Housing Characteristics: 2000

Census 2000 Brief

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According to Census 2000, there were 115.9 million housing units in the United States. Most of these housing units had people living in them (105.5 million or 91.0 percent of all housing units). The remaining 10.4 million units (9.0 percent) were vacant on Census Day. Between 1990 and 2000, the United States housing inventory increased by 13.6 million units or 13.3 percent. The South[1] (17.5 percent) and the West (16.7 percent) regions experienced higher rates of housing growth than the Midwest (10.1 percent) and the Northeast (6.6 percent).

This report, part of a series that analyzes data from Census 2000, highlights housing in 2000 and changes in housing characteristics between 1990 and 2000 in regions, states, metropolitan areas, counties, and large cities.

Housing tenure identifies a basic feature of the housing inventory, whether a unit is owner or renter occupied. It has been collected since 1890. The Census 2000 question on tenure was identical to the one used in 1990. For 1990, the response categories were expanded to allow the respondent to report whether the unit was owned with a mortgage or loan or owned free and clear (without a mortgage). The distinction between units owned with a mortgage and units owned free and clear was added in 1990 to improve the count of owner-occupied units, as research after the 1980 census indicated some respondents did not consider their units owned if they had a mortgage.

Figure 1.
Reproduction of the Question on Housing Tenure from Census 2000

2. Is this house, apartment, or mobile home —
Mark [X] *ONE box.*

- ☐ Owned by you or someone in this household with a mortgage or loan?
- ☐ Owned by you or someone in this household free and clear (without a mortgage or loan)?
- ☐ Rented for cash rent?
- ☐ Occupied without payment of cash rent?

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 questionnaire.

A housing unit is a house, an apartment, a mobile home, a group of rooms, or a single room occupied, or intended for occupancy, as separate living quarters. Separate living quarters are those in which the occupant(s) live separately from any other people in the building and which have direct access from outside the building or through a common hall.

[1]The Northeast region includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont. The Midwest includes Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. The South includes Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia. The West includes Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

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United States Census 2000

Table 1.

General Housing Characteristics for the United States, Regions, and States, and for Puerto Rico: 1990 and 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf)*

