



National Archives and Records Administration

700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20408-0001

Questions Asked on the 1940 Census

The questions recorded on the 1940 census schedules are similar to the questions found on earlier census schedules. As the enumerators went door-to-door they recorded the location of the household and provided additional household data, such as the names for each member of the household and their relationships to the head of the household. Enumerators also recorded a personal description for each member of the household which included their age and sex; information about each individual's education; their birthplace and naturalization status; and a unique question asking about their residence on April 1, 1935.

In addition, all individuals over the age of 14 were asked questions about their employment and 5% of the population, those on lines 14 & 29, were asked fifteen supplementary questions. This sample survey included questions about their parents birthplace; earliest language spoken in the household; questions relating to veterans; social security; occupation; and a final section specifically for women, which recorded marital status and number of children born.

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.

If 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.

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).