

THE 1940 U.S. CENSUS

Available April 2, 2012 at 1940census.archives.gov

To the delight of family history enthusiasts everywhere, the 1940 census data is now being made available through a partnership between the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) and Archives.com, one of the most popular family history websites in the United States. The 1940 census is a pivotal collection, documenting America's Greatest Generation just before WWII forever changed their lives. Our forbears were poised at the brink of profound economic and geopolitical unrest; illuminating their lives will prove invaluable as we confront the all-too-familiar challenges we now face.

AT LONG LAST

Federal law closes census data to the public for 72 years.

On April 2, 2012, the records will finally be made available.

With 132 million lives recorded, NARA partnered with Archives.com to build the 1940 census site. Archives.com is thrilled to bring its proven experience of indexing and hosting massive family history databases to bear in presenting this essential collection.

WHAT WILL YOU DISCOVER?

Questions asked in the 1940 census include name, age, relationship to the head of household, birthplace, education, residence in 1935, employment status, and wages. For the first time, about 5% of people were asked additional questions, including parents' birthplaces, veteran status, occupation, and more.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

One of the joys of census research is viewing the images of the original census pages. It's easy to imagine a census-taker standing on the front porch in 1940, earnestly filling out the form while a relative looks on from the doorway of the family home.

While the census data will be available April 2, creating a searchable online database of names attached to each census image is a monumental undertaking. To that end, Archives.com is proud to be a cosponsor of the 1940 U.S. Census Community Project, a volunteer initiative that is also backed by familysearch.org, and findmypast.com. 130,000 volunteers have signed up to help already. We need another 120,000. Find out more at the1940census.com.

Go to archives.com/1940census or follow [@1940censusnews](https://twitter.com/1940censusnews) to stay up-to-date on the 1940 census release.

Archives.com

Family history made simple & affordable.

The U.S. National Archives and Records Administration partnered with Archives.com to make 1940 census images free and digitally available April 2, 2012.



Poster promoting the 1940 census preserved in the Library of Congress

CENSUS FACTS



In 1940, the U.S. population was 131,669,275, with 2,477,023 people in the U.S. territories.



The 1940 census spans over 3.8 million images.



The 1940 census is the first to be made available digitally by the National Archives.



The 1940 census shows which member of a household gave the information to the door-to-door census-taker.