Area	Total housing units in 1990	Housing units in 2000				Percent change, 1990 to 2000				
								Occupied units		
		Total	Percent vacant	Occupied	Percent owner-occupied	All housing units	Vacant units	Total	Owner	Renter
United States	**102,263,678**	**115,904,641**	**9.0**	**105,480,101**	**66.2**	**13.3**	**1.0**	**14.7**	**18.3**	**8.3**
Region										
Northeast	20,810,637	22,180,440	8.5	20,285,622	62.4	6.6	–2.2	7.5	9.3	4.6
Midwest	24,492,718	26,963,635	8.3	24,734,532	70.2	10.1	2.5	10.8	14.3	3.4
South	36,065,102	42,382,546	10.3	38,015,214	68.4	17.5	2.9	19.5	23.3	11.9
West	20,895,221	24,378,020	7.9	22,444,733	61.5	16.7	–1.4	18.5	23.5	11.4
State										
Alabama	1,670,379	1,963,711	11.5	1,737,080	72.5	17.6	38.5	15.3	18.5	7.5
Alaska	232,608	260,978	15.1	221,600	62.5	12.2	–9.9	17.3	30.7	0.2
Arizona	1,659,430	2,189,189	13.1	1,901,327	68.0	31.9	–0.9	38.9	47.2	24.0
Arkansas	1,000,667	1,173,043	11.1	1,042,696	69.4	17.2	19.1	17.0	16.7	17.7
California	11,182,882	12,214,549	5.8	11,502,870	56.9	9.2	–11.2	10.8	13.4	7.6
Colorado	1,477,349	1,808,037	8.3	1,658,238	67.3	22.4	–23.1	29.3	39.8	12.0
Connecticut	1,320,850	1,385,975	6.1	1,301,670	66.8	4.9	–6.7	5.8	7.7	2.1
Delaware	289,919	343,072	12.9	298,736	72.3	18.3	4.5	20.7	24.3	12.2
District of Columbia	278,489	274,845	9.6	248,338	40.8	–1.3	–8.1	–0.5	4.2	–3.5
Florida	6,100,262	7,302,947	13.2	6,337,929	70.1	19.7	–	23.4	28.7	12.7
Georgia	2,638,418	3,281,737	8.4	3,006,369	67.5	24.4	1.3	27.0	32.0	17.8
Hawaii	389,810	460,542	12.4	403,240	56.5	18.1	70.8	13.2	18.7	6.7
Idaho	413,327	527,824	11.0	469,645	72.4	27.7	10.6	30.2	34.5	20.1
Illinois	4,506,275	4,885,615	6.0	4,591,779	67.3	8.4	–3.4	9.3	14.4	–
Indiana	2,246,046	2,532,319	7.7	2,336,306	71.4	12.7	8.5	13.1	15.0	8.6
Iowa	1,143,669	1,232,511	6.8	1,149,276	72.3	7.8	4.9	8.0	11.5	–0.3
Kansas	1,044,112	1,131,200	8.2	1,037,891	69.2	8.3	–6.1	9.9	12.0	5.4
Kentucky	1,506,845	1,750,927	9.2	1,590,647	70.8	16.2	26.1	15.3	17.2	11.0
Louisiana	1,716,241	1,847,181	10.3	1,656,053	67.9	7.6	–11.9	10.5	13.9	3.8
Maine	587,045	651,901	20.5	518,200	71.6	11.0	9.8	11.4	13.1	7.2
Maryland	1,891,917	2,145,283	7.7	1,980,859	67.7	13.4	15.0	13.3	18.0	4.5
Massachusetts	2,472,711	2,621,989	6.8	2,443,580	61.7	6.0	–20.9	8.7	13.3	2.2
Michigan	3,847,926	4,234,279	10.6	3,785,661	73.8	10.0	4.7	10.7	15.1	0.1
Minnesota	1,848,445	2,065,946	8.3	1,895,127	74.6	11.8	–14.8	15.0	19.4	3.9
Mississippi	1,010,423	1,161,953	9.9	1,046,434	72.3	15.0	16.6	14.8	16.2	11.4
Missouri	2,199,129	2,442,017	10.1	2,194,594	70.3	11.0	4.0	11.9	14.3	6.5
Montana	361,155	412,633	13.1	358,667	69.1	14.3	–1.9	17.1	20.3	10.7
Nebraska	660,621	722,668	7.8	666,184	67.4	9.4	–3.0	10.6	12.2	7.4
Nevada	518,858	827,457	9.2	751,165	60.9	59.5	45.1	61.1	79.0	39.4
New Hampshire	503,904	547,024	13.2	474,606	69.7	8.6	–21.9	15.4	18.0	10.0
New Jersey	3,075,310	3,310,275	7.4	3,064,645	65.6	7.6	–12.5	9.7	10.9	7.3
New Mexico	632,058	780,579	13.1	677,971	70.0	23.5	14.8	24.9	29.6	15.2
New York	7,226,891	7,679,307	8.1	7,056,860	53.0	6.3	5.9	6.3	7.9	4.5
North Carolina	2,818,193	3,523,944	11.1	3,132,013	69.4	25.0	30.1	24.4	26.9	19.2
North Dakota	276,340	289,677	11.2	257,152	66.6	4.8	–8.3	6.8	8.5	3.5
Ohio	4,371,945	4,783,051	7.1	4,445,773	69.1	9.4	18.6	8.8	11.4	3.3
Oklahoma	1,406,499	1,514,400	11.4	1,342,293	68.4	7.7	–14.1	11.3	11.8	10.2
Oregon	1,193,567	1,452,709	8.2	1,333,723	64.3	21.7	31.8	20.9	23.1	17.0
Pennsylvania	4,938,140	5,249,750	9.0	4,777,003	71.3	6.3	6.9	6.3	7.2	3.9
Rhode Island	414,572	439,837	7.1	408,424	60.0	6.1	–14.2	8.1	9.1	6.6
South Carolina	1,424,155	1,753,670	12.5	1,533,854	72.2	23.1	32.3	21.9	26.1	12.4
South Dakota	292,436	323,208	10.2	290,245	68.2	10.5	–1.3	12.0	15.6	5.0
Tennessee	2,026,067	2,439,443	8.5	2,232,905	69.9	20.4	19.8	20.5	23.8	13.3
Texas	7,008,999	8,157,575	9.4	7,393,354	63.8	16.4	–18.5	21.8	27.7	12.7
Utah	598,388	768,594	8.8	701,281	71.5	28.4	10.1	30.5	37.0	16.6
Vermont	271,214	294,382	18.3	240,634	70.6	8.5	–11.3	14.2	16.8	8.5
Virginia	2,496,334	2,904,192	7.1	2,699,173	68.1	16.3	0.3	17.8	21.0	11.5
Washington	2,032,378	2,451,075	7.3	2,271,398	64.6	20.6	12.3	21.3	25.2	14.8
West Virginia	781,295	844,623	12.8	736,481	75.2	8.1	16.6	7.0	8.6	2.4
Wisconsin	2,055,774	2,321,144	10.2	2,084,544	68.4	12.9	1.3	14.4	17.4	8.5
Wyoming	203,411	223,854	13.5	193,608	70.0	10.1	–12.5	14.7	18.3	7.0
Puerto Rico	1,188,985	1,418,476	11.1	1,261,325	72.9	19.3	17.2	19.6	21.0	15.9

