual industries in the U.S. The North American Industry Classification System was developed by representatives from the United States, Canada, and Mexico, and replaces each country's separate classification system with one uniform system for classifying industries. In the United States, NAICS replaces the Standard Industrial Classification, a system that federal, state, and local governments, the business community, and the general public have used since the 1930s.

Related term: Economic census

Not in labor force

Not in labor force includes all people 16 years old and over who are not classified as members of the labor force. This category consists mainly of students, housewives, retired workers, seasonal workers interviewed in an off season who were not looking for work, institutionalized people, and people doing only incidental unpaid family work (less than 15 hours during the reference week).

Related term: Labor force

Number of employees

Equivalent to the number of paid employees for census purposes. Paid employees consists of full-time and part-time employees, including salaried officers and executives of corporations. Included are employees on paid sick leave, paid holidays, and paid vacations; not included are proprietors and partners of unincorporated businesses. The definition of paid employees is the same as that used on IRS Form 941.

Related term: Economic census

Number of workers in family in (designated calendar year)

The term "worker" as used for these data is defined based on the criteria for Worked in (designated calendar year).

Number of workers in family in the past 12 months

The term "worker" as used for these data is defined based on the criteria for Worked in the Past 12 Months.

Occupation

Occupation describes the kind of work the person does on the job. For employed people, the data refer to the person's job during the reference week. For those who worked at two or more jobs, the data refer to the job at which the person worked the greatest number of hours. Some examples of occupational groups shown in this product include managerial occupations; business and financial specialists; scientists and technicians; entertainment; healthcare; food service; personal services; sales; office and administrative support; farming; maintenance and repair; and production workers.

Related term: Employed

Occupied housing unit

A housing unit is classified as occupied if it is the usual place of residence of the person or group of people living in it at the time of enumeration.

Related terms: Housing unit, Vacancy status

Own children

A child under 18 years old who is a son or daughter by birth, marriage (a stepchild), or adoption. For 100-percent tabulations, own children consist of all sons/daughters of householders who are under 18 years of age. For sample data, own children consist of sons/daughters of householders who are under 18 years of age and who have never been married, therefore, numbers of own children of householders may be different in these two tabulations.

Related terms: Child, Related children

Owner-occupied housing unit

A housing unit is owner occupied if the owner or co-owner lives in the unit even if it is mortgaged or not fully paid for.

Related term: Housing unit, Renter-occupied housing unit

Parish

A type of governmental unit that is the primary legal subdivision of Louisiana, similar to a county in other states.

Related term: County and equivalent entity

Part

When appearing in parenthesis after a geographic name, such as "Houston city (part)", this term indicates that only a portion of the named geography is represented. The full name reveals the geographic context which produced the part, such as "Houston city (part), Harris County, Texas", indicating that the only the portion of Houston city within Harris County is represented.

Parts can result when two or more geographic types that do not have a hierarchical relationship (e.g., county and place) are crossed against each other to produce a new geographic type. That new geographic type contains the phrase "(or part)" to indicate the crossing of hierarchies (e.g., State-County-Place (or part))

People in family

Total number of people living in one household and related to the householder.

Related terms: Family, Household

People in household

Total number of people living in one housing unit.

Related terms: Household, Housing unit

Per capita income

Average obtained by dividing aggregate income by total population of an area.

Percentage

This measure is calculated by taking the number of items in a group possessing a characteristic of interest and dividing by the total number of items in that group, and then multiplying by 100.

Related term: Derived measures

Place

A concentration of population either legally bounded as an incorporated place, or identified as a Census Designated Place (CDP) including comunidades and zonas urbanas in Puerto Rico. Incorporated places have legal descriptions of borough (except in Alaska and New York), city, town (except in New England, New York, and Wisconsin), or village.

Related terms: Census designated place (CDP), City, Comunidad, Incorporated place, Town, Zona urbana

Place of birth

The U. S. state or foreign country where a person was born. Used in determining citizenship.

Related terms: Citizenship status, Foreign born, Native population,

Population

All people, male and female, child and adult, living in a given geographic area.

Population density

Total population within a geographic entity divided by the number of square miles of land area of that entity measured in square kilometers or square miles.

Poverty

Following the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB's) Directive 14, the Census Bureau uses a set of money income thresholds that vary by family size and composition to detect who is poor. If the total income for a family or unrelated individual falls below the relevant poverty threshold, then the family or unrelated individual is classified as being "below the poverty level."

