

Glossary



- Age** Age is the length of time in completed years that a person has lived. Census age is computed as of the census date (April 1).
See Also: Population
- Aggregate** The aggregate is the sum of the values of variables for each elements in a universe. For example, aggregate household income is the sum of the income of all households in a given geographic area.
<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.1002/9781119202646.gloss>
See Also: Income;Age;Median
- Ancestry** Refers to a person's self-identification of the ethnic origin, descent, roots, heritage, or place of birth of the person or of the person's ancestors. Selected groups include Arab, Canadian, French Canadian, German, etc. American is considered a valid response. Multiple responses are permitted, and the base is not population, but number of reported ancestries. Note that 'ancestry' is a different concept from 'race'.
<https://www.census.gov/topics/population/ancestry/about/faq.html>
See Also: Diversity;Race;Hispanic Origin
- Arab** Refers to people who reported any type of Arab ancestry, including those who reported either a specific group such as 'Lebanese' or 'Palestinian', or a broader group including 'Arab', 'Arabic' or 'Middle Eastern'. Ancestry and race are not equivalent concepts.
<https://www.census.gov/topics/population/ancestry/about/faq.html>
See Also: Diversity;Race;Hispanic Origin;Ancestry
- Asian** A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, Indian subcontinent. This includes groups such as 'Korean' and 'Pakistani'. 'Asian' is both an aggregation of ancestries and a race category. Users should take care to note which attribute is being measured in a variable.
See Also: Diversity;Race;Ancestry;Hispanic Origin

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- Assault** An unlawful attack by one person upon another for the purpose of inflicting severe or aggravated bodily injury. This type of assault usually is accompanied by the use of a weapon or by means likely to produce death or great bodily harm. Simple assaults are excluded.
<https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2019/crime-in-the-u.s.-2019/topic-pages/offense-definitions.pdf/view>
See Also: Personal Crime Index
- Average** The number found by dividing the sum of all quantities by the total number of quantities. For example, average household income is the aggregate or total income divided by the number of households.
<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.1002/9781119202646.gloss>
See Also: Median;Aggregate
- Birth Rate** The average annual number of births during a year per 1000 population at midyear. Also known as the crude birth rate.
See Also: Death Rate
- Black** A person having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa, including those who indicate race as 'African American'. Race and ancestry are different concepts.
See Also: Race;Hispanic Origin
- Block** A statistical area, bounded by visible features such as streets, streams, and railway tracks or by non-visible boundaries such as city, school district, and county boundaries. A block is the smallest geographic unit for which the Census Bureau tabulates the decennial census data. A block may be a water block or non-water block.
<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/geography/about/glossary.html>
See Also: Block Group;Tract
- Block Group** An aggregation of blocks and a statistical subdivision of a census tract. It is the standard geography unit for most demographic data. For the 2020 census, there are nearly 240,000 census block groups in the U.S., excluding those of the territorial areas. Block groups need not respect place level boundaries.
<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/geography/about/glossary.html>
See Also: Tract;Block

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Borough	A county equivalent unit in Alaska defined primarily by the census. The term is used in some states for minor civil divisions (New York) and incorporated places (Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania) https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/geography/about/glossary.html See Also: County;Parish
Burglary	The unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or a theft, including attempted forcible entry. Also known as 'breaking and entering'. https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2019/crime-in-the-u.s.-2019/topic-pages/offense-definitions.pdf/view See Also: Property Crime Index
Child	A son or a daughter by birth, a stepchild, or an adopted child of the householder, regardless of the child's age or marital status. See Also: Family;Family Household
Citizenship	Any person who was born in the United States, its territories, or abroad with at least one U.S. citizen parent is a citizen of the United States, as is any person who has been naturalized. See Also: Foreign Born
Civilian	All residents not in active-duty military. See Also: Unemployed;Labor Force;Not in Labor Force
Civilian Employed	Employed residents, excluding those in active-duty military service. See Also: Unemployed;Labor Force;Not in Labor Force
Class of Worker	A classification used by the census to designate the type of work normally done. The primary classification is by the type of organization (self-employed, private for profit, private non-profit) and in the case of government workers, by level of government (local, state, federal). See Also:
Commuting	For workers who do not work at their primary residence, commuting refers to the amount of time taken to travel to the workplace location, the mode of transportation, or the normal time leaving for work. See Also: Travel Time to Work

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Condominium A type of ownership where each owner owns the interior walls of the unit and holds a common or joint interest in common areas and facilities such as exterior walls, roof, land, streets, elevators, lobbies, etc.

