

Census of Population and Housing

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Article I, Section 2, of the Constitution of the United States of America requires that the entire population be counted every 10 years. Initially, only congressional representation and taxation were determined by Census counts; however today much federal funding is distributed based on counts from the Census of Population and Housing.

The first Census of Population was taken in 1790 and counted a total population of 82,548. The most recent Census, taken in 2000, counted a total population of 281,424,177. Most documents from the 2000 Census are available online through the Census webpage at <http://www.census.gov> or the American Factfinder at <http://factfinder.census.gov>.

In the front of each volume of the Census is a complete table of contents listing all statistical tables included in that volume. Each Census provides different breakdowns of the population count and each Census is more detailed than the last. The 2000 Census features a multitude of breakdowns of the population by race, gender, age and ethnic origin as well as specific geographic breakdowns.

Watson library owns copies of most past U.S. Censuses in paper format. This collection is not complete, however, and may not include information from all states. Due to the multitude of volumes related to the 1990 Census, the library only holds United States Summaries and data from Louisiana and Texas in paper. However, Watson Library does hold all issued Census data on CD-ROM. Previous Censuses have not been released on compact disc. Ask at the Reference Desk.

Census of Population and Housing in Watson Library – Under these call numbers you will find documents containing data from that Census. All are located in the Government Documents Reading Room.

1790 – I 2.5	1900 – I 13.5
1800 – I 3.5	1910 – C 3.15
1810 – I 4.5	1920 – C 3.28/5
1820 – I 5.5	1930 – C 3.37/5
1830 – I 6.5	1940 – C 3.940-5
1840 – I 7.5	1950 – C 3.950-7/5
1850 – I 8.5	1960 – C 3.223/10: 960
1860 – I 9.5	1970 – C 3.223/9: 970
1870 – I 10.5	1980 – C 3.223/10: 980
1880 – I 11.5	1990 – C 3.223/10: 990
1890 – I 12.5	2000 – Available online

Few documents from Census 2000 have been distributed to depository libraries in tangible format, however links to electronic versions may be found through the library's online card catalog. In addition to most data being available online, many Census mapping features are also available electronically through the American Factfinder. Maps may be customized using various data sets and may be printed out.

To set up an instruction session on use of Census material online, please contact the Government Information/Reference Librarian at 318 357-4574.

Census Mapping:

Landview III - This software displays EPA-regulated sites and demographic and economic data from the 1990 Census. This information can be overlaid on the network of U.S. streets, water features, and political and census boundaries. Landview CD's are available in Watson Library. Ask at the Reference Desk

Tiger/Line Files - These files are a digital database of geographic features, such as roads, railroads, rivers, lakes, political boundaries, census statistical boundaries, etc. covering the entire United States. Tiger/Line files are available on the Internet and in Watson Library on compact disc. Ask at the Reference Desk. Many of these are now available online, while others are available in the library only and may be copied to CD-R.

Census Map Gallery – an online sample of maps and mapping products designed by and available through the United States Census Bureau geography division.
<http://www.census.gov/geo/www/mapGallery/index.html>

Census on the Internet:

American Fact Finder - <http://factfinder.census.gov/>
Census DataFerrett - <http://dataferrett.census.gov/>
CensusScope - <http://www.censuscope.org/>
Data by State - <http://www.census.gov/census2000/states/>
FedStats - <http://www.fedstats.gov/>
Official Census Web Site – <http://www.census.gov>
Population Reference Bureau - <http://www.prb.org/>
State and County Quick Facts - <http://quickfacts.census.gov/>
U.S. Census Bureau Maps and Cartographic Resources -
<http://www.census.gov/geo/www/maps/>
U.S. Gazetteer - <http://www.census.gov/cgi-bin/gazetteer>

In conjunction with the Census of Population and Housing, the Economic Census provides information about industries and manufacturing. These Censuses include the Census of Manufacturing, the Census of Retail Trade, the Census of Service Industries and the Census of Governments to name a few. Please see the User's Guide for the Economic Census for more information.