– Percentage rounds 0.0.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 Census of Population and Housing, *General Housing Characteristics,* Table 176, and Census 2000 Summary File 1.

Figure 2.
Reproduction of the Question on Vacancy Status from Census 2000

C. VACANT — **Which category best described this vacant unit as of April 1, 2000?**

- ☐ **For rent**
- ☐ **For sale only**
- ☐ **Rented or sold, not occupied**
- ☐ **For seasonal, recreational, or occasional use**
- ☐ **For migrant workers**
- ☐ **Other vacant**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 enumerator questionnaire.

Data on vacancy status have been collected since 1940. Vacancy status and other characteristics of vacant units were determined by enumerators obtaining information from property owners and managers, neighbors, rental agents, and others. Vacant units were subdivided into six housing market classifications: for rent; for sale only; rented or sold, not occupied; for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use; for migrant workers; and other vacant.

Owning one's home has long been considered a part of the "American Dream." Census 2000 showed that about 2 out of 3 householders (69.8 million, 66.2 percent) attained this goal.

Owner-occupied units included those with one or more mortgages as well as those owned free and clear. The remaining 35.7 million occupied units (33.8 percent) were rented or occupied without payment of cash rent. The increase in the number of owner-occupied homes in the United States (10.8 million, 18.3 percent) far outpaced the change in the rental inventory (2.7 million, 8.3 percent) during the 1990s.

In 1890, less than half of United States households owned their homes. The homeownership rate declined from 1890 to 1920. A robust economy in the 1920s raised the homeownership rate, but the Great Depression drove the rate to its lowest level of the century — 43.6 percent in 1940. The post-World War II surge in homeownership was remarkable. A booming economy, favorable tax laws, a rejuvenated home building industry, and easier financing saw homeownership explode nationally, topping 60 percent in just two decades. In 1990, about 64 percent of U.S. households owned their homes.

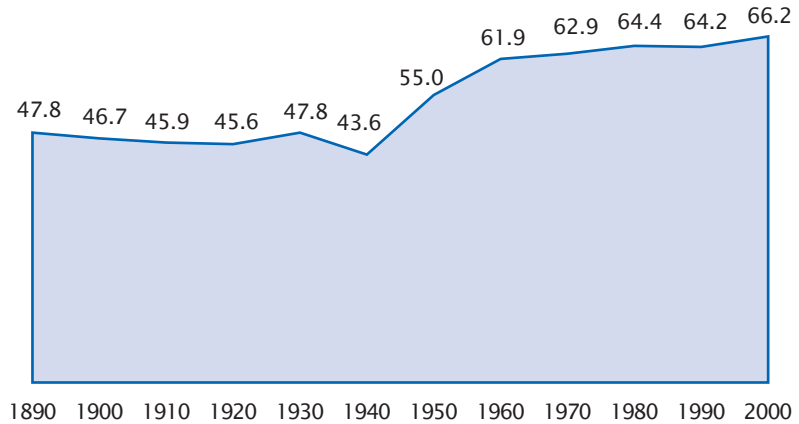
In 2000, 3.8 million vacant housing units were on the market either for sale only or for rent. Another 0.7 million housing units were recently rented or sold and were awaiting occupancy at the time the census was conducted. The count of vacant housing units included 3.6 million units for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. This vacancy category also included housing units that were temporarily occupied at the time of enumeration entirely by people with a usual residence elsewhere; these occupants were counted at the address of their usual place of residence. A small number of vacant units (25,000 units) were intended for occupancy by migratory workers employed in farm work during the crop season. The remaining 2.3 million vacant housing units were classified as "other vacant" and included units held for personal reasons of the owner as well as units held for occupancy by a caretaker or janitor.