See Also: Units in Structure

Contract Rent The monthly rent agreed to or contracted for, regardless of any furnishings, utilities, fees, meals, or other services which might be included.

See Also: Rent

Cooling Degree Days A cooling degree day is the number of degrees between the actual outdoor temperature (mean daily) and the target (65 F), cumulated over the course of a year. A high value indicates a high need for indoor air conditioning.

<https://www.eia.gov/energyexplained/units-and-calculators/degree-days.php>

See Also: Heating Degree Day; Degree Day

County Counties are the primary legal divisions of most states. Most counties are functioning governmental units, whose powers and functions vary from state to state. In Louisiana, these primary divisions are known as parishes. In Alaska, the county equivalents consist of legally organized boroughs, municipalities, and "census areas" delineated for statistical purposes by the State of Alaska and the Census Bureau (since 1980). In four states (Maryland, Missouri, Nevada, and Virginia), one or more cities are independent of any county organization and thus constitute primary divisions of their states; the Census Bureau refers to these places as "independent cities" and treats them as the equivalents of counties for statistical purposes. The District of Columbia has no primary divisions and the jurisdiction is treated as the equivalent of a county. In Puerto Rico, municipios are the primary divisions and treated as county equivalents for statistical purposes. Legal changes to county boundaries or names are typically infrequent, but do occur from time to time.

The most recent change, in 2022, is in Connecticut where the county geography level has been replaced with tourism regions that do not correspond to the legal counties.

<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/guidance-geographies/terms-and-definitions.html>

See Also: County Subdivision; Place

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County Subdivision	A legal or statistical division of the county, which include census county subdivisions, minor civil divisions, census subareas, and unorganized territories. https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/geography/about/glossary.html See Also: County;Parish
Decile	One of a set of points on a scale created by dividing a group into 10 parts of equal frequency in order of magnitude (ranked). For example, the 10th decile would be the top 10% of a distribution. See Also: Percentile;Quartile;Median
Degree Day	A measurement of the difference between the actual and target temperature, cumulated over the course of a year. https://www.eia.gov/energyexplained/units-and-calculators/degree-days.php See Also: Heating Degree Day;Cooling Degree Day
Dependency Ratio	The ratio between the population age < 15 and > 65 divided by the labor force age population (16-64) See Also: Labor Force
Diversity	A measure of the diversity of a population based on Simpson's Diversity Index. It ranges from 0 (uniformity) to 1 (complete diversity). In general, scores should be compared to areas of approximately equal size, as the measure is highly dependent upon the geographic scale of the area. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diversity_index See Also: Inequality
Educational Attainment	The highest level of education completed (degree, level of schooling) for an individual age 25+. The age of 25+ is used in order to avoid, as much as possible, confusing attainment with enrollment. See Also: School Enrollment
Elementary School	Refers to schools with either kindergarten through either the 8th or 9th grade, and can include elementary and middle (intermediate) schools. See Also: School Enrollment

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Elevation Elevation values are based on the national Digital Elevation Model (DEM) for the United States at a 30 meter scale. Elevations are based on a representation of the surface of the Earth absent features such as buildings, trees, and bridges. AGS provides elevation statistics in feet above mean sea level.

See Also: Terrain Ruggedness Index

Employment Status Classifies those of labor force age as one of civilian employed, unemployed, in armed forces, and non in the labor force.

See Also: Occupation;Industry;Employed;Civilian Employed;Unemployed;Not in Labor Force

Ethnicity At present, the Census uses two ethnicity groups - Hispanic or Latino or Non-Hispanic. Race and Hispanic origin are considered to be two separate and distinct concepts. Both Hispanic and Non-Hispanic persons may be of any race.

See Also: Race;Hispanic Origin

Family Household A sub-type of 'Household' which includes a householder and at least one or more people living in the same household who are related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption.

See Also: Household;Non-Family Household

Family Type Refers to how the members of a family are related to one another. Families may be 'Married Couple', 'Female Householder' or 'Male Householder'

See Also: Family Household;Non-Family Household;Householder

Fertility Refers to the number of live births. Stillbirths, stepchildren, and adopted children are excluded. Often standardized for every 1000 women age 10-50.

See Also: Birth Rate;Fertility Rate

Fertility Rate The number of births during a year to women of childbearing age, per 1000 women. The base is females age 10-49 for most computations.

