

Population Items on Principal Census Questionnaires: 1790 to 1890

(Excludes identification items, screening questions, and other information collected, but not intended for tabulation)

Demographic characteristics	1790	1800	1810	1820	1830	1840	1850	1860	1870	1880	1890
Age	-	¹ X	¹ X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Sex	¹ X	¹ X	¹ X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Color or Race	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ancestry/Ethnic Origin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
If American Indian, proportions of Indian or other blood	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
If American Indian, name of Tribe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Relationship to head of family or household	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X
Married in the past year	-	-	-	-	-	-	² X	² X	X	X	X
Marital status	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X
Number of years married	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age at or date of first marriage	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Married more than once	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
If remarried, was first marriage terminated by death?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number of years widowed, divorced, or separated	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Social Characteristics											
Free or slave	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	-
Per slave owner, number of fugitives	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	-	-	-
Per slave owner, number of manumitted	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	-	-	-
Physical and mental handicaps and infirmities:											
Deaf or deaf mutes	-	-	-	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Blind	-	-	-	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Insane	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	X	X	X	X
How supported (insane and idiotic only)	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	†	†
Feeble-minded (idiotic)	-	-	-	-	-	‡X	X	X	X	X	†X
Ill or disabled	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	‡X	†X
Duration of disability	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	†X
Paupers	-	-	-	-	-	-	² X	² X	-	†	†X
Convicts	-	-	-	-	-	-	² X	² X	-	†	†X
Homeless children	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	†	†X
Education:											
Literacy	-	-	-	-	-	¹ X	² X	² X	X	X	X
School attendance	-	-	-	-	-	-	² X	² X	X	X	X
Educational attainment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Public or private school	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Population Items on Principal Census Questionnaires: 1790 to 1890—Con.

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Social characteristics	1790	1800	1810	1820	1830	1840	1850	1860	1870	1880	1890
Vocational training	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Place of birth	-	-	-	-	-	-	² X	² X	X	X	X
Place of birth of parents	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	⁵ X	X	X
Citizenship	-	-	-	X	X	-	-	-	⁶ X	-	X
Year of naturalization	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eligibility to vote	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	⁶ X	-	-
If foreign born, year of immigration	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X
Language	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X
Language of parents	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Spanish origin or descent	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number of children living	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X
Number of children ever born to mother	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X
For Grandparents' households											
Are grandchildren under 18 living within the household?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Are grandparents responsible for Grandchild's basic needs?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Length of responsibility of grandchild	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Veteran status	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	†X
Length of service	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
In service date	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whether wife or widow of veteran	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	†X
If child of veteran, is father dead?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farm residence	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X
Farm residence in a previous year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Place of residence in a previous year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Year moved to present residence	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Economic Characteristics											
Industry	-	-	-	X	-	X	-	-	-	-	-
Occupation	-	-	-	-	-	-	² X	² X	X	X	X
Class of worker	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Private or public nonemergency work, or public emergency work	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Employment status	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Duration of unemployment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X
Year last worked	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Weeks worked in preceding year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hours worked in preceding week	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Population Items on Principal Census Questionnaires: 1790 to 1890—Con.

(Excludes identification items, screening questions, and other information collected, but not intended for tabulation)

Economic characteristics	1790	1800	1810	1820	1830	1840	1850	1860	1870	1880	1890
Activity 5 years ago	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Industry 5 years ago	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Occupation 5 years ago	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Class of worker 5 years ago	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Value of real estate	-	-	-	-	-	-	² X	² X	X	-	-
Value of personal property	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	² X	-	-	-
Income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Social Security:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Registered	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Deductions from all or part of wages or salary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Place of work	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Means of transportation to work	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

† Available on supplemental questionnaires at the National Archives and Records Administration.

s Sample question.

(1) Free White persons only.

(2) Question only asked of free inhabitants.

(3) Question was whether insane or idiotic.

(4) In 1960, place of birth was asked on a sample basis generally, but on a 100-percent basis in New York and Puerto Rico. Citizenship was asked only in New York and Puerto Rico, where it was a 100-percent item.

(5) Question was only whether parents were foreign born.

(6) For males 21 years of age or over.

(7) Whether person could speak English. In 1900, this was the only question; in 1920 and 1930 this question was in addition to request for mother tongue.

(8) Asked only outside cities.

(9) On housing portion of questionnaire.

