

Using All the Census Data:

Agricultural, Manufacturing, Population, Slave, Social

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Although primarily intended as a source of demographic data for the government, the census can provide us with information not only on family units but also on local churches, schools, newspapers, diet and lifestyle, health, wealth and occupations.

Non-population Schedules

Agricultural schedules: 1850–1910. The schedules for 1850 through 1880 survive; the 1890 schedule was destroyed at the same time the population schedules were lost and the 1900–1910 schedules were destroyed under government directions once the statistical data had been compiled. Questions were asked about the amount of land in woodland, under cultivation and lying fallow, number of various types of livestock, amount of specific crops grown and the value of land and farm implements.

Delinquent, defective, dependent schedule: 1880. Listed by name the insane, deaf-mutes, blind persons, homeless children, prison inhabitants and pauper and indigent inhabitants.

Manufacturers' schedules: 1810 (few schedules survive), 1820 (raw materials used, number of persons employed, machinery, expenditures, production), 1840 (only statistical data survives), 1850–1870 (called industry schedule), 1880.

Mortality schedules : name, sex, age, race (white, black, mulatto), whether widowed, place of birth, month died, occupation of deceased, cause of death and number of days ill. Parents' birthplaces was added in 1870; 1880 added place where disease was contracted; length of residence or how long a citizen. Mortality schedules record deaths occurring during the year prior to the enumeration date of the census.

Slave schedules: Slaves were enumerated in each of the censuses through 1860. Their enumeration was a part of the population schedule until 1850. In 1850 and 1860 a separate slave schedule was created which listed the name of the owner and the age, sex and color of the individual slaves.

Social statistics schedules: The 1850 schedule listed value of estate, real and personal; annual taxes; colleges, academies and schools; seasons and crops; libraries; newspapers and periodicals; religion (denomination, number each accommodated, value of property); pauperism; crime; average wages.

Veterans' schedules: the names and ages of Revolutionary War pensioners are listed under the head of household in which they were living in 1840. In 1890 a special census of Union veterans and their widows was taken (house and family no., name of soldier, sailor, marine or widow; rank, company, regiment or vessel, date of enlistment and discharge; length of service, post office address, disability incurred, remarks. Confederate veterans can sometimes be found in this schedule.

Summary of Information Available by Census Year

1790

Name of head of household; number of white males by age group; total of white females, all other free persons, slaves.

1800

Name of head of household; number free white males and females by age group; total of all other free persons, slaves.

1810

Name of head of household; number of free white males and females by age group; total of other free persons, slaves. A few manufacturing schedules survive. (Surviving schedules are listed in "Appendix IX," *Preliminary Inventory 161, Records of the Bureau of the Census.*) Compiled statistical data is available.

1820

Name of head of household; number free whites, slaves and free colored persons by age group and sex. Number of foreigners not naturalized; number employed in agriculture, commerce, manufacturing; total of all others except Indians not taxed.

Manufacturing schedule. Available on microfilm from NARA, M279: *Records of the 1820 Census of Manufactures.*

1830

Name of head of household; free whites, slaves and free colored persons by age group and sex. Number of deaf and dumb by age group and race; number of blind by race; number of white aliens.

1840

Name of head of household; free whites, slaves and free colored persons by age group. Number of persons engaged in mining, agriculture, commerce, manufacturing and trade, navigation of the oceans, navigation of canals, lakes and rivers; learned professions and engineering; names and ages of military pensioners; number of deaf and dumb by race (white categorized by age group as well); total blind by race; total insane by race and whether or not of public charge; number of students by university, grammar or primary school; number of students at public charge; number of free whites over age 20 who were illiterate.

1850

Name; age; sex; color; occupation for males over 15; value of real estate owned; state, territory or country of birth. Whether attended school or were married during the year; if over 20 could they read and write; were they deaf-mute, blind, insane or idiotic or a fugitive.

