

# 1950 CENSUS

A n O v e r v i e w o f t h e 1 9 5 0 C e n s u s

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# 1950 CENSUS

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Please stand by for live  
Webinar

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# 1950 CENSUS

A n O v e r v i e w o f t h e 1 9 5 0 C e n s u s

# Questions?

- Toll-free number **1-888-790-3521**
- Participant passcode: **2555685**
- Dial **\*1** for the Operator



# Speakers

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## HOST



**Jewel Jordan,**  
Public Affairs Specialist,  
Public Information Office,  
U.S. Census Bureau

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## PRESENTERS



**Sharon Tosi Lacey**  
Chief Historian,  
U.S. Census Bureau



**Marc Perry**  
Senior Demographer,  
Population Division,  
U.S. Census Bureau



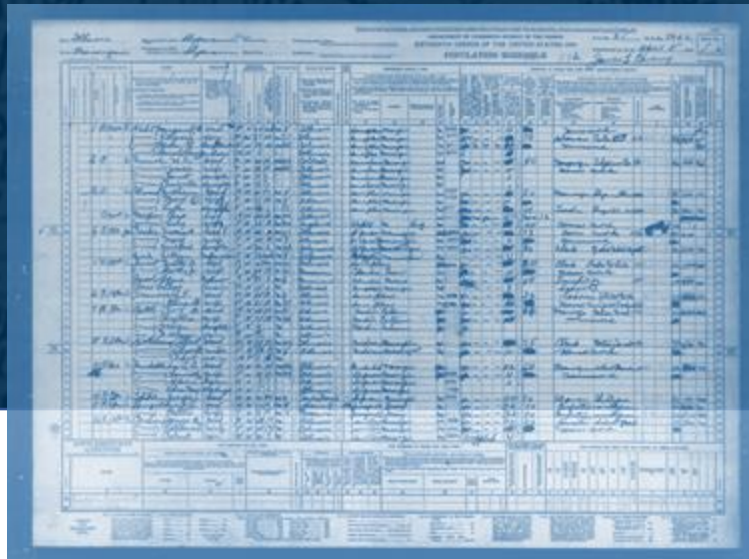
**Claire Kluskens**  
Genealogy and Census  
Subject Expert, National  
Archives and Records  
Administration

# An Overview of the 1950 Census

Sharon Tosi Lacey

Chief Historian

U.S. Census Bureau





# Disclaimer

- Historic census records are maintained and released by the National Archives and Records Administration, not the U.S. Census Bureau
- Historical content on the Census Bureau's history website and in historical census documents may contain outdated terminology or views which reflect the authors' attitudes or that of the period in which the item was written and may be considered inappropriate or offensive today



# 1950: Context

- Post World War II
- Population growth
- Building boom
- Americans living abroad
- Research and methodology changes
- Technological advances



# 1940 vs 1950 Censuses

## 1940

- 50 possible questions
- 5% sampling
- 25 final reports
- Census of Manufacturing, Minerals, and Industry conducted in same year
- 147,000 Enumeration Districts



## 1950

- 38 possible questions
- 20% & 3.5% sampling
- 47 final reports
- Census of Manufacturing, Minerals, and Industry moved to years ending in "3" and "8"
- 230,000 Enumeration Districts

# 1950: The Questions

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
BUREAU OF ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