Related term: Income

Primary metropolitan statistical area (PMSA)

A geographic entity defined by the federal Office of Management and Budget for use by federal statistical agencies. If an area meets the requirements to qualify as a metropolitan statistical area and has a population of one million or more, two or more PMSAs may be defined within it if statistical criteria are met and local opinion is in favor. A PMSA consists of one or more counties (county subdivisions in New England) that have substantial commuting interchange. When two or more PMSAs have been recognized, the larger area of which they are components then is designated a consolidated metropolitan statistical area.

Related terms: Consolidated metropolitan statistical area (CMSA), Metropolitan statistical area (MSA)

Privacy Act

A 1974 act that places restrictions on the collection, use, maintenance, and release of information about individuals. It gives individuals the right to see records about themselves, to obtain copies of their records, to have records corrected or amended with Census Bureau approval, and to have a statement of disagreement filed in their records if the Census Bureau does not approve the correction or amendment.

Products

This term is used in two ways in FactFinder: - to refer to data products produced by the Census Bureau which present statistics and/or maps about the subjects covered in the various censuses and surveys conducted by the Bureau. These products can be in a variety of media: printed reports, CD-ROM, DVD, or on the internet; - to refer to the products produced by manufacturing or mining, as well as retail and wholesale trade industries in the context of the 1997 economic census.

Public Use Microdata Area (PUMA)

An area that defines the extent of territory for which the Census Bureau tabulates public use microdata sample (PUMS) data.

Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) files

Computerized files containing a small sample of individual records, with identifying information removed, from the census long form and from the American Community Survey showing the population and housing characteristics of the people included on those forms.

Query

A request for information; inquiry.

Questionnaire

The census or survey form on which a respondent or enumerator records information requested by the Census Bureau for a specific census or special survey.

Race

Race is a self-identification data item in which respondents choose the race or races with which they most closely identify.

Rate

This is a measure of occurrences in a given period of time divided by the possible number of occurrences during that period.

Ratio

This is a measure of the relative size of one number to a second number expressed as the quotient of the first number divided by the second.

Reference map

A map that shows selected geographic boundaries with identifiers along with selected features of a geographic area.

Related children

Includes all people in a household under the age of 18, regardless of marital status, who are related to the householder. Does not include householder's spouse or foster children, regardless of age.

Related terms: Child, Own children

Remainder

The portion of a geographic area of one geographic type (e.g., a county subdivision) which is not covered by any geographic area of a second geographic type (e.g., place). For example, the two places of Oak Ridge town and Old Appleton town exist within the county subdivision of Apple Creek township in Cape Girardeau County, Missouri. That portion of Adair township that is not covered by either place is called "Remainder of Adair township".

Residence 5 years ago

Indicates the area of residence 5 years prior to the reference date for those who reported that they lived in a different housing unit.

Related term: Migration

Resident population

An area's resident population consists of those persons "usually resident" in that particular area (where they live and sleep most of the time).

Related term: Apportionment population

Respondent

The person supplying survey or census information about his or her living quarters and its occupants.

Rural

Territory, population and housing units not classified as urban. "Rural" classification cuts across other hierarchies and can be in metropolitan or non-metropolitan areas.

Related terms: Metropolitan, Urban

Sample data

Population and housing information collected from the census long form for a one in six sample of households in the United States and Puerto Rico, and on a continuous basis for selected areas in the American Community Survey.

Related terms: American Community Survey (ACS), Census (decennial), Long form

Sampling error

Errors that occur because only part of the population is directly contacted. With any sample, differences are likely to exist between the characteristics of the sampled population and the larger group from which the sample was chosen. Sampling error, unlike nonsampling error, is measurable.

School enrollment

Enrollment in regular school, either public or private, which includes nursery school, kindergarten, elementary school, and schooling which leads to a high school diploma or college degree.

Related terms: Educational attainment, Grade in which enrolled

Sex

An individual's gender classification - male or female.

Sex ratio

A measure derived by dividing the total number of males by the total number of females, and then multiplying by 100.

Short form

The decennial census questionnaire, sent to approximately five of six households for the 1980, 1990, and 2000 censuses. For Census 2000, the questionnaire asked population questions related to household relationship, sex, race, age and Hispanic or Latino origin and housing questions related to tenure, occupancy, and vacancy status. The 1990 short form contained a question on marital status. The questions contained on the short form also are asked on the long form, along with additional questions.

Related terms: Census (decennial), Long form

Spanish/Hispanic/Latino

A self-designated classification for people whose origins are from Spain, the Spanish-speaking countries of Central or South America, the Caribbean, or those identifying themselves generally as Spanish, Spanish-American, etc. Origin can be viewed as ancestry, nationality, or country of birth of the person or person's parents or ancestors prior to their arrival in the United States.

Spanish/Hispanic/Latino people may be of any race.

