

1950 Census Enumeration

Census will become available on April 1, 2022, at <https://www.archives.gov/>

- Individuals, FamilySearch, Ancestry, etc. will be able to download and search the images
- Images will be indexed by artificial intelligence (AI) initially.
- Images will then be checked by real intelligence (volunteers). It is possible that reviewers will be able to choose the location of census to be reviewed.

What was happening in the world?

- United States President Harry S. Truman orders the development of the hydrogen bomb, in response to the detonation of the Soviet Union's first atomic bomb in 1949.
- Senator Joseph McCarthy accuses the United States Department of State of being filled with 205 Communists.
- Korean War
 - North Korea invaded South Korea 25 June 1950
 - US entered war 27 Jun 1950
 - War ended 27 July 1953
- Several International Treaties and Disagreements
 - Finland, Russia form diplomatic relationship with China
 - Poland expels all Germans and takes control of Catholic properties
 - Stasi (secret police) organized in East Germany
 - Etc., Etc. Etc.

1940 & 1950 Census

- Both affected by world events and threats of war
- Fewer individuals on each page, because of extra questions for more people
- Fewer questions in 1950
- Additional income questions, to be mailed in, not given to enumerator
- *Detailed* housing questions in 1950

1950 Census

- "8000 crew leaders supervised 140,000 persons hired for temporary duty as enumerators
- Before sending the census records to DC, crew leaders reviewed the work of the enumerators to correct obvious data entry errors and determine whether they had missed any locations where people might live.
- Late in the summer of 1950 the ureau undertook a new process: post-enumeration surveys. A sample of thirty-five hundred small areas was entirely recanvassed and compared to the original census schedules to study the extent to which households or information may have been omitted. The study found that 2.1 million or 1.4% of the population had been missed, but when the Bureau investigated the study's limitations and analyzed demographics, it concluded that the actual undercount was as high as four million.
- The 1950 census was the last time enumerators personally visited most housholds with large multifamily lcensus sheets. 1960 and later censuses, household received

enumeration forms in the mail.” (“The 1950 Census: Coming Soon!” by Claire Prechtel Kluskens, *NGS Magazine*, October-December, 2021, Volume 47, Number 4, page 18) (The author is a NARA staff member.)

See following websites for additional information:

FamilySearch Wiki: [https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United States Census 1950](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United_States_Census_1950)
(This includes a description of all the forms used in the census, including all the questions on Form P1 (the main form) including the housing questions. And so much more!)

History Hub 1950 census blog (written by Claire Prechtel Kluskens):

<https://historyhub.history.gov/community/genealogy/census-records/blog>

US Census Bureau’s History website contains extensive information about all federal censuses. Reports and statistics from the 1950 census are found at:

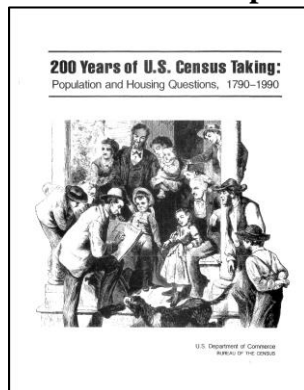
[https://www.census.gov/history/www/through the decades/overview/1950.html](https://www.census.gov/history/www/through_the_decades/overview/1950.html)

Census Enumerator Instructions:

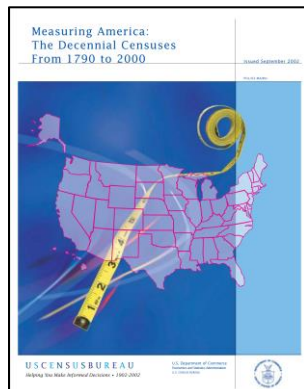
[https://www.census.gov/history/www/through the decades/census instructions/](https://www.census.gov/history/www/through_the_decades/census_instructions/)

Many counties are more rural, and do not have cities. Those counties may show the entire county in one image.

Below are two helpful books for any census being used.