The majority of householders in each of the four census regions owned their homes.

In 2000, homeownership rates were 61.5 percent in the West, 62.4 percent in the Northeast, 68.4 percent in the South, and 70.2 percent in the Midwest. More than a third (26.4 million, 37.7 percent) of all owner-occupied homes were located in the South. The next largest segment was in the Midwest (17.4 million, 24.9 percent). The West (13.4 million, 19.2 percent) and the Northeast (12.7 million,

Figure 3.
Owner-Occupied Units as a Percentage of All-Occupied Housing Units: 1890 to 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf*)

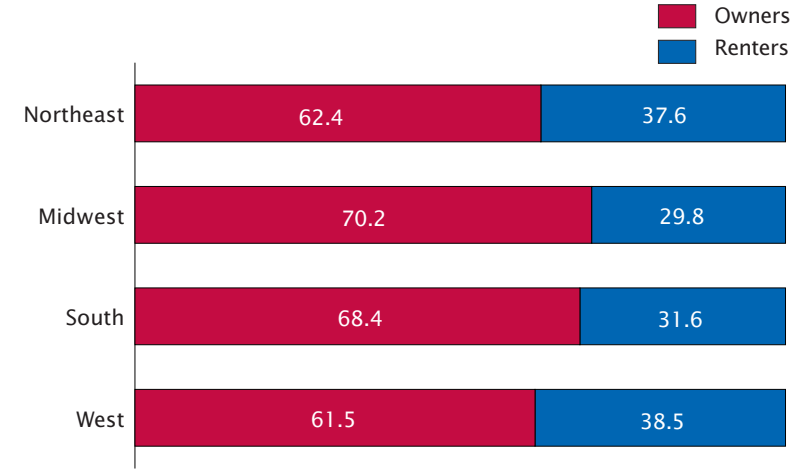


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census of Population and Housing, decennial volumes.

Figure 4.

Percent Distribution of Tenure by Region: 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf*)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1.

18.1 percent) contributed the balance of the homeowner inventory.

Among the 35.7 million renter-occupied units in the United States, about a third (12.3 million, 34.4 percent) were located in the South and about 8.4 million (23.5 percent) in the West. The remaining renter-occupied homes were about evenly distributed between the Northeast (7.6 million, 21.4 percent) and the Midwest (7.4 million, 20.6 percent).

Among the states, Nevada showed the largest percentage gain in housing units between 1990 and 2000.

The housing stock in Nevada increased 59.5 percent in the 1990s, from 519,000 to 827,000. Other western states with rapid increases in their housing inventories were Arizona (31.9 percent), Utah (28.4 percent), and Idaho (27.7 percent). California led the country in the total number of housing units in the United States in 2000 (12.2 million) and grew by more than 1.0 million units (9.2 percent) over the course of the decade.

In the South, North Carolina led the way with a 25.0 percent increase in the number of housing units, closely followed by Georgia (24.4 percent) and South Carolina (23.1 percent). Florida added 1.2 million units, the largest absolute gain among the 50 states, and increased its stock of housing by 19.7 percent between 1990 and 2000. Housing growth below the 10-percent level in the South was evident in just three states — Louisiana, Oklahoma, and West Virginia. The remaining states in the region all posted gains above the national level of 13.3 percent. The housing stock in the District of Columbia, however, declined slightly (-1.3 percent) from its 1990 level.

