

# Research Our Records

Home > [Research Our Records](#) > [Census Records](#) > [1940 Census Records](#) > [1940 Census, General Information](#)

## Census

- [About Census Records](#)
- [Search Census Records Online](#)
- [1940 Census](#)
- [1930 Census FAQs](#)
- [1850-1930 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](#)

## 1940 Census, General Information

### Part 1: General Information

The 1940 census was released digitally on April 2, 2012.

The digital images are accessible free of charge at NARA facilities nationwide through our public access computers as well as on personal computers via the internet.

The 1950 and later censuses are not available for public use because of a statutory 72-year restriction on access for privacy reasons. (92 Stat. 915; Public Law 95-416; October 5, 1978). If you need information about yourself or a deceased person from the 1950 or later censuses, fill out Form BC-600 from the [Bureau of the Census Age Search Service](#) or write to: U.S. Census Bureau, National Processing Center, 1201 East 10th St., Jeffersonville, IN 47132.

The census day was April 1, 1940.

- [1940 Census Form](#)
- [Questions Asked](#)
- [Symbols and Explanatory Notes](#)

### 1940 Census Forms

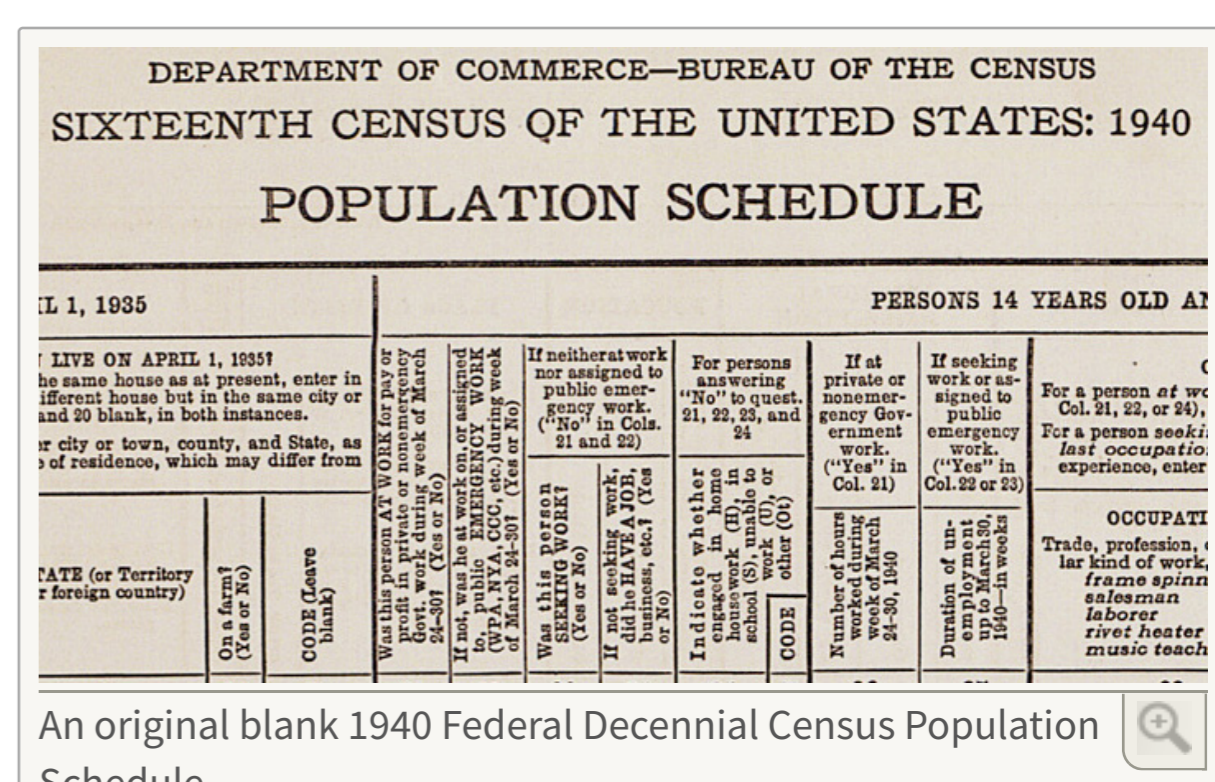
The 1940 census questionnaire was printed on 23 3/4" x 12 1/2" paper. These double sided forms provided space for 40 entries on each side plus two additional lines for the 5% sample questions. The reverse side was identical except that lines were numbered 41 to 80, and the sample-line numbers were different.

View a blank [1940 census form](#).

Print out a [1940 census template](#) (legal size).

