Research Brief

The Commonwealth's Official Source of Population and Economic Statistics

April 2nd, 2002

1930 Census Records Released by National Archives on April 1st

MIDDLETOWN, Pa—Seventy-two years after completion, the individual records from the 1930 Census will be released to the public. April 1, 2002, ended the 72-year restriction on releasing individual census data from the nation's 15th decennial census. The National Archives and its thirteen regional facilities will now be able to allow inspection of individual records to all citizens. By law (Title 44, U.S. Code) individual records from the Federal population censuses are confidential for 72 years.

Conducting the 1930 Census

The 1930 Census was the first decennial to be conducted on April 1st. The 1920 Census was taken on January 1st. The change was made to avoid enumerators conducting the census in inclement weather. All decennial censuses since 1930 have taken place on April 1st.

The census was taken door to door. Individual household questionnaires were not used. Large sheets of paper (23 ¾" by 16 ½") were used and allowed for 50 entries on each side.

The 1930 Census required a person to answer 32 questions divided into 13 categories. By comparison, the 2000 Census questionnaire only had eight questions, if you were lucky enough to receive the short form. Approximately one person in seven was required to complete the long-form questionnaire for Census 2000. The long form consisted of 53 questions. The 1930 questionnaire required persons to describe their place of abode (street number, etc.), to provide information about their home (owned or rented, value, radio set, farm), provide a personal description (sex, color or race, age at first marriage) and answer questions about their education (able to read or write), language and employment. Table 1 lists the 13 categories and the associated questions for the 1930 Census.

Table 1: 1930 Census Questionnaire

Category	Questions
Place of Abode	1. Street, avenue, road, etc. 2. House number 3. Number of dwelling house in order of visitation 4. Number of family in order of visitation
Name	5. Name of each person whose place of abode on April 1, 1930 was in the family
Relation	6. Relationship of this person to the head of the family
Home Data	7. Home owned or rented 8. Value of home, if owned, or monthly rental, if rented 9. Radio set 10. Does this family live on a farm?
Personal Description	11. Sex 12. Color or race (White, Negro, Mexican, Indian, Chinese, Japanese, Filipino, Hindu, Korean, other races spelled out in full) 13. Age at last birthday 14. Marital Condition (Single, married, widowed, divorced) 15. Age at first marriage
Education	16. Attended school or college any time since Sept. 1, 1929. 17. Whether able to read or write
Place of birth	18. Place of birth-Person 19. Place of birth-Father 20. Place of birth-Mother
Mother Tongue (or Native Language) of Foreign Born	21. Language spoken in home before coming to United States
Citizenship	22. Year of immigration to the United States 23. Naturalization 24. Whether able to speak English
Occupation and Industry	25. Trade, profession or particular kind of work done, as spinner, salesman, riveter, teacher, etc. 26. Industry or business, as cotton mill, dry goods store, shipyard, public schools, etc. 27. Class of worker
Employment	28. Whether actually at work yesterday (or the last regular working day)-Yes or No 29. If not, line number of Unemployment Schedule
Veterans	30. Whether a veteran of U.S. Military or naval force-Yes or No 31. What war or expedition? [World War, Spanish-American War, Civil War, Philippine Insurrection, Boxer Rebellion, Mexican Expedition
Farm Schedule	32. Number of farm schedule

The 1930 Census was the first to ask about the presence of radios in households. The number of households reporting having radios was over 12 million. Only 60,000 households were estimated to have radios in 1922.

Growth of the Decennial Census

To conduct the 1930 Census, the country was divided into 575 supervisors' districts and about 120,100 enumeration districts. Prisons and hospitals were made separate enumeration districts and were usually enumerated by employees of the institution. Thirty of the 575 supervisors were women. There were only five women supervisors in 1920.

The 1930 Census was conducted using 87,756 enumerators and 6,825 office workers. The final published report was 35,700 pages long. The total cost of conducting the census was slightly more than $40 million. The cost per capita was 32.6 cents. By comparison, the 2000 Census utilized 512,800 enumerators and 9,093 office staff. The estimated number of pages in final 2000 Census reports is 100,000. The estimated cost of Census 2000 was $6.5 billion, and the cost per capita was 2309.9 cents (See Table 2).

