



National Archives and Records Administration

700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20408-0001

Federal Nonpopulation Census Schedules, 1850–1880

The nonpopulation census schedules cover the 12 months preceding the taking of the decennial census. For example, the 1860 mortality schedules record deaths that occurred between June 1, 1859, and June 1, 1860. The censuses are arranged by year and state. Sometimes the census covers just the county; other times, the census breaks down into city, town, and minor civil division. Both arrangements can occur within the same census. The nonpopulation schedules from 1900 and later do not survive. The only nonpopulation censuses online are the mortality schedules that are on Ancestry.

The Census Bureau distributed the nonpopulation census schedules to the states in the early 20th century. NARA has microfilm copies of many of these nonpopulation censuses, but not all. For a list, see www.archives.gov/genealogy/census/nonpopulation/index.html. Part 3 is a state-by-state list of where copies of the nonpopulation censuses are located.

Mortality Census Schedules, 1850–1880

These schedules may be the only record of a person's death as many states did not begin to record deaths until the late 19th or early 20th centuries.

The 1850 and 1860 mortality censuses record the decedent's name, age, sex, color (black, white, mulatto), whether married or widowed, place of birth, occupation, month of death, cause of death, and the number of days sick. The 1870 and 1880 mortality schedules include the above information plus whether the decedent's parents were foreign-born, the attending physician's name, and where the person contracted the illness, if it were a disease. The race column expanded to include Indians and Chinese.

1885 State and Territorial Censuses (population and mortality schedules)

The states of Colorado, Florida, and Nebraska as well as the territories of New Mexico and Dakota elected to take an 1885 census with Federal assistance. The schedules show the same type of information as the 1880 population schedules, but also include a mortality schedule. NARA holds the following records:

- ___M158, *Schedules of the Colorado State Census of 1885*. 8 rolls. DP
- ___M845, *Schedules of the Florida State Census of 1885*. 13 rolls. DP
- ___M352, *Schedules of the Nebraska State Census of 1885*. 56 rolls. DP
- ___M846, *Schedules of the New Mexico Territorial Census of 1885*. 6 rolls. DP

The National Archives does not hold the schedules for Dakota Territory, but they are available online at Ancestry.com according to whether the person was enumerated in North Dakota or South Dakota.

Agricultural Census Schedules, 1850–1880

Beginning in 1850, enumerators collected information about agricultural production. In 1850 and 1860, the census enumerated farms with a production value of \$100 or greater. In 1870 and 1880, farms with \$500 or greater in production value were enumerated.

The questions include the farmer's name, ownership of the farm, and acreage and usage of the farmland, as well as the value and quantity of the produce, livestock, and machinery. In 1850, the census contained 50 questions. By 1880 the number doubled to record more detailed information about livestock and crops. **The names of employees, including farmhands, are not listed.**

Manufacturers Schedules, 1810, 1820, 1880 and Industrial Schedules, 1850–1870

Congress authorized a special counting of manufacturing establishments and manufacturers for the first time in 1810. The 1810 schedules no longer exist except for fragments that appear in the 1810 population schedules; the results of the 1810 manufacturing census were published in Tench Coxe, *A Statement of the Arts and Manufacturing of the United States of America*, (Washington, DC: P. Cornman, Jr., 1814), and reprinted in the *American State Papers: Finance* (Washington, DC: Gales and Seaton, 1832): 2:425–439. The 1820 enumeration records 14 items. The surviving schedules are on: ___M279, *Records of the 1820 Census of Manufacturers*

Beginning in 1850, the Bureau of the Census recorded information about manufacturing, mining, fisheries, and every mercantile and trading business with an annual gross product of \$500 or more. The schedules include the name and owner of the business, amount of capital invested, quantity and value of material used, labor, machinery, and products.

In 1880, the Bureau again called these “manufacturers schedules,” and included more questions. Enumerators recorded the production of cereals, cotton, forest products, fruit growing, meat, and tobacco. The schedules give the name of the company or owner, and other information about the company including the kind, quantity, and value of materials, labor, machinery, and products. The categories of manufacturing include shoe factories, dairy factories, flour and grist mills, lumber and saw mills, brickyards, tile works, paper mills, mines, and quarries. **The names of the employees are not listed.**

Social Statistics, 1850–1870

These schedules do not name individuals, but can provide information at either the county or township level depending on the census. Social statistics note the value of real estate assessments paid in taxes, the number and types of schools, the value of wages paid, the number and types of churches, the number and types of libraries, the types of newspapers and periodicals published in the area, how many paupers, the number of criminals, and the amount of public debt.

Defective, Dependent, and Delinquent Classes, 1880 only

Before 1880 questions about mental and physical defects and people living in institutions were included on the regular population census schedule. In 1880, however, enumerators collected additional information on “defective, dependent, and delinquent” inhabitants.

These records are arranged by state, county, and enumeration district (ED). Within each ED, the schedules are divided into seven categories: 1) insane, 2) idiots, 3) deaf-mutes, 4) blind, 5) homeless children (in institutions), 6) prisoners, and 7) paupers and indigents. Within each category, the schedules can include the person's name, the nature of the affliction, the cause of the affliction, the amount of public support, and specific training received to cope with the affliction.

Rev. July 2012