

Help for Reading Census Pages 1790-1840

The following pages contain information identifying the meaning assigned to each column in each census year's form, obtained from [census.gov](https://www.census.gov), the official site for the United States Census Bureau.



census.gov - reading 1790 census

https://www.census.gov/history/www/through_the_decades/overview/1790.html

six inquiries on form:

1. name of head of household
2. free white males 16 and older
3. free white males under 16
4. free white females
5. all other free persons
6. slaves

census.gov - reading 1800 census
form contained the following information

six inquiries on form:

1. name of head of household
2. number of free white under age 10
3. number of free white males of age 10 and under 16
4. number of free white males of age 16 and under 26
5. number of free white males of age 26 and under 45
6. number of free white males of age 45 and over
7. number of free white females under age 10
8. number of free white females of age 10 and under 16
9. number of free white females of age 16 and under 26
10. number of free white females of age 26 and under 45
11. number of free white females of age 45 and over
12. number of all other free persons
13. number of slaves

The 1810 Census form contained the following information (identical to the 1800 census):

City or township

1. Name of the head of family
2. Number of free white males under age 10
3. Number of free white males age 10-15
4. Number of free white males age 16-25
5. Number of free white males age 26-44
6. Number of free white males age 45 and over
7. Number of free white females under age 10
8. Number of free white females age 10-15
9. Number of free white females age 16-25
10. Number of free white females age 26-44
11. Number of free white females age 45 and over
12. Number of all other free persons
13. Number of slaves

The 1820 census contains a great deal more information than previous censuses. Enumerators listed the following data in columns, left to right:

- Name of the head of family
- # of free white males under age 10
- # of free white males age 10-16
- # of free white males age 16-18
- # of free white males age 16-26
- # of free white males age 26-45
- # of free white males age 45 and up
- # of free white females under age 10
- # of free white females age 10-16
- # of free white females age 16-26
- # of free white females age 26-45
- # of free white females age 45 and up
- # of foreigners not naturalized
- # of persons engaged in agriculture
- # of persons engaged in commerce
- # of persons engaged in manufacture
- # of male slaves under 14
- # of male slaves age 14-26
- # of male slaves age 26-45
- # of male slaves age 45 and up
- # of female slaves under 14
- # of female slaves age 14-26
- # of female slaves age 26-45
- # of female slaves age 45 and up
- # of free male colored persons under 14
- # of free male colored persons age 14-26
- # of free male colored persons age 26-45
- # of free male colored persons age 45 and up
- # of free female colored persons under 14
- # of free female colored persons age 14-26
- # of free female colored persons age 26-45
- # of free female colored persons age 45 and up
- # of all other persons except Indians not taxed

Several of these columns were for special counts, and not to be included in the aggregate total.

The 1830 census asked these questions:[1]

Name of head of family

Address

Number of free white males and females

in five-year age groups to age 20

in 10-year age groups from 20 to 100

100 years and older

number of slaves and free colored persons in six age groups

number of deaf and dumb

under 14 years old

14 to 24 years old

25 years and older

number of blind

foreigners not naturalized

=====

5-9

10-14

15-19

20-29

30-39

40-49

50-59

60-69

70-779

80-89

90-99

100 and over

reading 1840 census (same groupings as 1830)

- 5-9
- 10-14
- 15-19
- 20-29
- 30-39
- 40-49
- 50-59
- 60-69
- 70-779
- 80-89
- 90-99
- 100 and over