



United States Federal Census Records

1790 – 1940

United States Federal Census records are a valuable resource for genealogical research. The U.S. Federal Government has taken a census of its population every 10 years since 1790. These records have a 72-year privacy restriction, so the most recent Federal census data available to the public is from the 1940 census. The questions in the U.S. census varied from year to year (and in state censuses, from state to state). Depending on the year the census you are looking at was taken, you can find names of other household members, ages, birthplaces, residence, occupation, immigration and citizenship details, marriage information, military service, and more.

Online Census Records Resources:

[1940 Census: The official 1940 Census web site from The National Archives](#)

<http://1940census.archives.gov/>

The 1940 census records were released by the National Archives on April 2, 2012, and brought online through a partnership with Archives.com. This website allows you full, free access to the 1940 census images, in addition to 1940 census maps and descriptions. A volunteer initiative is underway to create a free name index to the records available through this site.

[Ancestry](#) – Free using our Public Access Computers

<http://www.ancestryinstitution.com/>

Ancestry.com has the United States Federal Population Census digitized from 1790 to 1940. Ancestry is a subscription database. It is available for free public use at all National Archives research facilities and many public libraries.

[Fold3](#) – Free using our Public Access Computers

<http://www.fold3.com>

Fold3 has some years of the United States Federal Population Census digitized. Fold3 is a subscription database. It is available for free public use at all National Archives research facilities and many public libraries.

Other Online Resources for Census Records:

[Census Records](#) An introduction to Federal Census records from The National Archives,

<http://www.archives.gov/research/census/>

[United States Census Bureau](#) The Census Bureau web site includes detailed population and housing data for various census years, <http://www.census.gov/>

[Internet Archive](#) The census information available on the Internet Archive includes digitized images of population censuses from 1790 to 1930, http://archive.org/details/us_census

[Measuring America: The Decennial Censuses From 1790 to 2000](#) This Census Bureau publication gives detailed information on census questionnaires and instructions for each census year,

<https://www.census.gov/prod/2002pubs/pol02marv-pt2.pdf>

Microfilm Census Resources:

Much of the microfilm holdings of the National Archives has been digitized and is now available for research online. All of our available Federal Population Census microfilm has been digitized. Researchers can search these population census records through Ancestry and Fold3 on our free public access computers.

Below is a list of microfilm publications related to a variety of census records that are available for use at the National Archives at New York City. Descriptive pamphlets on these microfilm publications can be found on the [National Archives Online Microfilm Catalog](#) at:

<https://eservices.archives.gov/orderonline/start.swe?SWECmd=Start&SWEHo=eservices.archives.gov>

Publication #	Publication Title
A3378	Enumeration District Maps For The Twelfth Through Sixteenth Censuses Of The United States 1900-1940
M-595	Indian Census Rolls, 1885-1940 (only rolls 220-300 for NY)
M-1773	Eastern Cherokee Census Rolls, 1835-1884 (only rolls 38-43;73 for NJ, NY, PR & VI)
M-1792	Manufacturing Schedules Contained In The 1810 Population Census Schedules Of New York State
M-1797	1935 Census Of Business: Schedules Of Advertising Agencies
M-1876	Non-population Census Schedules For Hawaii, 1930: Agriculture.
M-1881	Schedules Of The 1935 Special Censuses Of Puerto Rico: The Social And Population Schedules, 1935-1936
M-1882	Schedules Of The 1935 Special Censuses Of Puerto Rico: The Agricultural Schedules
M-1890	Non-population Census Schedules For Guam, 1930: Agriculture
M-1896	Non-population Census Schedules For Puerto Rico, 1930: Nonfarm Livestock

The National Archives at New York City

Alexander Hamilton U.S. Custom House at One Bowling Green in New York City

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