Agricultural (owner, agent or tenant of a farm with annual produce over \$100), industrial (annual gross product over \$500), mortality (died between 1 June 1849 and 1 June 1850), slave and social schedules.

1860

Name; age; sex; color; occupation for males over 15; value of real estate owned; value of personal estate; state, territory or country of birth. Whether they were married during the year; if over 20 could they read and write; were they deaf-mute, blind, insane or idiotic or a convict.

Agricultural (owner, agent or tenant of a farm with annual produce over \$100), industrial (annual gross product over \$500), mortality (died between 1 June 1859 and 1 June 1860), slave and social schedules.

1870

Name, age, sex, color, occupation, value of real estate owned, value of personal estate, state, territory or country of birth, whether mother or father of foreign birth. Whether they were born, married or attended school during the year; if over 20 could they read and write; were they deaf-mute, blind, insane or idiotic or a convict, whether male citizen over 21 or male citizen over 21 whose right to vote is denied.

Agricultural (owner, agent or tenant of a farm with annual produce over \$500), mortality (died between 1 June 1869 and 1 June 1870), and industrial (annual gross product over \$500) and social schedules.

1880

Names, ages, sex, color, occupation (months unemployed), and state, territory or country of birth, relationship to head of household, father's and mother's place of birth. Whether they were single, married, widowed or divorced, married or attended school during the year, sick or temporarily disabled (and cause) on day census was taken, if over 10 could they read and write; were they deaf-mute, blind, insane, idiotic or permanently disabled; male citizen over 21 or male citizen over 21 whose right to vote was denied.

Agricultural (owner, agent or tenant of a farm with annual produce over \$500); defective, dependent and delinquent; industrial (for 12 industries) schedules with a special industrial schedule for certain large industries in cities with a population over 8000; mortality (died between 1 June 1879 and 1 June 1880).

Soundex for those households with a child aged 10 or younger.

1890

Almost all of the schedules were destroyed. Statistical data survives.

Veterans schedule.

1900

Name, age, sex, color, relationship to head of household, month and year of birth, whether single, married, widowed or divorced; number of years married, name of state, territory or country of birth, father's and mother's birthplace; occupation of those over 10 and number of months unemployed, school attendance, literacy and ability to speak English, whether residence was a farm and whether it was owned or rented. For married women the number of children born and surviving; for aliens and naturalized citizens, the year of immigration, the number of years in the U.S., whether still an alien, whether they had applied for citizenship or were naturalized.

Soundex index. The schedule for military personnel overseas and all navy personnel is not included in the soundex. Statistical data available.

1910

Name, sex, color or race, age, marital status, number of years married, birthplace, occupation, whether out of work on 15 April 1910, number of weeks out of work in 1909, whether able to read and write, attended school since 1 September 1909, owned or rented home, farm or house, if mortgage-free, survivor of Union or Confederate army or navy, whether blind or deaf-mute. If married, widowed or divorced if female, number of children born and surviving; if of foreign birth, mother tongue, whether naturalized or alien (males over 21) and whether able to speak English.

Soundex is available for twenty-one of the 48 states.

1920

Name, sex, color or race, age, marital status, relationship to head of household, attended school since 1 September 1919, whether could read or write, place of birth and native tongue, father's and mother's place of birth and native tongue, whether able to speak English, occupation (business name, employer name), home owned or rented, if mortgaged. If of foreign birth, year of immigration, whether naturalized (year of naturalization) or alien.

Soundex is available. Agricultural schedules do not survive; statistical data is available.

1930

Name, sex, color or race, age, marital status, age at 1st marriage, relationship to head of household, whether attended school, whether could read or write, place of birth, father's and mother's place of birth, language spoken in home before coming to U.S., year of immigration, whether naturalized, whether able to speak English, occupation, type of industry or business, class of work, whether worked previous day. If unemployed, number on unemployed schedule code; whether a veteran, if so, what war, whether home owned or rented, value of home or monthly payment, whether had a radio set, whether lives on a farm, if so, farm no.

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The Web: The United States Historical Census Browser.