Housing growth in states in the Northeast (6.6 percent) and the Midwest (10.1 percent) was generally somewhat slower than the national pace (13.3 percent). Connecticut and North Dakota (both about 5 percent) were considerably below the national level.

In 2000, as in 1990, West Virginia and Minnesota maintained their positions as the states with the highest proportions of owner-occupied housing.

While the majority of occupied units in all 50 states were owner occupied, about 3 out of 4 households in West Virginia (75.2 percent) and Minnesota (74.6 percent) owned their homes. As in 1990, New York ranked at the bottom with respect to homeownership (53.0 percent) in 2000. Renters outnumbered owners in Washington, DC, where about 2 out of 5 (40.8 percent) were homeowners.

Nevada, Arizona, and Idaho also posted high growth in their stock of rental units, adding respectively, 39.4 percent, 24.0 percent, and 20.1 percent more rental units since 1990. The rental inventories in four states (Alaska, Illinois, Iowa, and Michigan) remained relatively unchanged between 1990 and 2000, while the rental inventory in the District of Columbia declined 3.5 percent.

One in ten homes in the South were vacant on Census Day.

With 9 percent of United States housing vacant in 2000, regional rates ranged from less than 8 percent in the West to more than 10 percent in the South. Three states in the Northeast, four in the South, and six in the West had total vacancy rates that exceeded 12 percent. Housing markets were especially "tight" (less than 7 percent of units were vacant) in five states: California, Illinois, Connecticut, Iowa, and Massachusetts.

Many states with a higher-than-average proportion of vacant units had a sizeable number of homes classified as "Vacant — for seasonal, recreational, and occasional use" in Census 2000 (see Table 2). These units make up a class commonly referred to as "vacation" homes,

Table 2.
Ten States With the Highest Percentage of Seasonal, Recreational, or Occasional Use Homes: 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf)*

Area	Total housing units	For seasonal, recreational, or occasional use	Percent
United States	**115,904,641**	**3,578,718**	**3.1**
Maine	651,901	101,470	15.6
Vermont	294,382	43,060	14.6
New Hampshire	547,024	56,413	10.3
Alaska	260,978	21,474	8.2
Delaware	343,072	25,977	7.6
Florida	7,302,947	482,944	6.6
Arizona	2,189,189	141,965	6.5
Wisconsin	2,321,144	142,313	6.1
Montana	412,633	24,213	5.9
Hawaii	460,542	25,584	5.6

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1.

which can be big summer estates on Long Island, time-sharing condos in Fort Lauderdale, or simple fishing cabins in northern Michigan. Although many analysts have used this category to estimate the number of second homes in a given area, the category also includes units occupied on an occasional basis as corporate apartments and other temporary residences where all the household members reported that their residence was elsewhere.

On a percentage basis, three northern New England states — Maine (15.6 percent), Vermont (14.6 percent), and New Hampshire (10.3 percent) — topped the list. Florida is the clear leader in the number of these seasonal, recreational, and occasional-use properties (483,000), followed by California (237,000), New York (235,000), and Michigan (234,000).

Homeowners were a majority in nearly all United States counties.

In 2000, owners outnumbered renters in all but 36 (1.1 percent) of the 3,141 counties and equivalent areas. Homeownership was fairly uncommon among households living in New York City, where only 1 in 5 households (19.6 percent) in Bronx and (20.1 percent) in New York (Manhattan) counties and about 1 in 3 (34.3 percent) in Kings County (Brooklyn) were homeowners. Other counties with homeownership rates below 30 percent were Chattahoochee in Georgia (27.0 percent), Aleutians West Census Area (a county equivalent) in Alaska (27.8 percent), and the very small county of Kalawao on the island of Molokai in Hawaii where all 115 occupied housing units were rented.

Alcona County in Michigan (89.9 percent) and Elbert County in Colorado (89.6 percent) topped the list in terms of the highest proportion of households who owned their homes. Other counties notable for their high rates of ownership (about 89 percent) were Powhatan and New Kent Counties in Virginia and Keweenaw County in Michigan.