1940

INDUSTRY

EMPLOYMENT

WAGES

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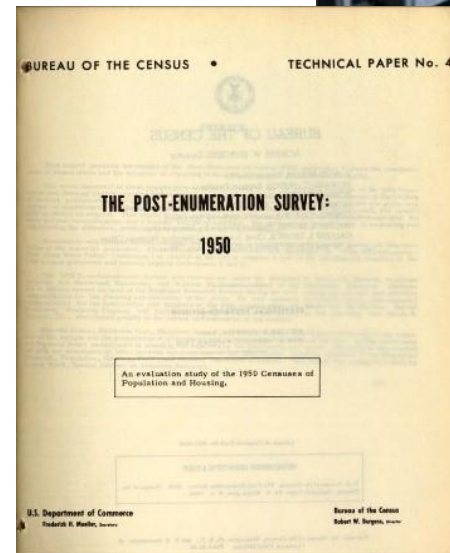
<b>CONFIDENTIAL</b>	<p>This form is authorized by Act of Congress (49 Stat. 1941), 42 U. S. C. 2112b-2 and requires that the user pay the penalty, if any, for unauthorized disclosure of information furnished in accordance with instructions on the back of this form.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"> <small>U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1967 O-358-001-1</small> </p>
<b>FORM P 3</b>	<b>U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE</b> <b>BUREAU OF THE CENSUS</b>  <b>INFANT CARD</b>  <b>1950 CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING</b> (For every child born in January, February, or March 1950)
<p>1. Is residence in a farm? (If "yes," include in farm schedule)          Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>	
<p>2. NAME OF INFANT (Please print)</p> <p>First Name _____ Middle Name _____ Last Name _____</p>	
<p>3. RACE OF INFANT (Check from schedule item 3B)          White <input type="checkbox"/> Negro <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> </p>	
<p>4. SEX OF INFANT (Check from schedule item 3C)          Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> </p>	
<p>5. Is the infant enumerated in this household?          Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> </p>	
<p>IF "YES" in Item 5, give the apartment to Items 6, 7, 8, and 9, from the Population schedule, if "NO" to Item 6, skip to Item 10.</p>	
<p>6. NAME OF FATHER (Please print)          (Skip from schedule item 7A) _____       </p>	
<p>7. NAME OF MOTHER (Please print)          (Skip from schedule item 7B) _____       </p>	
<p>8. AGE OF FATHER ON LAST BIRTHDAY (Give from schedule item 39a, if age in March, enter "March") _____</p>	
<p>9. OCCUPATION OF FATHER (Give from schedule item 39a, if age in March, enter "March") _____</p>	
<p>10. INDUSTRY OF FATHER (Give from schedule item 39a, if age in March, enter "March") _____</p>	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; padding: 2px;">LEAVE BLANK</div>	
<p>11. DATE OF BIRTH (Give from schedule item 39b, if age in March, enter "March") _____</p>	
<p>12. SEX OF MOTHER ON LAST BIRTHDAY (Give from schedule item 39b, if age in March, enter "March") _____</p>	
<p>13. AGE OF MOTHER ON LAST BIRTHDAY (Give from schedule item 39b, if age in March, enter "March") _____</p>	
<p>14. INDUSTRY OF MOTHER (Give from schedule item 39b, if age in March, enter "March") _____</p>	
<p>15. EDUCATION OF FATHER (Give from schedule item 39c, if age in March, enter "March") _____</p>	
<p>16. EDUCATION OF MOTHER (Give from schedule item 39c, if age in March, enter "March") _____</p>	
<p>17. CHILD OF FIRST BIRTH (Give from schedule item 39d, if age in March, enter "March") _____</p>	
<p>18. CHILD OF SECOND BIRTH (Give from schedule item 39d, if age in March, enter "March") _____</p>	
<p>19. CHILD OF THIRD BIRTH (Give from schedule item 39d, if age in March, enter "March") _____</p>	
<p>20. CHILD OF FOURTH BIRTH (Give from schedule item 39d, if age in March, enter "March") _____</p>	
<p>21. CHILD OF FIFTH BIRTH (Give from schedule item 39d, if age in March, enter "March") _____</p>	
<p>22. CHILD OF SIXTH BIRTH (Give from schedule item 39d, if age in March, enter "March") _____</p>	
<p>23. CHILD OF SEVENTH BIRTH (Give from schedule item 39d, if age in March, enter "March") _____</p>	
<p>24. CHILD OF EIGHTH BIRTH (Give from schedule item 39d, if age in March, enter "March") _____</p>	
<p>25. CHILD OF NINTH BIRTH (Give from schedule item 39d, if age in March, enter "March") _____</p>	
<p>26. CHILD OF TENTH BIRTH (Give from schedule item 39d, if age in March, enter "March") _____</p>	
<p>27. CHILD OF ELEVENTH BIRTH (Give from schedule item 39d, if age in March, enter "March") _____</p>	
<p>28. CHILD OF TWELFTH BIRTH (Give from schedule item 39d, if age in March, enter "March") _____</p>	
<p>29. CHILD OF THIRTEENTH BIRTH (Give from schedule item 39d, if age in March, enter "March") _____</p>	
<p>30. CHILD OF FOURTEENTH BIRTH (Give from schedule item 39d, if age in March, enter "March") _____</p>	
<p>31. CHILD OF FIFTEENTH BIRTH (Give from schedule item 39d, if age in March, enter "March") _____</p>	
<p>32. CHILD OF SIXTEENTH BIRTH (Give from schedule item 39d, if age in March, enter "March") _____</p>	
<p>33. CHILD OF SEVENTEENTH BIRTH (Give from schedule item 39d, if age in March, enter "March") _____</p>	
<p>34. CHILD OF EIGHTEENTH BIRTH (Give from schedule item 39d, if age in March, enter "March") _____</p>	
<p>35. CHILD OF NINETEENTH BIRTH (Give from schedule item 39d, if age in March, enter "March") _____</p>	
<p>36. CHILD OF TWENTIETH BIRTH (Give from schedule item 39d, if age in March, enter "March") _____</p>	
<p>37. CHILD OF TWENTY-FIRST BIRTH (Give from schedule item 39d, if age in March, enter "March") _____</p>	
<p>38. CHILD OF TWENTY-SECOND BIRTH (Give from schedule item 39d, if age in March, enter "March") _____</p>	
<p>39. CHILD OF TWENTY-THIRD BIRTH (Give from schedule item 39d, if age in March, enter "March") _____</p>	
<p>40. CHILD OF TWENTY-FOURTH BIRTH (Give from schedule item 39d, if age in March, enter "March") _____</p>	
<p>41. CHILD OF TWENTY-FIFTH BIRTH (Give from schedule item 39d, if age in March, enter "March") _____</p>	
<p>42. CHILD OF TWENTY-SIXTH BIRTH (Give from schedule item 39d, if age in March, enter "March") _____</p>	
<p>43. CHILD OF TWENTY-SEVENTH BIRTH (Give from schedule item 39d, if age in March, enter "March") _____</p>	
<p>44. CHILD OF TWENTY-EIGHTH BIRTH (Give from schedule item 39d, if age in March, enter "March") _____</p>	
<p>45. CHILD OF TWENTY-NINTH BIRTH (Give from schedule item 39d, if age in March, enter "March") _____</p>	
<p>46. CHILD OF THIRTIETH BIRTH (Give from schedule item 39d, if age in March, enter "March") _____</p>	
<p>47. CHILD OF THIRTY-FIRST BIRTH (Give from schedule item 39d, if age in March, enter "March") _____</p>	
<p>48. CHILD OF THIRTY-SECOND BIRTH (Give from schedule item 39d, if age in March, enter "March") _____</p>	
<p>49. CHILD OF THIRTY-THIRD BIRTH (Give from schedule item 39d, if age in March, enter "March") _____</p>	
<p>50. CHILD OF THIRTY-FOURTH BIRTH (Give from schedule item 39d, if age in March, enter "March") _____</p>	
<p>51. CHILD OF THIRTY-FIFTH BIRTH (Give from schedule item 39d, if age in March, enter "March") _____</p>	
<p>52. CHILD OF THIRTY-SIXTH BIRTH (Give from schedule item 39d, if age in March, enter "March") _____</p>	
<p>53. CHILD OF THIRTY-SEVENTH BIRTH (Give from schedule item 39d, if age in March, enter "March") _____</p>	
<p>54. CHILD OF THIRTY-EIGHTH BIRTH (Give from schedule item 39d, if age in March, enter "March") _____</p>	
<p>55. CHILD OF THIRTY-NINTH BIRTH (Give from schedule item 39d, if age in March, enter "March") _____</p>	
<p>56. CHILD OF FORTIETH BIRTH (Give from schedule item 39d, if age in March, enter "March") _____</p>	
<p>57. CHILD OF FORTY-FIRST BIRTH (Give from schedule item 39d, if age in March, enter "March") _____</p>	
<p>58. CHILD OF FORTY-SECOND BIRTH (Give from schedule item 39d, if age in March, enter "March") _____</p>	
<p>59. CHILD OF FORTY-THIRD BIRTH (Give from schedule item 39d, if age in March, enter "March") _____</p>	
<p>60. CHILD OF FORTY-FOURTH BIRTH (Give from schedule item 39d, if age in March, enter "March") _____</p>	
<p>61. CHILD OF FORTY-FIFTH BIRTH (Give from schedule item 39d, if age in March, enter "March") _____</p>	
<p>62. CHILD OF FORTY-SIXTH BIRTH (Give from schedule item 39d, if age in March, enter "March") _____</p>	
<p>63. CHILD OF FORTY-SEVENTH BIRTH (Give from schedule item 39d, if age in March, enter "March") _____</p>	
<p>64. CHILD OF FORTY-EIGHTH BIRTH (Give from schedule item 39d, if age in March, enter "March") _____</p>	
<p>65. CHILD OF FORTY-NINTH BIRTH (Give from schedule item 39d, if age in March, enter "March") _____</p>	
<p>66. CHILD OF FIFTIETH BIRTH (Give from schedule item 39d, if age in March, enter "March") _____</p>	
<p>67. CHILD OF FIFTY-FIRST BIRTH (Give from schedule item 39d,</p>	





# 1950: Innovations and Changes

- Standard Metropolitan Areas (SMA)
- Overseas/vessel crew enumerations
- Counting of college students
- Hard to count populations
- UNIVAC I
- Experimentation
- Post-Enumeration Survey

A document titled "DATA COLLECTION BOARD" and "CENSUS REPORT". It is a form with various sections and checkboxes, likely used for data collection and reporting during the 1950 Census. The form includes sections for "CENSUS REPORT", "CENSUS REPORT", and "CENSUS REPORT".



# After 1950

- Agriculture and Economic Censuses
- American Indian Census
- Self enumeration
- Long form
- Film Optical Sensing Device for Input to Computers (FOSDIC)
- Employment and Transportation
- Data Preparation Division (later National Processing Center)

A sample of a 1950 Census form, showing questions about employment and transportation. The form is divided into two columns of questions. The left column contains questions P21 through P26, and the right column contains questions P27 through P31. The questions are about the person's work history, including whether they worked in the past year, how long they worked, and what they did for a living. The form is a long form, which was used for more detailed data collection.