<https://www.census.gov/history/pdf/200years.pdf>



https://www.census.gov/library/publications/2002/dec/pol_02-ma.html

Images of census schedules through 1940 are available from NARA at:
<https://www.archives.gov/research/genealogy/charts-forms>

The Census Bureau offers downloadable questionnaires for all years at:
https://www.census.gov/history/www/through_the_decades/questionnaires

The Census Act of 1879, which provided for sweeping changes in how the census was conducted, may be viewed at:
https://www.census.gov/history/pdf/1879_Census_Act.pdf

1850-1950 Enumerator Instructions from IPUMS USA, University of Minnesota, at <https://usa.ipums.org/usa/voliii/tEnumInstr.shtml>

How to Find YOUR Family's Enumeration District

- Talk to family about the address of family houses in 1950
- Go to google maps, find the address on the map
- Examine the location in the city – north, east, south, or west?
- Large streets, street patterns, etc
- Go to: <https://stevemorse.org/census/arc1950edmaps.html>

Viewing 1950 Enumeration District Maps in One Step

[Stephen P. Morse, PhD](#) & [Joel D. Weintraub, PhD](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#) [My Other Webpages](#)

State County City

If you know the city but not the county, use this [County Finding Aid](#)

Data presented here comes from [National Archives and Records Administration](#).

© Stephen P. Morse & Joel D. Weintraub, 2015

Example:

Viewing 1940 Enumeration District Maps in One Step

[Stephen P. Morse, PhD](#) & [Joel D. Weintraub, PhD](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#) [My Other Webpages](#)

State County City

If you know the city but not the county, use this [County Finding Aid](#)

Data presented here comes from

[National Archives and Records Administration 1940 maps.](#)
[National Archives and Records Administration 1950 maps.](#)
Plus additional 1950 ED maps that we created (unique to One-Step website)

© Stephen P. Morse & Joel D. Weintraub, 2015

Many counties are more rural, and do not have cities. Those counties may show the entire county in one image.

“Searching the 1950 Census By Location” (by Stephen P. Morse, PhD and Joel D. Weintraub, PhD, in the *NGS Magazine*, October-December, 2021, Volume 47, Number 4, Page 26-28) suggest the following ideas for finding location: 1940 Census (if the family did not move); address books; birth, marriage and death certificates; city directories and phone books; diaries; employment records; letters, envelopes, postcards; local newspapers and books; naturalization records, photographs, relatives, school and church records, scrapbooks; Social Security applications; World War II draft registration records.

“Additional One-Step tools can be used to verify the correctness of the ED before making the effort to search it:

- Transcribed ED Definitions tool - <https://stevemorse.org/ed/ed.php>
- Microfilm ED Definitions tool – <https://stevemorse.org/census/eddef1224.html>
- Street List tool – <https://stevemorse.org/census/index.html?ed2street=1>
- ED Map tool, <https://stevemorse.org/census/arc1940-1950edmaps.html>
- Census Tract tool: <https://stevemorse.org/census/tracts.html>
- Street Name-Change tool: <https://stevemorse.org/census/changes.html>
- Tutorial Quiz: <https://stevemorse.org/census/quiz1950.php>

Links to Joel Weintraub/s 1950 Census Talks on YouTube can be found at:
<https://stevemorse.org/jdw.html>

The following images are from “The 1950 Census: Coming Soon!” by Claire Prechten Kluskens, *NGS Magazine*, October-December, 2001, Volume 47, Number 4, Pages 21 and 24.

Category	1950 census	1940 census
Number of persons per form	Thirty persons, to allow room for more sample questions and enumerator notes and explanations as needed	Forty persons
Sample questions	Six persons; the sixth person answered several <i>additional</i> sample questions	Two persons
Informant	No indication	X in a circle next to the name
Previous residence	Only the six persons on sample lines were asked what county and state (or foreign country) they had lived in “a year ago” in 1949.	Everybody was asked whether they had lived in the same place, county, or state in 1935.
Education	Only the six persons on sample lines were asked the highest grade of school they had attended, whether they had <i>completed</i> that grade, and whether they had attended school at any time since 1 February 1950.	Everybody was asked the highest grade of school they had attended and if they had attended school since 1 March 1940.
Public emergency work	The Work Projects Administration (WPA), Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), and National Youth Administration (NYA) were abolished during the 1940s, so the question about public emergency work was not asked in 1950.	Everybody age fourteen or older was asked if they had worked (or been assigned to work) for agencies such as WPA, CCC, or NYA during the week of 24-31 March 1940.
Income	Only the six persons on sample lines were asked the dollar amount received in 1949 from wages or salary; working in his or her own business, profession, or farm; or from interest, dividends, veterans’ allowances, pensions, rents, or other non-wage or non-salary income. They were also asked how much money their relatives in the same household received from the same sources. ⁵	Everybody age fourteen or older was asked the dollar amount of wages or salary income earned during 1939 and whether they had received income of more than fifty dollars from sources other than wages or salary.
Military	Only men on six sample lines were asked if they had served in the military in World War II, World War I, or at any other time.	Persons on two sample lines were asked if they were a military veteran, wife or widow of a military veteran, or a child under age eighteen of a military veteran.