See Also: Fertility;Birth Rate

Foreign Born Refers to people who are not U.S. citizens at birth and includes naturalized citizens, lawful permanent residents, temporary migrants (e.g. foreign students), humanitarian migrants (refugees) and persons illegally present in the U.S.

See Also: Citizenship

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Gentrification	A type of neighborhood change in low income urban areas where the existing residents are displaced or priced out of the neighborhood by more affluent residents and new businesses, who improve housing resulting in affordability issues for current residents. Gentrification typically occurs on a city block by block level. The characteristics of an area undergoing gentrification are: changes in the racial and education levels of the population; rapid increase in household income, change in the mix of businesses (especially retail).
Group Quarters	Includes all people not living in housing units. This includes group living arrangements which may be 'Institutional' or 'Non-Institutional' See Also: Institutional Group Quarters;Non-Institutional Group Quarters
Hail	Hail forms when powerful updrafts within thunderstorm clouds force water vapor to lower temperature zones within the cloud, which freeze into hailstones which become too heavy for the updraft speed. Hail damage is to structures, vehicles, and occasionally, persons. See Also: Risk Index;Risk Scale
Heating Degree Days	A heating degree day is the number of degrees between the target (65 F) and the actual temperature (mean daily), cumulated over the course of a year. A high value indicates a high need for indoor heating. https://www.eia.gov/energyexplained/units-and-calculators/degree-days.php See Also: Cooling Degree Day;Degree Day
H3 Hexagons	This set of geography layers is a hexagonal grid at various scales that are used for visualization and analysis. The H3 polygons are available as standard AGS geographic areas for levels 3 through 7.
High School	Refers to schools with either 9th-12th grade or 10th-12th grade See Also: Elementary School;School Enrollment
Hispanic	Hispanic or Latino refers to a person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin regardless of race. While this is independent of race, many persons of Hispanic origin will select 'other race' rather than 'white' or 'black'. A substantial share of the 'other race' population is Hispanic. See Also: Race;Ethnicity

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Household	A household includes all the people who occupy a housing unit as their usual place of residence. It includes both related family members and all unrelated people such as lodgers, foster children, or employees who share the housing unit. A single person living alone is a household. A household can be either a 'family household' or a 'non-family household'. See Also: Family Household;Non-Family Household;Householder
Householder	The person, or one of the people, in whose name the home is owned, being purchased, or rented. If no such person is present, any household member age 15+ may be selected as the householder. See Also: Household; Family Household; Non-Family Household
Housing Unit	A house, apartment, mobile home or trailer, a group of rooms, or a single room occupied as separate living quarters. Separate living quarters are those in which the occupants live separately from any other individuals in the building, and have direct access from outside the building or through a common (shared) hall. See Also: Household
Hurricane	A 'tropical storm' which achieves a sustained wind speed of over 73 miles per hour. https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/hurricane.html See Also: Risk Index
Income	Income includes money received from many sources and the definition of income varies by Federal agency. The census includes income from wages and salaries, commissions, self-employment income, tips, interest, dividends, social security or supplemental security income, or any other cash assistance. The definition is narrower than some agencies where income is 'imputed'. See Also:
Industry	A group of businesses that produce a product or provide a service. In the NAICS system, businesses are classified at the 5- or 6-digit code level, and most often represented by a 4-digit 'group' code. See Also: NAICS;SIC

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Inequality	Also known as a Gini index, measures the income inequality within a geographic area. It is highly dependent upon the income classification used and the size of the area. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gini_coefficient See Also: Income;Household Income
Institutional Group Quarters	Includes facilities that house persons who are primarily ineligible, unable, or unlikely to participate in the labor force. This includes adult correctional facilities, juvenile facilities, skilled-nursing facilities, and psychiatric hospitals and in-patient hospice facilities. See Also: Group Quarters;Non-Institutional Group Quarters
Labor Force	Includes those in the civilian labor force (employed or unemployed but looking for employment) plus members of the armed forces on active duty. See Also: Employed;Unemployed;Not in Labor Force;Civilian Employed
Language	Household language identifies the language spoken if anyone in the household speaks a language other than English. See Also: Linguistic Isolation
Larceny	The unlawful taking, carrying, leading, or riding away of property from the possession or constructive possession of another. Examples include thefts of bicycles, motor vehicle parts and accessories, shoplifting, pocket-picking, or the stealing of any property or article that is not taken by force and violence or by fraud. Attempted larcenies are included. Embezzlement, confidence games, forgery, check fraud, etc. are excluded. https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2019/crime-in-the-u.s.-2019/topic-pages/offense-definitions.pdf/view See Also: Property Crime Index
Life Expectancy	Life expectancy at a given age is the average number of additional years a person of that age could expect to live if current mortality levels observed for ages above that age were to continue for the rest of that person's life. Most often, this statistic is given as 'life expectancy at birth'. Note that the mortality rates are specific to a particular geographic area. See Also:
Linguistic Isolation	A household in which all members age 14+ speak a non-English language and also speak English less than 'very well'. See Also: Language