### More 1940 Census Resources

- [How to Start Your 1940 Census Research](#)
- [Indexes and Other Finding Aids](#)
- [Informative Articles and Online Data](#)
- [1940 Census FAQs](#)



### Questions Asked on the 1940 Census

Many of the questions on the 1940 census are the standard ones: name, age, gender, and race, education, and place of birth. But the 1940 census also asks many new questions. The instructions ask the enumerator to enter an [a circled x] after the name of the person furnishing the information about the family; whether the person worked for the CCC, WPA, or NYA the week of March 24-30, 1940; and income for the 12 months ending December 31, 1939. The 1940 also has a supplemental schedule for two names on each page. The supplemental schedule asks the place of birth of the person's father and mother; the person's usual occupation, not just what they were doing the week of March 24-30, 1940; and for all women who are or have been married, has this woman been married more than once and age at first marriage.

The complete list of the questions follows:

#### Location:

- Street, avenue, road, etc.**
- House number** (in cities and towns).

#### Household Data:

- Number of household in order of visitation.
- Home owned (O) or rented (R).**
- Value of home, if owned, or monthly rental, if rented.**
- Does this household live on a farm? (Yes or No).

#### Name:

- Name of each person whose *usual place of residence* on April 1, 1940, was in this household. Be sure to include:
  - Persons temporarily absent from household. Write "Ab" after names of such persons.

- Children under 1 year of age. Write "Infant" if child has not been given a first name.

- Enter X after name of person furnishing information.

#### Relation:

- Relationship of this person to the head of the household, as wife, daughter, father, mother-in-law, grandson, lodger, lodger's wife, servant, hired hand, etc...

#### Personal Description:

- Sex - Male (M), Female (F).
- Color or race.
- Age at last birthday.
- Marital status - Single (S), Married (M), Widowed (Wd), Divorced (D).

#### Education:

- Attended school or college any time since March 1, 1940? (Yes or No)
- Highest grade of school completed.**

#### Place of Birth:

- If born in the United States, give State, Territory, or possession. If foreign born, give country in which birthplace was situated on January 1, 1937. Distinguish Canada-French from Canada-English and Irish Free State (Eire) from Northern Ireland.

#### Citizenship:

- Citizenship of the foreign born.

#### Residence, April 1, 1935:

IN WHAT PLACE DID THIS PERSON LIVE ON April 1, 1935? For a person who, on April 1, 1935, was living in the same house as at present, enter in Col. 17 "Same house," and for one living in a different house but in the same city or town, enter "Same place," leaving Cols. 18, 19, and 20 blank, in both instances. For a person who lived in a different place, enter city or town, county, and State, as directed in the Instructions. (Enter actual place of residence, which may differ from mail address.)

- City, town, or village having 2,500 or more inhabitants. Enter "R" for all other places.
- County.
- State (or Territory or foreign country).
- On a farm? (Yes or No).

#### Persons 14 Years Old and Over - Employment Status:

- Was this person AT WORK for pay or profit in private or nonemergency Gov't. work during week of March 24-30? (Yes or No).**
- If not, was he at work on, or assigned to, public EMERGENCY WORK (WPA, NYA, CCC, etc.) during week of March 24-30? (Yes or No).

If neither at work nor assigned to public emergency work. ("No" in Cols. 21 and 22).

- Was this person SEEKING WORK? (Yes or No).**
- If not seeking work, did he HAVE A JOB, business, etc.? (Yes or No).

For persons answering "No" to question 21, 22, 23 and 24.

- Indicate whether engaged in home housework (H), in school (S), unable to work (U), or other (Ot).

If at private or nonemergency Govt. work. "Yes" in col. 21.

- Number of hours worked during week of March 24-30, 1940.**
- Seeking work or assigned to public emergency work. ("Yes" in Col. 22 or 23).

- Duration of unemployment up to March 30, 1940 - in weeks.**

#### Occupation, Industry and Class of Worker:

For a person *at work, assigned to public emergency work, or with a job* ("Yes" in Col. 21, 22, or 24), enter *present* occupation, industry, and class of worker. For a person seeking work ("Yes" in Col. 23): a) if he has previous work experience, enter *last* occupation, industry, and class of worker; or b) if he does not have previous work experience, enter "New worker" in Col. 28, and leave Cols. 29 and 30 blank.

- Occupation:** Trade, profession, or particular kind of work, as *frame spinner, salesman, laborer, rivet heater, music teacher*.
- Industry:** Industry or business, as *cotton mill, retail grocery, farm, shipyard, public school*.
- Class of Worker.
- Number of weeks worked in 1939** (Equivalent full-time weeks).