Related terms: Ancestry, Race

Spouse

A person legally married to another person.

Standard deviation

A measure which shows the average variability in population from the mean. It is defined as the square root of the variance.

Standard error (ACS)

The standard error is a measure of the deviation of a sample estimate from the average of all possible samples.

Related terms: American Community Survey (ACS), Confidence interval (ACS), Estimates (American Community Survey)

Standard Industrial Classification (SIC)

Industry classification system that was used in Economic Censuses prior to 1997. This system identifies establishments by the principal activity in which they are engaged. SIC has been replaced by North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) in the 1997 Economic Census.

Related terms: North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)

State and equivalent entity

The primary legal subdivision of the United States. The District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Island Areas (the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands) are each treated as the statistical equivalent of a state for census purposes.

Subfamily

A married couple (with or without children) or a single parent with one or more never-married children under the age of 18, residing with and related to the householder, but not including the householder or the householder's spouse.

When grown children move back to the parental home with their own children or spouse, they are considered a subfamily.

Related terms: Family, Householder

Summary file (SF)

Statistics for a large number of geographic areas that are designed to show great subject matter detail presented in tabular form. There are four main summary files produced from the data collected during Census 2000.

Related term: Census (decennial)

Tenure

Refers to the distinction between owner-occupied and renter-occupied housing units.

Related terms: Housing unit

Thematic map

A map that reveals the geographic patterns in statistical data.

Time leaving home to go to work

This question was asked of people who indicated that they worked at some time during the reference week and who reported that they worked outside their home. The departure time refers to the time of day that the person usually left home to go to work during the reference week. Data were tabulated for workers 16 years old and over; that is, members of the Armed Forces and civilians who were at work during the reference week.

Title 13 (U.S. Code)

The law under which the Census Bureau operates and that guarantees the confidentiality of census information and establishes penalties for disclosing this information. It also provides the authorization for conducting the census in Puerto Rico and the Island Areas.

Related terms: Confidentiality, Decennial census, Privacy Act

Town

A type of minor civil division in the New England states, New York, and Wisconsin and a type of incorporated place in 30 states and the Virgin Islands of the United States.

Related term: County subdivision

Tract

See Census tract.

Tract number

Used to uniquely identify a census tract within a county.

Traffic Analysis Zone (TAZ)

An area delineated by state and/or local transportation officials for tabulating traffic-related data – especially journey-to-work and place-of-work statistics. Usually consists of one or more census blocks, block groups, or census tracts.

Related term: Journey to work

Travel time to work

This question was asked of people who indicated that they worked at some time during the reference week and who reported that they worked outside their home. Travel time to work refers to the total number of minutes that it usually took the person to get from home to work each day during the reference week. Data were tabulated for workers 16 years old and over; that is, members of the Armed Forces and civilians who were at work during the reference week.

Tutorial

An on-line mini-course, part of the CTPP Access Tool (CAT) Help system, which demonstrates how to accomplish various important tasks.

Unemployed

All civilians 16 years old and over are classified as unemployed if they (1) were neither "at work" nor "with a job but not at work" during the reference week, and (2) were actively looking for work during the last 4 weeks, and (3) were available to accept a job. Also included as unemployed are civilians who did not work at all during the reference week, were waiting to be called back to a job from which they had been laid off, and were available for work except for temporary illness.

Related terms: Employed, Labor Force

United States

The 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Units in structure

A structure is a separate building that either has open spaces on all sides or is separated from other structures by dividing walls that extend from ground to roof. In determining the number of units in a structure, all housing units, both occupied and vacant, are counted.

Universe

The total number of units, e.g., individuals, households, businesses, in the population of interest.

Unrelated individual

Person, sharing a housing unit, who is not related to the householder by birth, marriage or adoption. Includes foster children.

Related terms: Foster children, Householder, Nonrelatives

Urban

All territory, population and housing units in urbanized areas and in places of more than 2,500 persons outside of urbanized areas. "Urban" classification cuts across other hierarchies and can be in metropolitan or non-metropolitan areas.

Related terms: Metropolitan, Rural

Urban Area

Collective term referring to all areas that are urban. For Census 2000, there are two types of urban areas: urban clusters and urbanized areas.

Urban Cluster

A densely settled territory that has at least 2,500 people but fewer than 50,000. New for Census 2000.

Urbanized area

(UA) An area consisting of a central place(s) and adjacent territory with a general population density of at least 1,000 people per square mile of land area that together have a minimum residential population of at least 50,000 people. The Census Bureau uses published criteria to determine the qualification and boundaries of UAs.