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Marital Status	A classification of persons 15+ as married, never married, separated, widowed or divorced. Those living in 'common law' relationships are likely, but not necessarily, classified as married. See Also:
Means of Transportation to Work	The principal mode of travel or type of conveyance, that a worker usually used to get from home to work. This includes automobiles, taxis, public transit, bicycles, and walking. See Also: Commuting; Travel Time to Work
Median	The 'middle value' in an ordered list of data values. The median is the value at which 50% of the values are higher and 50% are lower. It tends to be less sensitive to extreme values than the mean, which makes it particularly useful for income and age distributions. https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.1002/9781119202646.gloss See Also: Average;Percentile;Quartile;Decile
Median Household Income	The point at which 50% of the households have a lower income, and 50% have a higher income. The median income is generally preferred to the average income because the average can be greatly affected by upper income households. https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.1002/9781119202646.gloss See Also: Median;Income;Household Income
Minor Civil Division	In many states, the primary governmental unit below the county level. These form the basis of the CSD (County Subdivision) geography unit in those states with sub-county units which are not incorporated cities, towns, and villages. For example, in much of the east, the 'township' is the minor civil division. https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/geography/about/glossary.html See Also: County;Parish
Mobile Home	A mobile home is defined as a moveable dwelling, 8' or more in width and 40' or more in length, designed to be towed on its own chassis, and without need of a permanent foundation. It may of course have a foundation, and may have never moved. See Also: Units in Structure

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Motor Vehicle Theft	The theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle. A motor vehicle is self-propelled and runs on land surface and not on rails. Motorboats, construction equipment, airplanes, and farming equipment are excluded from this category. https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2019/crime-in-the-u.s.-2019/topic-pages/offense-definitions.pdf/view See Also: Property Crime Index
Multiple Race	Respondents to the Census and ACS may respond as being of more than one race, which are coded as 'two or more races' or 'multiple race'. See Also: Race;Ethnicity
Murder	Includes a) murder and non-negligent manslaughter or the willful killing of one human being by another excluding deaths caused by negligence, attempts to kill, assaults to kill, suicides, and accidental deaths. Also excludes justifiable homicides. Includes b) manslaughter by negligence. https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2019/crime-in-the-u.s.-2019/topic-pages/offense-definitions.pdf/view See Also: Personal Crime Index
NAICS	The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) is the standard used by Federal statistical agencies in classifying business establishments for the purpose of collecting, analyzing, and publishing statistical data related to the U.S. business economy. This system is used by the United States, Canada and Mexico. https://www.census.gov/naics/ See Also: SIC;Industry
Native American	Self-identification among people of the indigenous population, that is, people groups or tribes which were present prior to the arrival of European settlers. Appears in both race and ancestry categorizations. See Also: Race;Ethnicity
Native Born	Refers to any person born in the United States, Puerto Rico, or a U.S. Island Area, as well as those born in a foreign country who have at least one parent who is a U.S. citizen. See Also: Citizenship

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Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands. Appears in both race and ancestry classifications. See Also: Race;Ancestry;Hispanic Origin
Non-Family Household	A household that consists of a householder living alone (a one-person household) or where the householder shares the home only with people to whom he/she is not related. See Also: Household;Family Household;Householder
Non-Institutional Group Quarters	Includes facilities that house those who are primarily eligible, able, or likely to participate in the labor force while resident. The primary groups are student housing, military quarters, group homes, and emergency/transitional shelters. See Also: Group Quarters;Institutional Group Quarters
Non-Resident Population	Refers to an individual staying overnight within a geographic area. May be leisure, business, or migrant worker. Includes persons staying at vacation rentals, hotels, friends and family, camping, and in recreational vehicles. https://appliedgeographic.com/non-resident-population/ See Also: Household
Not In Labor Force	Includes all people age 16+ who are not classified as members of the labor force (which includes unemployed persons). This category consists primarily of students, housewives and househusbands, retired workers, seasonal workers who are not looking for work, institutionalized persons, and those doing only incidental unpaid family work (<15 hours per week). See Also: Labor Force
Occasional Use	Refers to housing that is used for weekend or occasional use throughout the year. May be rented at other times. See Also:
Occupied Housing Unit	A dwelling unit which is regularly occupied by one or more persons (a household). In most tabulations, an occupied housing unit is equivalent to a household. See Also: Vacant Housing Unit;Housing Unit