Florida's metropolitan areas were leaders in terms of homeownership.

Five areas in the Sunshine State — Punta Gorda, Ocala, Fort Pierce-Port St. Lucie, Sarasota-Bradenton, and Fort Myers-Cape Coral — were among the top ten metropolitan areas with the largest proportions of owner-occupied units in 2000. Two other metropolitan areas in Michigan — Jackson and Saginaw-Bay City-Midland — joined Barnstable-Yarmouth (Massachusetts), Houma (Louisiana), and Sharon (Pennsylvania) to round out the list.

In only five metropolitan areas were owners outnumbered by renters. These included the two large Northeastern primary metropolitan statistical areas (PMSAs) — Jersey City, New Jersey (30.7 percent) and New York, New York (34.7 percent) — and two PMSAs on the West Coast — Los Angeles-Long Beach (47.9 percent) and San Francisco (49.0 percent). The fifth metropolitan area where fewer households owned (45.6 percent) rather than rented was Bryan-College Station, Texas, home of Texas A&M University.

Renters outnumbered owners in many of our country's largest cities.

In the four largest United States cities in 2000, most households were renters. About 70 percent of households in New York City, 61 percent in Los Angeles, 56 per-

Table 3.
Ten Metropolitan Areas With the Highest Percentage of Owner-Occupied Units: 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf)*

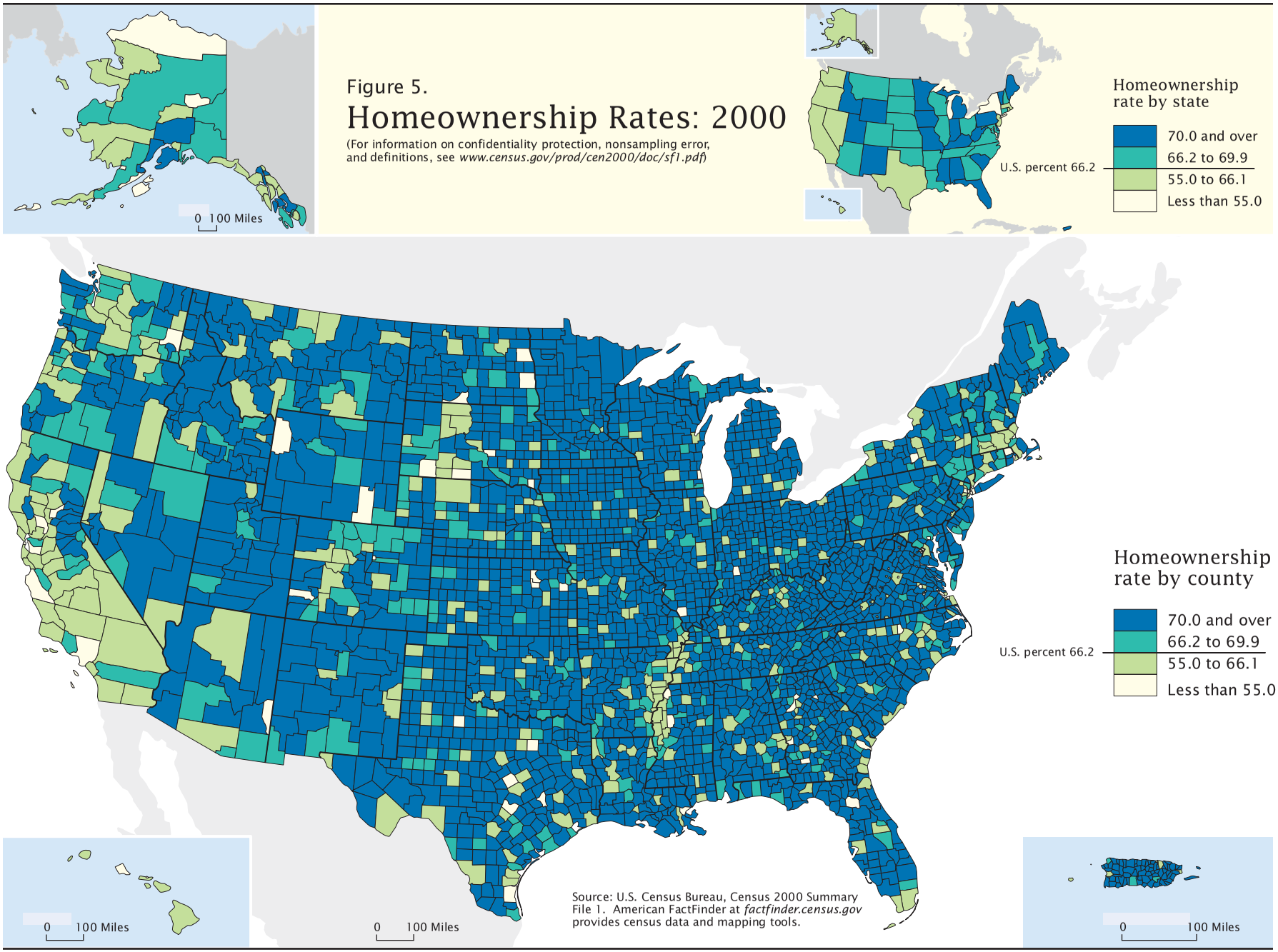
Metropolitan area	Percent
Punta Gorda, FL	83.7
Ocala, FL	79.8
Barnstable-Yarmouth, MA	79.2
Fort Pierce–Port St. Lucie, FL	78.8
Sarasota–Bradenton, FL	76.8
Houma, LA	76.7
Jackson, MI	76.5
Fort Myers–Cape Coral, FL	76.5
Sharon, PA	76.3
Saginaw-Bay City-Midland, MI	76.3