Usual hours worked per week worked in (designated calendar year)

The data pertain to the number of hours a person usually worked during the weeks worked in the designated calendar year. The respondent was to report the number of hours worked per week in the majority of the weeks he or she worked in the designated calendar year. If the hours worked per week varied considerably during the designated calendar year, the respondent was asked to report an approximate average of the hours worked per week. People 16 years old and over who reported that they usually worked 35 or more hours each week during the weeks they worked are classified as "Usually worked full time"; people who reported that they usually worked 1 to 34 hours are classified as "Usually worked part time."

Related term: Employed

Usual hours worked per week worked in the past 12 months

The data pertain to the number of hours a person usually worked during the weeks worked in the past 12 months. The respondent was to report the number of hours worked per week in the majority of the weeks he or she worked in the past 12 months. If the hours worked per week varied considerably during the past 12 months, the respondent was asked to report an approximate average of the hours worked per week. People 16 years old and over who reported that they usually worked 35 or more hours each week during the weeks they worked are classified as "Usually worked full time"; people who reported that they usually worked 1 to 34 hours are classified as "Usually worked part time."

Related term: Employed

Usual residence

The living quarters where a person spends more nights during a year than any other place.

Related term: Living quarters

Usual residence elsewhere

A housing unit temporarily occupied at the time of enumeration entirely by people with a usual residence elsewhere is classified as vacant. The occupants are classified as having a "Usual residence elsewhere" and are counted at the address of their usual place of residence.

Related term: Housing unit

Vacancy status

Unoccupied housing units are considered vacant. Vacancy status is determined by the terms under which the unit may be occupied, e.g., for rent, for sale, or for seasonal use only.

Related terms: Housing unit, Occupied housing unit,

Vacant housing unit

A housing unit is vacant if no one is living in it at the time of enumeration, unless its occupants are only temporarily absent. Units temporarily occupied at the time of enumeration entirely by people who have a usual residence elsewhere are also classified as vacant.

Related terms: Housing unit, Usual residence elsewhere, Occupied housing unit

Value

Value is the respondent's estimate of how much the property (house and lot, mobile home and lot, or condominium unit) would sell for if it were for sale.

Vehicles available

These data show the number of passenger cars, vans, and pickup or panel trucks of 1-ton capacity or less kept at home and available for the use of household members. Vehicles rented or leased for 1 month or more, company vehicles, and police and government vehicles are included if kept at home and used for nonbusiness purposes. Dismantled or immobile vehicles are excluded. Vehicles kept at home but used only for business purposes also are excluded.

Vehicles used

The number of vehicles used is derived by counting each person who drove alone as one vehicle, each person who reported being in a two-person carpool as one-half of a vehicle, each person who reported being in a three-person carpool as one-third of a vehicle, and so on, and then summing all the vehicles. Workers per car, truck, or van is rounded to the nearest hundredth.

Village

A type of incorporated place in 20 states and American Samoa. The Census Bureau treats all villages in New Jersey, South Dakota, and Wisconsin and some villages in Ohio as county subdivisions.

Related term: County subdivision, Incorporated place,

Visible feature

A feature that can be seen on the ground, such as, a street or road, railroad track, power line, stream, shoreline, fence, ridge, or cliff. A visible feature can be a man-made or natural feature.

Related term: Feature

Worker

This term appears in connection with several subjects: journey-to-work items, class of worker, work status in the past 12 months, weeks worked in the past 12 months, and number of workers in family in the past 12 months. Its meaning varies and, therefore, should be determined in each case by referring to the definition of the subject in which it appears.

Related terms: Class of worker, Employed, Journey to work

Year of entry

All people born outside the United States were asked for the year in which they came to live in the U.S. This includes: people born in Puerto Rico and U.S. Island Areas; people born abroad of a U.S. citizen parent(s); and the foreign born.

Related terms: Foreign born, Immigrants, Place of birth

ZIP Code

A ZIP (Zone Improvement Plan) Code is a five-, seven-, nine-, or eleven-digit code assigned by the U.S. Postal Service to a section of a street, a collection of streets, an establishment, structure, or group of post office boxes, for the delivery of mail.

The Census Bureau uses only 5-digit ZIP codes for the addresses and address ranges in most Census 2000 operations.

ZIP Code Tabulation Area (ZCTA)

A ZIP Code Tabulation Area is a geographic area that approximates the delivery area for a five-digit or a three-digit ZIP Code. ZCTAs do not precisely depict the area within which mail deliveries associated with that ZIP Code occur.

100-percent data

Information based on a limited number of basic population and housing questions collected from both the short form and the long form for every inhabitant and housing unit in the United States.

Related term: Sample data