#### Income in 1939 (12 months ended December 31, 1939):

- Amount of money wages or salary received (including commissions).
- Did this person receive income of \$50 or more from sources other than money wages or salary? (Yes or No).

- Number of Farm Schedule.

#### Supplementary Questions 35-50:

For persons enumerated on lines 14 and 29 [about a 5% sample of the population]

- Name.

For Persons of All Ages:

#### Place of Birth of Father and Mother

If born in the United States, give State, Territory, or possession. If foreign born, give country in which birthplace was situated on January 1, 1937. Distinguish: Canada-French from Canada-English and Irish Free State from Northern Ireland.

- Father.
- Mother.

#### Mother Tongue (or Native Language):

- Language spoken in home in earliest childhood.**

#### Veterans:

Is this person a veteran of the United States military forces; or the wife, widow, or under-18-year-old child of a veteran?

- If so, enter "Yes."
- If child, is veteran-father dead? (Yes or No)
- War or military service.

#### Social Security:

- Does this person have a Federal Social Security Number? (Yes or No)
- Were deductions for Federal Old-Age Insurance or Railroad Retirement made from this person's wages or salary in 1939? (Yes or No)
- If so, were deductions made from (1) all, (2) one-half or more, (3) part, but less than half, of wages or salary?

#### Usual Occupation, Industry, and Class of Worker:

Enter that occupation which the person regards as his usual occupation and at which he is physically able to work. If the person is unable to determine this, enter that occupation at which he has worked longest during the past 10 years and at which he is physically able to work. Enter also usual industry and usual class of worker. For a person without previous work experience, enter "None" in column 45 and leave columns 46 and 47 blank.

- Usual occupation.
- Usual industry.
- Usual class of worker.

#### For all women who are or have been married:

- Has this woman been married more than once? (Yes or No)**
- Age at first marriage.**
- Number of children ever born (do not include stillbirths).**

### Symbols and Explanatory Notes

Column Number and Heading	Codes Used	Code Meaning
Column 10: Color or Race	W	White
	Neg	Negro
	In	Indian
	Chi	Chinese
	Jp	Japanese
	Fil	Filipino
	Hin	Hindu
Column 11: Age at Last Birthday	Kor	Korean
	11/12	April 1939
	10/12	May 1939
	9/12	June 1939
	8/12	July 1939
	7/12	August 1939
	6/12	September 1939
Column 14: Highest Grade of School Completed	5/12	October 1939
	4/12	November 1939
	3/12	December 1939
	2/12	January 1940
	1/12	February 1940
Column 16: Citizenship of the Foreign Born	0	None
	1 to 8	Elementary School, 1st to 8th
	H-1 to H-4	High School, 1st to 4th year
	C-1 to C-4	College, 1st to 4th year
	C-5	College, 5th year or more
Columns 30 and 47: Class of Worker	Na	Naturalized
	Pa	Having First Papers
	Al	Alien
	Am Cit	American Citizen Born Abroad
	Column 41: War or Military Service	PW
GW		Wage/Salary Worker in Gov't Work
E		Employer
OA		Working on Own Account
NP		Unpaid Family Worker
Column 41: War or Military Service	W	World War
	S	Spanish-American War; Philippine Insurrection or Boxer Rebellion
	SW	Spanish-American War & World War
	R	Regular Establishment or Peace-Time Service
	Ot	Other War or Expedition

Return to [1940 Census Main Page](#)

PDF files require the [free Adobe Reader](#).  
More information on Adobe Acrobat PDF files is available on our [Accessibility page](#).

This page was last reviewed on January 29, 2020.  
[Contact us with questions or comments.](#)

## Research Our Records

### Online Research

- [By Topic](#)
- [By Format](#)
- [By Government Organization](#)
- [National Archives Catalog](#)
- [Presidential Materials](#)
- [Access to Archival Databases](#)
- [Archives Library Information Center](#)
- [Online Exhibits](#)

### Resources For...

- [Genealogists](#)
- [Military Historians](#)
- [Preservation and Archives Professionals](#)
- [Records Managers](#)
- [Veterans](#)

### Research Guides

- [Getting Started](#)
- [Guide to Federal Records](#)
- [Declassified Records](#)
- [Where to Look for Records](#)
- [Why Aren't All Records Online?](#)
- [How to File a FOIA Request for Archival Records](#)

### What's New?

- [News and Notices](#)
- [New Acquisitions](#)

CONNECT WITH US



Contact Us · Accessibility · Privacy Policy · Freedom of Information Act · No Fear Act · USA.gov

The U.S. National Archives and Records Administration

1-86-NARA-NARA or 1-866-272-6272