Sharon.a.tosi.lacey@census.gov



# Demographic Perspectives on the 1950 Census

Marc Perry

U.S. Census Bureau

March 14, 2022





# Peak populations for cities in Northeast, Midwest



Detroit, MI



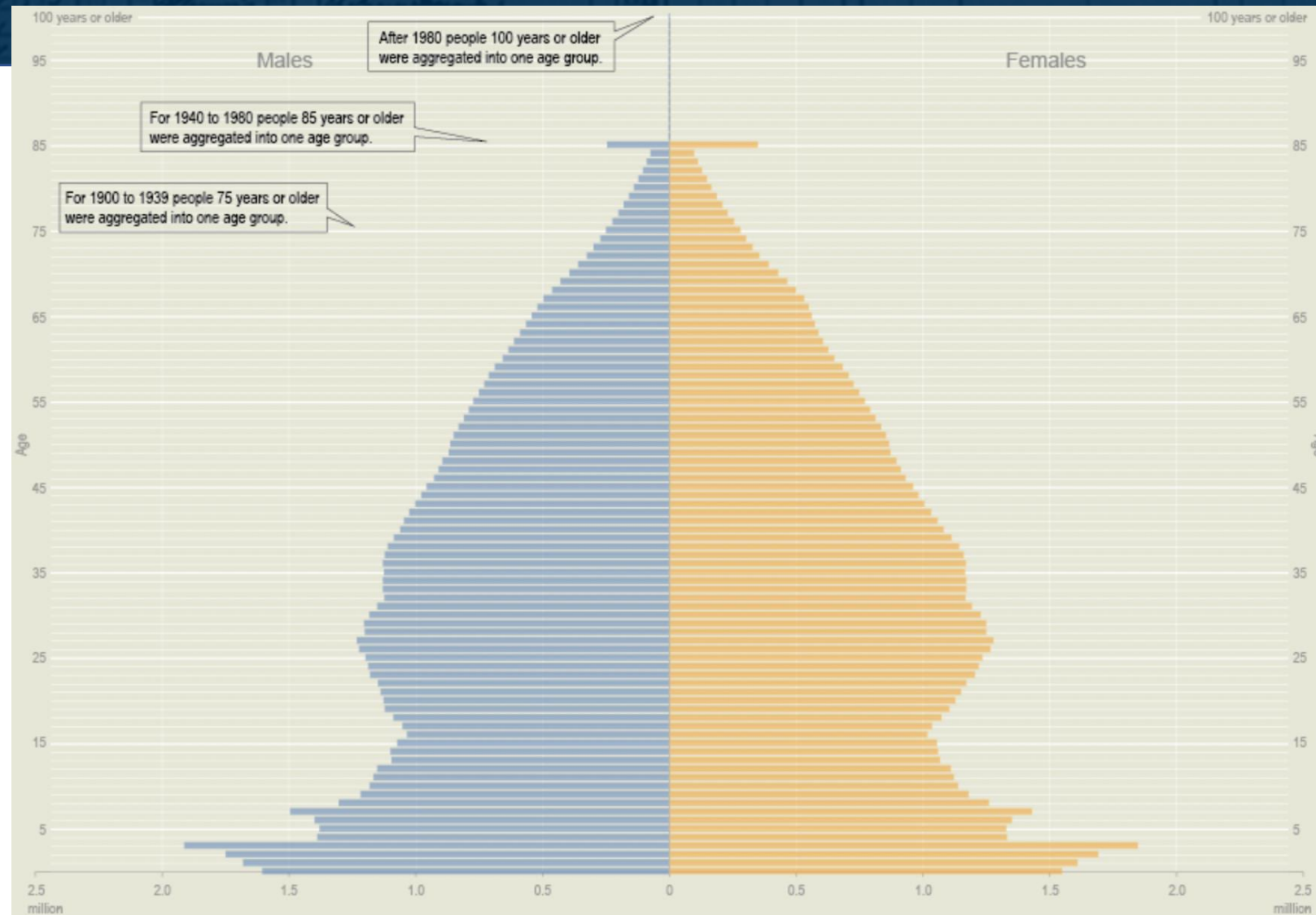
Chicago, IL



St Louis, MO



# The Baby Boom Had Begun



# Households and Families





# Women in the Workforce



# Nascent Suburbanization





# Some Sunbelt Cities Yet to Show Explosive Growth



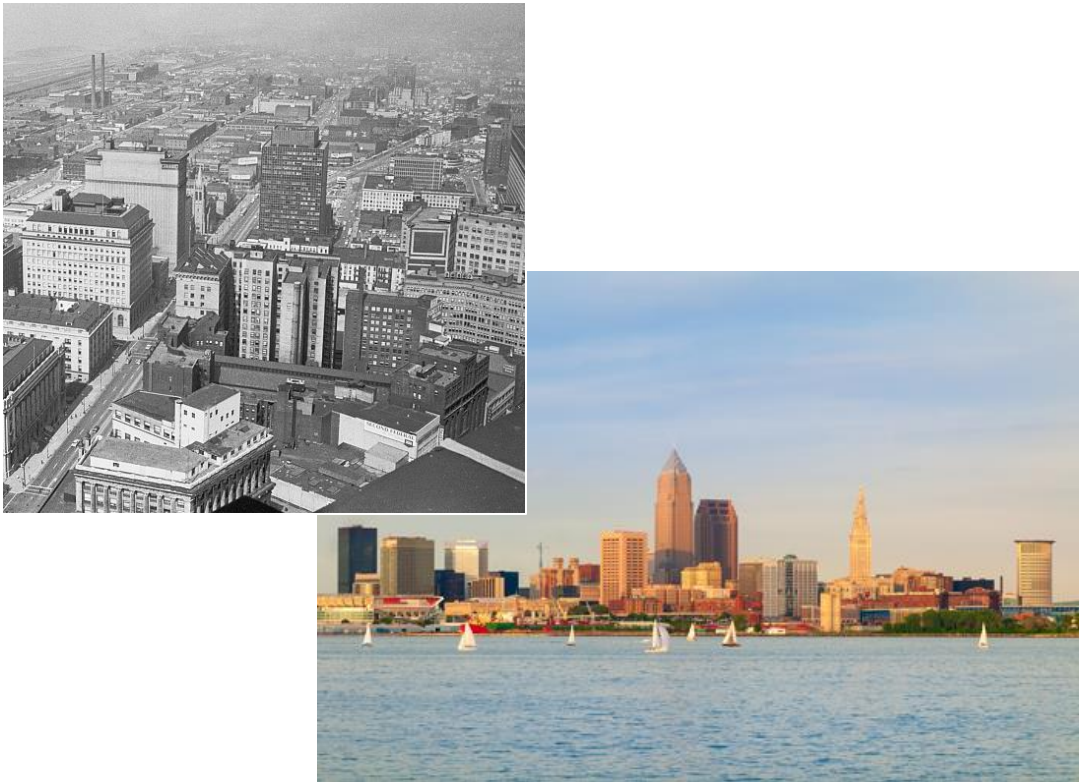
Las Vegas, NV



Phoenix, AZ

# Changes in Relative Rankings of Cities

Cleveland, OH 1950s vs 2020s



Aurora, OH 1950s vs 2020s





# A Genealogy Goldmine



## 1950 Census enumerator

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS  
1950 CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING  
INDIAN RESERVATION SCHEDULE

Form P8

1. In residence on a farm? (Copy from Population schedule item 4 for "head of household.") Yes ☐ No ☐

2. NAME OF INFANT (Please print)

3. RACE OF INFANT (Copy from schedule item 5.) White ☐ Negro ☐ American ☐ Other ☐

4. SEX OF INFANT (Copy from schedule item 10.) Male ☐ Female ☐

5. Is father enumerated in this household? Yes ☐ No ☐

IF "YES" in item 5, copy the answers to items 6, 7, 8, and 9, from the Population schedule. If "NO" in item 5, skip to item 16.