Table 2: Growth of the Decennial Census

Year	Number of Enumerators	Maximum Size of Office Force	Total Pages in Published Reports	Total Cost (thousands of dollars)	Cost Per Capita (cents)
1790	650	-	56	44	1.1
1900	52,871	3,447	10,925	11,854	15.5
1930	87,756	6,825	35,700	40,156	32.6
1990	350,000	10,500	450,000	2.5 bill	1005.2
2000	512,800	9,093	*100,000	*6.5 bill	*2309.9

- estimates

Data Collected from the 1930 Census

The population of Pennsylvania on April 1st, 1930, was 9,631,350 persons, an increase of 911,333 or 10.5 percent from January 1st, 1920. The number of people classified as urban was 6,533,511 and rural was 3,097,839. The number of people classified as rural and living on a farm was 846,240, a decrease of 10.1 percent from 1920 when 941,360 persons were classified as rural-farm.

The number of white persons in Pennsylvania in 1930 was 9,192,602, or 95.4 percent of the total population. The number of Negroes was 431,257. This was an increase of 146,689 persons (51.5 %) from 1920 when 284,568 persons classified themselves as Negro. The number of persons from other races totaled 7,491, an increase of

4,768 persons from 1920 (175.1 %). The largest populations making up the other race category were Mexican (3,405 persons) and Chinese (2,557 persons).

The 1930 Census listed 3,788,178 persons as being of "foreign white stock" in Pennsylvania. Of these foreign-born persons, the largest percentage came from Italy, followed by Poland and Germany. Table 3 provides more detailed information on persons who immigrated to Pennsylvania.

Table 3: Foreign Born White Stock by County of Origin, Top 5 Countries, Pennsylvania, 1930

Country	Number	Percent
All countries	3,788,178	100.0
Italy	613,257	16.2
Poland	516,041	13.6
Germany	487,241	12.9
Czechoslovakia	335,208	8.8
Irish Free State	285,398	7.5

The Population of Pennsylvania's Counties, 1930 to 2000

From 1930 to 2000, the U.S. population increased by over 158 million persons or 128.4 percent. Pennsylvania's population increased 2.6 million persons from 1930 to 2000. This represents a percentage increase of 27.5.

Philadelphia County was the largest county in terms of population in 1930 with over 1.9 million persons. Despite having lost over 433,000 persons since 1930, Philadelphia remains Pennsylvania's largest county with a population of 1.5 million persons. Forest County had the lowest population in 1930 with 5,180 persons. Since 1930, Forest County has lost a total of 234 persons and remains Pennsylvania's smallest county with 4,946 persons. The county with the largest increase in population from 1930 to 2000 was Bucks County. Bucks County increased from 96,727 persons in 1930 to 597,635 persons in 2000, an increase of 517.9 percent. Montgomery County was second in population increase since 1930. Montgomery County gained over 484,000 persons, a 182.2 percent increase. Since the 1930 Census, 21 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties have experienced a decrease in population. Table 4 shows the population changes both numeric and percent of the U.S., Pennyslvania and Pennsylvania's 67 counties.

Table 4: Population Increase, 1930 to 2000: U.S., Pennsylvania and Pennsylvania Counties

	1930	2000	Number Change, 1930-2000	Percent Change, 1930-2000
U.S.	123,202,624	281,421,906	158,219,282	128.4
Pennsylvania	9,631,350	12,281,054	2,649,704	27.5
Adams County	37,128	91,292	54,164	145.9
Allegheny County	1,374,410	1,281,666	-92,744	-6.7
Armstrong County	79,298	72,392	-6,906	-8.7
Beaver County	149,062	181,412	32,350	21.7
Bedford County	37,309	49,984	12,675	34.0
Berks County	231,717	373,638	141,921	61.2
Blair County	139,840	129,144	-10,696	-7.6
Bradford County	49,039	62,761	13,722	28.0
Bucks County	96,727	597,635	500,908	517.9
Butler County	80,480	174,083	93,603	116.3
Cambria County	203,146	152,598	-50,548	-24.9
Cameron County	5,307	5,974	667	12.6
Carbon County	63,380	58,802	-4,578	-7.2
Centre County	46,294	135,758	89,464	193.3
Chester County	126,629	433,501	306,872	242.3
Clarion County	34,531	41,765	7,234	20.9
Clearfield County	86,727	83,382	-3,345	-3.9
Clinton County	32,319	37,914	5,595	17.3
Columbia County	48,803	64,151	15,348	31.4
Crawford County	62,980	90,366	27,386	43.5
Cumberland County	68,236	213,674	145,438	213.1
Dauphin County	165,231	251,798	86,567	52.4
Delaware County	280,264	550,864	270,600	96.6
Elk County	33,431	35,112	1,681	5.0
Erie County	175,277	280,843	105,566	60.2
Fayette County	198,542	148,644	-49,898	-25.1
Forest County	5,180	4,946	-234	-4.5
Franklin County	65,010	129,313	64,303	98.9
Fulton County	9,231	14,261	5,030	54.5
Greene County	41,767	40,672	-1,095	-2.6
Huntingdon County	39,021	45,586	6,565	16.8
Indiana County	75,395	89,605	14,210	18.8
Jefferson County	52,114	45,932	-6,182	-11.9
Juniata County	14,325	22,821	8,496	59.3
Lackawanna County	310,397	213,295	-97,102	-31.3
Lancaster County	196,882	470,658	273,776	139.1
Lawrence County	97,258	94,643	-2,615	-2.7
Lebanon County	67,103	120,327	53,224	79.3
Lehigh County	172,893	312,090	139,197	80.5
Luzerne County	445,109	319,250	-125,859	-28.3
Lycoming County	93,421	120,044	26,623	28.5
McKean County	55,167	45,936	-9,231	-16.7
Mercer County	99,246	120,293	21,047	21.2