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1.

Figure 5.

Homeownership Rates: 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf*)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1. American FactFinder at *factfinder.census.gov* provides census data and mapping tools.

Table 4.
Ten Largest Cities and Percent of Renter-Occupied Units: 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf)*

City	Total population	Total occupied housing units	Percent renters
New York, NY	8,008,278	3,021,588	69.8
Los Angeles, CA	3,694,820	1,275,412	61.4
Chicago, IL	2,896,016	1,061,928	56.2
Houston, TX	1,953,631	717,945	54.2
Philadelphia, PA	1,517,550	590,071	40.7
Phoenix, AZ	1,321,045	465,834	39.3
San Diego, CA	1,223,400	450,691	50.5
Dallas, TX	1,188,580	451,833	56.8
San Antonio, TX	1,144,646	405,474	41.9
Detroit, MI	951,270	336,428	45.1

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1.

cent in Chicago, and 54 percent in Houston rented their homes. Renters were also a majority (56.8 percent) of households in Dallas, the eighth largest city in 2000 (see Table 4). Households in San Diego were almost evenly split between renters (50.5 percent) and owners (49.5 percent). Homeownership was more common among the remaining largest cities in 2000 — Philadelphia, Phoenix, San Antonio, and Detroit.

Table 5.
Family Type by Tenure: 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf)*

Family characteristic	Occupied units			
	Total	Owner	Percent owner	Renter
Total housing units	**105,480,101**	**69,815,753**	**66.2**	**35,664,348**
Total families	71,787,347	53,071,538	73.9	18,715,809
Married-couple families	54,493,232	44,240,872	81.2	10,252,360
With children[1]	24,835,505	19,103,921	76.9	5,731,584
Without children[1]	29,657,727	25,136,951	84.8	4,520,776
Male householder, no spouse present	4,394,012	2,433,530	55.4	1,960,482
With children[1]	2,190,989	1,113,804	50.8	1,077,185
Without children[1]	2,203,023	1,319,726	59.9	883,297
Female householder, no spouse present	12,900,103	6,397,136	49.6	6,502,967
With children[1]	7,561,874	2,851,607	37.7	4,710,267
Without children[1]	5,338,229	3,545,529	66.4	1,792,700
Total nonfamily households	33,692,754	16,744,215	49.7	16,948,539
Male householder	15,556,103	7,004,848	45.0	8,551,255
Living alone	11,779,106	5,530,759	47.0	6,248,347
Living with nonrelative	3,776,997	1,474,089	39.0	2,302,908
Female householder	18,136,651	9,739,367	53.7	8,397,284
Living alone	15,450,969	8,659,549	56.0	6,791,420
Living with nonrelative	2,685,682	1,079,818	40.2	1,605,864

[1]Children represent own children under 18 years.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1.