6. NAME OF FATHER (Please print) (Copy from schedule item 7.)

7. AGE OF FATHER ON LAST BIRTHDAY (Copy from schedule item 11.)

8. OCCUPATION OF FATHER (Copy from schedule item 26a, if that item is blank, enter "None.")

9. INDUSTRY OF FATHER (Copy from schedule item 26b; if that item is blank, enter "None.")

10. DATE OF BIRTH (Month) (Year) 1950

11. POST OFFICE ADDRESS OF INFANT'S USUAL PLACE OF RESIDENCE (House Number and Street or RFD No.)

12. INFANT'S PLACE OF BIRTH (ACTUAL PLACE—NOT USUAL RESIDENCE) (City or Town) (State)

13. NAME OF HOSPITAL (If "NONE" above, type of attendant at birth: Doctor ☐ Midwife ☐ Other (Specify) )

14. MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER (Please print) (Last) (First) (Initial)

15. AGE OF MOTHER ON LAST BIRTHDAY (Copy from schedule item 11, if not question.)

16. EDUCATION OF MOTHER (Copy from schedule items 26 and 27 or ask questions.) a. What is the highest grade of school that she has attended? b. Did she finish this grade? Yes ☐ No ☐

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS  
1950 CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING

Form P1

FOR HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD

1. NAME OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD (Please print) (Last) (First) (Initial)

2. SEX OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD Male ☐ Female ☐

3. AGE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD (Years) (Month) (Day)

4. RACE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD White ☐ Negro ☐ American ☐ Other ☐

5. SEX OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD Male ☐ Female ☐

6. AGE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD (Years) (Month) (Day)

7. RACE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD White ☐ Negro ☐ American ☐ Other ☐

8. SEX OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD Male ☐ Female ☐

9. AGE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD (Years) (Month) (Day)

10. RACE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD White ☐ Negro ☐ American ☐ Other ☐

11. SEX OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD Male ☐ Female ☐

12. AGE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD (Years) (Month) (Day)

13. RACE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD White ☐ Negro ☐ American ☐ Other ☐

14. SEX OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD Male ☐ Female ☐

15. AGE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD (Years) (Month) (Day)

16. RACE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD White ☐ Negro ☐ American ☐ Other ☐

17. SEX OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD Male ☐ Female ☐

18. AGE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD (Years) (Month) (Day)

19. RACE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD White ☐ Negro ☐ American ☐ Other ☐

20. SEX OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD Male ☐ Female ☐

21. AGE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD (Years) (Month) (Day)

22. RACE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD White ☐ Negro ☐ American ☐ Other ☐

23. SEX OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD Male ☐ Female ☐

24. AGE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD (Years) (Month) (Day)

25. RACE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD White ☐ Negro ☐ American ☐ Other ☐

26. SEX OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD Male ☐ Female ☐

27. AGE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD (Years) (Month) (Day)

28. RACE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD White ☐ Negro ☐ American ☐ Other ☐

29. SEX OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD Male ☐ Female ☐

30. AGE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD (Years) (Month) (Day)

31. RACE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD White ☐ Negro ☐ American ☐ Other ☐

32. SEX OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD Male ☐ Female ☐

33. AGE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD (Years) (Month) (Day)

34. RACE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD White ☐ Negro ☐ American ☐ Other ☐

35. SEX OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD Male ☐ Female ☐

36. AGE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD (Years) (Month) (Day)

37. RACE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD White ☐ Negro ☐ American ☐ Other ☐

38. SEX OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD Male ☐ Female ☐

39. AGE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD (Years) (Month) (Day)

40. RACE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD White ☐ Negro ☐ American ☐ Other ☐

41. SEX OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD Male ☐ Female ☐

42. AGE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD (Years) (Month) (Day)

43. RACE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD White ☐ Negro ☐ American ☐ Other ☐

44. SEX OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD Male ☐ Female ☐

45. AGE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD (Years) (Month) (Day)

46. RACE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD White ☐ Negro ☐ American ☐ Other ☐

47. SEX OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD Male ☐ Female ☐

48. AGE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD (Years) (Month) (Day)

49. RACE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD White ☐ Negro ☐ American ☐ Other ☐

50. SEX OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD Male ☐ Female ☐

51. AGE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD (Years) (Month) (Day)

52. RACE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD White ☐ Negro ☐ American ☐ Other ☐

53. SEX OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD Male ☐ Female ☐

54. AGE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD (Years) (Month) (Day)

55. RACE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD White ☐ Negro ☐ American ☐ Other ☐

56. SEX OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD Male ☐ Female ☐

57. AGE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD (Years) (Month) (Day)

58. RACE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD White ☐ Negro ☐ American ☐ Other ☐

59. SEX OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD Male ☐ Female ☐

60. AGE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD (Years) (Month) (Day)

61. RACE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD White ☐ Negro ☐ American ☐ Other ☐

62. SEX OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD Male ☐ Female ☐

63. AGE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD (Years) (Month) (Day)

64. RACE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD White ☐ Negro ☐ American ☐ Other ☐

65. SEX OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD Male ☐ Female ☐

66. AGE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD (Years) (Month) (Day)

67. RACE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD White ☐ Negro ☐ American ☐ Other ☐

68. SEX OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD Male ☐ Female ☐

69. AGE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD (Years) (Month) (Day)

70. RACE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD White ☐ Negro ☐ American ☐ Other ☐

71. SEX OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD Male ☐ Female ☐

72. AGE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD (Years) (Month) (Day)

73. RACE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD White ☐ Negro ☐ American ☐ Other ☐

74. SEX OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD Male ☐ Female ☐

75. AGE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD (Years) (Month) (Day)

76. RACE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD White ☐ Negro ☐ American ☐ Other ☐

77. SEX OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD Male ☐ Female ☐

78. AGE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD (Years) (Month) (Day)

79. RACE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD White ☐ Negro ☐ American ☐ Other ☐

80. SEX OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD Male ☐ Female ☐

81. AGE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD (Years) (Month) (Day)

82. RACE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD White ☐ Negro ☐ American ☐ Other ☐

83. SEX OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD Male ☐ Female ☐

84. AGE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD (Years) (Month) (Day)

85. RACE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD White ☐ Negro ☐ American ☐ Other ☐

86. SEX OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD Male ☐ Female ☐

87. AGE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD (Years) (Month) (Day)

88. RACE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD White ☐ Negro ☐ American ☐ Other ☐

89. SEX OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD Male ☐ Female ☐

90. AGE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD (Years) (Month) (Day)

91. RACE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD White ☐ Negro ☐ American ☐ Other ☐

92. SEX OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD Male ☐ Female ☐

93. AGE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD (Years) (Month) (Day)

94. RACE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD White ☐ Negro ☐ American ☐ Other ☐

95. SEX OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD Male ☐ Female ☐

96. AGE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD (Years) (Month) (Day)

97. RACE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD White ☐ Negro ☐ American ☐ Other ☐

98. SEX OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD Male ☐ Female ☐

99. AGE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD (Years) (Month) (Day)

100. RACE OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD White ☐ Negro ☐ American ☐ Other ☐

A large, faded image of a 1940 US Census form, showing handwritten entries for a family. The form is divided into sections for 'HOUSEHOLD DATA', 'PERSONAL DATA', and 'OCCUPATION'. The central text 'Thank You' and 'Marc.J.Perry@Census.gov' is overlaid on the form.





