A Look at the 1940 Census
Major Innovations of the 1940 Census

First census to:

- include a question on wages and income (under the heading on “income”)
- to ask extra questions of a 5 percent sample of the population. (two people on each page)
- designate a special day for counting transients (T-Night) April 8-9
- include a coverage and content research program following the census
- include a census of housing.
Census Sample Survey

To reconcile exploding demand for new questions with a public balking at answering and technology straining to make that many tabulations:

- Procedures designed by W. Edwards Deming and Morris Hansen
- Asked most frequently of people falling on lines 14 and 29
- Supplementary questions included:
  - Parents’ place of birth
  - Veterans status
  - If person had a Social Security card
  - Usual occupation and industry
  - Age at first marriage
  - Number of children ever born
- The implications for 2012:
  - Many new questions on some people
  - Parents’ place of birth had been available on everyone from the 1930 census
U.S. Population in Millions: 1940 to 2050

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1940 to 2010 Decennial Censuses; 2008 National Population Projections
Population Change by Region: 1940 to 2010

West: 400.3%
Midwest: 66.7%
South: 174.9%
Northeast: 53.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1940 Census and 2010 Census.
Population Distribution by Race: 1940-2010

*Data are shown for the White, Black or African American, American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian and Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, and Some Other Race alone populations. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, decennial census of population, 1940 to 2010.
Population Distribution by Hispanic Origin: 1970-2010

Percent Minority: 1970-2042

*Projected population as of July 1.

Note: “Minority” refers to people who reported their ethnicity and race as something other than non-Hispanic White alone in the decennial census.

Age Distribution: 1940 and 2010

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 1940 Census and 2010 Census.
Median Age: 1940-2050

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<th>Female</th>
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<td>29.5</td>
<td>28.7</td>
<td>30.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>28.1</td>
<td>26.8</td>
<td>29.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>2050</td>
<td>39.0</td>
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Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, decennial census of population, 1940 to 2010
U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2050 Projections of the Population by Age and Sex (NP2008-T12)
Average Household Size: 1940 and 2010

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1940 and 2010 Censuses.
Percent of Households that are Family Households: 1940 and 2010

Source: U.S, Census Bureau, 1940 and 2010 Censuses.
Percent of Family Households with Female Householder, no Husband Present: 1940 and 2010

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1940 and 2010 Censuses.
Percent of Households with One Person: 1940 and 2010

Source: U.S, Census Bureau, Decennial Census
Marital Status, Males 15 Years and Over: 1940 and 2010

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1940 Census, and 2010 American Community Survey.
Marital Status, Females 15 Years and Over: 1940 and 2010

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1940 Census and 2010 American Community Survey.
Percent of Population 25 Years & Over Who Completed High School; Percentage Who Completed a Bachelor’s Degree: 1940, 1970, and 2010

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1940 and 1970 Censuses, and the 2010 American Community Survey
Percent of People 16 Years and Over in the Labor Force, by Sex: 1940 and 2010

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1940 and 1970 Censuses, and the 2010 American Community Survey
Percent of Employed People in Selected Industries: 1940 and 2010

- Agriculture, forestry, fishing, mining: 21% (1940), 2% (2010)
- Manufacturing: 23% (1940), 10% (2010)
- Wholesale and retail trade: 17% (1940), 14% (2010)
- Services: 19% (1940), 48% (2010)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1940 Census and 2010 American Community Survey
Percent Distribution of Employed People by Class of Worker: 1940 and 2010

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1940 Census and 2010 American Community Survey
Female to Male Wage and Salary Ratio: 1939 and 2010

U.S. Homeownership Rates: 1900 to 2010

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1940 Census of Housing.
State Homeownership Rates: 1940

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1940 Census of Housing
State Homeownership Rates: 2010

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census of Housing
U.S. Median Gross Rent: 1940 and 2010
(in current dollars)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1940 Census of Housing and 2010 American Community Survey
1940 CENSUS
Opening April 2, 2012 9:00 AM Eastern

http://1940census.archives.gov
1940 Census Questions

• Where did you live on April 1, 1935

• What were your wages or salary for 1939

• What was your highest level of education

• Supplemental schedule
Finding Someone on the Census

• There is no name index yet

• Enumeration district maps

• Enumeration district descriptions