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Other Race	The five 'race' categories currently active are: 'white', 'black', 'Asian', 'American Indian or Alaska Native', and 'Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander'. Other is most often selected by those who identify by ethnicity as Hispanic and frequently selected by those who identify as 'Middle Eastern' (or a more detailed description). See Also: Race;Ethnicity;Multiple Race
Owner Occupied	A housing unit is owner occupied if the owner or co-owner lives in the unit as their usual place of residence, even if it is mortgaged or not fully paid for. See Also: Renter Occupied
Pacific Islands	These include the U.S. territories of American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Guam. For tabulations of race, Pacific Islanders are grouped with Native Hawaiians. See Also: Pacific Islander;Hawaiian
Parish	A type of governmental unit that is the primary legal subdivision of Louisiana, equivalent to a county in other states. https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/geography/about/glossary.html See Also: County;Borough
Per Capita Income	The mean (average) income for each person in a household, found by dividing the total income of the household by the number of persons, regardless of their employment status, age, or earnings. See Also: Income
Percentile	One of a set of points on a scale created by dividing a group into 100 parts in order of magnitude. For example, a score equal to or greater than 97 percent of those attained on an examination is said to be in the 97th percentile. The 'median' is the 50th percentile of a distribution. See Also: Decile;Quartile;Median
Personal Crime Index	An overall measure of the expected level of crime risk in an area, including only crimes against persons (murder, rape, robbery, assault). https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2019/crime-in-the-u.s.-2019/topic-pages/offense-definitions.pdf/view See Also: Murder;Rape;Robbery;Assault

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Place Refers to most cities, and depending upon the state, some towns, villages, and boroughs. Unlike the CSD geography, places do not cover the entirety of each state where they occur. Some places may be CDP (census designated place) which are not legally bounded but may be commonly recognized. Blocks respect place boundaries.

<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/geography/about/glossary.html>

See Also: Block;Block Group

Place of Work The usual geographic location at which a worker carries out their occupational activities.

See Also: Travel Time to Work;Means of Transport to Work;Commuting

Population A count of the number of individuals whose usual residence is within a specific geographic area.

See Also: Household

Poverty The Census Bureau uses a set of money income thresholds that vary by family size and composition to determine who is in poverty. If the total income for a family or unrelated individual falls below the relevant poverty threshold, then the family (and every individual within it) or unrelated individual is considered in poverty.

See Also: Income

Property Crime Index An overall measure of the expected level of crime risk in an area, including only crimes against property (burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft).

<https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2019/crime-in-the-u.s.-2019/topic-pages/offense-definitions.pdf/view>

See Also: Burglary;Theft;Motor Vehicle Theft

Qualified Census Tract Certain census tracts nationwide are designated each year by the department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Development in qualified census tracts is incentivized via tax credits in order to encourage development. In order to be qualified, certain income standards must be met, and each year, HUD releases a modified list.

See: <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/qct.html> for further information.

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Quartile	One of a set of points on a scale created by dividing a group into 4 equal size parts in order of magnitude (rank). For example, a first quartile would be the 1-24th percentile of a distribution, or the lowest 1/4. It can be useful to display the median (midpoint) and the 1st and 4th quartile endpoints in order to succinctly represent the midpoint and shape of a distribution. See Also: Decile; Percentile; Median
Race	Race is defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and is based on self-identification. The racial categories included generally reflect a social definition of race recognized in this country and not an attempt to define race biologically, anthropologically, or genetically. More than one race may be reported (multiple) and Other is a valid response. Race and Hispanic origin are separate concepts. See Also: Ancestry; Hispanic Origin; Black; White; Asian; Native American; Hawaiian; Pacific Islander
Rape	The penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim. https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2019/crime-in-the-u.s.-2019/topic-pages/offense-definitions.pdf/view See Also: Personal Crime Index
Rent	The amount of the contract rent plus the estimated average cost of utilities and fuels if these are paid by the renter. See Also: Contract Rent
Renter Occupied	All occupied housing units which are not owner occupied, whether they are rented for cash rent or occupied without payment of cash rent, are classified as renter-occupied. See Also: Tenure; Owner Occupied
Risk Index	An index of relative risk, in which the national average is set to 100. A value of 50 indicates half the national average risk, and a value of 200 indicates twice the national average risk. See Also: Risk Scale