# 1950 CENSUS RELEASE

## Overview of the 1950 Census Release

Claire Kluskens

March 14, 2022

# 1950 CENSUS RELEASE

## Resources Available on NARA's Websites

- 1950 Census Information - <https://www.archives.gov/research/census/1950>
- NARA Genealogy Lecture Series on 1950 Census - <https://www.archives.gov/calendar/genealogy-series/2022>
- 1950 Census Blog Series on History Hub - <https://historyhub.history.gov/docs/DOC-1481>
- Digitized Administrative Records in NARA's Online Catalog - <https://catalog.archives.gov/search?q=1950CensusAdminRecords>

# 1950 CENSUS RELEASE

## NARA's 1950 Census Website

[www.archives.gov/research/census/1950](http://www.archives.gov/research/census/1950)

### Resources

 Questions Asked on the 1950 Census	 FAQs about the 1950 Census	 Finding Aids
 Instructions for Enumerators and the Public	 Blank Census Forms	 Information and Training Videos
 Published Statistical Data	 Native Americans in the Census	 External Resources



The screenshot shows the National Archives website for the 1950 Census release. The header includes the National Archives logo, a search bar, and navigation links: Blogs - Bookmark/Share - Contact Us, Search Archives.gov, and Search. The main navigation bar features links: RESEARCH OUR RECORDS, VETERANS' SERVICE RECORDS, EDUCATOR RESOURCES, VISIT US, and AMERICA'S FOUNDING DOCUMENTS. The page title is "1950 Census" with a breadcrumb trail: Home > Research Our Records > Census Records > 1950 Census Records.

**Genealogy**  
Main page

**Census**  
Census Main Page  
About Census Records  
Search Census Records Online  
1790 Census FAQs  
1830 Census FAQs  
1940 Census  
1950 Census  
1850-1940 Census Clues  
1790-1840 Census Clues  
Nonpopulation Census  
1935 Business Census  
Indian Census Rolls  
Presidents in the US Census Records  
Census Links by Year

**Resources**  
Soundex Coding System  
Blank Census forms and charts  
Order Census Copies Online  
Using Census Microfilm

**1950 Census Records**

Taken every 10 years since 1790, the United States census provides a snapshot of the nation's population. Because of a 72-year restriction on access to the records, the most recent census year currently available is 1940.

On April 1, 2022, the 1950 Census will be released, and users will be able to access it for free through a dedicated website. This population census is the 17th decennial census of the United States. The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) has digitized and will provide free online access to the 1950 Census population schedules for U.S. states and territories, enumeration district maps, and enumeration district descriptions.

**Bulk Download:** In addition, researchers will be able to download the full 1950 Census dataset through the Amazon Web Services' (AWS) Registry of Open Data.

**How You Can Help**

You will be able to search the 1950 Census website by name and location. You will also be able to search by Indian Reservation for form PB Indian Reservation Schedules.

To develop the initial name index, we are using Amazon Web Services' artificial intelligence / optical character recognition (AI/OCR) Textract tool to extract the handwritten names from the digitized 1950 Census population schedules.

Because the initial name index is built on optical character recognition (OCR) technology, it will not be 100-percent accurate. The National Archives is asking for your help in submitting name updates to the index using a transcription tool that will be available on the 1950 Census website. You can help us improve the accuracy of the name index and

**Countdown to the 1950 Census Launch**

**45**  
DAYS

**News**  
National Archives 1950 Census Genealogy webinars starting March 21

**Census Enumerator Assisting a Farmer**  
View in National Archives Catalog



# 1950 CENSUS RELEASE

## NARA's 1950 Census Lecture Series

[www.archives.gov/calendar/genealogy-series/2022](http://www.archives.gov/calendar/genealogy-series/2022)



The screenshot shows the National Archives website's "Calendar of Events" page for the "National Archives Genealogy Series: 1950 Census" held in March, April, and May 2022. The page features a sidebar with links to "Nationwide Events", "Genealogy Workshops", and "Operating Status & Schedules". The main content area includes a "Condensed Schedule" table with dates and topics, a "Free and no registration - all are welcome!" notice, and links to "About the program", "Participation instructions", "YouTube playlist", and "Schedule with session descriptions, handouts, and videos". The right sidebar contains social media links and buttons for "Genealogy Fairs & Series Past" and "About Census Records".

**National Archives**

RESEARCH OUR RECORDS | VETERANS' SERVICE RECORDS | EDUCATOR RESOURCES | VISIT US | AMERICA'S FOUNDING DOCUMENTS

### Calendar of Events

Home » Calendar of Events » National Archives Genealogy Series: 1950 Census

#### National Archives Genealogy Series: 1950 Census

March, April, and May 2022

**Free and no registration - all are welcome!**

- ⇒ About the program
- ⇒ Participation instructions
- ⇒ YouTube playlist
- ⇒ Schedule with session descriptions, handouts, and videos

#### Condensed Schedule (more details below)

March 2, at 1 p.m. ET	Overview of What's on the 1950 Census
March 16, at 1 p.m. ET	Mapping the 1950 Census: Census Enumeration District Maps at the National Archives
March 30, at 1 p.m. ET	The 1950 Census Website: Design, Development, and Features to Expect
April 27, at 1 p.m. ET	The Story of the 1950 Census P8 Indian Reservation Schedule
May 11, at 1 p.m. ET	From Parchments to Printouts: History of the Census from 1790 to 1950
May 18, at 1 p.m. ET	History of Census Records and the National Archives
May 25, at 1 p.m. ET	Historic Census Bureau Sources for Filipino, Guamanian and Chamorro, American Samoan, and Native Hawaiian Research