	1930	2000	Number Change, 1930-2000	Percent Change, 1930-2000
Mifflin County	40,335	46,486	6,151	15.2
Monroe County	28,286	138,687	110,401	390.3
Montgomery County	265,804	750,097	484,293	182.2
Montour County	14,517	18,236	3,719	25.6
Northampton County	169,304	267,066	97,762	57.7
Northumberland County	128,504	94,556	-33,948	-26.4
Perry County	21,744	43,602	21,858	100.5
Philadelphia County	1,950,961	1,517,550	-433,411	-22.2
Pike County	7,483	46,302	38,819	518.8
Potter County	17,489	18,080	591	3.4
Schuylkill County	235,505	150,336	-85,169	-36.2
Snyder County	18,836	37,546	18,710	99.3
Somerset County	80,764	80,023	-741	-0.9
Sullivan County	7,499	6,556	-943	-12.6
Susquehanna County	33,806	42,238	8,432	24.9
Tioga County	31,871	41,373	9,502	29.8
Union County	17,468	41,624	24,156	138.3
Venango County	63,226	57,565	-5,661	-9.0
Warren County	41,453	43,863	2,410	5.8
Washington County	204,802	202,897	-1,905	-0.9
Wayne County	28,420	47,722	19,302	67.9
Westmoreland County	294,995	369,993	74,998	25.4
Wyoming County	15,517	28,080	12,563	81.0
York County	167,135	381,751	214,616	128.4

Tables 5 through 7 contain additional data collected from the 1930 Census.

Table 5: Population of Pennsylvania, Urban and Rural: 1920-1930

Category	April 1, 1930	January 1, 1920	Number Change	Percent Change
Total	**9,631,350**	**8,720,017**	**911,333**	**10.5**
Urban	6,533,511	5,607,815	925,696	16.5
Urban-Farm	10,454	6,974	3,480	49.9
Rural	3,097,839	3,112,202	-14,363	-0.5
Rural-Farm	846,240	941,360	-95,120	-10.1
Rural-Non farm	2,251,599	2,170,842	80,757	3.7

Table 6: Population of Pennsylvania, Selected Colors: 1920-1930

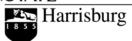| Category	1930	Percent of Total, 1930	1920	Percent of Total, 1920
Total	**9,631,350**	**100.0**	**8,720,017**	**100.0**
White	9,192,602	95.4	8,432,726	96.7
Negro	431,257	4.5	284,568	3.3
Other Races	7,491	0.1	2,723	-
Mexican	3,405	-	-	-
Chinese	2,557	-	1,829	-

Table 7: Illiteracy Number and Percent, Pennsylvania 1930 for Population Age 10 and Over

Category	Total in Category	Number Illiterate	Percent Illiterate, 1930	Percent Illiterate, 1920
Total	**7,731,060**	**240,323**	**3.1**	**4.6**
Native White	6,151,865	36,517	0.6	-
Foreign-Born White	1,221,729	187,942	15.4	-
Negro	351,280	14,908	4.2	

The National Archives will have copies of the microfilmed records at its headquarters in Washington, D.C., and its regional facilities. Microfilm may be rented or purchased. Original paper records were destroyed after the records were microfilmed in 1944 and 1945. For information on individual records from the 1930 Census as well as previous censuses, contact the National Archives Regional Office in Philadelphia at 215.597.3000.

The Pennsylvania State Data Center is the commonwealth's official source of population and economic statistics. It is based at Penn State Harrisburg's Institute of State and Regional Affairs. The Pennsylvania State Data Center is part of the U.S. Census Bureau's National State Data Center Program.

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