Population Items on Principal Census Questionnaires: 1900 to 2000

Demographic characteristics	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000
Age	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Sex	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Color or Race	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ancestry/Ethnic Origin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	^s X	^s X	^s X
If American Indian, proportions of Indian or other blood	†	†	-	X	-	†	-	-	-	-	-
If American Indian, name of Tribe	†	†	-	X	-	†	-	X	X	X	X
Relationship to head of family or household	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Married in the past year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Marital status	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	^s X
Number of years married	X	X	-	-	-	^s X	-	-	-	-	-
Age at or date of first marriage	-	-	-	X	^s X	-	^s X	^s X	^s X	-	-
Married more than once	-	-	-	-	^s X	^s X	^s X	^s X	^s X	-	-
If remarried, was first marriage terminated by death?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	^s X	^s X	-	-
Number of years widowed, divorced, or separated	-	-	-	-	-	^s X	-	-	-	-	-
Social Characteristics											
Free or slave	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Per slave owner, number of slaves	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Per slave owner, number of fugitives	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Per slave owner, number of manumitted	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Physical/mental handicaps and infirmities:											
Deaf or deaf mute	†	†X	†	†	-	-	-	-	-	-	^s X
Blind	†	†X	†	†	-	-	-	-	-	-	^s X
Insane	-	†	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
How supported (insane and idiotic only)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Feeble-minded (idiotic)	-	†	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ill or disabled	-	†	-	-	-	-	-	^s X	^s X	^s X	^s X
Duration of disability	-	†	-	-	-	-	-	^s X	-	-	-
Paupers	-	†	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Convicts	†	†	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Homeless children	-	†	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Education:											
Literacy	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
School attendance	X	X	X	X	X	^s X	^s X	^s X	^s X	^s X	^s X
Educational attainment	-	-	-	-	X	^s X	^s X	^s X	^s X	^s X	^s X

Population Items on Principal Census Questionnaires: 1900 to 2000—Con.

Social characteristics	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000
Public or private school	-	-	-	-	-	-	^s X	^s X	-	-	-
Vocational training	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	^s X	-	-	-
Place of birth	X	X	X	X	X	X	^{s 4} X	^s X	^s X	^s X	^s X
Place of birth of parents	X	X	X	X	^s X	^s X	^s X	^s X	-	-	-
Citizenship	X	X	X	X	X	X	⁴ X	^s X	^s X	^s X	^s X
Year of naturalization	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eligibility to vote	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
If foreign born, year of immigration	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	^s X	^s X	^s X	^s X
Language	⁷ X	X	⁷ X	⁷ X	^s X	-	^s X	^s X	^s X	^s X	^s X
Language of parents	-	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Spanish origin or descent	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	^s X	^s X	^s X	^s X
Number of children living	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number of children ever born to mother	X	X	-	-	^s X	^s X	^s X	^s X	^s X	^s X	-
For Grandparent households:											
Are grandchildren under 18 living within the household?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	^s X
Are grandparents Responsible for a Grandchild's basic needs?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	^s X
Length of responsibility for grandchild	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	^s X
Veteran status	-	X	-	X	^s X	^s X	^s X	^s X	^s X	^s X	^s X
Length of service	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	^s X	^s X
Whether wife or widow of veteran	-	-	-	-	^s X	-	-	-	-	-	-
If child of veteran, is father dead?	-	-	-	-	^s X	-	-	-	-	-	-
In service date	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	^s X	^s X	^s X
Farm residence	X	X	X	X	X	X	^{s 8 9} X	⁹ X	-	-	-
Farm residence in a previous year	-	-	-	-	X	^s X	-	-	-	-	-
Place of residence in a previous year	-	-	-	-	X	^s X	^s X	^s X	^s X	^s X	^s X
Year moved to present residence	-	-	-	-	-	-	^s X	^s X	^{s 9} X	^{s 9} X	^{s 9} X
Industry	-	X	X	X	X	X	^s X	^s X	^s X	^s X	^s X
Occupation	X	X	X	X	X	X	^s X	^s X	^s X	^s X	^s X
Class of worker	-	X	X	X	X	X	^s X	^s X	^s X	^s X	^s X
Private or public nonemergency work, or public emergency work	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-
Employment status	-	-	-	†X	X	X	^s X	^s X	^s X	^s X	^s X
Duration of unemployment	X	X	-	†	X	^s X	-	-	^s X	^s X	^s X
Year last worked	-	-	-	-	-	-	^s X	^s X	^s X	^s X	^s X
Economic Characteristics											
Weeks worked in preceding year	-	-	-	†	X	^s X	^s X	^s X	^s X	^s X	^s X
Hours worked in preceding week	-	-	-	†	X	X	^s X	^s X	^s X	^s X	^s X
Activity 5 years ago	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	^s X	-	-	-

Population Items on Principal Census Questionnaires: 1900 to 2000—Con.

Economic characteristics	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000
Industry 5 years ago	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	^s X
Occupation 5 years ago	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	^s X	-	-	-
Class of worker 5 years ago	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	^s X	-	-	-
Value of real estate	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	^s ⁹ X	^s ⁹ X	^s ⁹ X
Value of personal property	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Income	-	-	-	-	X	^s X	^s X	^s X	^s X	^s X	^s X
Social Security:											
Registered	-	-	-	-	^s X	-	-	-	-	-	-
Deductions from all or part of wages or salary	-	-	-	-	^s X	-	-	-	-	-	-
Place of work	-	-	-	-	-	-	^s X	^s X	^s X	^s X	^s X
Means of transportation to work	-	-	-	-	-	-	^s X	^s X	^s X	^s X	^s X

See also supplemental questionnaires.

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²Question only asked of free inhabitants.

³Question was whether insane or idiotic.

⁴In 1960, place of birth was asked on a sample basis generally, but on a 100-percent basis in New York and Puerto Rico. Citizenship was asked only in New York and Puerto Rico, where it was a 100-percent item.

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⁶For males 21 years of age or over.

⁷Whether person could speak English. In 1900, this was the only question; in 1920 and 1930 this question was in addition to request for mother tongue.

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⁹On housing portion of questionnaire.