Connect with Us

Genealogy Fairs & Series Past

About Census Records

Find answers to your Genealogy Questions at History Hub

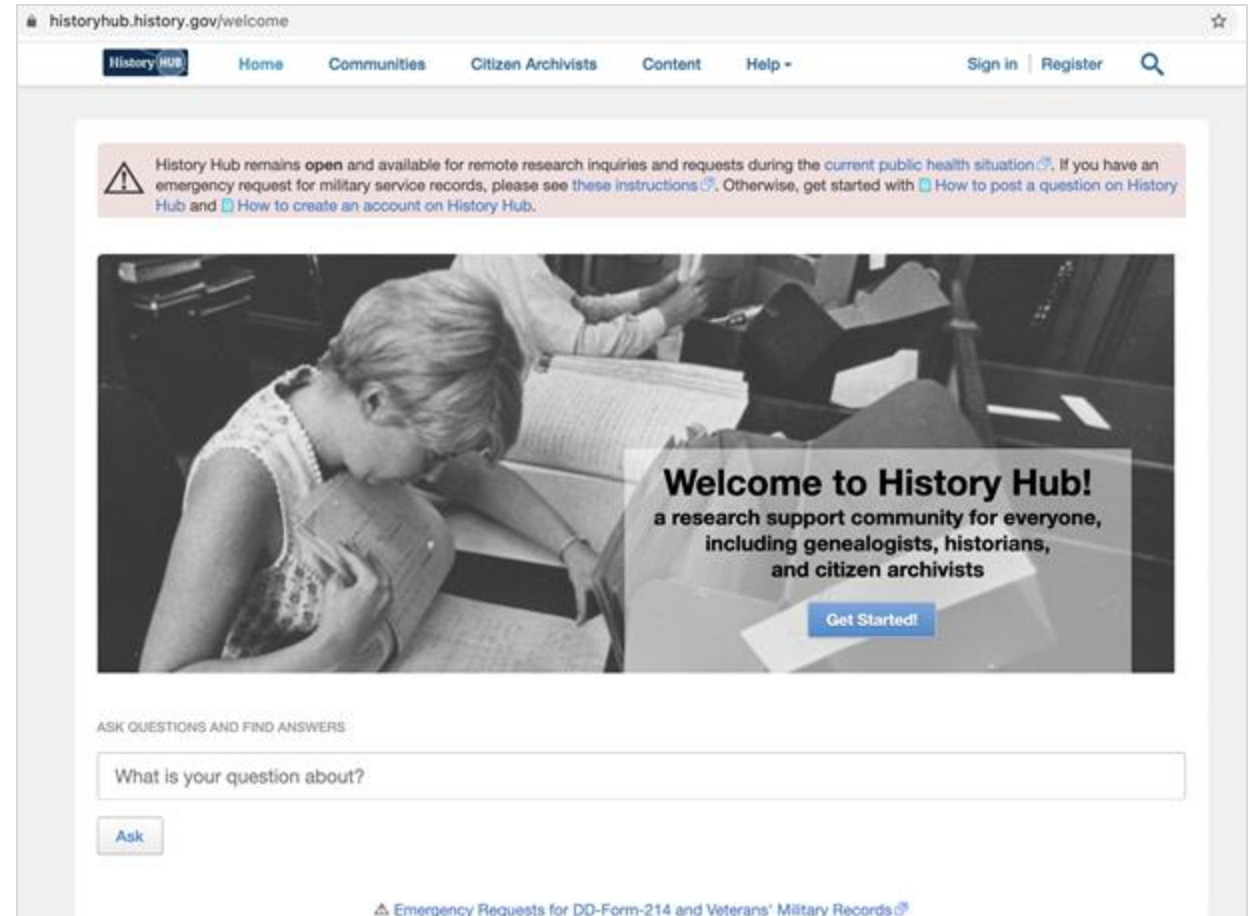
# 1950 CENSUS RELEASE

## History Hub

[www.archives.gov/calendar/genealogy-series/2022](https://www.archives.gov/calendar/genealogy-series/2022)

Ask Questions!

Follow the 1950 Census Blog Series!



# 1950 CENSUS RELEASE

## History Hub website

<https://historyhub.history.gov>

Ask Questions!

Follow the 1950 Census Blog Series!



The screenshot shows the History Hub website interface. At the top is a navigation bar with links: History Hub, Home, Communities, Citizen Archivists, Content, Help, Sign in, and Register. Below the navigation bar, a banner reads "More documents in Census Records". The main content area features the "1950 Census Blog Series" with a "Version 18" indicator. It includes a banner for the "1950 Census of the United States" and a section titled "Blog Posts on the 1950 Census:" with a "Last Updated: March 1, 2022" note. A list of 12 blog posts follows, each with a green icon, title, date, and number in parentheses. On the right side, there are social media links, a "MORE LIKE THIS" section with links to "Innovations in the Decennial Census of Population and Housing: 1940-1990", "Featured Content in Census Records", "Comment and Posting Policy", "Featured Content in Genealogy", and "Getting Started with History Hub". At the bottom right, an "INCOMING LINKS" section lists four links related to seeking long forms used in taking the census.

History Hub Home Communities Citizen Archivists Content Help Sign in Register

More documents in Census Records

### 1950 Census Blog Series

Version 18

Created by History Hub Administrator on Jan 7, 2022 12:42 PM. Last modified by Claire Kluskens on Mar 1, 2022 2:05 PM.

## ★ 1950 Census of the United States ★

### Blog Posts on the 1950 Census:

Last Updated: March 1, 2022

- Census Fun Fact #5 - The Geography Division's Quick Reference Card File of 1950 Census Population Data. Dec. 29, 2020.
- 1950 Census: How the Census Forms and Procedures Were Developed. Feb. 2, 2021. (#1)
- 1950 Census: It Took More Than 148,000 People to Make it Happen!. (#2)
- 1950 Census: How the Data were Used. Feb. 17, 2021. (#3)
- 1950 Census: The Answer Is ... a Lot of Numbers and Publications. (#4)
- 1950 Census: The Beautiful Portfolio Control Label. Mar. 7, 2021. (#5)
- 1950 Census: Field Enumeration Procedures. Mar. 17, 2021. (#6)
- 1950 Census: T-Nights, April 11 and 13, 1950. Mar. 24, 2021. (#7)
- 1950 Census: The Official Census Day—April 1, 1950. Apr. 1, 2021. (#8)
- 1950 Census: "Usual Place of Residence" Apr. 7, 2021. (#9)
- 1950 Census: Make Sure You Count! Apr. 15, 2021. (#10)
- 1950 Census: Infant Cards and the Special Infant Enumeration Study. Apr. 19, 2021. (#11)
- 1950 Census: Form P1, Population and Housing Schedule "Heading Items". Apr. 27, 2021. (#12)

MORE LIKE THIS

- Innovations in the Decennial Census of Population and Housing: 1940-1990
- Featured Content in Census Records
- Comment and Posting Policy
- Featured Content in Genealogy
- Getting Started with History Hub

INCOMING LINKS

- Re: Seeking long forms used taking census
- Re: Seeking long forms used taking census
- Re: Seeking P5 1950 census forms
- Re: Seeking P5 1950 census forms