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Risk Scale	A relative measure of risk which is bounded at 0 (no risk) and 10 (maximum risk). AGS risk scales use a logarithmic transformation of raw scores using a natural logarithm. A value of 3.0 is approximately 2.71 times more risky than a value of 2.0. See Also: Risk Index
Robbery	The taking or attempting to take anything of value from the care, custody, or control of a person or persons by force or threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear. https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2019/crime-in-the-u.s.-2019/topic-pages/offense-definitions.pdf/view See Also: Personal Crime Index
Rural	Rural consists of all territory, population, and housing units located outside a designated Urban Area. See Also: Urban
School Enrollment	A person is enrolled at a school if they are registered or listed as a student in an educational program leading to a high school diploma or college degree. This may be a public or private school, or a home school. See Also: Educational Attainment
Seasonally Occupied	A dwelling unit which is occasionally or seasonally occupied by the property owners. It may be rented as a vacation dwelling, or used by the owner household for weekend and seasonal purposes. See Also: Housing Unit;Occupied Housing Unit
Selected Monthly Owner Costs	Calculated from the sum of payment for mortgages, real estate taxes, various insurances, utilities, fuels, mobile home costs, and condominium fees. Often used to compute housing affordability and 'excessive shelter costs'. See Also: Housing Unit;Occupied Housing Unit
Sex	Sex refers to a person's biological sex only, and does not make any distinction between the evolving separation of the concepts of sex and gender. See Also:

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SIC	Refers to a classification of businesses known as the 'Standard Industrial Classification'. This system has been replaced in both Canada and the United States with the NAICS system. https://www.osha.gov/data/sic-manual See Also: NAICS
SOC	The 'Standard Occupational Classification' (SOC), updated in 2018, is a federal statistical standard for classifying workers into occupational categories for the purpose of collecting, calculating, or disseminating data. All workers are classified into one of 867 detailed occupations, which are combined into 459 broad occupation categories, 98 minor groups, and 23 major groups. Most statistics are reported for the major groups only. https://www.bls.gov/soc/ See Also: SIC;NAICS;Industry
Standard Deviation	A measure of the amount of variation or dispersion in a set of values. A low value indicates that the values tend to be close to the mean. See Also: Z-Score
Storm Surge	Occurs usually after the eye of a hurricane passes the shoreline, whereby there is an abnormal and brief rise in seawater well above the normal limits of the astronomical tide. Storm surge can cause rapid, significant, and often deadly flooding in low lying coastal regions. https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/stormsurge-stormtide.html See Also:
Tenure	Refers to the distinction between owner-occupied and renter-occupied housing units. See Also: Owner Occupied;Renter Occupied
Terrain Ruggedness Index	The terrain ruggedness index is a measure of the variation in elevation over an area, and is effectively a standardized measure of elevation variability across adjacent points within a geographic area. A score of zero indicates perfectly flat. The upper limit is undefined. See Also: Elevation
Time Leaving for Work	The time of day that the respondent usually left home to go to work. Is most useful for identifying evening and night shift workers. See Also: Commuting; Travel Time to Work

Glossary



Tornado	A violently rotating column of air extending from a cumulonimbus cloud to the ground, varying in width from a few meters to over one kilometer, with destructive winds which can exceed 300 miles per hour. Tornadoes typically move rapidly, leaving a linear path of destruction to structures, vehicles, and persons. See Also:
Total Crime Index	An overall measure of the expected level of crime risk in an area, which includes all seven major crimes. https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2019/crime-in-the-u.s.-2019/topic-pages/offense-definitions.pdf/view See Also: Property Crime Index; Personal Crime Index; Murder; Rape; Robbery; Assault; Burglary; Theft; Motor Vehicle Theft
Tract	A census tract is a small and relatively permanent statistical subdivision of a county for the purpose of representing census data on consistent boundaries over time. https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/geography/about/glossary.html See Also: Block; Block Group
Travel Time To Work	The total number of minutes that it usually takes a worker to get from home to work (one-way). See Also: Commuting; Means of Transport To Work
Unemployed	All civilians 16+ years of age are classified as unemployed if they were a) not 'at work' or 'with a job but not at work' during the reference period, and were b) actively looking for work during the previous month, and were c) available to accept work if offered. If none of those conditions are present, the individual is considered 'not in the labor force' rather than 'unemployed'. See Also: Employed; Civilian Employed; Labor Force; Not in Labor Force
Unemployment Rate	The number of unemployed persons as a percentage of the civilian labor force. Note that the base does not include those 'not in the labor force' or those 'employed in armed forces'. See Also: Employed; Unemployed; Not in Labor Force; Civilian Employed