ADDITIONAL FINDINGS ON TENURE

Which type of family had the highest rate of homeownership?

About 4 out of 5 married-couple families owned their homes in 2000. Empty nesters and other married couples without children under the age of 18 were more likely (84.8 percent) than married couples with children (76.9 percent) to own their homes.

More than half (55.4 percent) of the families maintained by men without spouses were homeowners, compared with about half (49.6 percent) of families maintained by women without spouses.

In 2000, were people living alone more likely to own or rent their homes?

The answer depends on the gender of the householder. In 2000, more women (15.5 million) than men (11.8 million) lived alone. Approximately 8.7 million (56.0 percent) of women who lived alone owned their homes, compared with 5.5 million (47.0 percent) of the lone male householders.

What proportion of United States households were comprised of two or more unrelated people, and are these households more likely to rent or own their homes?

The Census Bureau uses the term "nonfamily households" to include people living alone as well as those householders who only live with people who are not related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption. In 2000, the 6.5 million householders who lived with other unrelated individuals represented about 6 percent of all United States occupied households. About 2 out of 5 (39.5 percent) of these householders owned their homes.

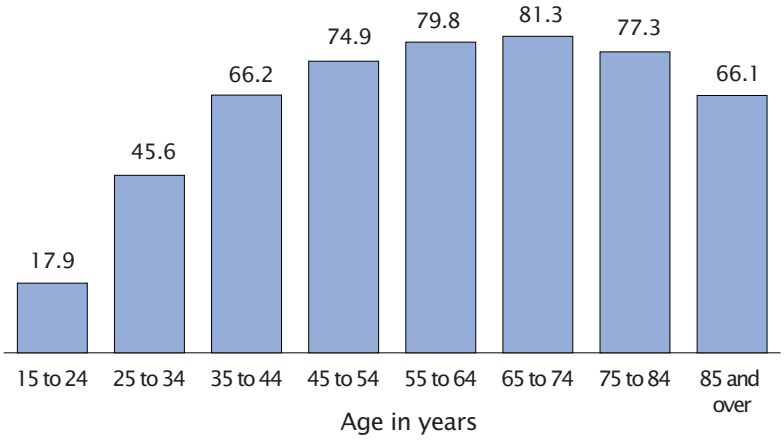
How likely are young householders to be homeowners?

Homeownership was directly related to the age of the householder. The youngest householder age group (under 25 years of age) had the lowest level of homeownership (17.9 percent). The percentage of homeowners increased to 45.6 among householders between the ages of 25 and 34 and continued to increase up to a peak of about 81 percent for householders 65 to 74 years of age.

Figure 6.

Homeownership Rates by Age of Householder: 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see *www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf*)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1.

ABOUT CENSUS 2000

Homeownership rates have served as an indicator of the health of the Nation's economy for decades. Data on vacant units are needed by federal and local agencies in order to evaluate the overall state of housing markets.

The federal government uses this information to allocate Section 8 and other housing program subsidies that assist Americans to afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing. Local organizations use the information to assess neighborhood stability and to plan road, health, and transportation improvements in their communities.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Census 2000 data for state and local areas are available on the Internet via *factfinder.census.gov* and for purchase on CD-ROM and later on DVD. For information on housing tenure, vacancy status, and other characteristics of the housing inventory, visit the U.S. Census Bureau's Internet site at *www.census.gov* and click on Housing located next to the People icon. For more information on metropolitan areas, including concepts, definitions, and maps, go to *www.census.gov/population/www/estimates/metroarea.html.*

Information on other population and housing topics is presented in the Census 2000 Brief Series, located on the U.S. Census Bureau's Web site at *www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/briefs.html.* This series presents information about race, Hispanic origin, age, sex, household type, housing tenure, and other social, economic, and housing characteristics.

For more information about Census 2000, including data products, call Customer Services Center at 301-763-INFO (4636) or e-mail*: webmaster@census.gov.*

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