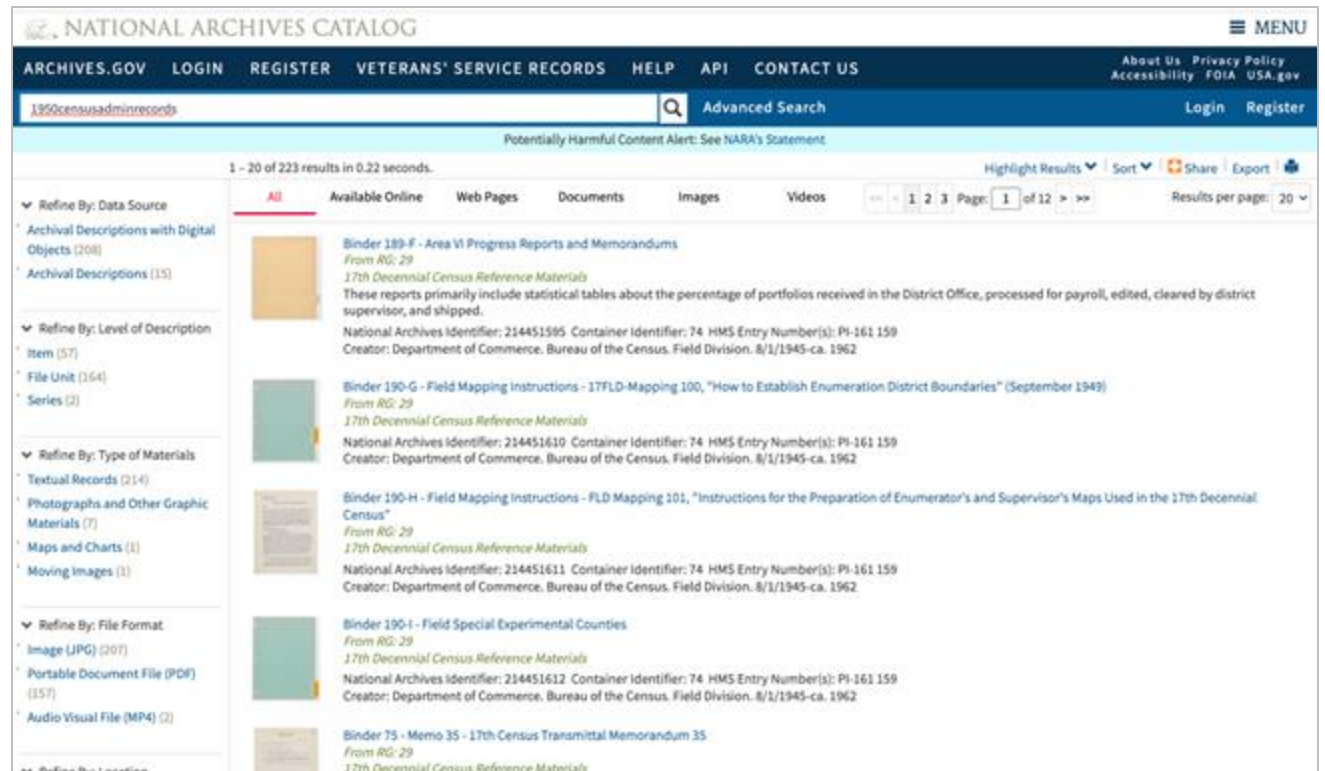
# 1950 CENSUS RELEASE

## NARA Catalog

<https://catalog.archives.gov>

Search Term=

**“1950CensusAdminRecords”**



The screenshot shows the National Archives Catalog search results for the term "1950CensusAdminRecords". The search results are displayed on a page with a dark blue header and a light blue sidebar. The main content area shows a list of search results, including "Binder 189-F - Area VI Progress Reports and Memorandums", "Binder 190-G - Field Mapping Instructions - 17FLD-Mapping 100, 'How to Establish Enumeration District Boundaries' (September 1949)", "Binder 190-H - Field Mapping Instructions - FLD Mapping 101, 'Instructions for the Preparation of Enumerator's and Supervisor's Maps Used in the 17th Decennial Census'", and "Binder 190-I - Field Special Experimental Counties". Each result includes a thumbnail image, a title, a description, and metadata such as the National Archives Identifier, Container Identifier, and HMS Entry Number(s).

# 1950 CENSUS RELEASE

## 1950 Census

Development site using 1940 dataset

[Search](#) [How-To](#) [About](#)



The screenshot shows the official 1950 Census website. It features a dark background with a historical photograph of a man in a hat. The National Archives logo is in the top right. The main heading reads 'Welcome to the Official 1950 Census Website'. Below this is a paragraph of placeholder text. At the bottom are two buttons: 'Begin Search' (red) and 'How-To Search' (teal).

NATIONAL  
ARCHIVES

## Welcome to the Official 1950 Census Website

Nunc posuere eros sed ipsum ultrices, ac egestas arcu vulputate. Nullam ex dolor, pellentesque sed gravida nec, finibus eget est. Suspendisse aliquam nec orci sed rtrumu. Nunc posuere eros sed ipsum ultrices, ac egestas arcu vulputate. Nullam ex dolor, pellentesque sed gravida nec, finibus eget est. Suspendisse aliquam nec orci sed rtrumu.

[Begin Search](#) [How-To Search](#)

# 1950 CENSUS RELEASE

## Three Record Sets

- **NARA Microfilm Publication T628, *Seventeenth Census of the United States, 1950* (6,373 rolls) – about 6.57 million digital images**
- **Forms P8, *Indian Reservation Schedules* – about 33,000 digital images**
- **Population census forms for Canton [Kanton], Johnston, Midway, and Wake Islands in the Pacific Ocean – about 2,000 images**



# 1950 CENSUS RELEASE

## **NARA's 1950 Census website will include:**

- The three record sets listed on previous slide
- Enumeration District Maps
- Enumeration District Descriptions

NO DETAILED MAP FOR  
LA PLATA

SEE DETAILED MAP FOR  
INDIAN HEAD

SPECIAL ENUMERATION AREAS

9-5 MATHIAS POINT LIGHTHOUSE  
(IN ELEC. DIST. 2, HILL TOP)

9-6 UPPER CEDAR POINT LIGHTHOUSE  
(IN ELEC. DIST. 2, HILL TOP)

9-8 MARYLAND POINT LIGHTHOUSE  
(IN ELEC. DIST. 3 CROSS ROADS)

9-12 U.S. NAVAL RESERVATION & POWDER FACTORY  
(IN ELEC. OUT. 2, POMERKEY)

9-13 U.S. NAVAL RESERVATION & SUBSISTENCE DISTRICT  
(IN ELEC. DIST. 10, MARDURY)

1800 E.D. 9-1 TO 9-25  
COUNTY AND MCD (ELEC. DIST.) (RED)

INCORPORATED PLACE (GREEN)

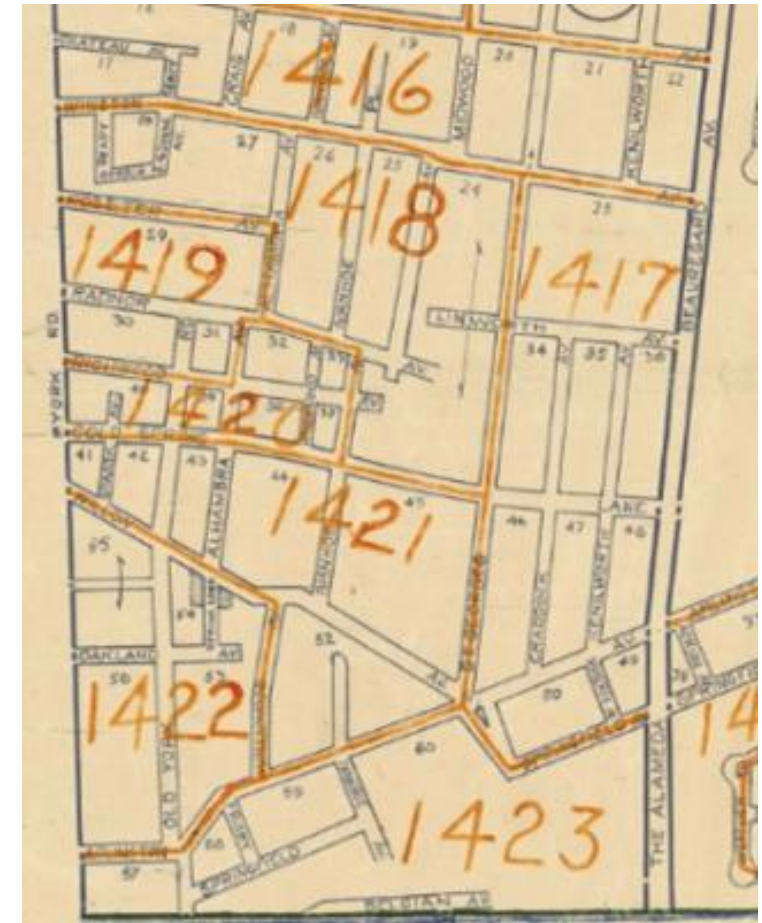
UNINCORPORATED PLACE (PURPLE)

ENUMERATION DISTRICT (ORANGE)

LOWER CEDAR POINT

ROCK POINT

CROSS POINT BAR - L.L.



