

## 1940 Census *fast facts*

### ***What is the official census date?***

The official census date was April 1, 1940. The release date is April 2, 2012, based on the 72-year privacy restriction on census records.

### ***Where can I see the 1940 Census?***

On April 2, 2012, the census will be available, digitally, and free of charge from any computer connected to the internet at this URL:

### ***Do the originals exist?***

No. After filming the census in 1940, the Bureau of the Census destroyed the originals.

### ***Are there any indexes?***

The 1940 Census is indexed by State, County, township, civil division and enumeration district.

### ***What is an enumeration district?***

An enumeration district is the geographic area determined by U.S. Bureau of the Census for which an individual census taker could complete a count of the population within the allotted time for that particular census.

### ***If there is no name index, how can I search the census?***

If you know where the person you are looking for lived, you may still be able to locate them on the census by finding the enumeration district. There are several different search strategies.

1. Microfilm: Also available digitally at [www.archives.gov/1940census](http://www.archives.gov/1940census)  
T1224. Descriptions of Enumerations districts. 1830-1950 (156 rolls). DP. The geographic descriptions are arranged by state, then by county.  
A3378-Enumeration District Maps for the twelfth through Sixteenth Censuses for the United States, 1900-1940 (73 rolls). These maps show the boundaries and the number of each enumeration district. Several numbers may show on these maps, but usually a large circled number or a handwritten number determines the E.D.
2. City directories: Contain an alphabetical list of its citizens, listing the names of the heads of households, their addresses, and occupational information.
  - Nara. District of Columbia directories 1938-1940. Textual.
  - Library of Congress. Various directories. Textual.
  - Ancestry. To search their collection you must have a paid subscription, or be in a facility that allows access. Digital.
3. War World II Draft registration cards. The draft registration cards list the address plus any family members dependent on the enrollee. The WWII 4<sup>th</sup> registration is available on microfilm and digitally at [WWW.archives.gov/arc...](http://WWW.archives.gov/arc...) and at [Ancestry.com](http://Ancestry.com)
4. Ask family members for old letters, address books, photographs, or scrapbooks. Visit the local historical society and county courthouse to find any wills, naturalization, or property records.
5. CCC camp personnel records. List the enrollee's address and family members.
6. Look at earlier census records to find out where people lived. Census E.D. numbers did not stay the same from year to year. Once you have the ED from an earlier census, you can use either T1224 or [Stevemorse.org](http://Stevemorse.org) to convert that number. T1224 has the 1930 and the 1940 E.D. number's. [Stevemorse.org](http://Stevemorse.org) is an independent website that has created a converter. If you know the ED of one census year, it will give you the E.D. for other census years.

***Tips when viewing the census pages:***

- A. The ED is located in the upper right hand corner of the census page.
- B. Browse each page by name and then confirm address if known.
- C. The census taker canvassed each block clockwise and did not go back and forth across the street. For example, Second Avenue can appear several times within an enumeration district, and on multiple pages.  
(include diagram)
- D. At the end of the E.D. there may be a page(s) 61 and 81. Page 61 lists people who were revisited by the census taker because they were not at home on the first visit. Page 81 lists lodgers in hotels, motor camps, trailer parks, and shanty towns. A "T" for transient will be in column three.
- E. The Census Bureau consecutively stamped each page of every county. This stamp appears in the upper right hand section of the census form.
- F. If a CCC camp is in the county. It will be listed on the last page of that county with its own E.D. number. CCC camps did not exist before 1933 and they were given the last E.D. number of that county. The enrollees were not enumerated at the camp. They were enumerated at their usual place of residence. The administrators and other personnel were enumerated at the camp.
- G. Employment status questions in columns 21-27 apply to the week of March 24-30, 1940.
- H. Each census page has two preselected lines that are identified by bolded lines and the words Suppl. Ques. In the left hand margin. The selected individuals (a 5% sample of the population) answered additional questions located in the Supplemental section on the form.
- I. The income question in column 32 pertains to people who were employed for salary, and wages. If you worked for yourself or were an employer this column is blank.
- J. There are no SSN's in the census.
- K. The U.S. possessions and territory census forms are different than the continental census. They are: Alaska, Hawaii, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, and the Panama Canal Zone.

Try to bribe staff with homemade chocolate and pecan brownies.