

Census Fast Facts

The Census is Constitutionally Mandated

"The actual enumeration shall be made within three years after the first meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every sub-sequent term of 10 years, in such manner as they shall by Law direct."

-- Article I, Section 2 of the US Constitution

Purpose of the Census

The data collected by the decennial census determine the number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives and is also used to distribute billions in federal funds to local communities.

Redistricting

Redistricting is when state officials realign congressional and state legislative districts in their states, taking into account population shifts since the last census and assuring equal representation for their constituents in compliance with the "one-person, one-vote" principle of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

Allocating Federal Funding

Census information helps to determine how more than \$400 billion dollars of federal funding each year is spent on infrastructure and services like:

- Hospitals
- Job training centers
- Schools
- Senior centers
- Bridges, tunnels and other-public works projects
- Emergency services

Census History

The first Census was conducted in 1790 under the direction of President Washington and Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson.

The population of the US in 1790 was 3,929,000 – the size of Los Angeles today.

2010 Census

- One of the shortest in history.
- Everyone in the household answered seven questions: name, gender, race, ethnicity, and whether they sometimes live somewhere else.
- The head of household answers how many people live in the residence, whether it is a house, apartment, or mobile home, and provides a telephone number for Census workers to follow up if any information is incomplete or missing.

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2010 Census Program for Evaluations and Experiments

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2010 Census Mail Participation Rate Map



Explore the
2010 Census
Form

Explore the Form

One of the shortest forms in history - 10 Questions in 10 Minutes

Each question helps to determine how more than \$400 billion will be allocated to communities across the country. [Text only](#) version of interactive form.

Close X

2010 Census

This is the official form for all the people at this address.
It is quick and easy, and your answers are protected by law.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS ADMINISTRATION
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

Start here

The Census must count every person living in the United States on April 1, 2010.
Before you answer Question 1, count the people living in this house, apartment, or mobile home using our guidelines.

- Count all people, including babies, who live and sleep here most of the time.
- The Census Bureau also conducts counts in institutions and other places, so:
 - Do not count anyone living away either at college or in the Armed Forces.
 - Do not count anyone in a nursing home, jail, prison, detention facility, etc. on April 1, 2010.
 - Leave these people off your form, even if they will return to live here after they leave college, the nursing home, the military jail, etc. Otherwise, they may be counted twice.
- The Census must also include people without a permanent place to stay, such as:
 - Homeless people who are staying in shelters, transitional housing, or other temporary places on April 1, 2010.
 - People who may be temporarily staying in your home.

1. How many people were living or staying in this house, apartment, or mobile home on April 1, 2010?

Number of people =

2. Were there any additional people staying here April 1, 2010 that you did not include in Question 1? Mark X if that apply.

☐ Children, such as newborn babies or foster children

☐ Relatives, such as adult children, cousins, or in-laws

☐ Nonrelatives, such as roommates or live-in baby sitters

☐ People staying here temporarily

☐ No additional people

3. Is this house, apartment, or mobile home —

Mark X ONE box

☐ Owned by you or someone in this household with a mortgage or loan? Include home equity loans.

☐ Owned by you or someone in this household free and clear (without a mortgage or loan)?

☐ Rented?

☐ Occupied without payment of rent?

4. What is your telephone number? We may call if we don't understand an answer.

Area Code + Number

OMB No. 0607-0199-C Approval Expires 12/31/2011.
Form 0-1 (10-2009)

U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

5. Please provide information for each person living here. Start with a person living here who owns or rents this house, apartment, or mobile home. If the owner or renter lives somewhere else, start with any adult living here. This will be Person 1.

What is Person 1's name? Print name below.

Last Name

First Name MI

6. What is Person 1's sex? Mark X ONE box.

☐ Male ☐ Female

7. What is Person 1's age and what is Person 1's date of birth? Please report babies as age 0 when the child is less than 1 year old. Print numbers in boxes.

Age on April 1, 2010 Month Day Year of birth

NOTE: Please answer BOTH Question 8 about Hispanic origin and Question 9 about race. For this census, Hispanic origins are not races.

8. Is Person 1 of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?

☐ No, not of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin

☐ Yes, of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin

☐ Yes, other Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin. Print name, for example, Mexican, Puerto Rican, or Cuban, in Spanish or English, in the following space

9. What is Person 1's race? Mark X one or more boxes.

☐ White

☐ Black, African Am., or Negro

☐ American Indian or Alaska Native — Print name if enrolled or principal title

☐ Asian Indian ☐ Japanese ☐ Native Hawaiian

☐ Chinese ☐ Korean ☐ Guamanian or Chamorro

☐ Filipino ☐ Vietnamese ☐ Samoan

☐ Other Asian — Print race, for example, Hmong, Laotian, Thai, etc.

☐ Other Pacific Islander — Print race, for example, Fijian, Tongan, and so on

☐ Some other race — Print race

10. Does Person 1 sometimes live or stay somewhere else?

☐ No ☐ Yes — Mark X, all that apply.

☐ In college housing ☐ For child custody

☐ In the military ☐ In jail or prison

☐ At a seasonal or second residence ☐ In a nursing home

☐ For another reason

→ If more people were counted in Question 1, continue with Person 2.

[PDF] or denotes a file in Adobe's [Portable Document Format](#). To view the file, you will need the [Adobe® Reader®](#) available free from Adobe.

“The 2010 Census represented the most massive participation movement ever witnessed in our country. Approximately 74 percent of the households returned their census forms by mail; the remaining households were counted by census workers walking neighborhoods throughout the United States.”

U.S. Census Bureau

Census Participation Required

Your participation is required by law (Title 13, Section 221) of the United States Code.

Although fines are rarely levied for nonparticipation. The Census Bureau prefers to encourage participation, not penalize nonparticipation.

2010 Census Participation Rates (by mail)

- US participation rate: 74%
- New York participation rate: 69%
- Onondaga County participation rate: 79%
- Syracuse City participation rate: 69%

Protecting Individual Privacy

- Title 13 of the U.S. Code also protects confidentiality of personal information and violating this law is a crime with severe penalties.
- The penalty for unlawful disclosure is a fine of up to \$250,000 or imprisonment of up to 5 years, or both.
- It is against the law to disclose or publish any of the following information:
 - Names
 - Addresses including GPS coordinates
 - Social Security numbers
 - Telephone numbers

American Community Survey

- The American Community Survey (ACS) replaces the Census “Long Form”.
- The ACS is part of the Decennial Census Program. While the 10-year census counts the number of people who live in the US, the ACS shows *how* people live — our education, housing, jobs and more.

American Community Survey

The ACS asks essentially the same questions that used to be on the long form of the census, except it is conducted throughout the year and throughout the decade. This allows the Census Bureau to produce new data every year, instead of only once every 10 years. So, while the old “long form” was a once-a-decade snapshot of an area — one that grew increasingly faded with age — the ACS takes a new picture every year, creating a year-by-year look at how the area is changing.