# 1950 CENSUS RELEASE

## 1950 Census Website will include Enumeration District Descriptions

- 234,000 Enumeration Districts
- Transcriptions
- Original Typescripts

1950 E. D.		1950 CENSUS		1940 CENSUS	
DESCRIPTION OF ENUMERATION DISTRICT		1950 Pop.	DWELLING UNITS	POPULATION	FARMS (Approx.)
47-23	Lorain city - That part of Ward 2 in Black River township Bounded by Black River West Erie Ave. Oberlin Ave., Ward line, City limits	602	189	690	
47-24	Lorain city - That part of Ward 2 in Black River township, ex- cluding Antlers Hotel Bounded by West Erie Ave. Washington Ave. 6th Oberlin Ave.	812			
47-25	Antlers Hotel (In Lorain city, Ward 2, Black River township)	15			
47-26	Lorain city - That part of Ward 2 in Black River township Bounded by West Erie Ave. Black River N. Y. C. & St. L. R.R. Broadway, 5th, Reid Ave., 6th, Washington Ave.	464			
47-27	Lorain city - That part of Ward 2 in Black River township Bounded by 6th, Reid Ave., 5th Broadway 5th, 7th Ct. Washington Ave.	694			



## **NARA's 1950 Census Website:**

- Free Access for Everyone
- Features Based on User Research
- Design Process for Visual Elements
- Development of Functional Website

# 1950 CENSUS RELEASE

## **1950 Census Website Search Capability:**

### **Search by**

- **State**
- **County**
- **Enumeration District Number**
- **Indian Reservation**
- **Personal Name**
  - **Exact matches**
  - **Similar names**
  - **Transcription tool to allow users to correct the name results**

# 1950 CENSUS RELEASE

## 1950 Census Name Search:

- “First Draft” name index
- Imperfect – OCR / ML / AI
- Line Number + Name on that Line
- Surnames are only on lines for
  - Head of Household
  - Persons with different surname
- 140,000 enumerators with different handwriting of varying legibility and quality
- Transcription tool allows user corrections
- Free access to everyone - no paywall

41						Pierce, Mattie
42	309	N	0	3500	No	Rimes, Geo
43						—, Anna (C)
44						—, Dorothy
45						Barnes, Florence
46	307	15	R	30	No	Leaford, Cyril
47						—, Leone (C)
48						—, Sebastian
49						—, Phyllis
50						—, Joe
51	305	16	0	1000	No	Leduc, Alice
52						—, Grace (C)
53						—, Jennie
54	305	17	R	21	No	Sule, George Jos.
55						—, Mary (X)
56						—, Georgia Rae
57						—, David George
58	301	18	0	3500	No	Amnick, James
59						—, Anna (C)



# 1950 CENSUS RELEASE



Information (available now)

Free Access to the Census Schedules

Enumeration District Maps

Enumeration District Descriptions

“First Draft” Name Index

User Ability to Improve the Name Index

# 1950 CENSUS RELEASE

Thank You!

Please Visit

[www.archives.gov/research/census/1950](http://www.archives.gov/research/census/1950)



# Questions?

- Toll-free number **1-888-790-3521**
- Participant passcode: **2555685**
- Dial **\*1** for the Operator





# Resources

## 1950 Census Records Release Press Kit

JANUARY 27, 2022

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) is scheduled to digitally release the 1950 Census population records on April 1, 2022. This release is in accordance with the "72-Year Rule" (92 Stat. 915; Public Law 95-416; October 5, 1978) that states that after 72 years, NARA is responsible for releasing to the public decennial census records.

### Webinar

Monday, March 14, at 1 p.m. EDT.

The webinar will highlight statistics from the 1950 Census, provide historical context to how the 1950 Census was conducted, and provide information from the NARA on how to access these records when they become available to the public and what resources are available now.

### News

Press Release | March 07, 2022

#### Webinar to Provide Overview Ahead of 1950 Census Records Release

A pre-release webinar to give the media and data users an overview of 1950 Census records set to be released from the NARA on April 1.

### 1950 Census Records

Taken every 10 years since 1790, the United States census provides a snapshot of the nation's population. Because of a 72-year restriction on access to the records, the most recent census year currently available is 1940.

On April 1, 2022, the 1950 Census will be released, and users will be able to access it for free through a dedicated website. A link to the website will be available here starting on April 1. This population census is the 17th decennial census of the United States. The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) has digitized and will provide free online access to the 1950 Census population schedules for U.S. states and territories, enumeration district maps, and enumeration district descriptions.

**Bulk Download:** In addition, researchers will be able to download the full 1950 Census dataset through the Amazon Web Services' (AWS) Registry of Open Data.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES  
**1950**  
CENSUS  
EXPLORE & COLLABORATE

Countdown to the 1950 Census  
Launch - April 1

**20**  
Days



National Archives  
1950 Census  
Genealogy Series  
webinars starting  
March 2!

### The 1950 Census Records Release

FEBRUARY 23, 2022



Release Date: April 1, 2022

The U.S. Census Bureau conducts the decennial census—the once-a-decade population and housing count of everyone living in the United States—as mandated by Article 1, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution.

For 72 years, personal census responses are confidential—only the person named on a census record or their legal heir can obtain the record. Once a census is final and results are issued, the Census Bureau transfers the records to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). NARA becomes the owner of these records and is responsible for storing and protecting all census records before releasing them to the public after 72 years.

These records provide genealogists, historians, researchers, and the rest of the general public an opportunity to research their family history alongside our nation's history.

#### Who Media Should Contact

NARA is handling the release of personal records from the 1950 Census and can provide information on how to access and work with the records. The U.S. Census Bureau can provide historical context and insight into how the data were collected and what questions were asked in the 1950 Census. Both agencies can provide a more comprehensive understanding of the stories behind the records.

# Questions?

- Toll-free number **1-888-790-3521**
- Participant passcode: **2555685**
- Dial **\*1** for the Operator



# Upcoming Releases

## March 17

American Community Survey  
2016-2020  
5-Year Data Release

- March 17: Data Release
- March 15: Embargo begins
- March 10: Pre-Release Webinar
- [Press Kit](#)

## March 24

County, Puerto Rico Municipio,  
and Metropolitan and  
Micropolitan Statistical Area  
Population Estimates

- March 24: Data Release
- March 22: Embargo begins
- [Tip Sheet](#)



# Questions?

- Toll-free number **1-888-790-3521**
- Participant passcode: **2555685**
- Dial **\*1** for the Operator



## Media:

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### Public Information Office

pio@census.gov

301-763-3030/877-861-2010 (U.S. and Canada only)

## General Public:

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### Customer Service Center

1-800-923-8282 or

301-763-INFO (4636)

## Press Kit:

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Go to **U.S. Census Bureau** at

Census.gov ► Newsroom ► Press Kits