Glossary

**Units in Structure**

A structure is a separate building that has either open spaces on all sides or is separated from other structures by dividing walls that extend from ground to roof. In determining the number of units in a structure, all housing units, both vacant and occupied, are counted.

See Also: Dwelling Units;Occupied Dwelling Units;Household

Universe

The total number of units -- individuals, households, businesses -- in a logical grouping. Examples are 'Marital Status', which uses as a universe the population age 15+

See Also:

Urban

For the 2020 Census, the Census Bureau classified as urban all territory, population, and housing units located within densely developed Urban Areas of at least 2,500 people. The Census Bureau delineates Urban Area boundaries that represent densely developed territory, encompassing residential, commercial, and other nonresidential urban land uses. In general, this territory consists of areas of high population density and urban land use resulting in a representation of the "urban footprint." Rural consists of all territory, population, and housing units located outside Urban Areas. For the 2010 Census and American Community Survey (ACS) data tabulations during the decade leading up to 2020, the Census Bureau identified two types of Urban Areas: urbanized areas of at least 50,000 people and urban clusters of at least 2,500 and less than 50,000 people. The Census Bureau does not specifically define "suburban," but land use, population, and housing that data users typically consider suburban are included within the Census Bureau's urban definition.

See Also: Rural

Usual Residence Elsewhere

A housing unit temporarily occupied at the time of enumeration entirely by people with a usual residence elsewhere is classified as vacant. Occupants are enumerated at their usual place of residence.

See Also: Dwelling Units;Households;Vacant Housing Units

Vacant Housing Unit

A housing unit is vacant if no one is living in it at the time of enumeration, unless its occupants are only temporarily vacant.

See Also: Occupied Housing Unit;Housing Unit;Occasional Use;Seasonally Vacant

Glossary



Vehicles Available	The number of passenger cars, vans, and pickup or panel trucks of one-ton capacity or less kept at home and available for the use of household members. This could include owned or leased vehicles, or employer provided vehicles. Statistics are provided for both owner and renter occupied dwelling units. See Also: Commuting;Means of Transport to Work;Travel Time to Work
Veteran	A 'civilian veteran' is a person 18 years old or over who has served (even for a short time), but is not now serving, on active duty in the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or the Coast Guard, or who served in the U.S. Merchant Marine during WWII. People who served in the National Guard or military Reserves are classified as veterans only if they were ever called or ordered to active duty, excluding the 4-6 months for initial training or yearly summer camps. All other civilians age 16+ are classified as non-veterans. See Also:
Weather Risk	An overall assessment of the risk to persons and property from each of hurricane, hail, damaging wind, and tornadoes. Each weather event type is equally weighted in the index. See Also: Risk Index;Risk Scale;Hurricane;Wind;Tornado;Hail
White	A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa. It includes people who indicate their race as 'white' or report entries such as Irish, German, Italian, Lebanese, Arab, Moroccan, or Caucasian. Note that it is possible to be 'white Hispanic' or 'white non-Hispanic'. See Also: Race;Ancestry;Hispanic Origin
Wind	Typcially includes storm weather where the sustained wind is above 50 miles per hour and damage to structures is reported. See Also: Weather;Hurricane;Tornado;Hail;Risk Index;Risk Scale
Year Structure Built	Data on the year a structure was built is obtained for both occupied and vacant housing units and refers to when the building was first constructed, not when remodeled, added to, or converted to another use. See Also: Units in Structure

Glossary



Z Score

A standardized deviation score, where a value of zero is the mean, and the standard deviation is 1.0. A value of 2.5 indicates that the score is 2.5 standard deviations higher than the mean. It is very useful for identifying areas with unusual values for a variable.

See Also: Standard Deviation