Questions Asked on Form P1, 1950 Census of Population and Housing

Questions for all persons

1. Name of street, avenue, or road
2. House and apartment number
3. Serial number of dwelling unit
4. Is this house on a farm or ranch?
5. Is this house on a place of three or more acres?
6. Agricultural Questionnaire Number
7. Name
8. Relationship to head of household
9. Race
10. Sex
11. Age on last birthday
12. Marital status: Married (Mar), Widowed (Wd), Divorced (D), or Separated (Sep)
13. State or country of birth
14. Naturalization status if foreign born (Yes, No, or AP for born abroad of American parents)

Questions for persons fourteen years of age and over

15. Was this person working (Wk), unable to work (U), keeping house (H), or doing something else (Ot) most of last week?
16. If H or Ot in item 15: Did this person do any work at all last week?
17. If No in item 16: Was this person looking for work?
18. If No in item 17: Even though he didn't work last week, does he have a job or business?
19. If Wk in item 15 or Yes in item 16: How many hours did he work last week?
- 20a. Occupation
- 20b. Industry in which person worked
- 20c. Class of worker: Private employer (P), government (G), in his or her own business (O), or without pay on family farm or business (NP)

Questions for persons on sample lines (six per sheet)

21. Was he living in this same house a year ago?
22. Was he living on a farm a year ago?
23. Was he living in this same county a year ago?
24. If No in item 23: What county (24a) and state or foreign country (24b) was he living in a year ago?
25. What country were his father and mother born in?
26. What is the highest grade of school that he has attended?
27. Did he finish this grade?
28. Has he attended school at any time since February 1st? (Yes, No, or age 30 or over)

Questions for persons on sample lines fourteen years of age and over (five per sheet)

29. If Yes in item 17: How many weeks has he been looking for work?
30. Last year (1949), in how many weeks did this person do any work (excluding work around the home)?
- 31a. Last year (1949), how much money did he earn working as an employee for wages or salary (before taxes and other deductions)?
- 31b. Last year (1949), how much money did he earn working in his own business, professional practice, or farm (net income)?
- 31c. Last year, how much money did he receive from interest, dividends, veteran's allowances, pensions, rents, or other income (excluding salary or wages)?
- 32a. Last year (1949), how much money did his relatives in this household earn working for wages or salary (before taxes and other deductions)?

32b. Last year (1949), how much money did his relatives in this household earn in their own business, professional practice, or farm (net income)?

32c. Last year, how much money did his relatives in this household receive from interest, dividends, veteran's allowances, pensions, rents, or other income (excluding salary or wages)?

33. If male, did he ever serve in the U.S. Armed Forces during (33a) World War I, (33b) World War II, or (33c) any other time including present service? (Yes/No).

Questions for person on the last sample line if fourteen years of age and over (one per sheet)

34. To enumerator: If person worked last year (1 or more weeks in item 30): Is there any entry in items 20a, 20b, and 20c? If Yes, skip to item 36. If No, make entries in items 35a, 35b, and 35c.

35a. What kind of work did this person do in his last (previous) job?

35b. What kind of business or industry did he work in (in previous job)?

35c. Class of worker (in previous job): Private employer (P), government (G), in his or her own business (O), or without pay on family farm or business (NP).

36. If ever married (Mar, Wd, D, or Sep in item 12): Has this person been married more than once? (Yes/No).

37. How many years since this person was (last) married, widowed, divorced, or separated?

38. If female and ever married (Mar, Wd, D, or Sep in item 12): How many children has she ever borne, not counting stillbirths?